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This Week

National

National Gallery returns Nazi-looted art. *Page 3*

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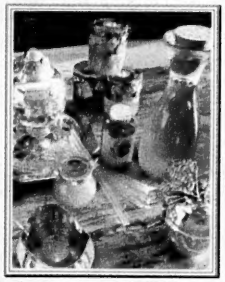
Holy Blossom prepares to celebrate its 150th anniversary. *Page 12*

Fall Fashion

Topsy-turvy silhouette defines trend for the season. *Page 43*

Holiday Food Ideas



Apples and honey provide comfort for the holidays. *Page 49*

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'AND THE SONS SHALL RETURN TO THEIR BORDERS': Tens of thousands of Israelis rallied in central Tel Aviv last week on behalf of Gilad Shalit, Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser, the three kidnapped Israeli soldiers being held captive by Hamas and Hezbollah. The banner in the middle of the photo proclaims, "We will not abandon soldiers in the field." *Please see editorial on page 8.* [Israel Sun photo]

Probe urged of UNIFIL

Peacekeepers allegedly assisted Hezbollah

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

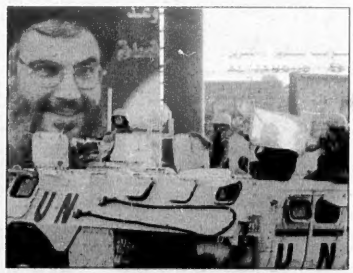
A Geneva-based human rights organization is calling on the the United Nations to investigate allegations that United Nations forces in Lebanon provided online descriptions of Israeli troop movements that aided Hezbollah during the recent conflict.

UN Watch, a non-governmental organization founded in 1993 to monitor UN compliance with its charter, said an investigation is necessary to determine whether the allegations of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) collusion with Hezbollah are true.

In a letter to Secretary General Kofi Annan, UN Watch said evidence presented in a *Weekly Standard* magazine article suggests UNIFIL "assisted Hezbollah terrorists by publishing detailed, sensitive information on Israeli troop movements on its website during the recent Israel/Hezbollah conflict… No similar information was published about Hezbollah forces, who fired more than 4,000 missiles aimed deliberately at Israeli civilians.

"If true, such conduct is unconscionable… and raises troubling questions as to whether UN forces can be trusted to even-handedly police this area, just as more are being readied to deploy."

Continued on page 35



UNIFIL soldiers in south Lebanon *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

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Israel wants international force at Syria/Leba… 46

The News in Brief

CANADA

Suspect in Ross Killing

TORONTO — Daniel Sylvester, the alleged killer of Alicia Ross, must face trial on a charge of second-degree murder, Judge Peter Tetley ruled last week in a Newmarket court. Ross disappeared from her family home in Markham on Aug. 16, 2005. Her remains were found about five weeks later after Sylvester, her 32-year-old neighbour, surrendered to police and led them to the two locations where the remains were hidden. Lawyers for the Crown and for Sylvester say the case could go to trial early next year. Sylvester faces a maximum of life imprisonment with no chance of parole for 10 to 25 years.

WORLD

Teaching Hate

NEW YORK — Iranian schools teach hatred of Christians, Jews and the West, according to a new study. The analysis by researchers with the Center for Monitoring Peace in the Middle East found examples of anti-western hatred and anti-Semitism in many of 115 textbooks used in Iran in grades 1 to 12. In one Grade 3 textbook, inhabitants of a clean town chase away a repugnant figure wearing a Star of David.

Peace Pole

PRAGUE — A Japanese peace group erected a monument at the former Theresienstadt transit camp. A giant peace pole with the inscription, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," in Czech, Japanese, German and English was dedicated last weel at the camp, now a museum in the Czech Republic, by members of the Japanese branch of the World Peace Prayer Society. The Japanese said they had chosen Terezin, as the camp is called in Czech, because it is a symbol of wartime suffering.

Israel Favoured

WASHINGTON — Americans who believe God gave Israel to the Jewish people are much likelier to sympathize with the Jewish state, a survey found. Of respondents who said they believe Israel was a divine birthright for the Jews, 63 per cent said they sympathize more with Israel than the Palestinians, and just four per cent sympathize more with the Palestinians, a Pew Forum survey found. The survey of 2,003 adults was taken in July and has a margin of error of between 2.5 and 3.5 percentage points.

Torah Dedicated

WASHINGTON — A New Orleans synagogue that lost its Torah scrolls to flooding dedicated a new scroll for the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina last week. On Sunday, Congregation Beth Israel dedicated a scroll donated by the Los Angeles Jewish community, at its temporary quarters. Seven ruined Torah scrolls were recovered and buried after last year's flood. National Council of Young Israel, the Orthodox umbrella body, facilitated the dedication.

Mason Sues Jews for Jesus

NEW YORK — Jackie Mason is suing Jews for Jesus for using his name and likeness in a pamphlet. The pamphlets, which the missionary group has been distributing around New York City, feature the comedian's image juxtaposed with the words "Jackie Mason A Jew for Jesus!?"

Jackie Mason

"While I have the utmost respect for people who practise the Christian faith, the fact is, as everyone knows, I am as Jewish as a matzah ball or kosher salami," the 75-year-old said in documents filed in state Supreme Court in Manhattan, according to the Associated Press.

A Jews for Jesus official chided Mason for getting so upset.

Bomb Use Checked

WASHINGTON — The U.S. State Department is reportedly investigating whether Israel's use of American-made cluster bombs in southern Lebanon violated agreements with the United States. The investigation began after reports that three types of American cluster munitions, were found in many areas of southern Lebanon and were responsible for civilian casualties, the *New York Times* reported. The inquiry is not expected to lead to sanctions.

Suspended Sentence

PRAGUE — A man who attacked Poland's chief rabbi in May received a suspended sentence. Karol G., 33, was convicted by a Warsaw court of an act of violence and racially motivated hate speech for assaulting Rabbi Michael Schudrich.

Chabad Emissary

NEW YORK — Chabad-Lubavitch now has a representative in Laos. Rabbi Shalom Ber Marzel and his wife are expected to serve Israeli backpackers and other tourists who visit the Southeast Asian country by providing kosher food and Shabbat meals. Laos is the 73rd country to have a Chabad emissary. Seed funding for the new office comes from the Rohr Family Foundation.

The Staff of
The Canadian Jewish News
extends its heartfelt condolences
to our colleague and friend
Grace Zweig
and her family
on the passing of her beloved mother
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May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

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CJC instrumental in return of Nazi-looted art

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The recent decision by the National Gallery of Canada to return a century-old French painting looted by the Nazis to its rightful Jewish owners is also a victory for the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Edouard Vuillard self-portrait

Last month, it returned Edouard Vuillard's *Le Salon de Madame Aron* to the heirs of Paris art dealer Jacques Lindon, whose father, Alfred, originally owned it.

Described as "a quintessential Vuillard" by National Gallery of Canada curator Michael Pantazzi, the 55-by 62-centimetre work was stolen from a bank vault by the Nazis.

Congress had pressed for its return, said Eric Vernon, Congress' Ottawa-based director of government relations.

"We have been active on this file for a number of years," he said.

Congress representatives attended the Washington conference on Holocaust era assets in 1998 and persuaded Canada to send officials to the International Forum on Holocaust-Era Looted Cultural Assets, held in Vilnius, Lithuania, in October 2000.

A year later, Congress and the Canadian Museum Association jointly sponsored a symposium in Ottawa on Holocaust-era cultural property hosted by the National Gallery of Canada.

"We were urging Canadian galleries to check their inventory for works with questionable provenance or gaps in their ownership and to publicize these on the Internet or their websites," he added. "This is what led to the Vuillard painting eventually being returned to their rightful owners."

In 2000, after the Canadian Museum Directors Association established guidelines on illegally acquired objects during the Nazi period, the National Gallery of Canada examined the provenance of part of its collection.

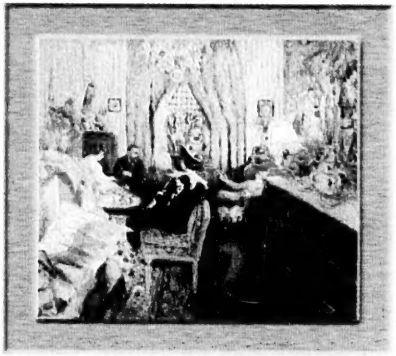
Subsequently, the National Gallery of Canada officially announced its intention to return the Vuillard oil on canvas to the Lindons.

Lindon twice refused to accept it, saying it had never belonged to him or his family.

But German wartime documents unearthed by the French government confirmed that the Lindons were, in fact, the proprietors.

As a result, the Lindons – who are well-known patrons of the arts – and the National Gallery of Canada reached an agreement on the ownership of the painting, and it was transferred to them in New York in mid-August.

Commending the National Gallery of Canada for its integrity, Vernon urged other Canadian institutions to comb their collections for suspect works.



***Le Salon de Madame Aron* by Edouard Vuillard**

"I believe that many other galleries and museums in Canada now have undergone a similar process regarding the possibility of cultural property in their possession being Nazi looted art," he said.

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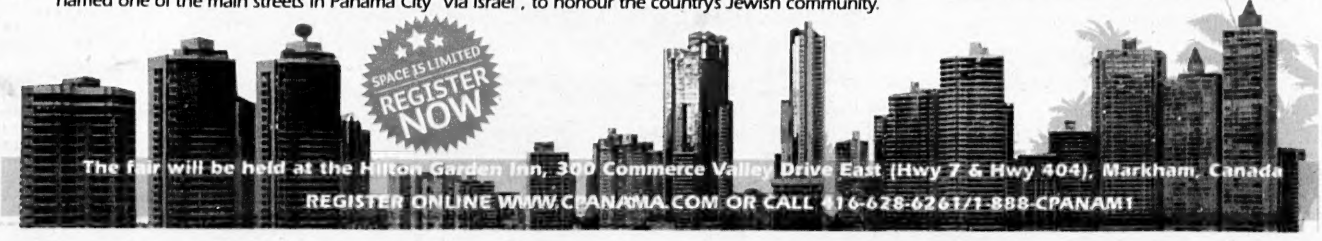

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UNIFIL, UNISHAME

From the editor's desk

Shimon Peres' expression says it all. It seems to capture what most supporters of Israel have been thinking about UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the United Nations for the past many weeks, if not for the past many years.

Peres appears incredulous, stopped in his tracks by something Annan is saying.

We can't be sure of what Annan said. Perhaps he was pleading with Peres that Israel stop humiliating Lebanon. Apparently, the "humiliation" of Lebanon by Israel was a major theme of the secretary general's remarks to Israeli leaders last week.

"I think it is time for the siege [Israel's air and sea blockade of Lebanon's borders] to be lifted," Annan offered. According to the Israeli media, Annan made the point that the ongoing blockade of Lebanon was hurting the Lebanese government and weakening the democratically elected government there.

"The Lebanese have shown they're serious about the implementation [of the ceasefire agreement], in all the deployment and efforts they have made."

And this is why Peres seems to be incredulous. The concern has never been whether the *Lebanese* were serious about implementing the ceasefire. The concern has always been whether *Hezbollah* was serious about implementing the ceasefire.

Of course it is not.

Since the very first moments the ceasefire went into effect, there have been frequent efforts by Hezbollah's sinister sponsors – Iran and Syria – to smuggle weapons back into the south Lebanese enclave. Indeed, according to certain security sources, some of those efforts, on the backs of mules and other pack animals through the hilly and rugged terrain of eastern Lebanon that borders Syria, have been successful. Annan was in Israel last week after a short visit in south Lebanon. His press attaché billed the secretary general's trip to the region as a mission to shore up the ceasefire.

In Israel he met with Defence Minister Amir Peretz, Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

According to reports in Israel, Olmert and Annan met for some 90 minutes, of which 20 minutes were in private. Rumours immediately circulated that Annan's private session with Olmert was to discuss the secretary general's idea of a confidence-building gesture by Israel to Iran. Aides to Olmert described the atmosphere as "friendly" and "warm." Whether it was productive will be measured by results in the field over the coming days. Annan was also scheduled to visit Iran, Syria, Egypt and Jordan during this Mideast tour.

Shimon Peres and Kofi Annan

When asked at a press conference in Israel why he was so determined to visit Iran to meet with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Tehran even though Ahmadinejad has called repeatedly for the destruction of Israel and has obsessively derided and denied the Holocaust, Annan was staunchly adamant in response.

"I am aware of what the president of Iran has said and, as I have indicated in the past, Israel is a member of the UN, a recognized member state and has the right to exist," he said. "One cannot wipe away Israel with a statement. Those types of statements should not be made".

Herein lies Annan's key problem. He is utterly bereft of any credibility. What steps has he taken to reprimand, let alone punish Ahmadinejad for his genocidal aspirations regarding Israel? This is not a case of a territorial dispute between member states who acknowledge, even if bitterly, each other's sovereign existence. This is a case in which one member state – Iran – by its repeated calling for the destruction of another member state, is in constant and continual violation of the UN charter, which it is Annan's foremost duty to uphold.

As reported in this issue of *The CJN*, the secretary general's office has denied allegations by UN Watch, a non-governmental organization based in Geneva, that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) forces may have aided Hezbollah in last month's war.

Annan's spokesperson in New York, Stephane Dujarric, flatly denied the allegations. He added that "UNIFIL consistently reported on the presence of Hezbollah fighters whenever those fighters were positioned near UNIFIL positions."

But the photo on Page 1 of *The CJN* last week makes a mockery of Dujarric's statement. The UNIFIL post was merely metres from the two-kilometre-square underground Hezbollah bunker.

How is it possible that the long, labour-intensive efforts of digging out, reinforcing, equipping, furnishing and manning so gargantuan a bunker was carried out under UNIFIL noses without anyone in that United Nations post noticing? And if they did notice, to whom did they report what they saw? And what, if any action was done about it?

The gap between what UN officials say and what they do is too wide and too deep for the organization and its leader to have any credibility. And that singular dissonance between truth and reality is both a pity for the world and a shame on the United Nations.

— MBD

See JN

SHOWING THEM HOW IT'S DONE

Rachel Kanner, the venerable Toronto community activist and UJA Federation campaigner, was recently in Israel as a Sar-El volunteer. Here she appears to be giving the young IDF soldiers a few pointers on the proper use of their firearms.

Educators 'need to do something' about the Holocaust

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

First annual summer symposium presented by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem

Teachers don't need to devote a three-week chunk of time to the Holocaust in order to address the subject in their classrooms, according to two teachers who conducted a workshop last week at the first annual summer Holocaust symposium presented by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem.

More than 100 people, including about 60 teachers from Catholic and public schools in Toronto and surrounding areas, attended the two-day program, titled "Teaching the Holocaust: Now More Than Ever," at Marshall McLuhan Catholic Secondary School, said Goldi Steiner, chair of the organization's continuing Holocaust education committee.

Lisa Johnston, who teaches at a Catholic high school in St. Thomas, Ont., said at the workshop that some teachers don't know where to begin when it comes to teaching the Holocaust. "The message we've heard is that you need to do something."

"It may be four days here, two days there, or talking about [the Holocaust] as an example," said Mary Bechberger, who conducted the workshop with Johnston and who teaches at the same school.

Johnston told the group, "Don't just rely on history teachers to teach the Holocaust." Subjects like English, drama and art also lend themselves to Holocaust education, she said.

She and Bechberger made a presentation to the entire staff at their school on their return from Israel, where they attended the summer program at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies (ISHS). "It's essential to collaborate on this topic," Johnston said.

Johnston and Bechberger, both of whom are entering their fifth year of teaching, have also attended a one-week summer course at the General Romeo Dallaire Institute for Genocide Studies in London, Ont.

Johnston said she introduced the Holocaust and genocidal studies into her Grade 10 civics class "to encourage responsible citizenship."

She recommended using selected film clips for their impact when time is limited, and Bechberger cautioned participants to use such material responsibly, familiarizing themselves with the content ahead of time and providing necessary context.

Johnston also recommended having Holocaust survivors visit the classroom "if at all possible."

Participant Barbara Lazar, who teaches immigrant students, noted that many of the children she works with came to Canada as refugees. For them to hear stories from survivors who have learned a new language and built a new life here has been "a blessing" and has given her students "a real sense of calm."

Bechberger likes to talk about resistance, whether overt or more subtle, such as practising one's faith in secret. "If we can give the kids some kind of hope that there were people who stood up and there are people today who stand up, it empowers them."

She has also found it helpful to "try and rescue individual stories" by introducing students to "a face and a name" to create empathy.

"It's important to emphasize that Jews were not different from us. They had lives, families, hobbies. They had a religious life. Many of [the children] had toys and activities just like kids today."

Addressing Christian anti-Semitism in a Catholic school is also important, she said. "This can be a tough topic… [but] if we're going to be honest, we have to examine things that were done in the name of the Christian faith.

"If you do it well, you could also emphasize that relations have improved. Things are happening today that improve Christian-Jewish relations."

Another point made was the importance of relating the Holocaust to contemporary issues, including hate crimes and modern anti-Semitism.

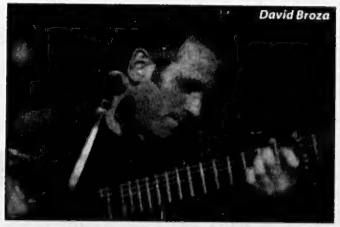
Bechberger said she used to focus just on World War II and Holocaust victims, but now she feels it's "important to give students an understanding of the context of the story," including information about the lives of Jews before and after the war, as well as discussion about perpetrators, bystanders and rescuers.

"I try to avoid generalizations [such as] all perpetrators were uneducated or all Jews did [x]. The Holocaust is very complicated."

Keynote speakers at the program last week were Ephraim Kaye and Stephanie McMahon-Kaye, ISHS director and co-ordinator respectively. Kaye's topic was "Holocaust Denial and Contemporary Anti-Semitism" and McMahon-Kaye addressed "Righteous Among the Nations."

Photograph by Al Gilbert, C.M.

Proceeds from the Tribute Dinner will establish "The Elizabeth and Tony Comper Interdisciplinary Institute for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism" at the University of Haifa.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Na'amat concert raises money for Israeli victims

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Na'amat Canada Toronto's emergency benefit concert to raise funds for Israeli victims of war was pulled together in just two weeks says Lorraine Levene, the organization's executive director.

"We began planning on Aug. 2 for the Aug. 16 concert, [held at Beth David B'nai Israel Synagogue] and within five days our president Orit Nusbaum had all the stars lined up. Not one person said no," she said.

Headlining at the the concert, attended by almost 600 people – the organization raised more than $40,000 – were singer Amy Sky, comedian Avi Hoffman, the Halleluja Drummers, the Toronto Jewish Male Choir and Kobi Chai with Eric Ifrah on the keyboard.

Amy Sky

Lorraine Levene

Orit Nusbaum, president of Na'amat Canada, Toronto

"Everyone was behind the cause, and many donated their services. It was just amazing," said Levene.

Money raised, she said, helped resettle children who were evacuated from Na'amat's day-care centres in the north.

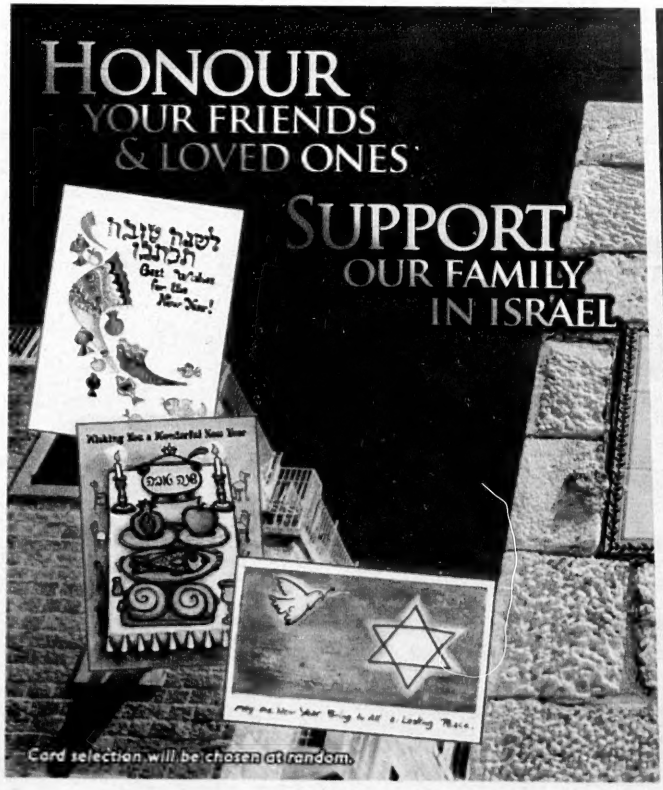
The organization operates more than 60 per cent of the country's day cares, she said, and due to the conflict, they were forced to evacuate the children to other Na'amat facilities.

"They're now in the midst of going back, but we still need funds to repair the damage that was done by the Katyusha missiles.

"The government is repairing building structures, but they're not replacing whatever was damaged within our centres. That is up to us. [The money we've raised] is a drop in the bucket," she said.

The children – many come from poor families – "were traumatized from being locked up in stuffy shelters, and although they're moving back now, we still have to help them get through it."

She said she's "moved" by the tremendous response of Na'amat members and the community. "Even CBC came and put us on [television]. Everyone came through above and beyond."



At this time of year, Jews around the world gather to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, a time for new beginnings, but also a time to reflect on past events and to recall the hardships that have occurred.

As Israel faces some of the toughest times in her short history, consider sending a Rosh Hashanah greeting card to your loved ones, which will benefit over one million Israelis who have been severely affected by devastating Hezbollah rocket attacks. What better way to honour family and friends than by making a contribution to UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, which will relieve the anguish of so many Israelis in distress.

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The soldiers must be freed

The frustration is untenable. The anger and rage unbearable. Thus, tens of thousands of Israelis gathered last week in Tel Aviv's central square to decry the cruel, criminal captivity of Gilad Shalit, Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser. They called upon the world's leaders to help secure the release of the three kidnapped Israelis.

Shalit was kidnapped by Hamas on June 25; Regev and Goldwasser were kidnapped by Hezbollah on July 12. They have remained in captivity ever since, and the world has exploded; so, too, have the lives of their families.

Ehud Goldwasser

When he was in Israel last week, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan met with the three families. It was a gesture of goodwill rather than of substance, for he could provide the entreating families no information about their loved ones' conditions. Nor could he outline any steps he would take to effect the captives' release. But, refusing to surrender to the stark implications of the secretary general's helplessness, the families found what sliver of fading hope they could.

Eldad Regev

Karnit Goldwasser, Ehud's wife, said,"We got a personal pledge from the secretary general that he accepts the mission to get the three kidnapped soldiers home, and that's a really big thing."

Gilad Shalit

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Dan Gillerman, who also attended the meeting, expressed the wish that the secretary general "[would] leave here with a real feeling of obligation, of a moral mission to do everything he can – and he is going to several capitals in which there is influence on this matter – to bring about Udi [Ehud], Eldad and Gilad's speedy return home."

UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the current round of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, requires that the security council "address urgently… the unconditional release of the abducted Israeli soldiers."

It falls upon all of us to ensure that, when he visits those capitals in which there is influence and afterward as well, the secretary general honour both his duty under Resolution 1701 and his pledge to the soldiers' families.

The rally in Tel Aviv was a vociferous, defiant shouting of moral support by scores of thousands of anguished Israelis for the captives' families. We must add our voices to theirs. They must not be the only ones shouting. Nor must the families feel alone.

True to their sadistic, brutal natures, Hezbollah and Hamas have refused the International Red Cross permission to inspect the condition of the captives. Did we expect anything less?

25 years ago in *The CJN*

The anti-Zionist Neturei Karta joined forces with Israeli chief rabbis Ovadia Yosef and Shlomo Goren and leaders of the National Religious Party and Agudat Israel to protest archeological excavations outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. The dispute threatened the status quo agreement between the religious and secular communities reached at independence.

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Toronto's Orthodox community

While we want the haredim to be more tolerant of us, we are not tolerant of them ("Toronto's Orthodox community: Is it becoming too religiously right wing?" *CJN*, Aug. 24 and 31).

Rabbi Shlomo Miller has a right to say his opinion to anyone who wants to accept his views. However, I am not sure who in this community Rabbi Jay Kelman and Joseph Fried are taking their positions from. Clearly they are nowhere near as learned as Rabbi Miller, and I am not sure which rabbi is leading modern Orthodoxy in Canada. If no rabbi wants to take a position against Rabbi Miller, maybe from a straight halachic position, there is no other position to take.

As far as Rabbi Gedalia Felder and his tolerance in the past goes, we must remember that at that time there were many people who had to work on Shabbos and Rabbi Felder only took on the battles he felt he could win. His son is carrying on his work and his shul is tolerant of many views of Torah Judaism, whether they are Hassidish, Mizrachi or Yeshivish.

Philip Davidovits
Toronto

* * *

It is indeed heartening to know that in Toronto this summer the issues of bugs in lettuce and the number of days of Creation, have gripped the Orthodox community. The Jewish poor and elderly in Toronto can fend for themselves – the Orthodox are too busy debating the number of angels on the head of a pin.

Let assimilation and intermarriage run rampant in Toronto. The haredim are too busy building walls and fences around Bathurst and Lawrence to notice. And the modern Orthodox are too busy looking over their shoulders at the haredim to reach out to their Jewish brothers and sisters.

Hello from Israel! We had a war this summer. The Jewish state survived but remains imperilled. Religious, secular, halachic, non-halachic – we were all in it together and in the process experienced *achdut*, that is true Jewish unity. Like many parents in Israel, we spent a month of sleepless nights until our son returned from the war.

There is a world outside of the Bathurst Street corridor. I would suggest that if Toronto Orthodox Jewry aspires to be a model for others and a vehicle for Jewish survival, it should lift its collective head out of the sand, take a deep breath and get to work on the things that really matter in this world.

Martin Kalson
Ginot Shomron, Israel

* * *

Your article raised some valid questions about the strength of modern Orthodoxy in Toronto. But as I read through the article I could not help wondering about the strength of Toronto's haredi Orthodoxy. The absurd attacks of haredi spokesmen on a fine, devout scholar like Rabbi Natan Slifkin hardly seem to be a sign of haredi triumph or even triumphalism. They are perhaps better understood as the desperate and fearful actions of people who realize on some level that their time has passed.

Martin Lockshin
Toronto

* * *

Holocaust education not embraced

A few lectures given at Cluj-Napoca University or at Babes-Bolyai University do not warrant the claim that "Romania is embracing Holocaust education" (*CJN*, Aug. 10).

Laurence Weinbaum, in a dissertation in the June edition of Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs *Post-Holocaust and Anti-Semitism* publication, writes that "[it] is the Foreign Ministry under Mihai-Razvan Ungureanu that has been most active in heightening awareness of Romania's role in the Holocaust. The question, however, is whether this new stance is mainly for foreign consumption."

Radu Ioanid, a historian, director of the International Archival Program Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Washington Holocaust Museum, wrote in an article for the *Wall Street Journal* (Europe) on May 30 that "the boundaries between extreme and mainstream parties are more fluid in Romania than in other countries in the region. And although Holocaust denial is a crime, no Holocaust denier has ever been punished in Romania."

Ioanid also refers to the fact that the Romanian President Traian Basescu has received and publicly socialized with "Corneliu Vadim Tudor, a megalomaniac demagogue whose political program boils down to vicious hatred toward Hungarians, Jews and Roma."

This is the Romania of today. Teaching the Holocaust consists of occasional lectures attended on a voluntary basis at a small number of universities. Despite Romania's significant involvement in this historic tragedy, education of the Holocaust has been overlooked as a compulsory component of the Romanian secondary school curriculum.

Knowing the fickle temperament and character of Romanian leaders, I would not bet on Romania's embracing Holocaust education.

Baruch Cohen
Research chairman,
Canadian Institute for Jewish Research

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Perspectives

Academics against Israel

The following is Part 1 of a two-part article.

By MANFRED GERSTENFELD

What do Concordia University in Montreal, San Francisco State University, University of California at Irvine, Columbia University, the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, the British teachers unions – the Association of University Teachers (AUT) and the University and National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) – and MAUP University in Kiev all have in common? In the past few years, they have become prime names associated with aggression and discrimination against Israel, Israelis and/or Jews. Many other academic institutions in several countries could be added to this list.

More candidates are likely to emerge when the new academic year starts. The combined forces of radical Islam and the extreme left on campus will whitewash Hezbollah and other genocidal Muslim forces, and at the same time, present Israelis as war criminals.

In recent years, some acts of aggression have received more media attention than others. Among them were a number of attempts to boycott or discriminate against Israel and Israeli academics. Many originated in Great Britain. Divestment petitions were a frequent approach in the United States. The array of hostile acts also included violence of various kinds, anti-Israeli propaganda presented as academic scholarship and censorship of facts concerning Muslim anti-Semitism, as recently happened at Utrecht University in the Netherlands.

The boycott issue was the initial tool of anti-Israeli behaviour used by academics in the new century. In April 2002, two British professors, Steven Rose, who is Jewish, and his wife, Hilary, initiated an international boycott campaign against Israel. They stated that Israeli academics were the only scholars from non-member countries eligible for grants from the European Union. They claimed that in view of Israel's attitudes toward the Palestinians, these should be suspended.

On April 6, 2002, they, along with their associates, published an open letter in the often anti-Israeli daily, the *Guardian*. It called for a moratorium on all cultural and research links with Israel at European or national levels until the Israeli government "abides" by UN resolutions and opens "serious peace negotiations with the Palestinians, along the lines proposed in many peace plans, including that most recently sponsored by the Saudis and the Arab League."

Within a few weeks, the Roses, who had been involved in left-wing causes for decades, collected several hundred signatures for their petition. They received international publicity for their attacks on Israel, something they had not achieved in their academic work.

A few months later, another case in the United Kingdom attracted attention. Mona Baker, an Egyptian-born professor of translation studies, at University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), now part of the University in Manchester, sacked two Israeli academics, Miriam Shlesinger and Prof. Gideon Toury, from the editorial boards of academic journals Baker and her husband own and edit. UMIST held an enquiry that found Baker innocent because her journals were not under the University's auspices.

This ruling was seen as a victory for the anti-Israel forces.

In October, Prime Minister Tony Blair told U.K. Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks he would do anything necessary to stop academic boycott attempts of Israel.

This anti-Israel discrimination issue then developed in many directions. There were efforts to prevent Israeli academics from obtaining grants. Academic institutions were asked to sever relations with Israeli universities and scholars, academics were convinced not to visit Israel, attempts were made to prevent the publication of articles by Israeli scholars, people were encouraged to refuse to review the work of Israeli academics and not to give students who want to study in Israel a recommendation or not allow them credits for their work there. In addition, there were unofficial or concealed boycotts, as when foreign academics severed relations with Israelis with whom they had had contact for many years.

Despite the length of this list, the impact of the anti-Israel actions was minor. In 2002, of about 7,000 research papers sent out by Israeli universities for foreign reference, only 25 scholars approached refused to deal with them.

In June 2003, the British boycott campaigners suffered a major defeat. Andrew Wilkie, a professor of pathology at Oxford University, sent an e-mail reply to an Israeli student, Amit Duvshani, who had contacted him for a research position. Wilkie wrote that in no way would he take on somebody who had served in the Israeli army. A few days later, a British Jewish academic, Ronnie Fraser, brought the matter to the attention of the *Sunday Telegraph*.

When the paper contacted Oxford University, its administration reacted swiftly to avoid accusations of racism. Before the article was published, the university started an investigation of Wilkie. On the same day, he apologized for his e-mail but not for holding his opinions.

In October 2003, Oxford University suspended Wilkie for two months without pay, the most serious penalty short of dismissal that the university could impose.

Thus, one phone call to a newspaper had transformed Wilkie within a few days from an accuser into the accused. Whatever Wilkie's academic achievements may be, he is going to be remembered, if at all, for his racist act toward an Israeli student.

Outside of Britain, there were also some boycott attempts that did not go very far. In France, there was initial success at a few universities. At the end of 2002, the board of Paris 6 University, also known as Jussieu, adopted a petition expressing its opposition to the renewal of the association agreement between the European Union and Israel.

Jewish philosopher Bernard-Henri Lévy, commented: "The French university is the only major institution which has not repented its mistakes under the Vichy regime. In this context the boycott [of Israeli universities] by Paris 6 seems even more shameful." Under major government and public pressure, the university reversed its decision.

An anti-Israel rally at Concordia University in Montreal in 2002, that became violent and prevented former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu from speaking at the school.

In the United Kingdom, however, boycott attempts have continued and may come up again after the new academic year starts. The two major unions of academic teachers, AUT and NATFHE, have merged into the University and College Union (UCU). In both, there were boycott resolutions, which, however, came under severe national and international attack; and they were reversed or annulled by the merger. In addition, they may have represented breaches of British equality law.

Divestment petitions were another major attempt at organized anti-Israeli action. These were mainly centred in the United States, as universities there often have endowment funds that invest in securities. In 2002, petitions for divestment were circulated at more than 50 American campuses.

Within the University of California system, more than 7,000 students and faculty members signed documents in support of divestment that year. Yet, over the past four years, not a single campus authority has taken a decision to divest itself of Israeli or Israel-related securities. Many university presidents condemned the proposals.

The divestment movement has, however, at least verbally, had some success outside the academic world among some American and Canadian churches and a few trade unions in Canada and South Africa.

Presenting anti-Israel propaganda as teaching is another type of distortion on campus. The field of Middle Eastern studies in the United States has become a focal point for this. Though the phenomenon is widespread, public attention mainly focused on MEALAC, Columbia University's Middle Eastern languages department.

A non-university grassroots organization called the David Project exposed dozens of cases of faculty misbehaviour in a documentary called *Columbia Unbecoming*, which was released in October 2004. The adverse publicity forced Columbia's administration to undertake an enquiry, but the investigation was heavily flawed. More was hidden than admitted. Yet, the Columbia administration could not conceal that it had failed in handling student grievances.

Middle East scholar Martin Kramer had published a book in 2001, *Ivory Towers on Sand*, dealing with the failure of Middle Eastern studies in the United States. It stated that for the past 20 years, Middle Eastern studies had been factories of error. Kramer concluded that Middle Eastern studies were unsuccessful at a time when understanding the Middle East had become crucial to the United States.

In particular, Palestinian studies at American universities are a largely superfluous field, because of the bias of many academics teaching there. The main originality of Palestinian society is in developing new methods of terrorism, a subject rarely studied in Palestinian studies programs, but usually dealt with by terrorism scholars. There are many other anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic actions on campuses, primarily of a local nature. Some, as before mentioned, have become notorious.

Attacks on Jews and Israel are usually an indication of deeper problems in societies or segments of them. This is equally true for the academic world. The problems Jews and Israelis encounter on many campuses are far more serious than scholars' attitudes toward the Palestinian problem. Some issues at stake concern the nature of academia, the meaning and limitations of academic freedom, and frequent attempts, especially in the social and political sciences, to substitute propaganda for scholarship in multiple areas unrelated to Jewish or Israeli matters. The coming academic year is likely to provide many additional insights into these problems.

Manfred Gerstenfeld is chair of the board of fellows of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. He is preparing a book on academics against Israel.

Opinions

Weddings during wartime

There is a time for everything. Even emotions must follow an etiquette of proper timing. As Ecclesiastes says: "There is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance."

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

This summer, I had a full slate of weddings at the same time as the war in Israel was going on. At times, I'd enter a celebration right after hearing bad news on the radio. I wondered whether this was the right time to rejoice.

It's insensitive to ignore communal suffering. Jewish tradition obligates everyone to reduce frivolous activities during a time of crisis. (One view even requires couples to diminish marital relations.) This tradition added to my difficulty: how can we celebrate when Israel is suffering?

The Jewish calendar offers a solution to this dilemma. In talmudic times, a singles holiday was held on Tu b'Av, the 15th day of Av. Young men and women would gather in celebration to find a match. It was a joyous holiday.

However, the Tu b'Av tradition is strange. Just six days earlier is the ninth of Av, the day we mourn the destruction of the two Temples. Isn't it deeply inappropriate to have a singles' holiday right after a day of mourning?

The answer is that joy serves many functions. Joy can be a diversion, a frivolous distraction. In times of tragedy, such a celebration is insensitive because it ignores the suffering of others. However, joy is also a genuine response to tragedy.

After a tragedy, we can remain frozen, unable to continue. Unfortunately, by refusing to live life to the fullest, we will have allowed the tragedy to claim another victim, and thus enlarged the scope of destruction. Mourning can collaborate with death, allowing death to overtake the living. In these moments, one must celebrate to assert that life goes on.

Tu b'Av teaches us that a good wedding is a genuine response to tragedy. The Talmud says that when a bride and groom rejoice, it is as if a section of Jerusalem has been rebuilt. By marrying, the young couple have reversed the tide of tragedy and taken a step on the road to redemption.

In the first week of the war, Shlomi Boskila and Maya Lugasi got married in northern Israel. Because of Katyusha attacks, they couldn't use the hall they had booked, so they got married in a bomb shelter. Their new venue may have been cramped and the crowd small, yet their wedding made a huge statement.

As Boskila put it: "This shows… that not even 20,000 missiles can destroy the happiness of the bride and groom."

In times of tragedy, a wedding like this, which expresses courage and affirms life, is exactly what is needed.

There is a time for everything. Sometimes, wartime is the right time for a wedding, too.

The missing pieces

War is hell, particularly for children. Even now, amid a Mideast ceasefire, parents caught in the crossfire remain on the front lines with their children. What information to share, how to explain the adult world's chaos, opens educational, psychological and moral dilemmas.

Gil Troy in Montreal

Spending this summer in Jerusalem, our four children experienced no trauma, enjoying themselves, although the war fascinated them. Our four-year-old asked, "Why do the Palestinians keep bombing Israel?"

Overlooking Hezbollah's popularity in Gaza, hoping the next generation will bring peace, my wife and I explained that Hezbollah Shi'ites are not Palestinians and not all Palestinians embrace terror. Recognizing our attempts to avoid stereotyping, our nine-year-old asked the more nuanced, devastating question, which Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora must answer: "How come the mean Arabs push the good Arabs around?"

While some Israeli friends banish their children when the TV stations broadcast bad news, we do not shelter our kids from unpleasant realities. True, we omitted to mention the Palestinian sporting a five-kilogram suicide bomb vest caught two blocks away from us. But our kids knew that, despite our comfort, others nearby suffered.

Our six-year-old, who made Hamas and Hezbollah the bad guys in his imaginary games, told visitors, "Hezbollah won't bomb us [in downtown Jerusalem] because we're too close to the Dome of the Rock, and if they hit that, the other Arabs would get mad."

When we told our 11-year-old daughter before she left for sleepaway music camp that she might end up in a bomb shelter – she didn't – she asked, logically, "How do you get oxygen in underground shelters?"

Giving the children some sense of control – while teaching social responsibility – we joined Israel's massive outreach initiative to support soldiers and terrorized civilians. My two sons and I visited Sderot, the working class immigrant town Hamas bombs regularly from Gaza. We went mid-morning, when Kassam missiles rarely fall, visiting a family whose house these "crude," "primitive" yet dangerous rockets damaged. We embraced them with flowers and hugs. Amid the commotion, only the head of the household knew some monetary assistance was subtly delivered too.

South of Sderot, we met Rabbi Seth Mandell and the staff of Camp Koby, reluctant masters at coping with trauma. Palestinian terrorists murdered Rabbi Mandell's son Koby in 2001. Transforming individual heartbreak into communal good works, Rabbi Mandell established a camp for children whose parents or siblings were murdered by terrorists. In a country politically and religiously polarized, Rabbi Mandell welcomes victims of all stripes with one healing message.

An American immigrant, Rabbi Mandell is transplanting certain North American ideas into Israel's rocky soil. He adapted American-style summer camping to his campers' needs, offering four short sessions annually. He is also implanting a therapeutic culture into a macho society that often tells victims who have "only" been scarred psychologically to "get over it."

Despite its array of therapists treating 150 kids whose dearest relatives have been murdered, Camp Koby is a happy place. The kids walk around smiling. The staff are warm, huggy, well-trained idealists.

Rabbi Mandell's sensitivity to his campers comes from processing a parent's worst nightmare through a lifetime's worth of wisdom. Transporting campers from 100 different Israeli communities, the buses go house to house. Rabbi Mandell did not want to add errands to the work of the many now-single parents in his target population.

Hearing this characteristic anecdote, seeing the beaming kids, whether frolicking at the pool or doing breathing exercises with a Sephardi kabbalistic yoga master, I began to appreciate how much this miracle worker has helped the 700 relatives of terror victims who have attended the camp – free – over the last three years.

In one therapy session, each camper selected a puzzle piece. Each described the shape's appeal, then decorated it. When assembling the puzzle, one central piece remained missing, representing the hole that violence had ripped in their lives.

I left Camp Koby, mourning the new missing pieces Islamofascists are tearing into the fabrics of so many lives. I wondered about the missing pieces we as parents seek to make our kids feel whole while they develop in trying circumstances. And I missed the missing peace that prevents us all from living the carefree secure lives we and our children deserve.

Grief and responsibility

A few short days before the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hezbollah fighters based in Lebanon, world media reported on the death of Uri Grossman, an Israeli tank commander killed in southern Lebanon by Hezbollah anti-tank missiles, among the last deployed in the war.

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

Uri Grossman was the son of the celebrated novelist and political activist David Grossman. The story had special poignance because only a few days earlier, Grossman had publicly called for Israel not to expand the war, and because Grossman's writing focuses on the youth of Israel – their struggle to shape and live out a vision for themselves and their country.

Grossman's *hesped*, his eulogy, however, left politics and celebrity aside. "You were a son and a friend to me and to Mommy. Our soul is tied to yours." In reading about that family's loss, of the unbearable grief of a father for his son, one hears the multiple echoes of so very many families and households, in the wake of battle. Each fallen soldier's story has its own unique poignance.

In the midst of the conflagration between Israel and Hezbollah, there was the daily news report of casualties of battle – Israel soldiers killed in defence of their country, along with Israeli civilians wounded or killed by shelling in the north.

My niece, whose husband had just received a *tsav shmoneh* – a call-up for military reserve duty – was discussing international news coverage of the events. She took issue with a particular slant that seemed to govern non-Israeli media: that civilian death was devastating, but the death of soldiers was acceptable. While the news media acknowledged that fallen soldiers were mourned by their families, the presumption was that dying was part of the business of soldiering.

Part of what underwrites that difference in coverage is related to the rules of modern warfare: the immorality of deliberately targeting civilians, of staging acts of terrorism. But the net result, my niece implied, was a devaluation of the life of the individual soldier.

On Israeli television, by contrast, the lost life of each soldier received coverage: where he came from, what he aspired to, who loved him and whom he loved. Not less than the civilian victim of terror or warfare, caught in the wrong place and wrong time, the fallen soldier was depicted as rooted in the fullness of his potential and his life, cut tragically short.

In a way, my niece explained, it can hit you worse to hear about soldiers killed in battle. I asked her why that was so. Certainly in Israel, the line between soldier and civilian is a porous one, a fuzzy one. A man – or a woman – civilian dons a uniform at a particular moment and for a particular function. Unlike in countries without a universal draft, where only a small fraction of the population serves in the military, in Israel most citizens have been both. Virtually everyone is related to soldiers, close friends with soldiers, colleagues of soldiers. Thus, the death of a soldier hits so very close to home.

All that is true, my niece acknowledged, but she meant something else. When you hear about a *pigu'a*, an act of terrorism, death is random. It could have been you. It wasn't, not this time, but it could have been. But a soldier, she explained, deliberately puts his life at risk, and he does it for you, to protect you, to keep you and your family safe. He dies, you live. The debt runs deep. You feel responsible.

It is this mixture of grief and responsibility that fuels the current mood in Israel: public outcry about the lack of support for reservists sent to Lebanon, about corruption in high places. In a letter circulating on the Internet, for example, one reservist itemizes failure of preparation and lack of basic equipment and, even water. *Mi shelo haya sham, pashut lo yavin*, the writer repeats – if you weren't there, you simply can't understand.

The demand for accountability to and for soldiers and their families is as vital to Israel's continued welfare as the efforts to repair the pockmarked northern Galilee. Sadly, mourning, healing, moral accounting, and vision cannot wait for a perfect peace.

The Kirshner File

War may bring Israel to talks with Syria

Even as the dust from the recent war in Lebanon settled, top Israeli officials were locked in a heated debate over the wisdom of engaging Syria, one of Hezbollah's chief backers, in a new round of peace talks.

The debate was touched off by Defence Minister Amir Peretz, who said that Israel should "create the conditions for dialogue with Syria," which blamed Israel for igniting the war, stayed out of it and claimed that Hezbollah had come out on top.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Within two days of issuing this pronouncement, Peretz backtracked, saying that conditions were not "ripe" for a resumption of bilateral negotiations, which ended six years ago.

Still, Peretz's proposal struck a chord.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni appointed a special project manager for possible talks with Syria, and Public Security Minister Avi Dichter – a former director of the Shin Bet intelligence agency – released a statement proposing that, in exchange for a peace agreement with Syria, Israel should cede the Golan Heights, captured by the Israeli army during the 1967 Six Day War and annexed by Israel in 1981.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres, however, were less than enthusiastic about these proposals.

Olmert said he had no intention of engaging Syria unless it stops its sponsorship of terrorist groups, while Peres suggested that Israel could not seriously negotiate with Syria when the situation in southern Lebanon is so fraught with uncertainty and turmoil still engulfs the Gaza Strip.

Nevertheless, as some observers have noted, Israel may eventually engage Syria so that United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the fighting in Lebanon with a ceasefire, can be fully implemented. As Dennis Ross, the former U.S. envoy to the Middle East, has written, "Implementation… will depend in a large degree on the Syrians."

Damascus may be critical to the success of the resolution because Syria, an ally of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is a transit point through which Iranian weapons and munitions have been funnelled to Hezbollah.

During the war, Israeli aircraft bombed roads and bridges in Lebanon leading into Syria to interrupt Hezbollah's resupply efforts, and strafed vehicles believed to be carrying weaponry bound for Hezbollah.

After the United Nations truce went into effect, Israeli commandos launched a raid near the Syrian border to intercept the flow of such arms. With this in mind, Israel insisted that its acceptance of Resolution 1701 was conditional upon the stationing of an augmented international peacekeeping force along Lebanon's border with Syria.

Two weeks ago, Syria muddied the waters by threatening to close its frontier with Lebanon – which still faces an Israeli air and sea blockade – should the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) patrol the border region. With disingenuous indignation, Syria's president, Bashar Assad, claimed that the deployment of peacekeepers there would undermine Lebanese sovereignty and generate hostility between Syria and Lebanon.

Be that as it may, Syria can play an important role in pacifying Israel's border with Lebanon simply by refusing to allow Iranian rockets and anti-tank missiles to reach Hezbollah, whose armoury of long-range and short-range rockets devastated northern Israel.

Syria can also bring a measure of stability to Lebanon. Last year, after being widely accused of masterminding the assassination of Lebanon's prime minister, Rafik Hariri, Syria grudgingly withdrew its troops and intelligence agents from Lebanon. But Syria, which has neither formally recognized Lebanon's independence nor established an embassy in Beirut, is still influential in Lebanon, and could be a stabilizing force there.

Syria, too, could be useful in settling the Shebaa Farms dispute, which Hezbollah magnified as a flimsy pretext to stir up tensions with Israel prior to the latest war in Lebanon.

A small area lying on the slopes of Mt. Hermon – the highest peak in the area – Shebaa Farms was captured by Israel from Syria during the Six Day War. When Israel unilaterally pulled out of southern Lebanon in May 2000, the United Nations certified its withdrawal, but Hezbollah falsely claimed that Shebaa Farms was Lebanese territory.

Syria and Lebanon cynically supported Hezbollah's stance, and in flaunting that phony claim, Hezbollah tried to wrest Shebaa Farms away from Israel by military means.

If Israel and Syria were to resume negotiations, this nettlesome issue might finally be settled.

Talks with Syria could also result in the closing of Islamic Jihad and Hamas offices in Damascus. Last October, the United Nations, Russia and the European Union joined the United States in demanding such action.

Islamic Jihad has carried out two suicide bombings in Tel Aviv in the past year or so, and Israel has accused Syria of complicity in these attacks.

In 2003, the Israeli air force bombed an empty Palestinian camp in Syria after an Islamic Jihad terrorist detonated a bomb that killed more than 20 Israelis in a Haifa restaurant coowned by Jews and Arabs.

Israeli jets also buzzed Assad's palace in Latakia in June after Hamas' armed wing ambushed a border post inside Israel, killed two soldiers and kidnapped a third, Gilad Shalit. (Recently, King Abdullah II of Jordan accused Syria of encouraging Palestinians in the West Bank to carry out attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers.)

Syrian President Bashar Assad

Israel's penetration of Syrian air space was widely interpreted as a warning to Syria to expel Hamas leader Khalid Mashaal, who lives in exile in Damascus, whom the Mossad tried to assassinate nine years ago, and who may have ordered the raid that resulted in Shalit's abduction.

Syria did not submit to Israel's demand, but recently, senior Palestinian Authority officials were quoted as saying that only the Syrian government has the clout to exert pressure on Hamas so that Shalit can be set free.

Beyond these factors, an Israeli accommodation with Syria could well impel more Arab states, apart from Egypt and Jordan, to recognize Israel, could weaken Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah, and could further isolate Iran.

Certainly, Syria has a vested interest in engaging Israel.

Syria could regain the Golan without shedding a drop of blood, and through Israel, Syria could improve its bilateral ties with the United States – which has imposed economic sanctions on the Syrian regime due to its support for terrorist groups and the current insurgency in Iraq – and the European Union.

In fact, Syria, which has honoured its 1974 disengagement accord with Israel, has expressed a desire to reopen talks with the Jewish state.

Assad, in April 2003, told U.S. congressman Tom Lantos – a Holocaust survivor – of his readiness to restart negotiations at the point where they concluded in January 2000. Subsequently, in an interview with the *New York Times*, he repeated the offer, saying that 80 per cent of Syria's differences with Israel had already been resolved. And in January 2004, he said that his objective is to reach a peace accord with Israel.

Several months ago, Syria's former vice-president, Abdel Abed al-Halim Haddam, disclosed that Syria and Israel had almost achieved a breakthrough in their 1990s peace talks. "Syria was ready for peace," he claimed, saying that Yitzhak Rabin's 1995 murder had scuppered the chances for a historic agreement.

Israel's previous prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said he was open to renewing talks with Syria, but only if Syria stopped waging a proxy war against Israel through Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad and no longer insisted on an Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders.

In his last recorded comment on the subject, in November 2005, Sharon ruled out engagement with Syria categorically, saying that he wished to retain the Golan: "I will not negotiate with Syria because I will never leave that area."

Sharon, in common with his predecessors, argued that the Golan is absolutely vital for Israel's security. But Israel's former chief of staff, Gen. Moshe Yaalon, a hawk who may soon join the ranks of Likud, has said that Israel could defend itself without maintaining a grip on the Golan.

The United States, given its grievances against Damascus, has not openly urged Israel to forge a rapprochement with Syria.

But the Bush administration and Israel may yet have to reassess their respective policies, since Syria may hold the key to stability in Lebanon, the future of Hezbollah and the status of Iran in Mideast politics.

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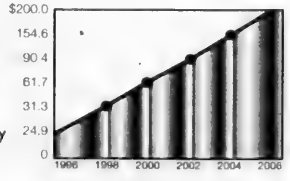

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Holy Blossom to celebrate its 150th anniversary

By JESSICA FREIMAN
CJN Intern

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Holy Blossom congregation, which held its first service on Rosh Hashanah above Coombes Drugstore at Yonge and Richmond streets in 1856.

Holy Blossom, the oldest Jewish congregation in Toronto, has organized a year-long celebration calendar including "programs, music, lectures, reunions – enough to please everyone, ending with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra performing a special concert in June 2007 at Roy Thomson Hall," said Henrietta Chesnie, president of Holy Blossom from1972 to '74, and the first female vice-president of a Canadian congregation in 1970. She is also chair of the 150th anniversary steering committee.

The celebration's launch, set to take place at the synagogue on Sunday, Sept. 17, will be attended by Gov. Gen. Michaelle Jean and addressed by Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism.

"The centrepiece of our celebration is the actual creation by members of our congregation of a new Torah scroll," said Chesnie. "The Torah will be dedicated on May 23, 2007. We are expecting every member of the congregation to participate in one of the great mitzvahs of Judaism."

The journey to 150 followed a long path for the congregation, which began as an Orthodox minyan in 1856 and became Reform in 1920, after moving to a site on Bond Street in 1897. In 1938, the congregation moved to its present site on Bathurst Street.

"The theme for the 150th year is to honour the past, celebrate the present and imagine the future," Chesnie said. "I think ours is a compelling narrative of a religious journey of a congregation from 1856 to the present. Along with building three places of worship to observe Jewish ritual, tradition and education, social issues became a prominent action for this congregation."

Another landmark of Jewish Toronto is being honoured this year as part of Holy Blossom's events. The Pape Avenue Cemetery, built in 1849 and representing the earliest Jewish presence in Toronto, will be dedicated as an Ontario historic site on Sunday, Oct. 22. Also on that day, a bus tour of historic sites of interest to Holy Blossom and the Toronto Jewish community will be conducted.

First services held on Rosh Hashanah in 1856

Chesnie spoke of several main periods in Holy Blossom's history. "During the first three decades, 1856-1886, the English influence was paramount," she said.

Louis Samuel, an English-born Jew who served as president of the congregation for most of the years between 1862 and 1880, was very strongly committed to Orthodox practice, and the condition of building the second synagogue since it was on his land was that they continue to worship according to Orthodox ritual.

The second period, between 1886 and 1920, was a period of transition since the Toronto Jewish population itself was changing. "A large-scale immigration of Yiddish-speaking Jews from eastern Europe contributed to Holy Blossom losing its dominance over the Toronto Jewish religious life, and the congregation changed to a modified version of the Orthodox ritual," Chesnie said.

From 1920 to '43, Chesnie said the English influence almost disappeared, and American-style classical Reform became the mode of practice under three rabbis – Barnett Brickner, Ferdinand Isserman and Maurice Eisendrath.

"The fourth period began in 1943 with the arrival of Rabbi Abraham Feinberg. Under his leadership, the congregation's membership almost tripled. It was during Rabbi Feinberg's tenure that the influence of classical Reform began to wane, primarily as a result of the impact of the Holocaust. Rabbi Feinberg was strongly supportive of Israel and for a greater use of Hebrew. He was primarily involved with social causes, and he had a very high profile in the anti-Vietnam War movement.

"Rabbi Gunther Plaut was senior rabbi at Holy Blossom between 1961 and 1977. The congregation continued to move away from classical Reform and placed more emphasis on Torah study. The membership of the congregation continued to grow, reaching over 2,700 families by 1977."

Chesnie believes that almost every Jew would feel comfortable at Holy Blossom today. "More of the reading is in Hebrew, there's a lot more singing. I think we're a very well-grounded group of Jews, practising their religion and studying, and having a wonderful education setup for the children. That's what people are interested in today, and that's what they're getting here."

What the future holds, however, remains to be seen. "The future presents a tremendous challenge for Jewish institutions and for synagogues particularly. It is vitally important that we bring up a generation of Jews who will then bring up a generation of Jews. In order to do that we have to strengthen their Jewish identity, teach them the values and the traditions of our great books, and hope that by making the synagogue strong, their identification with Judaism will safeguard the future," Chesnie said.

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Dr. Chapnick is Assistant Professor of Defence Studies and Deputy Chair of the Department of Command, Leadership and Management at the Canadian Forces College.

Lecture at 8 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend.
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Our lives are in critical condition

By RABBI WAYNE ALLEN

RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

I once lived in Brooklyn, N.Y. Brooklyn is not a happy place for car owners. In fact, the same can be said for most of New York City. New York City operates under the rule of alternate-side-of-the-street parking. That means that on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, it is legal to park on one side of the street, and on Tuesday and Thursday, it is legal to park on the other side.

The rule is designed to make street sweeping possible and clear a route for sanitation trucks. Vehicles that violate the rule are promptly towed and fined. Alternate-side-of-the-street parking takes effect at 8 a.m.

So by 7:15 or 7:30 a.m., it was not uncommon to see dozens of drivers sitting nervously in their cars, waiting for parking spaces to become available as people drove away to go to work. Like hungry beasts of prey, drivers would lie in wait, waiting to pounce on the first available parking space on the alternate side.

But it is not my New York experience alone that conditioned me to live under the threat of deadlines. Deadlines are not restricted to parking rules. Our lives are circumscribed by many deadlines, due dates and expiration dates. Students must complete assignments on time. Library books must be returned on time. Bills must be paid on time or additional charges and interests will be applied. Products are scrutinized for their expiration dates.

Even our lives have an expiry. Intellectually, we know that our lives may end with our next breath. Emotionally, however, we refuse to accept that fact. We tell our friends or co-workers "See you tomorrow!" as if it is a guarantee. While our lives are ever on the brink, we seem to ignore that fact, less out of ignorance than out of defiance.

Dr. Norman Shumway, a renowned California cardiologist, once completed an early heart transplant operation at Stanford University.

An interviewing reporter asked: "How is your patient doing?"

"All right, I suppose," was the reply.

The reporter followed up. "What is his condition?"

Shumway gave a one word answer: "Critical."

Trying to extract more information, the reporter asked persistently: "And how long will he be critical?"

Shumway then offered an observation as much as an answer. Said the doctor, "He will be critical as long as he lives."

That describes us. Our lives, too, are critical. We are constantly in jeopardy. Few of us acknowledge it. All of us must deal with it.

Now we can understand this talmudic gem (Shabbat 153a). "Rabbi Eliezer says: 'Repent one day before you die.' His students ask him: 'But Master, does a man know which day will be his last?' He replies: 'Even the more reason to repent today since perhaps you shall die tomorrow.'"

Rabbi Eliezer asserts that our spiritual lives are in critical condition as surely as our physical lives are in critical condition. That is why pious Jews confess their sins nightly before going to sleep. Death may overtake us suddenly, without warning. And should we be spared and wake up again the next morning, we take comfort in knowing that we had confessed. For doing so gives us a deeper understanding of ourselves and lead us in firm resolve to live more uprightly thereafter.

And that is why we schedule a penitential period in the Jewish calendar. The Slichot prayers for forgiveness and mercy, beginning before Rosh Hashanah, are our deadline. The ominous Days of Awe are imminent. Living in the shadow of this deadline compels us to take notice of our failings and to act before the deadline expires.

Rabbi Allen is the spiritual leader of Beth Tikvah Synagogue in Toronto.

Looking ahead by looking back

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Midrashic Moments

As we approach Rosh Hashanah and continue to spend the month of Elul in self-reflection, an interesting detail emerges from this week's Torah reading. The Israelites are told that when they finally enter the Land of Israel, they are to bring offerings and retell the history of the Covenant. They must recount the patriarchal and matriarchal promises of land, inheritance and a unique relationship with God. Interesting that at the moment when they stand at the threshold of their future, they are to recount their past.

Likewise there is an interesting comparison between the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, and the secular new year of Jan. 1. Usually, Jan. 1 is marked by new year's resolutions – a list of promises and projections each person puts together that is personal and full of vision and hope for the future. Fitness centres show increased membership in January that usually tapers off by mid-February. There are promises to begin with healthy habits and abandon unhealthy routines. The lists abound with hope. Most of these resolutions go unfulfilled in any long-term way.

By contrast, Elul, the month before Rosh Hashanah is not spent on creating projections for the future. The month of Elul and the holiday of Rosh Hashanah itself are intensive, as we reflect on the past year, not the year to come. Days and weeks are spent asking ourselves hard questions about the choices already made and the things already said. We stand at the edge of the year to come, but we ignore its potential until we have dealt with the year that has been.

Elul is also a time of the year when the sages have told us that God and Israel are intimately connected and expressing the love of their relationship. The Hebrew letters of the word "Elul" also stand for the Hebrew phrase "I am for my beloved and my beloved is for me," one of the most beautiful verses in the *Song of Songs*.

With all of the trials and tribulations we experience in the world and in our lives, it is important to have a period of time to reconnect with the spiritually emotional. The relationship we have with God is that of beloved partners. As with any intimate relationship, we can argue, we can disagree, we can yell and say things we regret. In the end, the strength of the relationship increases with the awareness of the bonds of the past and shared experiences.

In essence, there are two ways to approach any relationship. One can quickly and superficially race into the future with all good intention and the best laid plans. Time and experience have shown that this approach has inconsistent results. On the other hand, one can ground future plans in past realities. The progress forward is slower, since there is more reflection and education required for this approach. However, the outcome should prove to be more durable and more enduring.

Within Jewish history and the Jewish community, we have ample experience of both approaches. We have the inclination to rush and get caught up in visions of outcomes while ignoring the hard work needed to question process as well as outcome. But we also have millennia of experience and literature that caution us to take the slow but proven approach.

A midrash in the Talmud explains that the covenantal promise was given with two opposite images: dust of the earth and stars of the sky. The children of Israel are promised to become like both. Both images are necessary, says the Talmud, since at times, we can be as petty and superficial as the dust of the earth, and at other times, we push ourselves and attain the stars. The month of Elul affords us an entire month within which to make our choice.

Jewish Life

Coming full circle

By ALEX GROPPER

Past Forward

Deir Dibwan is a sleepy Arab village outside of Ramallah not far from Jerusalem. At least that is the way I remember it.

It was the place where I would first get the chance to excavate a biblical site. I remember lying awake tossing and turning at home in Toronto the night before my departure on this epic adventure and not being able to sleep. I got up and turned on the TV.

Many channels were reporting on the results of the Democratic primary for president of the United States that was being held in California. Robert Kennedy had just beaten the other contenders and appeared to be on his way to getting the Democratic nomination. Shortly after receiving the news of his victory, Kennedy was headed to a celebration at the Roosevelt Hotel when a gunman jumped out of the crowd and fatally shot him. Millions of us sat there horrified in front of our television sets with a terrible case of déjà vu.

That awful memory got pushed to the back of my mind as I settled into the pace of life at Deir Dibwan. It was like being transported thousands of years back in time, to a world that moved no faster than the ubiquitous donkeys that transported us, and our equipment, to the excavations. Near the town is the imposing archeological ruin of biblical Ai, known to the Arabs as Et-Tell, which also happens to mean "the ruin." Ai is situated on the eastern ridge of the Judean Hills before it precipitously drops more than 1,000 metres to the Jordan-Dead Sea Valley. I never tired of seeing that breathtaking view in almost two months of living at Deir Dibwan Looking at the sun rise from the Jordanian highlands like a giant orange ball reminded me of a scene from the movie *Lawrence of Arabia*.

Ai had initially been excavated in the early 1930s by Judith Marquet-Krause, a gorgeous and brilliant young Jewish archeologist from France, who had bewitched the Rothschilds with her double dose of beauty and brains into funding her excavations. She died tragically, and very young. Thirty-five years later I was part of a group of Canadians excavating the site, but the bulk of the supervisory staff were Americans, primarily from Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where the director, Joe Callaway taught. Callaway was a soft-spoken southerner with a typical drawl. Although he came from a fundamentalist region, he was quite a respected excavator, having gotten his training with the legendary English archeologist Dame Kathleen Kenyon. (Kenyon gained her fame through her excavations of Jericho in the 1950s and Jerusalem in the early '60s. Her partner in both of these endeavours was A.D. Tushingham, chief archeologist of the Royal Ontario Museum, where part of her discoveries are still housed. Her discoveries, and the stories in the Toronto newspapers, helped put archeology on the map in Toronto).

We found many fascinating things that summer at Ai and its vicinity. The site itself was settled at the dawn of civilization some 5,000 years ago. It was one of the largest cities in ancient Canaan (the name of Israel before the Israelites). One of the things we uncovered dating from this period at the beginning of the Bronze Age (circa 3000 – 1200 BCE) was an expanse of city wall standing to a height of four metres in places.

At the top of the citadel, we found the remains of a four-room, pillared house identified by some archeologists as one of the earliest examples of Israelite habitation. Near another Arab village farther down the wadi leading up to Ai from the Jordan valley were the remains of a Byzantine monastery. Not far from it were tombs from the time of Herod.

One day one of my workmen asked me if I knew a friend of his from Deir Dibwan. I was perplexed; how could I know someone from an insignificant Arab village? Then he told me the man's name and I froze – it was Sirhan Sirhan, the assassin of Robert Kennedy. I had come full circle since my departure.

The Jewish calendar, Part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

We are now well into the month of Elul, the last month of the year preceding Rosh Hashanah. This is a time to take stock of our conduct during the past year, look at our goals for the coming one… and, of course, pick up a new Jewish calendar. You can get one from your nearest Judaica store or bakery or on the Jewish Internet.

There are two basic kinds of calendar programs on the Internet. Some programs are built right into a web page. Typically, you type in the information you want, hit enter and you get your response. There are also some calendar programs that you can download onto your computer and use whenever you want. These programs are usually more sophisticated and may or may not be free.

In the web-based category, I highly recommend the Hebcal Interactive Jewish Calendar. Plug in the name of your city, or your longitude and latitude, and customize whether you'd like the Hebrew date, holidays or that week's Torah portion to appear. Click and you have a personalized calendar. You can even export the results to other programs. **[www.hebcal.com/hebcal/]**

The Ezras Torah foundation is known for its information-packed wall and pocket calendars. That calendar is now available online. The real benefit of this calendar is the detailed explanation about major holiday-related customs for the coming year and specific notes about possible exceptions. For example, next year when the first day of Sukkot falls on Shabbat, we are reminded not to wave the lulav. **[www.ezrastorah.org/calendar.htm]**

Some online calendars are specialized. Andrew Tannenbaum's 50 Year Yahrzeit Calendar Calculator does exactly what it promises. Plug in a date (using either the Jewish or civil calendar) and the page generates a list that tells you when the yahrzeit will fall. **[http://shamash.org/trb/yahr/]**

Rather than looking everything up on the web, you may want a stand-alone calendar program that has more functions. There are plenty that you can purchase, but I have come across some that you can download free. (Some do ask for a donation, though.) Aish Hatorah's Aish Luach (for Windows) lets you look up birthdays, yahrzeits and can be set for hundreds of cities around the world. **[http://tinyurl.com/39ghu]** If you use Windows 2000, you can download a Jewish calendar add-in for Outlook. **[http://tinyurl.com/lgxdy]** More recent versions of Outlook have that functionality built in. The Microsoft site explains how you can make use of it. **[http://tinyurl.com/qxz52]**

Mac users haven't been forgotten. Although it doesn't boast as many features as Aish Luach, Jewish Calendar also does a solid job. **[http://tinyurl.com/47axg]** If you want to carry your Jewish calendar with you, download the free Der Tog program for your Palm running OS 5. **[www.tichnut.de/dertog/]** And check out the great Tichnut page for a summary of other Jewish calendar programs – some free, some not – that you can download. (Please note that I have not tested most of these calendars.) **[www.tichnut.de/jewish/]**

Just a reminder that many of these programs are "shareware." Shareware is software provided to you on the honour system. Try it. And if you like it, you are expected to pay for it. And what better time to take stock of all those shareware programs you're using but have forgotten to pay for than before Rosh Hashanah.

Rather than give you a calendar, the Hagshama site breathes some life into it by telling you about a Jewish event that has occurred for every date of the year. Did you know that on Sept. 2, 1825, Mordechai Manuel Noah "led a parade in New York City declaring Grand Island, N.Y., a Jewish city? The 2,500-acre island… was part of the Noah Colonization dream to provide a refuge for his Jewish brethren. He was to call his city Ararat. Few people took him up on his dream and the plan soon disintegrated." The vast majority of dates in the Hagshama calendar, though, refer to various pogroms, blood libels and forced conversions that have been perpetrated against Jews over the centuries. **[http://tinyurl.com/q6c8y]**

Though the programs I've mentioned do a fine job of calculating dates, even the Internet still can't create a free glossy calendar that comes with lovely photos of sunrise over Masada or sunset at the Kotel. Maybe that bakery-shop calendar isn't threatened, yet.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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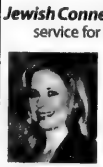

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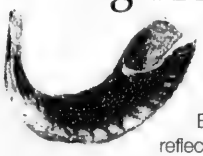

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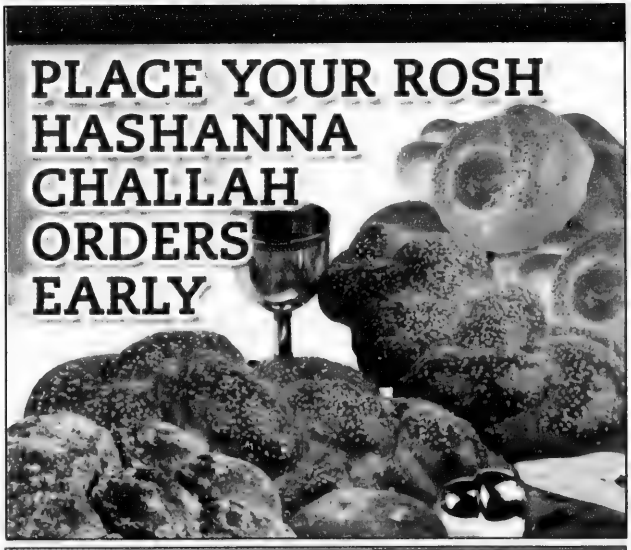

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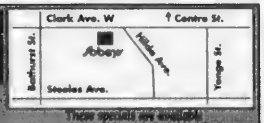

These specials are available only at Sobeys Kosher Market, 441 Clark Ave.

All items subject to availability, while quantities last.
Prices effective from Thursday, September 7th, to Friday, September 15th, 2006

Beit Rayim rabbi wants to share love of Judaism

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The new rabbi at Beit Rayim Synagogue – one of only two egalitarian congregations affiliated with the Conservative movement in the GTA, the other being a small grassroots congregation in Mississauga – says he could not imagine serving comfortably in a congregation that was not egalitarian. He admits, however, that originally his head "wrapped itself around the idea a lot more quickly than my *kishkas* did."

Rabbi David Eligberg, a 46-year-old native of Montreal who attended United Talmud Torah and Herzliah High School, grew up in the traditional Conservative congregation Shaare Zedek. He said his philosophy began to change as he "came to embrace egalitarianism as a legitimate and valid model of Conservative Judaism" once he started reading responsa on the issue as a student at the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York.

The avid Montreal Canadiens fan was ordained in 1985, the year JTS began to ordain women. He also has a degree in political science from Columbia University.

Rabbi Eligberg, who moved here from North Brunswick, N.J., where he served Congregation B'nai Tikvah for 11 years, also serves as principal of Beit Rayim's congregational school. He began his career as an assistant rabbi in Long Island, N.Y., and has also led a congregation in Yardley, Pa.

The rabbi was still settling in as of last week, shortly after he took on his new position Aug. 15. He replaces Rabbi Sol Tanenzapf, the congregation's previous spiritual leader, who died earlier this year.

Beit Rayim appealed to Rabbi Eligberg in large part for its informality, warmth and "heimish" quality, he said in a recent interview amid stacks of boxes in his new office.

Also, he added, the 230-family congregation is "committed to its future [and] looking to grow," not just in size but in terms of Jewish experiences.

Beit Rayim recently moved out of its Bayview Avenue location in Richmond Hill, following the building's sale to a developer. The synagogue's offices are now located on Centre Street in Thornhill, near the Reena Battle Centre. Services will be held there until permanent premises, together with United Synagogue Day School, are completed at the Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan in fall of 2008.

High Holy Days services, as in past years, will be at the Bayview Hill Community Centre and Hebrew school classes will be held at Ross Doan Public School on Weldrick Road West.

Rabbi Eligberg's biggest passion is Judaism, he said. "I really believe that Judaism has something to teach us that can guide us in all aspects of our lives."

Rabbi David Eligberg
[Frances Kraft photo]

One of those aspects has to do with environmentalism, an issue on which the rabbi has spoken out in his previous congregation.

Other issues with which he has been involved include interfaith dialogue and human rights in Darfur.

The rabbi – a father of three young children who drives a Honda Accord – said he's "not going to suggest we all sit at home and not use our vehicles, not turn on a light or any of the other things that have become part of our natural everyday lifestyle, but I think there are ways we can lessen our impact by being more conscious and more aware of what we do."

Rabbi Eligberg, who entered the rabbinate to share his love of "Judaism and what it can bring into our world," said that at Beit Rayim he wants to "create as many opportunities as possible for people to engage in and experience Jewish life."

In his former congregation, he and his wife, Jodi – an attorney by training who has recently been teaching toddler music classes – held Shabbat afternoon open houses for congregants to "give people an opportunity to see what a restful, relaxing and religious experience Shabbat can be.

"That's really my goal… to engage people in the Jewish journey, to make sure they're moving somewhere along the Jewish highway of life toward a destination of greater involvement and participation and engagement with God."

The rabbi has not taken a public stand on the gay/lesbian issue, which the movement's committee on law and standards will be voting on in December. "Part of me is waiting to see what the law committee will put forth in the way of tshuvot or readings. Those will help me crystallize my own thinking on the subject."

Advertising Feature

Baker's Lane at Thornhill Woods— half sold in first two weeks!

Within days of opening for preview, Thornhill Woods' most exciting new community of townhomes is already half sold. An intimate enclave of distinguished clay brick and stone homes, Baker's Lane is visually stunning. Located on the northeast corner of Dufferin and Summeridge in a magnificent woodland setting, Baker's Lane recalls a time when horses grazed nearby and sugar maples were tapped for their fragrant sap.

Builder Joe Morano (at right) with Baker's Lane sales representative Sol Goldkind

The setting is outstanding and so is the convenience that comes along with it. Shopping and public transit are right on your doorstep.

Designed by Elm Developments, with a long history of creating superb new homes in areas like North York, Forest Hill and downtown Toronto, Baker's Lane offers the charm of European city homes on coveted wooded lots.

Elm builder Joe Morano is passionate about the overall feeling of Baker's Lane, "We've created a real community at Baker's Lane. It will have that sense of intimacy that you find in small European cities along with the heritage and natural beauty of the Thornhill Woods setting."

Elm has created a number of spacious three and four-bedroom designs for you to choose from, ranging from 1701 to 2109 square feet. Patios and backyards offer delightful opportunities for outdoor relaxation and fun. Interior highlights include impressive granite foyers, nine-foot main floor ceilings, main floor powder rooms, family/media rooms, private studies and computer lofts, master bedrooms with generous walk-in closets and luxurious ensuites with his-and-her sinks, oval soaker tubs and separate showers.

Heritage-style architectural details pay homage to Thornhill Woods' rural roots.

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Prices start from the $370's. Construction will begin in spring of next year with occupancy slated to begin in the fall.

With sales this brisk, don't wait to visit the sales presentation centre on Summeridge Drive, just east of Dufferin. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 1 to 8 pm, weekends & holidays noon to 6 pm, closed Friday. For more details, call 905-709-0884 or visit www.bakers-lane.com

Har Zion rabbi adds a new musical note to services

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Speaking about the rabbinic thesis he wrote in 1993 on an Aramaic text called *Dream of Mordechai*, Rabbi Cory Weiss said he loves a challenge.

Rabbi Weiss, who has been spiritual leader at Temple Har Zion in Thornhill since July, said he does not know of any other English-language critical edition of the text nor of one in any language more recent than 1895.

In an interview at the synagogue, Rabbi Weiss, 41, said he took on the project as a student after asking his thesis adviser at Hebrew Union College to find him a text that needed work.

A native of New York who moved to Stamford, Conn., at age eight with his family, Rabbi Weiss replaces Rabbi Michal Shekel, who served as interim rabbi for the past year following the retirement of Rabbi Michael Stroh. Rabbi Stroh, now rabbi emeritus, was the Thornhill congregation's rabbi since its founding in 1971.

Rabbi Weiss said his first priority at Har Zion – already under way – is getting to know his congregants, made up of some 450 households. Also, he said, post-bar and -bat mitzvah education, youth programming and adult education are "very important" to him.

Recently, he attended a meeting of Mosaic, the interfaith group of clergy and lay leaders co-founded by Rabbi Stroh more than 25 years ago. For Rabbi Weiss, involvement in the group, which represents a variety of faiths, expands on the Jewish-Christian interfaith work in which he was involved in more homogeneous rural Connecticut.

Rabbi Weiss led Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek in Chester, Conn., for six years until 2005. Prior to that, he served a West Hartford congregation as associate rabbi.

Other issues he was involved in included hunger relief and civil rights work.

Unlike some of his American colleagues in the Reform movement – and in line with Reform rabbis in the Toronto area – Rabbi Weiss does not officiate at interfaith marriages. However, he is "firmly committed to outreach and welcoming interfaith families into the congregation."

He is a supporter of same-sex marriage, but has never officiated at one. "My inclination would be to officiate, but I need to learn the lay of the land and not turn the synagogue on its head."

Judaism, particularly Reform Judaism, has always been an evolving religion, he said.

Rabbi Weiss' office at Har Zion, with its book-lined shelves, attests to his love of learning; he has studied Aramaic, Syriac and Esperanto. A selection of books was on his desk as he prepared for Shabbat services last week.

One – perhaps surprisingly – was *Etz Hayim*, the new Conservative chumash published in 2003. "I'm a committed, devoted Reform Jew," said Rabbi Weiss, "but I'm also devoted to studying from all the sources I can." Rabbi Gunther Plaut's Torah commentary was also on his desk, he noted, citing the best known work of the venerated Reform rabbi.

Rabbi Cory Weiss
[Frances Kraft photo]

Last year, in a semi-sabbatical year, Rabbi Weiss served an unaffiliated Conservative-style synagogue in Connecticut, a stint he described as "a great learning experience. They were flexible, and I was flexible. It was a good *shidduch*."

On a recent Shabbat, Rabbi Weiss played his accordion at Har Zion's morning services for the first time.

He said he's never been able to play guitar, a more common instrument at some Reform services. However, music has held a prominent place in his life and his career. Among his musical credits, Rabbi Weiss counts *The Song of the Sea* for cantor and children's choir, which was commissioned by a New Jersey congregation. It was published by Transcontinental Music in 1997.

Rabbi Weiss said his musical style has been influenced by composers like Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copeland and Stephen Sondheim.

As an undergraduate at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he received a bachelor of music degree, Rabbi Weiss majored in French horn performance. He has been playing piano since age five.

He took up the accordion in Israel during the first year of his rabbinical program, figuring that as a pianist, he was halfway to learning accordion, because of the keys on the instrument's right side.

During that year he also met his wife, Karen Winkler Weiss, a Jewish educator who was a fellow student at HUC. They have two sons, age 10 and 15.

He continued his rabbinical studies at the HUC campus in Los Angeles for two years, with his final two years at HUC in New York.

Rabbi Weiss said he fell in love with Toronto as a 14-year-old when he visited the city with his school's math and science club to see the Ontario Science Centre, but it wasn't until a former rabbinical school classmate told him about the opening at Har Zion that he thought seriously about moving here.

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Waltman new USDS principal at Bathurst campus

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Ashley Waltman, new principal at United Synagogue Day School's Bathurst Street campus, has a master's degree in education and another in biology.

The Toronto native and lifelong resident says he chose to pursue a career in education rather than science for the same reason that he hopes motivates other educators: the feeling that he could make a difference.

Ashley Waltman

His move to USDS follows a 32-year career in the public school system, most recently at North Toronto Collegiate Institute for the past seven years until his retirement from the Toronto District School Board this summer. Last year he travelled to Shanghai as part of a TDSB team to establish relationships between the Toronto board and its Shanghai counterpart.

Being at USDS – moving from high school to elementary/middle school, and from the public school system to the Jewish day school system – is "fantastic, so invigorating" at this stage of his career, said Waltman, 56, in an interview last week in his office at the campus located at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

As a Conservative Jew – he is a former brotherhood president at Adath Israel Congregation – he is also excited about being at a Conservative Jewish day school. "This is who I am."

As principal, he sees it as his role to encourage his 412 students, as well as his staff, "with the emphasis on the first. The second is a way of doing the first."

On a personal level, he enjoys interacting with individual students, including informal hallway conversations. Rumour had it he knew every student by name at his former school, he said. "It wasn't true. I wish I knew more."

He has also been known to go into classes to teach, usually a physics lesson. He has his special education qualification, and at one point taught Grade 12 gifted physics. At Northern, he coached the girls' volleyball team and the boys' basketball team.

Waltman says he does not ask staff to do anything he wouldn't do himself, whether it's going in early, coaching a team or participating on committees.

Although he recognizes that USDS students – probably most day school students – could use more time for physical education and arts, and he believes in making that happen at lunchtime and before and after hours, Waltman said that he has heard "loud and clear" from parents that they want their children to be prepared academically. "That cannot be compromised for anything. It's a challenge at any day school."

It would be a mistake, he said, for him to "try to change the world too quickly."

Curriculum content, he believes, is "the vehicle for the really big understanding that will allow [students] to excel in society – the curiosity, self-awareness, confidence, all those kinds of things."

At a Jewish day school, he said, there is the added component of building a Jewish identity, which is "important in terms of continuity of our religion."

Nothing, he said, should interfere with the students' ability to learn and the teachers' ability to teach. If there is a problem, such as a behavioural issue, he believes it should be addressed collaboratively by parents, teachers and students.

He sees his new role as being filled with "all sorts of new challenges.

"I'm too driven," he said. "I can't retire."

A day of family fun to help Shaare Zedek

Enjoy a fun day in the sun at On the Run 2006, the second annual family fitness day to raise funds for the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

Organized by the Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, the event will be held Sunday, Sept. 17, at Earl Bales Park in Toronto. Join family and friends walking and running in support of the hospital's department of pediatric medicine, which exemplifies the medical centre's reputation as Israel's "Hospital with a Heart" by blending state-of-the-art technology with compassionate patient care.

The doctors, nurses, teachers, therapists and researchers there have developed special treatments that use art, as well as animal and music therapy to help the children and their families cope.

On the Run participants can take part in a day that includes a 5-km trail run, a guided nature walk, breakfast, children's music and activities, massage, yoga, pilates and stretching, as well as amazing prizes.

To register online go to https://secure.e2rm.com/registrant/startup.aspx?eventid=7395, or visit the website at www.hospitalwithaheart.ca.

Shaare Zedek is known for its century-long reputation for treating patients rather than just their illnesses.

For more information, please contact Dara Newton, co-ordinator of fundraising programs, 416-781-3584.

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Selichot Service at 11:00 p.m.
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Featuring four **Cantors: A. Eliezer Kirshblum, Marshall Loomer, Aaron Bensoussan, and Eric Moses,** and **Combined Choirs & Instrumental Ensemble**
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In preparation for Selichot
When we admit our failings as Jews
Guest lecturer: **Dr. Gidon Sapir**
Will reflect on our Identity as Jews: **"Who is a Jew?" New Developments in Israeli Supreme Court Rulings**
Dessert Reception – 11:00 p.m.
Selichot Service – 11:45 p.m.
Led by **Rabbi Wayne Allen and Cantor Tibor Kovari**
With the **Festival String Quartet of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra**
And the **Beth Tikvah Choir**
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BEIT RAYIM SYNAGOGUE
905-770-7639
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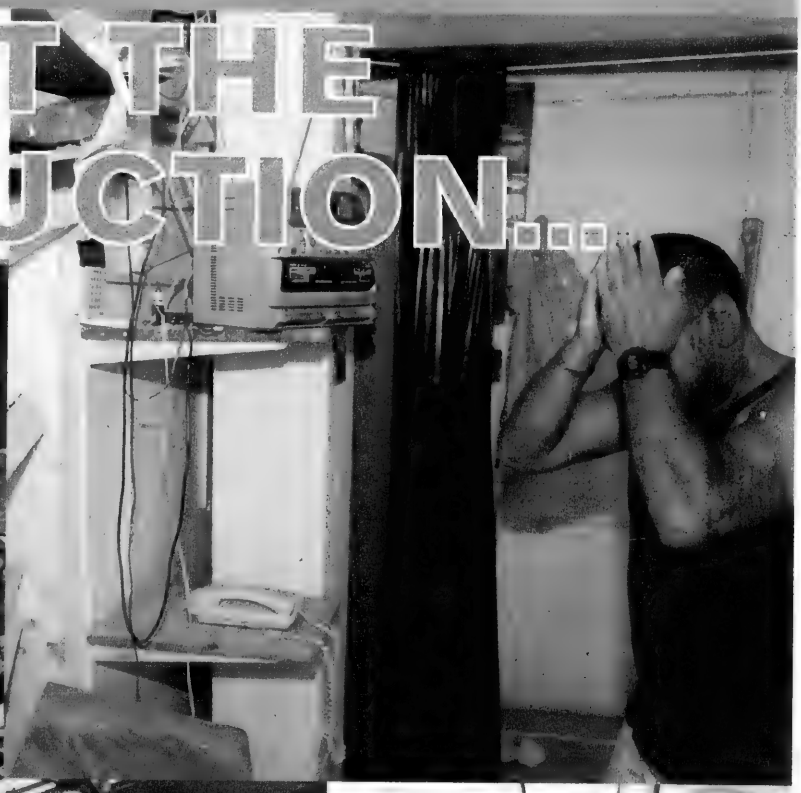
"Ethical Wills as a Roadmap for a Successful New Year"
by: **Rabbi David M. Eligberg**
Followed by Refreshments and
Selichot Service led by **Cantor Eli Bard** at 11:00 p.m.

SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE
905-889-4975
Beginning at 9:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker: **Professor Hindy Najman**
Associate Professor of Ancient Judaism
Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations,
University of Toronto
"Sh'ma Koleinu:
What Are We Doing When We Daven?"
Torah Mantels Ceremony – 9:50 p.m.
Changing of Torah Mantels to High Holiday White
Refreshments to follow
Selichot Service – 10:45 p.m. and
Dedication of Memorial Plaques
Led by **Rabbi Martin Berman & Cantor Ben Silverberg**

AMIDST THE DESTRUCTION...



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BARRIE-TO-BAYCREST: Marvin Katz and his two grandchildren, Katie and Ryan, admire the colorful cycling art of Israeli artist David Gerstein, newly installed at Baycrest's Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged. Marvin and his wife Reene purchased the wall sculpture and donated it to Baycrest in honor of the cyclists who participate in the 100-kilometre Barrie-to-Baycrest fundraiser each year. Marvin will be cycling in his third "B2B" on Sept. 10 along with 100+ other cyclists who aim to raise $1-million dollars this year in honor of the late Sam Ruth. To sponsor a rider, go to www.baycrest.org/b2b

Program aims to improve Jewish non-profit camping

By JENNA ROSMAN
CJN Intern

Three directors of overnight camps in Ontario will be part of the Foundation for Jewish Camping's Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) for camp leaders across North America.

"Twenty people have been selected for the first cohort," said Amy Kruglak, director of operations of the project, which will kick off in October. "This is our first group, and during that time, they're going to be learning much more in depth about leadership and management skills."

The program's primary aim, she said, is to help Jewish not-for-profit overnight camps better attract campers. "Basically, it's taking the best practices from the business world, in terms of leadership and management, and teaching this group of 20 how to take these skills [and] incorporate them into their current stock management style so that they can further develop themselves and their program. An intensive management development program is one way of looking at it."

The project was announced in March at the foundation's Leaders Assembly in Washington. Thirty-three camp directors applied for places in the program: they had to answer five essay questions and attend an interview. Those selected for ELI were notified at the end of May, prior to the 2006 summer camp season.

"There were questions about life-defining moments; questions about what Jewish identity means; the goals that each of us [has]. Everyone had the same five questions. Many of them related back to the goals of the camp and many of them were personal because they wanted to get an idea of who each of us was," said Miriam Allman, director of Camp Moshava in Ontario, who was selected to be in the first cohort.

Ron Polster of the Union of Reform Judaism's Camp George in Parry Sound, and Michael Wolf from Camp Ramah in Utterson were the other Canadian directors chosen.

"[ELI] is going to enhance and improve our camp because we're exposed to tremendous professionals in the field, both from the for-profit and the not-for-profit world. [We'll become aware of] things that we can try to do to make our camps better places to be," Allman said.

ELI faculty include television producer, TV commentator and executive coach, Richard Levin, as well as Joseph Reimer, director of the Institute for Informal Jewish Education and associate professor and former director of the Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service at Brandeis University.

"Richard Levin and Joseph Reimer are our core faculty. Very early on, when Jerry [Silverman, president of the Foundation for Jewish Camping] had developed the concepts of this program, he knew of [Levin and Reimer] and contacted them to ask if they were interested in putting together a concept," said Kruglak. "And now we're thrilled that the concept is coming to reality."

Not-for-profit camps, which have boards of directors and are commonly affiliated with movements "are primarily mission camps where their importance is to convey the mission of raising children with a very strong Jewish identity," said Kruglak. "Private camps don't have the same mission focus typically."

Kruglak said not-for-profit camps are no more difficult to run than private camps, though they face "unique" challenges.

"This program will help them to mitigate some of those challenges and to understand that the not-for-profit camps spend a lot of time on the educational program of the camp… whether it's Zionistic and Israel-focused or [Jewishly focused in other ways]," she said.

The first of seven ELI seminars takes place Oct. 17 to 19 in Wellesley, Mass.

"We are asking [the participants] to submit 10 different pictures describing who they are, through the lens of their camp," said Kruglak. "When they present to the group in October, they will be presenting themselves – who they are, what they are passionate about – as well as their camp."

For more information about ELI, visit www.jewishcamping.org or e-mail questions@jewishcamping.org

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Nasrallah admission changes the story

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Coverage of the aftermath of the Israeli-Hezbollah war changed dramatically after Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah admitted in an Aug. 27 interview on Lebanese TV that he would never have authorized the abduction of two Israeli soldiers had he known how strongly Israel would retaliate.

"Had we known that that the kidnapping of the soldiers would have led to this, we definitely would not have done it… We did not think that there was a one per cent chance that the kidnapping would have led to a war of this scale and magnitude," Nasrallah said.

Suddenly the prevailing narrative in which Nasrallah was the victor over Israel – and a "resistance" hero throughout the Middle East – yielded to a different storyline. Nasrallah was seen as the leader of a movement that had brought enormous destruction on the heads of ordinary people due to his reckless actions. Some reporters discovered a growing backlash against Nasrallah and Hezbollah that cut across all segments of the Lebanese public – Christian, Druze, Sunni and even some Shiite.

On CBC Radio *World Report* (Aug. 28), Mike Hornbrook reported from Beirut as UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan arrived to shore up the fragile ceasefire. Among other things, Annan called for the release of the two kidnapped Israeli soldiers. Hornbrook remarked: "The abductions triggered the war that has brought so much destruction and misery to Lebanon."

Hornbrook said that criticism of Hezbollah in Lebanon had been "muted" but was "starting to emerge."

He interviewed a Lebanese man who blamed Hezbollah for the destruction of his village. The villager said: "Some people hate Hezbollah. I think 90 per cent hate Hezbollah."

Hornbrook concluded by noting that an Aug. 28 opinion poll found that a small majority (51 per cent) of Lebanese want Hezbollah to give up its weapons and "huge majorities of Christians and Druze support disarmament."

In "Hezbollah blamed for reopening rifts" (*National Post*, Aug. 29), Thanassis Cambanis of the *Boston Globe* describes growing sectarian discord in Lebanon, including calls by members of the Sunni and Druze sects to acquire weapons of their own "to counter Hezbollah's." Cambanis notes the danger of a return to the civil war that racked Lebanon from 1975 to 1990.

Cambanis writes that instead of blaming Israel for their internal conflicts, "angry Lebanese have begun blaming the Shiite militant group [Hezbollah] for reopening the dangerous sectarian rifts."

Cambanis quotes a Christian shop owner: "Hezbollah made this war and ruined the whole country. We paid in blood and in young men… As long as Hezbollah exists, and has weapons, there will be war."

The Druze, who comprise 10 per cent of the population, are led by Walid Jumblatt. According to Cambanis, Jumblatt is "Nasrallah's loudest detractor, accusing Hezbollah of serving foreign masters in Iran and Syria at the expense of the Lebanese people."

Sunnis, too, along with a declining Christian population (many of whom are making plans to leave Lebanon for the West) are both resentful and fearful of Hezbollah – and the Shiites' – growing power and influence.

In a *New York Times* story ("At funeral, a Sunni village condemns Hezbollah's presence," Aug. 25), Hassan Fattah reports how residents of the predominantly Sunni village of Marwaheen, near the border with Israel, expressed bitter resentment against Hezbollah over losing family members who became casualties of the conflict with Israel. Fattah quotes one Sunni villager, Zainab Abdullah: "We kept beseeching [Hezbollah], 'Stay out! Stay out!' They said, 'We're all in the same boat together, so deal with it.' But why should our children die for their cause?"

In the meantime, Hezbollah continues to defy the UN resolutions calling for its disarmament. While a UN peacekeeping force of up to 15,000 is supposed to be deployed alongside 15,000 Lebanese soldiers, there is no mandate to disarm Hezbollah – or orders to prevent Syria and Iran from resupplying Hezbollah with weapons, including long-range missiles.

Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah

Nasrallah's conciliatory-sounding words are designed perhaps to enhance his political standing among an increasingly critical population. But many Lebanese and Israelis believe it might be only a matter of time before a new round of fighting breaks out. Whether internal Lebanese strife can be avoided in the interim remains to be seen.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

On Campus

Students learn from each other at summer retreat

By JENNA ROSMAN
CJN Intern

More than 70 Jewish student leaders, from Victoria, B.C., to Prince Edward Island, attended the second annual summer retreat organized by the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students last month.

"This was the second annual national leadership retreat. It was created by the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students (CFJS) to foster a national network of communication among campus leaders and, furthermore, to get motivated and excited for the upcoming school year," said Melissa Lantsman, president and fourth-year economic-urban studies student at University of Toronto.

The four-day retreat, held at Camp George in Parry Sound, Ont., from Aug. 24 to 27, saw student leaders affiliated with organizations including Hillel, Jewish student associations, Jewish law student associations, and Alpha Epsilon Pi and Delta Phi (Jewish fraternity and sorority groups) from more than 20 university campuses nationwide.

"We discussed the concerns of what might happen on campus in September. We got [everyone] to basically learn from each other in terms of successes and mistakes," Lantsman said.

There were many speakers at the retreat, she said, covering such topics as leadership development, Jewish identity, social justice, fundraising, communications, "the Jewish tradition of disagreement," effective leadership and crisis management.

"We had sessions, with the help of the Jewish community staff from all across Canada – Hillel staff in particular – and we had sessions regarding bridge-building and working with staff," she said.

Speakers included Ben Fefferman, the Canadian co-ordinator of Hasbara Fellowships, a non-profit group that provides information on pro-Israel activism; Mark Anshan, United Jewish Appeal general counsel and former director of the Canada-Israel Committee; Matthew Godwin, the national chair of SHOUT (Students Helping Others Understand Tolerance); Jared Isaacson, director of leadership development at National Jewish Campus Life; and Michal Kayne, director of the Israel Program Centre.

"We had activities [related to] national campaigns and national initiatives, based on Jewish identity," Lantsman said.

Other highlights included Shabbat with Rabbi Aaron Levy, the new rabbi and director at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Life, an Oneg Shabbat and an Israel-themed beach party.

"It was an amazing display of proud Jewish identity and [the start of] a brand new national network," Lantsman said.

GIFT OF LIFE: This photo, taken at last year's Gift of Life bone marrow testing drive, is just one example of the kind of programming that members of AEPi at York promote for Jewish students.

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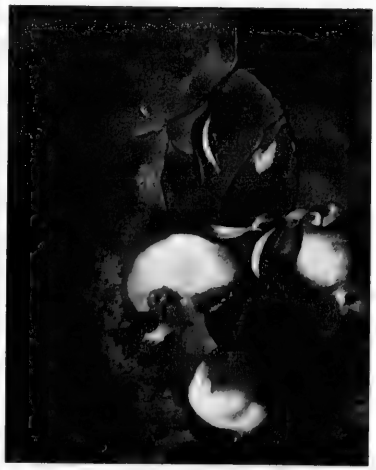

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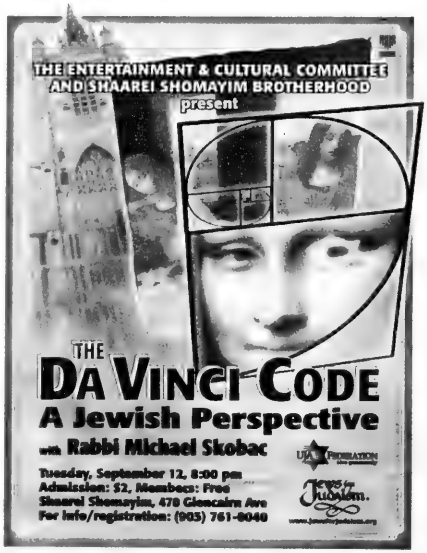

On Campus

Graduate students hope to inspire youth to give back

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

From left, Jessica Feldman, Esti Goldbach and Gabi Cohen, the co-founders and co-chairs of Young at Heart.

They grew up together, went to school together and now they are giving back to the community together.

Gabi Cohen, Jessica Feldman and Esti Goldbach, three graduate students, are the co-founders and co-chairs of Young at Heart, a foundation that aims to give charity to those who need it most.

"Young at Heart is a foundation we started this year and our project right now is to raise money for the hematology/ oncology ward at the Hospital for Sick Children, but additionally our focus is to foster the importance of charity among our peers," said Goldbach, 23, who is currently doing her co-op at a hospital as part of her health service management MBA at McMaster University.

"We were fortunate enough to share in the joys of childhood together and we wanted to help kids, who are forced to grow up too fast, to continue to indulge in the joys of youth," said Feldman, a 22-year-old, second-year Osgoode Hall Law School student.

With the support of the Sick Kids Foundation and a nine-person committee consisting of students and young professionals, Young at Heart has planned a gala for Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto.

Feldman explained that she, Goldbach and Cohen, who is a 22-year-old student in a combined law and business program at Osgoode and Schulich School of Business, decided to plan this gala based on the experience they had while students at McGill University.

"It started two years ago when we started fundraising for the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation in Montreal and we had helped plan two afternoon galas in a very similar format to what we're having here," she said.

"After the success of those, and now that we already know how to plan fundraisers and know about the personal satisfaction of raising a lot of money and doing something for the community, we decided that we would use our skills for the Toronto community and give it a go here," Feldman added.

The afternoon gala, which is set to begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday, will include speakers, musical entertainment by an A Capella group called Onoscatopoeia, a performance by mentalist Haim Goldenberg, a silent auction, a raffle and more.

"This event is meant to celebrate childhood and it is sort of a fun way to give back," Feldman said.

While the theme of the gala is a return to one's youth, Dr. Michael Capra, a full-time physician in the hematology/oncology division at the Hospital for Sick Children, will address the guests, as will a child cancer survivor and a father of a leukemia survivor.

The silent auction will include products ranging from an LCD TV, satellite radio, gift cards from clothing stores, a Kaplan Test Prep Course, and sporting goods.

But what makes Young at Heart different from other charities, they say, is that not only do they raise money for good causes, but they also make it a priority to foster the value of charity within the younger generation in the local community.

"We also just like the idea of making charity very accessible to young people and students," Feldberg said.

"I think we realized that even at our age, being university students, we were able to do so much. We were able to get other students involved, and we're meeting such inspirational people along the way," said Goldbach, who hopes to sell about 300 tickets.

"Ideally, we hope that people will come to the event and be inspired."

Tickets cost $25 for students and $40 for general admission. For more information, visit www.youngatheart2006.com.

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Only paid Mazel tov announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come - first served basis as space allows.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words maximum. Send your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., #205 North York, ON. M3B 3K4
or email them to:
cblackman@cjnews.com

Happy 86th, Andy, from your daughter, wife, son-in-law, and grandchildren. We love you!

Jodi & David Goldstein are thrilled by the birth of big brother Nathan Jacob on June 20. His twin sisters Eden Brooke and Leila Abigail were born on July 12. Proud grandparents are Anette & Larry Goldstein and Judi & Larry Silverberg. Sadly missed is Linda Silverberg.

Happy anniversary Mommy & Daddy. Lots of smooches, Zack.

Mazel tov Liora & Michael on your engagement. Parents, Anne & Leon Hoffman, Pamela & Harold Garfinkle. Proud grandmothers, Rose Melnick, Florence Garfinkle, Rita Golomb.

The families of Adrienne Levy & Mark Ziv are delighted to announce their engagement! Wedding to take place Jan. 28, 2007.

Mazel tov Monika & Matthew on your engagement. Delighted parents Margaret & Morton Roseman, Rachel & Don Marcovitch. Grandmothers Ilona Vadnai, Ida Roseman, Sarah Marcovitch.

Luci & Michael Feldman are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Lesley to Jonathan, son of Rona & Brian Greenwald of New York.

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What's New

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What's New deadlines: Monday, Sept. 11 is the deadline for the Sept. 21 issue and Monday, Sept. 18 is the deadline for the Sept. 28 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Sunday, Sept. 10

STARTING OVER

Torah in Motion presents "Starting Over: Life Change and Tshuvah" with **Dr. Elliott Malamet**, of CHAT, today and Sun. Sept. 17, 9:30-11 a.m. at Netivot HaTorah Day School. www.torahinmotion.org or 416-633-5770

CFHU FAMILY FUN DAY

Join Canadian Friends of Hebrew University for their alumni and friends family fun day, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Camp Robin Hood. $20, family pass $95. Call 416-485-8000 or visit www.cfhu.org.

CIRCUS AND CARNIVAL

The Temmy Latner Forest Hill Jewish Centre holds "Picnic in the Park," an outdoor circus carnival from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Suydam Park, Spadina Rd. and St. Clair Ave. with entertainment, face painting and other children's activities. For info call **Luci** 416-483-0883.

BOOKS & BAGELS

Beth Emeth Sisterhood Books & Bagels will discuss *Your Mouth is Lovely* by **Nancy Richler**, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 416-633-9092.

FAMILY CONCERT

USDS and Beth Tzedec Congregation invite pre-schoolers, parents and grandparents to join **Peter** and **Ellen Allard** for "Song, Circle and Celebration," at 4 p.m. $18 per family includes free CD. Tickets, 416-224-8737, ext. 141 or songcirclecelebration@usds.ca.

UNLIKELY NATURE OF GOD

Temple Kol Ami Adult Education presents **Rabbi Jerry Steinberg** on "Unlikely Nature of God" 7:30 p.m. at the Israeli Source. 905--709-2620

CONFESSIONS OF TERROR

Aish Toronto presents a screening of *Confessions of a Former Terrorist: The Incredible Journey of Walid Shoebat*. 8 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre. $18 in advance, $25 at the door. 905-764-1818 or visit aishtoronto.com

DIVA AND THE FIDDLER

Musica Beth Tikvah presents "The Diva and the Fiddler," with vocalist **Shoshana Friedman** and violinist **Moshe Hammer** at 8 p.m. Tickets, 416-221-3433, ext 354.

SINGLES MIX AND MINGLE

For information on a get-together tonight for singles 50-70, call **Leon** at 905-731-9705.

Monday, Sept. 11

THE MAGIC PILL

Dr. Michael Sarin and **Catherine Statton**, both of the Toronto Rehab Institute, speak on "The Magic Pill," a look at being fit with diabetes vs unfit without diabetes at the Jewish Diabetes Chapter meeting. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $1. 416-363-0177, ext. 7403

CDN FOREIGN POLICY

Dr. Adam Chapnick discusses "A Look at the History and Current State of Canadian Foreign Policy: Committed Active Leadership or Minimal Action?" at Beth Tikvah Synagogue at 8 p.m. 416-221-3433

Tuesday Sept. 12

JEWS AND THE KHAZARS

Prof. Herman Manu discusses "Jews in the Khazars Empire," at The Dr. W. Filderman Lodge for Romanian speakers. 6 p.m. at 15 Hove St. 416-631-0634 or 416-733-1214

ANTIQUE CARDS

Beth David Sisterhood presents **Barbara Rusch** on "Turn of the 20th Century Jewish New Year's Cards." 7:30 p.m. Non-members $5.

Continued on page 29

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies presents:

The Lasting Impact of War

Why the Conflict in the Middle East must be won

Wednesday, September 13, 2006
7:30 p.m.
Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue (BAYT)
613 Clark Ave. W, Thornhill

Barry Rubin

Barry Rubin is Director of the Global Research in International Affairs (GLORIA) Center, and a professor at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya (IDC). He has taught at Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, and Georgetown University. His co-authored book, Yasir Arafat: A Political Biography, (Oxford University Press) is now available in paperback and in Hebrew. His latest book, The Long War for Freedom: The Arab Struggle for Democracy in the Middle East, was published by Wiley in September.

FREE TICKETS: Phone: 416-864-9735 ext. 29 Fax: 416-864-1083 E-mail: jhacker@fswc.ca

DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITY. The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies is sponsoring this speaking event as a public service for the general public but is not and shall not be responsible for the subject matter that is discussed by the speaker for the content of the speaker's remarks. Any and all remarks, comments and opinions made by the speaker are those of the speaker only and not of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies. The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies hereby disclaim any and all liability or responsibility for the subject matter and content of the speakers' comments and opinions

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What's New

Continued from page 28

CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Rabbi Roy D. Tanenbaum speaks on "On the Brink of a New Millennium: Whence Conservative Judaism, 'Positive' Answers to Unprecedented Challenges." 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation. 416-781-3511

THE DA VINCI CODE

Shaarei Shomayim presents "The Da Vinci Code: A Jewish Perspective" with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**. Non-members $2. 8 p.m. To register call 905-761-0040.

CHUG HATANACH

Irving Matlow will lead the study group in a discussion of *The Book of Jonah,* introduction and Chapter 1. Beth David Congregation at 8 p.m. All welcome.

CHORALAIRS CHOIR

The Choralairs of North York begins a new season at the Earl Bales Park Community Centre, rehearsals every Tuesday 8:15-10 p.m. Repertoire includes Pop, Broadway and folk songs. New members welcome, no auditions. Call **Brian** at 416-631-0029 or **Joan** at 905-841-8927

Wednesday Sept. 13

ORT LUNCHEON

The 32nd Annual ORT Toronto Golden Circle Luncheon, with a fashion show of vintage couture fashions and jewels, takes place at noon in the home of **Kathleen Crook** and **James Penturn**. For information call 416-787-0339.

THE AMAZING PAPER CLIPS

Meet the cast of the film *The Amazing Paper Clips*, teacher **Sandra Roberts** and her students. 7:30 p.m. at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham. $18, students and seniors $15. 905-886-0420

ISRAELI FOLK DANCING

Join Beth Emeth Sisterhood for Israeli folk dancing with **Shoshana Frank** every Wednesday evening. Beginners 7:30 p.m., intermediate 8:15 p.m. $6 per class, $50/10 classes. For information call **Ricky**, 905-737-5417 or 416-633-3838.

POMEGRANATE GUILD

The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles' first meeting of the year, featuring "Shadow Box Design," takes place in the Loggia Gallery at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. 8 p.m. For info contact **Anna VanDelman**, 416-638-3342, or info@pomegranateguild.ca.

Other News

THEATRE IN LONDON

London's Or Shalom Theatre Troupe presents the comedy/drama *A Rosen By Any Other Name* by **Israel Horowitz** through Tues. Sept. 12 except for Friday and Saturday. 8 p.m., Sunday matinee 2 p.m. 534 Huron St. Tickets, 519-438-3081.

ACTING WORKSHOP

Medina Theatre Ensemble offers an acting workshop conducted by **Mario D'Alimonte** on Sept. 7, 11, 18 and 19, 7-9:30 p.m. at 15 Hove St. RSVP to **Roselle**, 416-633-2057 or **Morris**, 416-785-0344.

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

Dr. Baruch Schwartz, of Hebrew University, will speak on Sat. Sept. 9 and Sun. Sept. 10 at Adath Israel Congregation. 416-635-5340 or www.adathisrael.com

EMBRACING ELUL

Mekorot presents "Embracing Elul: Four Thursdays in September," with **Ilana Sober** (Sept. 7) on "My Most Precious Son: Relinquishing Children in the Torah and Haftarah Readings of Rosh Hashanah" and **Rabbi Joesph Kanofsky** (Sept. 14) on "Sovereignty, Remembrance and *Shofar*: *Musaf* of Rosh Hashanah." Locations, 416-877-2050 or visit www.mekorot.ca.

ARAVA INSTITUTE

The Downtown Jewish Community School and the First Narayever Congregation present **David Lehrer**, of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, discussing the institute's work to bring together Arabs and Jews to study the environment and the repercussions of the recent conflict. Thurs. Sept. 14, 7 p.m. 187 Brunswick Ave.

JEWISH LAW

Rabbi Joel T. Roth, of the Jewish Theological Seminary, will be the scholar in residence at Beth David, Beth Emeth and Adath Israel Congregations discussing "Modernity and Jewish Law" from Sept. 15-16. Join him Fri. Sept. 15 at Beth David for dinner at 6:30 p.m. (Adults $35, youth $25, call 416-633-5500 to reserve) followed by a free lecture on "Who Gets to Decide the Law?" On Sat. Sept. 16 at Beth Emeth he will deliver the sermon during morning services on "Is Any Accommodation Possible?" and at 9:30 p.m. at Adath Israel he will lecture on "Are There Limits to Accommodation?"

BBQ AND SELICHOT

Join Temple Har Zion for a BBQ and *Selichot* services on Sat. Sept. 16. BBQ 7:45 p.m. **Rabbi Cory Weiss** will discuss "The Four R's of Repentance" at 9 p.m. *Selichot* service at 11 p.m. $10, non-members $15, children 12 under $5. RSVP to 905-889-2252, ext. 5 by Sept. 7.

TRACING A FAMILY TREE

Arthur Kurzweil will discuss "Jewish Genealogy As A Spiritual Pilgrimage: Why And How To Trace Your Jewish Family Tree," for the Jewish Genealogical Society Sun, Sept. 17, 2 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Non-members $5. www.jgstoronto.ca.

SINGLES DANCE

Shaar Shalom Singles 45+ are holding a dance with DJ **Dave Jones** on Sunday, Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. $12. Info, 416-224-9494.

JEWS N'SCHMOOZE

Join Jews N'Schmooze for 40-55's for some kabbalah, mysticism and astrology on Sun. Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m. at The Village Shul. Prepaid $10, $15 at the door. 905-764-1818

NOREEN GILLETZ

Noreen Gilletz will discuss her new book, *Healthy Helpings,* at Emunah Women of Toronto's fall opening program, Mon. Sept. 18, 7:45-9:30 p.m. at 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Free. 416-636-0036

YIDDISH CLASSES

Beth Emeth Synagogue offers Yiddish classes beginning Tues. Sept. 19, 9:30-11:30 a.m. for 10 weeks. Reading and writing are required. $80. Register at the first class. 416-497-4695

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com.

Successful Parenting of Children with ADHD, a six-session program. Thursdays, Sept. 14-Oct 19, 6:30-9 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St. Register at ext. 246.

Birthdays, Hockey Games and Holidays: Making It Work After divorce, a workshop, Mon. Sept. 18, 7-9 p.m. at Promenade Mall, suite #313. Register at ext. 215.

When You're About to Separate: What to Tell the Kids, a workshop, Tues. Sept. 19 6:30-9 p.m. at The Promenade Mall, suite #313. Register at ext. 215.

FOR SENIORS

Saturday Nite Bowling League meets every week. Call **Sydney Fox**, 416-633-7305 for info.

Beth Tzedec Congregation Haverim Programmes presents "Palaces and Imperial Pleasures of St. Petersburg, Russia," with **Corey Keeble**, curator of antiquities at the ROM, Mon. Sept. 11, 1:30 p.m. $2.

Beth Emeth Chai Shalom presents a Rosh Hashanah Luncheon with tenor **Peter Marino**, Sun. Sept.17, 12:30 p.m. $20, non-members $25. Membership $15. Call **Sandy**, 416-736-8073 or 416-458-1440. Tickets at shul office.

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Sunday dance, Sept. 17; Casino Rama, Thurs. Sept. 14; Call Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem,** 905-731-7748 or **Malka,** 416-631-5574.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"World and Local Issues" with **Doug Haddow**, Tuesdays, Sept. 12, 19 and 26, 10-11:30 a.m. $2, non-members $4.

"Healthy Eating to Reduce Your Risk of Cancer" with **Helen Emanoildis**, Sept. 14, 1 p.m. Free.

High Holy Day services with **Cantor Ron Graner**, $75/$85 add $15 for reserved seating.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Lunch N Learn with **Rabbi Moshe Stern** is on Fri. Sept. 8, 12-1 p.m.

Current Events, Thurs. Sept. 14 12:45- 2:25 p.m.

Shalom Singers Choir looking for new members, rehearsals Thursdays 10-11:30 a.m.

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Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Hebrew Marathon Sundays, Sept. 10 and 18, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Beginners Hebrew, Tuesdays, Sept. 12-Nov. 7, 7-8:30 p.m.

Conversation Hebrew, Thursdays, beginning Sept. 21, 7-8:30 p.m.

Intermediate Hebrew, Mondays, beginning Sept. 18, 7-8:30 p.m.

Call ext. 0 for information and registration.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation needs event day volunteers for for a stationary bike-a-thon "Ride for Diabetes Research" during business hours at Nathan Phillips Square, Fri. Sept. 15. Call 905-944-4638 or email splant@jdrf.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 63

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

The family and extended family of the beloved late

HAROLD KORENBLUM ז"ל

wish to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to relatives and friends for all the support and kindness during their time of loss.

The Korenblum Family

ABUSH, Max - Peacefully at Lincoln Place Nursing Home in Toronto on Sunday, August 27, 2006 in his 91st year. Max, beloved husband of the late Gertrude. Loving father of Michael, Nancy Wicks (Barry), David (Lisa), Ruth and the late John. Dear brother of Frances and her husband Jack. Cherished Opa to Matthew and Ryan. Remembered by nieces, nephews and family and friends. A private family service was held. If so desired donations to the charity of your choice would be appreciated. Rosar-Morrison Funeral Home & Chapel

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RENA AMPEL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 10th, 2:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Wierzbniker Section #38
Friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ROSE BERKAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept, 10th, 10:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LINDA COVENT ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 10th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Har Zion Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DINA DREZNER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 10th, 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Marmoresher Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SARAH (SALLY) DZIALOSZYNSKI ז"ל
will take place
Friday, Sept. 15th, 12:30 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BATYA EISEN ז"ל
will take place
Friday, Sept. 15th, 9:30 a.m.
Mt. Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
GORDON EPSTEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 10th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth Torah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ANDOR FRIEDMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 10th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Shomrai Shabbat Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

BUCHMAN, Regina - Peacefully on Sunday, August 27, 2006 at her home. Regina Buchman, beloved wife of the late Irving, loving mother and mother-in-law of Tamara and Mike Weinreich, Jack and Roma, and Lili and Arnold Friedman. Devoted grandmother of Erez and Lee, Pnina and Alon, Yoram and Ronit, Danny and Robyn, Pauline and Mendl, Annette and Marc, Terry, and Allan. Cherished great-grandmother to many. She will also be fondly remembered by Gary, and Silvia, and was loved and cherished by all. At Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel, 2401 Steeles Ave. W., (3 lights west of Dufferin) for service on Monday, August 28th at 3:00 p.m. Interment Beth Tzedec Memorial Park. If desired, memorial donations may be made to Beit Halochem 905-695-0611.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SHIRLEY GLADSTONE ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 10th, 12:00 noon
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RUTH HERMAN ז"ל
beloved mother & bubby
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 10th, 12:15 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HARRY KREITZMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 10th, 10:30 a.m.
Lambton Hills Cemetery
Ostrovtzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MYRNA LIBRACH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 17th, 10:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St., N. of Major Mackenzie
Adath Israel Section WW
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RUTH LUKOFSKY ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 10th, 1:00 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave.
Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BELLA RADZELI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 10th, 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst St. of Steeles
Lithuanian Farband Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAMUEL RASMINSKY ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 10th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section #4
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
IZY STERN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept, 10th, 11:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Emeth Section

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HYMAN (CHAIM) TANNER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 10th, 1:00 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave
Sunnyside Lodge Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Ferens, Peter	Aug. 7/06	57 Silas Hill Drive
Abrams, Deborah	Aug. 8/06	1925 Steeles Ave. E.
Pancer, Lorraine	Aug. 7/06	205 Cummer Ave
Goodman, Nathan	Aug. 10/06	7420 Bathurst St
Rosenblatt, Maury	Aug. 11/06	Private
Prag, Israel	Aug. 10/06	50 Baif Blvd
Berger, Mary	Aug. 11/06	Private
Rosenberg, Jules	Aug. 11/06	333 Clark Ave. W.
Orbach, Fela	Aug. 11/06	3560 Bathurst St

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Sarah Diamond	Aug 19/06	176 Sandringham Dr
Sara Sheffield	Aug 20/06	62 Forest Lane Drive
James Fono	Aug 21/06	21 Mayfair Ave
Frieda Leitner	Aug 21/06	3560 Bathurst (Apotex)
Irving Midanik	Aug 22/06	45 Brunswick Ave
Esther Freeman	Aug 23/06	170 Red Maple
Eddie Goodman	Aug 23/06	402 Glenayr Road
Rosa Kestenbaum	Aug 23/06	1 Emerald Lane,
Laura Lerner	Aug 23/06	4005 Bayview Ave
Mina Gurfinkel	Aug 23/06	170 Red Maple Lane
Rivka Pokempener	Aug 24/06	2 Buchan Court
Aaron Joseph Tarek	Aug 24/06	4461 Sawmill Valley Dr
Eva Mogil	Aug 24/06	2 Neptune Dr
Annie Kirshenbaum	Aug 24/06	3560 Bathurst Street
John Weinzweig	Aug 24/06	33 Castle Frank Road
Radmila Nikolic	Aug 26/06	1781 Medallion Court
Regina Buchman	Aug 27/06	40 Hearthstone Cres
Izzy Kirshenbaum	Aug 27/06	19 Jenkins Drive
Barbara Rotman	Aug 27/06	1 Clark Avenue W

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A man for all seasons

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Prominent Toronto lawyer Edwin (Eddie) Alan Goodman, a man for all seasons – a giant in his profession, a decorated war hero, a leader to his people, a powerful political strategist municipally, provincially and nationally, an outdoorsman and a patron of the arts – died of the ravages of Alzheimer's and heart disease on Aug. 23. He was 87.

Goodman was a renaissance Jew, a prototype of a Canadian Jew who melded his Jewish values with his secular obligations.

Eddie Goodman

On hearing of his death, Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a statement. It said in part: "On behalf of all Canadians, I offer condolences to the family and friends of the Hon. Edwin (Eddie) Goodman, OC, PC, LL.D. Mr. Goodman dedicated his life to serving his country. His record of achievements, spanning over seven decades reflect the highest standards of patriotism and public service."

Harper noted that Eddie Goodman was a recipient of the Order of Canada, and continued, "Most recently, [former] prime minister [Brian] Mulroney appointed Mr. Goodman to the security intelligence review committee. Sworn into the Queen's Privy Council, this appointment reflected the trust Mr. Goodman earned as a decorated soldier in World War II and the many charitable and political roles he undertook with honour and determination."

The mosaic of Eddie Goodman's life will be remembered as one of overlapping interests and accomplishments that formed a unified composite.

In an interview in 1987 with *The CJN*, when he was the Jewish National Fund's Negev Dinner honoree, he stated his credo, "Jews have a dual obligation. There is an obligation to stay with their roots in the Jewish community and to work in the Jewish community, but not to confine themselves or limit themselves only to the Jewish community. That's important to Canada and to our people."

His paternal grandfather, Charles, immigrated to Canada from Galicia in 1881 at the age of 11. Charles began working as a pedlar and brought his father and mother to Canada. Goodman's father, David, was born in Acton, Ont., in 1893 and graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1917. He was one of the first graduates of the school.

Goodman's father was associated with E.W.J. Owens, a Conservative member of the Ontario legislature who politically influenced him and led the way for Goodman's long commitment and involvement with the Progressive Conservative Party. This association placed Goodman in a position in which he could help his country and the Jews in Canada as well as the State of Israel.

Goodman's childhood home was steeped in Zionism. Both his father and his mother, Dorothy, were actively involved in numerous Israeli causes. The Goodman home on Palmerston Boulevard was a busy place where Jewish organizations met and from which fundraising activities took place.

Goodman, who was born in 1918, and his sister, Cecily, both took on prominent community leadership roles on behalf of the State of Israel.

Eddie attended Clinton Public School and Harbord Collegiate Institute. His first involvement in the Jewish community was with Young Judaea when he was 12 years old. He also began his work for the Conservative party that year. He distributed pamphlets door to door for his father's friend Reg Geary, who later became a federal cabinet minister.

While Goodman was a law student at the University of Toronto, World War II broke out and his education was interrupted. He enlisted for active service in 1940 in the Canadian Army's Fort Gary Horse Armoured Regiment. He came to love horses during his service.

Promoted to major, he commanded a tank squadron in Normandy where he was wounded twice in action. He returned home a war hero.

Back in Toronto, Goodman resumed his education, graduating from Osgoode Hall in 1947. He then joined his father as an equal partner and the law firm that became Goodman & Goodman. In 1995, Goodman & Goodman joined with Phillips & Vineberg to form Goodman Phillips & Vineberg, now Goodman LLP.

Goodman entered politics in 1945, running unsuccessfully against Joseph (J.B.) Salsberg, the Communist candidate in Toronto's St. Andrews riding. Although he was asked many times after his defeat to enter the political arena, he chose to work for the Tories behind the scenes, at all levels of government.

As a backroom power broker, he became a confidant and adviser to the kingpins in politics. His skill in defusing confrontation brought him national recognition.

After an unsuccessful wartime marriage, which ended in 1951, he married Suzanne Gross in 1953. Gross' family was deeply involved in Jewish activities. As a couple, they were committed to volunteerism. Suzanne died in 1992, and in 1994, he married Joan Thompson.

Goodman and Suzanne had two daughters, Joanne and Dianne. Joanne was killed in a traffic accident in 1975 while driving, without a seatbelt, to the University of Western Ontario. This tragedy resulted in Goodman's lobbying for seatbelt legislation in Ontario.

While building his reputation as a corporate lawyer, he headed riding associations, moved up in the Conservative party, and established long and lasting friendships with PC party organizers, ambassadors, premiers and prime ministers.

Through his close associations with former prime ministers John Diefenbaker and Robert Stanfield and former Ontario premiers Leslie Frost and William Davis, and other policy-makers, he was able to bring attention to as well as support for Jewish causes.

He was dubbed "Fast Eddie" in 1967 when he was chairman of the Progressive Conservative convention at Maple Leaf Gardens. The nickname reflected his boundless energy and no-nonsense leadership.

His political leadership and acumen benefited many charitable causes. He co-chaired, with his longtime friend Ephraim Diamond, a highly successful campaign for Baycrest Hospital and contributed his efforts to other hospitals.

In the world of culture and the arts, his boundless energy was directed to the Royal Ontario Museum, where he served as chairman of the board of trustees.

He was a director and chairman of the sustaining fund campaign of the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake and a founding director and president of the National Ballet of Canada.

Goodman's involvement in corporate activities is legendary, and his list of clients reads like a who's who of Canadian business. He played a major role in raising money to found the *Toronto Sun*. He was chairman and honorary chairman of the committee for an independent Canada.

His honours were numerous. He was a past president of the General Wingate Branch of the Canadian Legion and received an honorary doctorate from the University of Ottawa.

For two years, he was a special lecturer in the department of political economy at U of T.

A risk taker, he had an insatiable appetite for adventure. He went on a horseback riding trip in Hungary, he went white-water canoeing in the Northwest Territories, mountain climbing in Nepal and fishing in the Arctic Ocean. Always physically active, he skied, played tennis and swam.

He took many adventure trips with his former law partner and longtime friend Lionel Schipper.

In 1998, to honour the 50th anniversary of Goodman's call to the bar, his friends and partners together with Schipper and his wife, Carol, established the Goodman-Schipper Chair at U of T's faculty of law.

He was eulogized at Holy Blossom Temple. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and her family, daughter Diane and husband Marc, two grandchildren, Myles and Ella, and sister Cecily Peters.

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Obituary

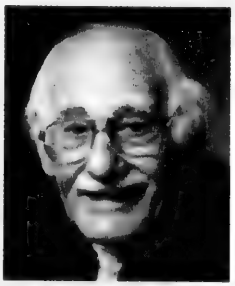
Leading Canadian composer dies at age 93

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

John Weinzweig, one of Canada's most celebrated composers, died last week at the age of 93.

Born to Polish-Jewish immigrants, Weinzweig made a name for himself composing scores for the CBC and the National Film Board and advocating for Canadian classical music.

"He was the individual who really established the infrastructure for composition to be a professional career in Canada," says Jason van Eyk, the Ontario regional director of the Canadian Music Centre, an institution Weinzweig started in 1959 to help promote Canadian composers.



John Weinzwig

Weinzweig's interest in music began when he was 14, when he picked up the mandolin and the piano. He later discovered the tuba, saxophone and bass, only to become a composer at 19.

In 1937, the Toronto-born musician studied at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester N.Y., which was only rivalled by the Juilliard School. It was here that he started to develop the modernist style that would define many of his compositions.

"When John went to Eastman, he studied two pieces that greatly influenced him," says van Eyk. "Stravinsky's *The Rite Of Spring*, and Alban Berg's *Lyric Suite*. The first influenced John through rhythmic innovation and the second was for its motivic and melodic developments."

When Weinzweig returned to Toronto a year later, he started teaching his new ideas at the Toronto Conservatory of Music (now the Royal Conservatory of Music). "He was a teacher to four generations of Canadian composers," says van Eyk, who cites Harry Somers, Harry Friedman and Murray Schafer as his pupils.

In 1953, the Canadian Jewish Congress commissioned Weinzweig to create a piece for the Jewish Music Festival. The result was *Am Yisrael Chai*.

"It's a very moving piece about Holocaust survivors who settled in Israel after independence and the war," says Ben Shek of the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir. The choir played the piece at last weekend's Ashkenaz festival.

As revered as his music was, it was for his passion for Canadian classical music – and for the desire to get it heard – that Weinzweig really made his mark. "The dean of Canadian composers," as he was often called, started the Canadian League of Composers (CLC) in 1951, an influential organization that promoted Canadian musicians within the country and abroad.

"The CLC's purpose was to get Canadian music played throughout the world," says Sid Robinovitch, a Winnipeg-based composer. "And Weinzweig was a great spokesman. He was a very feisty guy and he was always very outspoken for the cause of Canadian music."

"He was really a firebrand," says van Eyk. "He felt passionately about being a composer and about being a musician. At his memorial service his son, Paul, said his father was a bit of an enigma and a paradox, and wasn't the easiest individual to understand. Sometimes those things that drive people are unclear to us but what was clear was his passion, his conviction and his ability to speak out."

Although Weinzweig's health started to deteriorate several years ago, his desire to get Canadian classical music heard never waned. Right up until his death, the legendary composer was trying to get the CBC to play more of it.

"In his final years, he would pull out his typewriter and write letters to the CBC," says van Eyk. "There are recordings of statements he sent to [be] played at meetings between CLC and CBC reps when they were having meetings, with things that he wanted to say. 'What's happening to the CBC,' he'd ask. 'Are they playing more Canadian composers now?' He did this up until his last moment. We took that message to heart and that's what we have to do, to continue to be a voice to have classical music put forward."

Family Moments

Only from The Canadian Jewish news

Did your friend just have a baby?
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Or Email: cblackman@cjnews.com

Numbers add up to a northern Israel emergency

Funds for UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign continue to rise

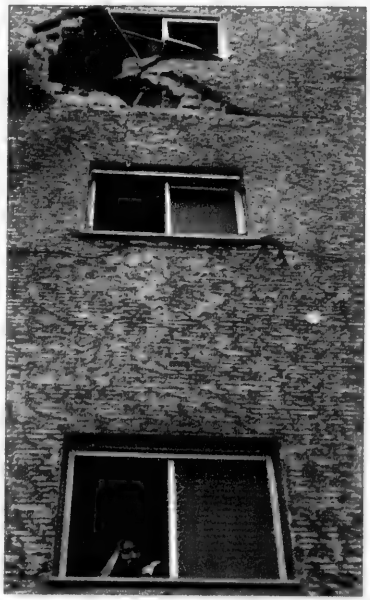
By HOWARD ENGLISH
UJA Federation

The severe impact of Hezbollah rocket fire on northern Israel residents is intensifying at the same time as contributions to UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign continue to climb.

A quarter of northern Israel businesses could close, according to a report issued last week by Israel's Trade and Industry Ministry. Most of them earn the majority of their revenue in July and August. In addition, property damage claims – mostly in the north - to be paid by the Israeli government, will amount to the equivalent of nearly 1.3 billion Canadian dollars.

Northern hospitals and special centres dealt with nearly 3,000 cases of trauma caused by the storm of rockets raining down on the area. Forty one civilians were killed and more than 3,200 were wounded by rocket attacks.

In the aftermath of northern Israel coming to a standstill during the Hezbollah barrage of 4,000 rockets, many northern residents found themselves with nowhere to live or work. Schools, libraries, community centres, clinics, homes for the elderly, roads, bridges and agricultural land were heavily damaged. Northern tourism virtually stopped.



The UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign, chaired by Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks – to help relieve the anguish of northern Israel residents – has already raised $14 million for Israel's emergency needs, out of the campaign total to date. Donations are being sent to Israel on a regular basis, so the funds can quickly be put to work.

Contributions have so far financed, among other initiatives, summer camp during the war in central and southern Israel for children from the north, week-long get-aways for northern families, activities for kids in Bomb shelters, and emergency supplies for others.

The Israel Emergency Campaign will now fund urgently needed social service initiatives for northern Israel residents. Among them are:

- Trauma counselling
- Temporary housing for the uprooted
- Specialized care for the poor, new immigrants, the elderly and individuals with special needs and the restoration of social services for them
- Vocational training for the newly unemployed
- Re-equipping damaged community facilities
- A dedicated fund for victims and their families

To make a campaign contribution, visit www.ujadonations.com or call the UJA Federation campaign hotline at 416.631.5705.

Pictured left: A young woman from northern Israel looks out the window of her damaged apartment. (Photo by AP Worldwide Photos)

Business owners face financial ruin

Jewish Agency steps in to help

METULLA - This picturesque town, on Israel's northern border, is normally catering to tourists in late summer, but for small business owners here, the war in the north and the toll of rocket attacks has brought them to financial disaster.

That's why the Jewish Agency, UJA Federation's overseas partner, is providing immediate emergency funds to help put small business owners back on their feet. This critical assistance will allow them to pay some of their most pressing bills, such as water, electricity and rent, and kick-start the painful task of rebuilding their businesses.

Business owner Erez Shemesh surveys rocket damage with dismay. (Photo by Naftali Hilger)

"July and August are, by far, the two busiest months in the tourist industry. We have lost 70% of our annual turnover," says Reuven Wineberg, owner of the Alaska Inn, which has been in his family for almost sixty years.

"My parents, Holocaust survivors established the hotel in the late 1940's. Times were tough then, but they worked very hard and managed go forward," Wineberg recalls. When they passed away, Wineberg took over the business.

Wineberg was injured while serving in the Israeli army during the first Lebanese war and still walks with a limp. His late father-in-law, Eitan Grundland, was killed when an Iraqi-fired Scud missile hit his home in the center of Israel during the Gulf War.

For Reuven and his late parents, the hotel is a symbol of their determination to live a normal life within their own country.

"I won't be leaving, despite the heavy losses we will incur this year," says Wineberg. "I don't know how we will survive it, but we will," he says.

Just northwest of Metulla lie the beautiful orchards farmed by the Bez family. Their fruits - pears, apricots, cherries, plums, peaches, nectarines and apples - are well known in Israel and around the world for their excellent taste.

Ophir Bez has been running the family's 25-acre orchards since his father retired six years ago. "Our activities for the entire year are focused around the harvest season, which fell exactly when the war broke out," he explains. "All our time and money spent in bringing the fruit to its maximum has been for nothing. We were not able to go to the orchards and the fruit is just rotting in the fields."

The day that the cease fire took effect, Bez put a crew together to pick some of his finest plums, which he had personally nurtured. "They were already too ripe, and had very little market value, but I wanted to show the Hezbollah that the Israeli people will not be beaten," he says.

Erez Shemesh was shocked when he returned to Kiryat Shmona where he was born and raised, to see his beauty salon in ruins. "I have to start completely over," says Shemesh. "I don't know where to begin." Despite his tremendous losses, he is adamant that he will not leave. "This is where my home and family are," adds Shemesh. "This is where I belong."

Canadian facilities survive rocket attacks

Canadian projects in northern Israel not only escaped direct hits by terrorist rockets, they also provided temporary housing for Israeli soldiers.

The Tel Hai Posluns Family Youth Hostel and Guest House in the Upper Galilee was closed to regular guests with the outbreak of war and started providing important services to military personnel serving in the region. While the maximum capacity of the facility is 279 beds, there were 400 soldiers sleeping there in beds, mattresses on floors, in classrooms and other areas.

Memorial to 12 Israeli soldiers killed at Kfar Giladi. (Photo by Nir Ben Shoham, UIA Federations Canada)

Twelve of the soldiers staying at Tel Hai were killed by a single Hezbollah rocket on August 6, near the entrance to the Kibbutz Kfar Giladi cemetery. Twelve others were injured. An impromptu memorial was set up at the site where the 12 soldiers were killed, with candles, the Israel flag, and letters of condolence. Nurit Biderman, who represents UIA Federations Canada in the Galilee Panhandle, reports that she recently saw a soldier in civilian clothes, his weapon on his shoulder, visiting the memorial site together with his parents. The soldier, among the fortunate who survived the deadly bombing, was showing his parents exactly where he had been standing at the time of the katyusha attack.

The Canada Centre in Metulla on Israel's border with Lebanon, which was closed to the general public, opened its doors to some 600 soldiers who were able to sleep and shower there, and eat their meals in pleasant, comfortable surroundings, rather than outdoors, under katyusha rocket fire, in the terrible heat of the Israeli summer.

A few days into the war a rocket landed on the road outside the eastern wing of the Phil Granovsky Family Cultural Hall in Kiryat Shmona, causing four large glass windows to shatter with some damage to blinds and doors. Luckily the facility was closed – with the outbreak of war on July 12 - and no residents were on their way to the building.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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Coast to Coast

Jann Arden headlines synagogue fundraiser

By JENNA ROSMAN
CJN Intern

With a major fundraising concert this fall featuring Juno-award-winning artist Jann Arden, Beth Torah Congregation is on its way to realizing its goal of expanding and renovating its building.

Arden will perform at the shul's Completing the Dream Gala, to be held Nov. 1 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. The shul's fundraising campaign has already raised $2.9 million of its $4 million target.

Currently, the synagogue, which is located off Dufferin Street south of Lawrence Avenue, has a combined sanctuary and social hall. The renovation and expansion will include a larger sanctuary and a separate social hall, as well as upgraded facilities and a new and better kitchen.

After the renovations are done, the shul will be able to accommodate 500 member families.

The general public is welcome to purchase a ticket for the gala event for a donation of $250, said campaign co-chair David Glick.

He said the decision to enlist Arden in the gala was easy. "She's just a great entertainer and a good draw and people would like to see her."

Glick, whose parents were founding members of the congregation, said longstanding plans to expand the 41-year-old synagogue building had been put on hold until close to two years ago, when a synagogue member died and left $1 million to the shul.

"We met with the executor, his brother, and proposed a possibility for expansion and renovation," Glick said.

He added that the expansion is necessary, as there is a high demand for membership. The synagogue has approximately 430 member families. In June, 100 families on a waiting list were offered membership, and 40 joined.

"People on the waiting list that have joined this year will be treated to a [High Holy Day] service [at nearby Villa Colombo]," he said. "We'll hire a new rabbi and cantor just for the families, until the new building is built and then they'll join us."

Construction is slated to begin in May 2007 and is expected to take two years to complete.

Naming rights opportunities are available to congregants and non-members, starting at $1,800.

For more information on other sponsorship opportunities, visit the shul's website at www.bethtorah.ca, or call 416-782-4495 ext. 41.

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ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

10טע קאָנפֿערענץ פון „פֿאָרבאַנד פון ייִדיש־קלובן" — IAYC

פון מרים בעקערמאַן (טאָראָנטאָ)

עס איז געווען פֿאַר מיר אַ גרויסע פֿריווילעגיע אַנטייל צו נעמען אין דער 10טער קאָנפֿערענץ פון „אינטערנאַציאָנאַלן פֿאַרבאַנד פון ייִדיש־קלובן", וואָס איז הייַיאָר פֿאָרגעקומען אין טינעק, ניו־דזשערזי, פֿאַראייניקטע שטאַטן. דער פֿרעזידענט פון דעם פֿאָרבאַנד איז פֿאול מעלרוד. די דאָטעס זיינען געווען אין יולי פון 5טן ביזן 9טן. עס איז שווער צו באַשרייבן דעם פֿאַרגעניגן זיך צו געפינען צווישן 260 ייִדישע מענטשן פון פֿרויען, פון אַמעריקע און קאַנאַדע, אַלע ליבהאָבער פון דער שפּראַך, ליטעראַטור און קולטור. צווישן די ייִדיש־אַקטיוויסטן זיינען געווען פֿראָפֿעסאָרן, שרייבער, זשורנאַליסטן, פילם־פֿראָדוצירערס, אַרטיסטן, זינגער, קלעזמער, און סתם ליבהאָבער פון מאַמע־לשון.

צוואַמען מיט מיר זיינען געקומען פון טאָראָנטאָ: שרה בריקמאַן, עטל גאָרדאָן, שעווי טישלער, מיטש סמאָלקין, און העלען און באָב סמאָלקין. מיר, קאַנאַדער, זיינען געווען זייער שטאָלץ מיט סמאָלקינס דינגען און זיין פֿרעזענטאַציע פון סימאָר רעכצייטס לידער. ער איז געווען אַקאָמפּאַניירט פון זלמן מלאָטעק.

פֿאַר מיר איז געווען אַ פֿערזענלעכער כּבֿוד, ווען מען האָט מיך פֿאַרבעטן צו זיין די פּירערין פון אַ סעסיע אין וועלכער איך האָב גערעדט וועגן „ייִדישע איבערזעצערס". עס איז געקומען אַ שייַנער עולם און צווישן זיי איז אויך געווען דר' באָרוכס זומאָף, דער איבערזעצער פון שייַנעם צווייַ־שפּראָכיקן בוך וועגן ייִדיש פֿאָטן "Songs To A Moonstruck Lady", וואָס דער „דאָקא טייטלבוים צענטער פֿאַר ייִדישער קולטור" האָט ערשט נישט לאַנג אַרויסגעגעבן.

בייַ דער „פּלענאַרי סעסיע" האָט העלען סמאָלקין (אַ נייַע מיטגלידערין פון דער IAYC עקזעקוטיווער) פֿאָרגעשטעלט פֿראָפֿעסאָר יודשין אָרענשטיין, פון מקגיל אוניווערסיטעט אין מאָנטרעאָל, וועלכער האָט גערעדט אין זייַן ווונדערבאַרן ייִדיש אויף דער טעמע: „פּיאָנערן פון דער ייִדיש־פֿאָרשונג".

דער פּראָגראַם איז געווען אַ זייער רייַכער און עס איז פּשוט אוממעגלעך פֿאַר מיר צו קענען באַשרייבן געווי וועגן די סעסיעס, וואָרשטאַטן, קאָנצערטן אַרן רעדעס, וואָס זיינען געהאַלטן געווען. אָלץ איז געווען אַזוי אינטערעסאַנט אַרן פֿאַרכאַפּנדיק, אַז עס איז געווען שווער אויסצולייַדן וווהין צו גיין. אָבער דאָס איז־טערעסאַנטסטע איז געווען צו באַקענען זיך פֿרעזענלעך מיט מענטשן, וואָס טראָגן צו אַזוי פיל צו דער אידיש־האַלטונג אַרן המשך פון אונדזער מאַמע־לשון. עס איז געווען באַלערנדיק צו הערן וועגן זייערע אַקטיוויטעטן.

אין איין אָוונט, אייַנגעאָרדנט פון אָרבעטער רינג, האָט מען אָפֿגענעבן ספּעציעלע אַנערקענונג צו חנה מלאָטעק פֿאַר אירע יאָרן־לאַנגע אַקטיוויטעטן לטובֿת ייִדיש. עס איז איר צוגעטיילט געוואָרן דער ערשטער IAYC Lifetime Yiddish Achievement Award (לעבנסלענגלעכע ייִדישער דערגרייכונג־פּרייז).

וועגן דער אָרבעט פון „פֿאָרווערטס" אויף אַלע געביטן האָבן געהערט: דר' באָרוכ זומאָף, פֿרעזידענט פון דער „פֿאָרווערטס" געזעלשאַפֿט; סטיב נאָריק, עקזעקוטיווע דירעקטאָר; באָריס סאַנדלער, רעדאַקטאָר; דר' איציק גאָטסמאַן, מיטרעדאַקטאָר; רחל שעכטער, נייַעס רעדאַקטאָר.

אין גיכן וועט מען באַקאָנט מאַכן ווען אין וווּ דער קומענדיקער צוואַמענקום וועט פֿאָרקומען. דאָס מיר אין בעסן צו זיין געוווּנט אין דערלאַנגן וויידער אַנטייל צו נעמען אין קענען האָבן דעם זעלבן פֿאַרגעניגן.

Coast to Coast

'UN has remained passive in the face of Hezbollah provocations'

Continued from page 1

A spokesperson for Annan denied UNIFIL provided Hezbollah with any useful military information.

Responding to a reporter's question at a press briefing in New York last week, Stéphane Dujarric said "UNIFIL was performing its observer role.

"The press releases that came out included no items that could be construed as military intelligence. Numbers of troops were not published. UNIFIL reported names of areas occupied by Israeli forces inside Lebanon during the conflict and those vacated by Israel after Resolution 1701 came into effect. It also consistently reported on the presence of Hezbollah fighters, whenever those fighters were positioned near UNIFIL positions.

"To make clear, UNIFIL has never received one complaint from the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) for the press releases it issued."

Hillel Neuer, executive director of UN Watch, said evidence presented in a recent article in the Washington-based *Weekly Standard* suggests UNIFIL was not the neutral observer it claims to be.

The article, "What did you do in the war UNIFIL?" by Lori Lowenthal Marcus, claims the UN peacekeeping force "openly published daily real-time intelligence, of obvious usefulness to Hezbollah, on the location, equipment and force structure of Israeli troops in Lebanon."

Lowenthal Marcus states that UNIFIL used its website to post the specific placement of IDF safety structures within hours of construction, as well as troop movements and weaponry, while posting "not a single item of specific intelligence regarding Hezbollah forces."

She quotes a July 25 UNIFIL posting that says: "Yesterday and during last night, the IDF moved significant reinforcements, including a number of tanks, armoured personnel carriers, bulldozers and infantry, to the area of Al Ras inside Lebanese territory. The IDF advanced from that area north toward Bint Jubayl and south towards Yarun."

The article quotes a number of unnamed Israeli military and political representatives and analysts saying some of the UNIFIL information could have exposed Israeli soldiers to "grave danger."

Neuer said if the allegations are true, it would not mark a major departure from previous UNIFIL one-sidedness. He noted that in 2000, Hezbollah operatives, wearing UNIFIL insignia and using UNIFIL-marked trucks, kidnapped three Israeli soldiers from inside Israel. UNIFIL soldiers taped the incident and for nine months denied they had a video of the incident. Later they admitted they did, but they refused to aid in Israel's investigation of the kidnapping (and subsequent murder) of the soldiers.

"Given that history, when we saw that [*Weekly Standard*] report we immediately spoke out, protested and demanded an investigation," Neuer said.

Neuer suggested the UN has remained passive in the face of Hezbollah provocations because of intimidation.

"I think there is a cultural problem. There is no question that Hezbollah is a murderous terrorist group. They have intimidated with their terrorism – the same as Mussolini and Hitler – and everybody in Lebanon is intimidated.

"I expect that the rather passive UN soldiers know you don't cross Hezbollah, whereas the IDF is fair game."

Neuer was moderately hopeful a beefed-up UNIFIL presence will limit Hezbollah's influence. Even though UNIFIL has declared it will not disarm the terrorist group as required by UN resolutions, its presence will push Hezbollah from the border with Israel and Hezbollah will likely not carry arms openly.

"It's a diminishment of Hezbollah," he suggested.

UN Watch is a privately funded organization founded in 1993 by a former American ambassador to the United Nations, Morris Abram. It is affiliated with the American Jewish Committee.

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MP modifies war-crime accusation against Israel

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Bloc Quebecois MP Maria Mourani quickly backtracked from accusing Israel of committing war crimes in Lebanon during its assault on Hezbollah.

In a front-page interview published in *Le Devoir* Aug. 30, Mourani said she was deeply troubled by the destruction she had seen during a week-long visit to Lebanon organized for Canadian parliamentarians by the National Council on Canada-Arab Relations earlier that month.

"It's clear to me, what I saw, what Amnesty International saw, what Louise Arbour [United Nations high commissioner for human rights] saw, is that there were war crimes in Lebanon," she is quoted as saying. Asked who committed these crimes, she responded "the Israelis."

The next day, Mourani issued a statement that, "It's up to the duly mandated international authorities to define what constitutes a war crime and to describe one or the other of the parties involved a war criminal in an armed conflict."

She also said the United Nations is best placed to conduct such an inquiry and "draw the appropriate conclusions."

Mourani added that she "totally supports the balanced position adopted by the Bloc Quebecois since the beginning of the conflict" which is that "the kidnappings, the missile attacks on civilian populations as well as the bombardment of towns are reprehensible acts."

In the *Le Devoir* articles, she elaborated that she found numerous unexploded cluster bombs and evidence of "deliberate" shelling of civilian areas, including homes and businesses.

"They (also) targeted the vital civilian structures like water, electricity, food stations. That's also war crimes, according to international law."

She expressed doubt about the Israeli claim that the bombardment of the village of Qana was accidental. "They said they bombed Qana because they had seen trucks with arms returning to a space in a garage. I saw none of that. I rummaged, I searched the famous garage. There were only little houses one next to the other with farmyards."

Mourani, MP for the Montreal riding of Ahuntsic, holds dual Lebanese-Canadian citizenship, but was born in Ivory Coast and was only in Lebanon once before at the age of 2.

She was accompanied on the Lebanon trip by Liberal Borys Wrzesnewskyj and New Democrat Peggy Nash. Unlike the two Ontario opposition MPs, Mourani had been more cautious in her comments about Hezbollah. She had affirmed while in Lebanon the Canadian government's position that Hezbollah is a terrorist organization.

In her Aug. 31 clarifying statement, Mourani said she is in agreement with Arbour's "nuanced" position that it is possible war crimes were committed by both Israel and Hezbollah during the conflict.

Meanwhile, the Canada-Israel Committee expressed regret at the death of Bloc MP Benoit Sauvageau who was killed in a traffic accident last week.

CIC chair Marc Gold described the Repentigny MP as "a real friend" of the Jewish community.

Sauvageau visited Israel two years ago on a CIC-sponsored trip for parliamentarians and young Jewish leaders.

"We got to know each other quite well, and became friendly afterward, meeting for lunch and speaking on the phone," said Gold.

"We were not in agreement on every domestic or Israeli policy, but you could always count on Benoit to be open and receptive, and to do the right and decent thing."

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Fall Fashion & Beauty

BEAUTY SHOP

By STACEY MICHAELS

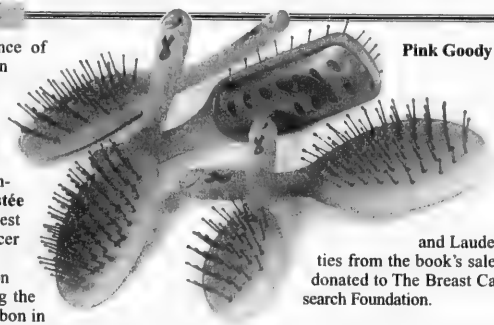
It won't be too long before the leaves begin to change, and your skin regimen and makeup should change, too. Looking your best starts with taking care of your face, since the long, hot months have taken a toll on your skin. Treat yourself to a wonderful, refreshing facial, either at home or with your esthetician. Apply richly formulated moisture creams to keep the skin rejuvenated.

In addition, you should begin to put yourself back on a healthy diet, and don't forget to start exercising. The last few months have been a time when we generally let ourselves go. Make sure to drink six to eight glasses of water a day. Your physical appearance is a direct reflection of all the healthy choices you make.

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS

Breast cancer awareness: This fall, **Estée Lauder** will distribute pink ribbons and sell specially designed products as part of its commitment to a "Pink Promise," raising awareness and supporting research to beat breast cancer. Customers around the world can learn about the importance of early detection while shopping for their perfect shade of pink product. The collection includes **Estée Lauder's** latest Breast Cancer Awareness limited-edition pin, featuring the signature ribbon in hot pink jewels; the company's 2006 Pink Ribbon Compact, Pure Color Lipstick in Elizabeth Shimmer Pink and Crystal Lipstick in Elizabeth Pink named after spokesmodel Elizabeth Hurley, and Pure Colour Gloss in Evelyn Hot Pink and Crystal Gloss in Evelyn Pink. These products are sold only at Sears, The Bay and Holt Renfrew, in September 2006. Purchase them to support breast cancer and be part of this wonderful campaign!

Evelyn Lauder, senior corporate vice-president of the Estée Lauder Companies and founder and chair of The Breast Cancer Research Foundation, has also created a wonderful book of recipes, *In Great Taste: Fresh, Simple Recipes for Eating and Living Well*. This cookbook is a must-have for anyone interested in tasty foods and a healthier lifestyle. Lauder provides guidance on everything from how to shop for the best produce to how to take control and choose healthier options when dining out. The book will be released in September 2006 and Lauder's royalties from the book's sales will be donated to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation.



Pink Goody Brushes

Hair: Maurice Fiorio tells us that this season, hair trends fall into rich chocolate browns and reds in warm vibrant tones, autumn shades and colours.

Long hair is still very in, but short, sassy and sleek styles are predominant – going back to straight and polished. Curls are tamed down using straightening balms and thermal creams or sprays to help to achieve and maintain the look while protecting the hair from heat generated by blow dryers, curling irons and straightening irons. Texture is voluminous and full of body.

Redken introduces new Clear Moisture Instant Polishing Prep, a leave-in cutting and detangling lotion that provides lightweight moisture and manageability for normal to dry hair. It helps to restore, rebalance and retain the optimum level of moisture for easy combing and smoothness so that hair is replenished, weightless and polished.

Continued on page 39

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Fall Fashion & Beauty

Continued from page 38

L'Oréal Professional invites you to experience two new innovative products from its **Série Expert** brand that redefine the treatment of highlighted and coloured hair. Lumino Contrast marks the first professional hair care range exclusively dedicated to highlighted hair, resulting in highlights that are cared for and protected, without weighing down the rest of the hair. The contrast between highlighted and non-highlighted hair is accentuated, and hair is flooded with light. The hair care range includes a radiance shampoo and mask for highlighted hair. Vitamino Color takes colour hair care to a whole new level, offering the first double, colour-locking hair care range with its exclusive Hydro-Resist technology and ability to protect and strengthen colour-treated hair while bringing incredible softness and shine. The hair care range includes a colour-protecting shampoo, a rinse-out conditioner and a gel masque.

Today's modern woman is always on the move. **Goody** is committed to helping women stay active and focused on their workout with the launch of 10 new additions to the popular StayPut collection – accessories designed with a revolutionary Slip Proof Grip to provide the best hold for all hair styles during all activities. Give your hair a workout and try these bands today! In addition, **Goody** expands on its innovative Goody StayPut Hair Band to create a collection of "girl-sized" hair accessories. Whether they are chasing butterflies or running on the playground, little girls need hair accessories that match up to active schedules and ponytail-tugging boys.

Don't miss purchasing the new, limited edition Pink Ouchless Breast Cancer brush by **Goody**. For each brush sold worldwide, the company will donate five per cent of the proceeds to the Living Beyond Breast Cancer Organization.

Goody also introduces a complete hair accessories line to hold your style in place while allowing your true hue to take centre stage. The Colour Collection is a revolutionary line of hair accessories specifically designed for your unique hair colour. Accessories in shades of blonde, brunette, red and black make it possible to create the latest styles without distracting from your beautiful, luminous hair colour. Specially formulated colour palettes available in multi-dimensional "low-light" and "high-light" shades will blend in while your hair colour stands out.

STACEY'S TIPS:

Spa and Skin Care: Dermaglow unveils Sensitive RX, a hypoallergenic skin care line formulated with two anti-aging treatments to protect, treat and strengthen the most sensitive skin without reactions. This complete seven-product range contains no known irritants such as alcohol, fragrance or parabens. **Dermaglow** is also proud to introduce Dermaglow Nuvectin Advanced Targeted Deep Wrinkle Therapy, a new treatment formulated to diminish and smooth the deepest of wrinkles and fine lines by relaxing facial muscles to preserve suppleness, elasticity and skin tone when applied topically.

With all the stress everyday life brings, arm yourself with the best all-in-one defence against wrinkles, **Neostrata's** Wrinkle Repair for the eyes, face and neck, which is clinically proven to repair even deep wrinkles.

Marcelle introduces New Age Comforting Foaming Cleanser and New Age Soothing Hydrating Tonifying Lotion formulated with cutting-edge technology, products that are vital to your daily facial hygiene. These will gently cleanse and soothe skin while leaving it supple and comfortable.

Elizabeth Arden's new Prevage Anti-Aging Formula is a remarkable product that hydrates skin by reducing the appearance of lines and wrinkles, effectively turning back the clock on signs of aging. It also erases the harmful effects of the sun. Ideal for men and women, Prevage shields skin from environmental stresses including UV rays.

Two new products are in **Elizabeth Arden's** Ultra Luxurious Ceramide Line: Ceramide Plump Perfect Firming Body Soufflé, a body moisturizer that gives skin the treatment it deserves by addressing its specific anti-aging needs and instantly firming and toning the skin's appearance; and Ceramide Plump Perfect Firming Facial Mask, which saturates facial skin with intensive plumping benefits for a spa-quality weekly treatment. Don't miss it!

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Continude from page 39

Lise Watier launches Vitamin C2 Skin Rejuvenating Treatment, Gentle Microdermabrasion and Peel System, a three-step process formulated for the home that is engineered with a boost of vitamin C and should be used twice weekly. Achieve silky-smooth skin, a flawless complexion and a youthful glow with this product today!

Lift away the years and rejuvenate skin with **Estée Lauder's** new Perfectionist Peel 2-Step Enzyme Activating Treatment, an effective, convenient and safe at-home alternative to chemical peels performed in the doctor's office. Perfectionist Peel aids the skin's own natural renewal process by boosting the skin's surface enzymes and helping you shed dead skin to achieve a youthful, line-free complexion that feels as soft and smooth as a baby's, and looks more radiant and vibrant than before!

Also from **Estée Lauder**, don't miss the Advanced Night Repair Concentrate Recovery Boosting Treatment, a quarterly 21-night intensive boost for skin that is stressed as a result of exposure to the sun, wind and cold. It is formulated to improve the skin's natural ability to repair its appearance, calm and soothe redness, and minimize visible signs of damage such as fine lines, wrinkles and discolouration.

Clinique launches Take the Day Off Cleansing Milk, a gentle, non-foaming cleanser that can be rinsed or tissued off to effectively remove all traces of facial makeup, leaving skin feeling thoroughly cleansed, yet incredible silky, soft and comforted.

Ombra has a new bath formula with pure essential oils developed to bathe away stress, strain, anxiety and fatigue. Discover Ombra Hops and Bergamot Bath and Body Wash with real calming and relaxing effects that promote an intense sense of well-being.

Airplus for Her footcare presents the new Gel Love my Straps Strap Liners, which provide instant relief from the discomfort caused by strappy shoes and sandals, and the Gel Heal my Heels Heel Cushion, which provides superior cushioning to reduce heel pain. Don't miss them!

Discover your most perfect skin by using **Almay** Beauty 1-2-3, a three-step regimen to cleanse, tone and moisturize, resulting in fresh, healthy, beautiful skin. Each regimen is infused with hypoallergenic, fragrance-free, non-irritating ingredients formulated to answer the needs of specific skin types – for example, cucumber for dry skin, grapeseed for normal/combination skin and meadowsweet for oily skin. Additional problem-solving products include an All Over Moisture Stick, Spot Treatment, and a Pore Minimizer for cleaner, softer, younger looking skin.

Nuxe introduces two new formulas for delicious skin care products: Crème Fraîche de Beauté Suractivée for normal skin and Crème Fraîche Concentrée de Beauté Suractivée for dry and very dry skin.

The active lifestyle experts at **Adidas** have set a new standard in personal sweat protection with the release of action3Tech, a new antiperspirant designed to keep dynamic men and women on the go, drier and fresher for up to two days. This triple-action formula goes on clear, leaving no chalky residue behind.

FRANCINE'S TIPS

Concealer, Foundation and Powder: You have treated your skin, and now it's time to prime the canvas. The first step in applying foundation is to use a proper colour concealer to cover dark circles, broken capillaries or redness on the skin. Make sure to apply the concealer over all areas and pat them. The final steps are to apply the foundation over the entire face and then gently pat over the concealer with your fingertips.

Vital Radiance introduces Corrector for Redness and Dark Circles, a green formula that neutralizes red blemishes and broken capillaries; a yellow formula that neutralizes purple or blue discolouration around the eyes; and Mother of Pearl, Rose Quartz and Topaz that brighten naturally. Along with this wonderful product is the Age Spot Concealer which is lightweight and has an SPF15. This product conceals age and sun spots on the face and hands and won't settle in the lines or pores.

Vital Radiance also has Smoothing Face Primer, a lightweight oil-free formula with an SPF25. This primer moisturizes and diffuses to make the skin look flawless, fills in the lines and evens out the skin tone, which prevents makeup from settling in the lines. Be sure to finish off your foundation with a setting powder.

Lise Watier unveils Poudre Barocco, a trio of beige hues that lead us into fall's softer light, after the summer's high beam. This beautiful metal compact is made of gold matte arabesque motifs and is a must to have in your makeup collection.

It takes great makeup to achieve that no makeup look. The key is to find the right foundation shade, finish and coverage. **Chanel** has created Teint Innocence Naturally Luminous Fluid Makeup, a lightweight formula for a fresh, natural complexion that's designed to restore the youthful look of radiance and softness. The formula contains vitamins B5, E and F to hydrate and protect the skin.

Estée Lauder pesents Double Wear Stay-in-Place Foundation. This wonderful product gives you an even-toned, luminous, flawless-looking skin in a long-wearing transfer-resistant foundation that's as comfortable as it is effective.

Lancôme introduces a multi-dimensional matte makeup – Magique Matte, a perfecting makeup with a light mousse texture that transforms into a soft-matte, velvety powder finish. The foundation is available in 10 shades with five hues that cover different skin for women of all ethnicities.

Eyes: Rich new shades are hot for this season. The focus is natural and earthy, but vibrant colours have returned. Colours to look for are deep plums, smoky blues and grays, eggplant and shades of purple. The smoky look for eyes is back. Use a dark grey shadow to line the eyes, rather than a black liner. When using a few colours on the lid, remember to blend, blend, blend. Gel eyeliner is *hot*! Make sure to maximize your lashes with a lengthening mascara to define your eyes.

Estée Lauder brings you New Pure Colour Eye Shadow, a dramatically improved formula that results in long wear, more intense colour and improved blendability. This beautiful, crystal clear compact includes a mirror and applicator for easy application. There are six exciting new colour families with 30 shades of high impact colour.

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Continued from page 40

Lancôme introduces Color Focus Quads, a collection of four full-sized, limited edition eye shadow shades packaged in a black **Lancôme** compact. Three different palettes give three sultry looks. **Lancôme's** Fatale mascara gives the most glamorous look, without fake eyelashes. The texture of the formula builds up a dramatic eyelash look. The comb applicator sculpts the lashes by directing each hair in the desired direction.

Lamé, a fabric with a plied thread made up of a core (of wool or silk) surrounded by a laminated metal thread, has now become **Chanel's** precious unique eye shadow product, Pink Lamé. This outstanding shadow features an amethyst pink grey shade with an iridescent effect. The base of the colour is made up of silver grey and pink powder. The textured surface is dusted with three powders: gold, silver and pink. Along with this in the 2006 Fall Collection is the Irréelle Duo Flash-Back eyeshadow in pink and plum black. The selection is exquisite.

New from **Caryl Baker Visage** is Caryl Baker Mineral Makeup & Gel Eyeliners, the newest formulation in anti-aging makeup. This wonderful collection contains two new blush and five new shadow colours that not only protect the skin from sun but will also help correct and conceal skin imperfections. The gel eyeliner is long lasting, goes on more easily than a liquid liner and dries instantly. One stroke will line your eyes for a beautiful daytime look.

MAC introduces Loud Lash. This extra-strength mascara is non-flaking, non-smudging, waterproof, smear-proof and tear-proof. The rich conditioning formula lengthens and strengthens lashes for extreme lash length and curl. A must-have for all brides.

Blush: Fall fashion runways are filled with rosy cheeks from natural flush to dramatic blaze.

Annabelle presents five new shades of Duo Blush in a combination of pinks, corals, reds and neutrals. The handy flip-top compact fits in your hand comfortably to help achieve a flawless application. One side is silky matte, while the other is soft shimmer.

Lancôme launches Blush Subtil Mosaic, a unique, oil-free powder blush with a gold overspray that sculpts your cheeks with colour. Try it today!

Lips: Defining lips with a lip pencil is a must! Lipstick is a statement for this fall season, with shades of red, pink, peach, deep wine and aubergine a definite focal point.

Lancôme is proud to introduce Potion of Love. This lip stain-soft pen applicator can be used alone or under lipstick or gloss for a longer-lasting lip look.

New from **Elizabeth Arden** is Ceramide Plump Perfect Lipstick, which is lip-plumping, colour-rich and long lasting. "Women are going back to wanting fuller, more voluptuous lips and this product delivers just that," the company says. This lipstick is a favourite of **Elizabeth Arden** spokesperson Catherine Zeta-Jones, who wears Perfect Spice in the new advertising shot. Ceramide Plump Perfect Lipstick comes in a new satin gold case in 12 voluptuous shades.

Clinique enters the lip plumping era with the introduction of Full Potential Lips Plump and Shine – a multi-purpose, high-shine gloss that instantly and over time makes the smallest lips appear fuller and softer in a gentle, non-irritating way. To maximize the benefits of this amazing product, apply to clean, bare lips. There are 10 luscious shades. Take your pick.

MAC launches Lip Varnish, a dynamic lip-colour and lipglass all in one. The two blend together to create an unbelievable high-gloss finish. For polishing and highlighting the lips, there is nothing quite like this.

Fragrances: Donna Karan introduces Donna Karan Gold, a sensuous new fragrance that captures the purity and complexity of a woman. This gold collection will be available in October 2006 at Donna Karan Collection stores and fine department stores nationwide.

Lacoste Inspiration is the first female fragrance from the Freedom segment of **Lacoste** fragrances. This fruity fragrance is made up of spicy top notes of pink peppercorn, pomegranate seeds, mirabelle plum and mandarin zest. This fragrance is designed for a vivacious and feminine woman.

Hilary Duff, singer, actress, designer and philanthropist, announces her latest accomplishment – her very first fragrance, in partnership with **Elizabeth Arden**, With Love… Hilary Duff™. This fragrance is for the young woman who knows that anything is possible and that she can make her dreams come true – if she is true to her heart.

Valentino introduces Valentino V Pour Homme, a charismatic scent with a touch of vanity. This amazing scent is made up of citrus and wood notes blended with bergamot, mandarin, plum and transparent floral.

Enjoy these wonderful tips and products and start preparing for this beautiful time of year.

This fall, **Star Style Collections** celebrate **Revlon's** five Hollywood leading ladies, Kate Bosworth, Eva Mendes, Julianne Moore, Halle Berry and Susan Sarandon with five limited edition collections that reflect their personality and style.

Kate Bosworth – flirty, feminine, ripe with possibilities that set her apart from other actresses of her generation. Kate's Star Style look entails water colour pastels, illuminated sheers and flushed pinks.

Eva Mendes – sultry, seductive, exotic. Eva's Star Style look features bold reds, oranges, bright pinks and soft metallics, all packaged in a dramatic red.

Julianne Moore – glamorous, captivating, elegant. Julianne's Star Style look features pale shades offset by decadent wine and berries packaged in gold-toned cases.

Halle Berry – sleek, smouldering, hypnotic. Halle's beauty statement consists of flawless, glowing skin, smoky eyes and nude glossy lips. Her signature products are packaged in a sleek black casing with pewter accents.

Susan Sarandon – confident, one-of-a-kind. Susan's Star Style look features warm roses, apricots and subtle shades of browns in an array of luxurious textures and formulations.

These Limited Edition Collections Inspired by five exceptional women will be available in September 2006 for a limited time at drug stores and mass retailers nationwide.

For makeup consultations please e-mail Francine Birken at fbirken@rogers.com

A guide to dress codes

By ELLEN LECHTER GREEN
Special to The CJN

Recently, journalist Lisa Lester of Ottawa received an invitation in the mail to a family bar mitzvah evening party in October. In small writing on the bottom were the words "funky formal." Perplexed, she did what any self-respecting journalist would do under these circumstances. She called on friends who seemed most up-to-date on fashion trends.

"Maybe I'm not that hip when it comes to understanding dress codes, but I discovered that I'm not alone," says Lester. "I spoke to three friends, and they all had their own interpretation of what should be worn to a 'funky formal' event."

According to Lester, that advice ranged from cocktail-length dresses and skirts to stylish pants with a blouse or jacket. The unanimous consensus was absolutely no jeans.

Steven, Susan, Carly and Seth Mitchell of Montreal are dressed in formal attire.

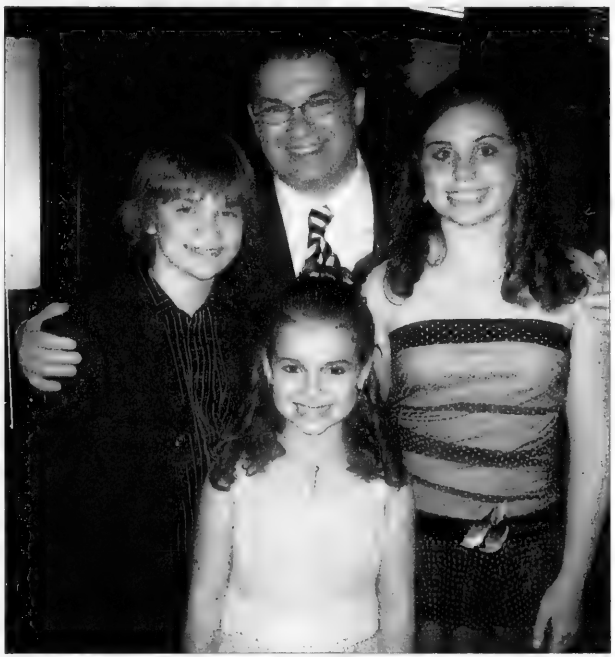
"Funky chic, clubwear, or funky formal basically all mean that you don't have to wear a long gown or tuxedo, but you're expected to dress nicely and appropriately for the event," says Carole Werner, who has been an invitation agent for Canadian and American fashion lines for 18 years.

"I prefer including more traditional dress codes on an invitation, particularly those that most people are familiar with. This helps avoid any confusion."

Most people recognize and understand attire expectations when they are indicated as being black tie, formal, semiformal or black tie optional, she says.

"Semiformal or cocktail attire usually means the same thing. Men wear suits and ties and ladies wear dresses or skirts but no long gowns."

Formal, black tie and black tie optional usually indicate either suits and ties or tuxedos for men, gowns or formal dresses for women.



Anthony Wolfe with kids Molly and Russell and niece Hailey dressed for a black-tie-optional event.

Werner advises her clients to be clear on dress-code expectations for both adults and children. "You want your guests showing up dressed appropriately for your event," she says. "That's the whole point of including a dress code on the invitation."

As well, often your invitation is going to guests who live outside your city. And each community may have its own interpretation of understanding various dress codes.

As for Lester, she decided to call her cousin who was planning the bar mitzvah party to establish once and for all the meaning of funky formal.

"It's a good thing I called because the affair is being held in a hotel in Montreal, and I thought it would be fine to wear a nice pair of pants," she says. "But my cousin told me that she expects funky formal to mean the same thing as formal attire. That means that dress pants are out for me."

Interestingly enough, she adds, her cousin also complained that Lester's phone call was actually one of several that she received from people who didn't understand the dress code.

Here are basic interpretations of dress codes:

- Black tie: formal attire with men in tuxedos, and women in cocktail, long dresses or evening separates.
- White tie: ultra-formal. Men are in white tie, vest and shirt, while women are in long gowns.
- Formal or black tie optional: usually means the same as black tie, but men can wear suits and ties with the option of tuxedos. Women wear cocktail, long dresses or dressy eveningwear.
- Semiformal, funky formal and cocktail attire: tuxedos are not required, nor are long dresses. An evening affair means dark suits with a tie for men and a cocktail dress for her. Daytime semiformal events mean a suit for him and a shorter dress or suit for women.
- Dressy casual, funky chic, clubwear: no jeans or shorts.
- Casual or denim to diamonds generally means anything goes.

Fall Fashion & Beauty

The shape of things

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

It happens every year. The playful summer disappears into the back-to-books nature of fall and we are yet again thrust into winterland. Without getting too morose, it's important to note that among many other things, fall is the time to make a serious fashion statement. And this year that statement is hardly about trends.

What's proving to be more revolutionary than any trend out there is the topsy-turvy silhouette of the season. And for an industry obsessed with size, this is quite the revolutionary step indeed. At a time when bubble dresses and pencil skirts are simultaneously stylish, it is clear that nothing is more fashionable than pushing the boundary with size.

With this change in proportion, you can have your cake and eat it too. Big on top, skin tight on the bottom and vice versa... that effervescent sense of "anything goes" can be translated into every look of the season.

> Big on top, skin tight on the bottom and vice versa...

The bubble dress is the perfect embodiment of the voluminous end of the spectrum. In an ode to the house's original 1960s creations, Nicholas Ghesquière has brought the bubble back with a vengeance for Balenciaga. And as any fashionable lady would know, whatever Nicholas says goes. The bubble has been brought to a mall near you in the form of swing jackets and poofy skirts, and can even be created by belting a voluminous dress.

On the other side of the spectrum is the rake-thin silhouette. The look has been runway-ized over the past few seasons in the form of modish mini-dresses and skinny suits by the likes of Dior and Rochas and is back in full force for fall. More prominent on the bottom half of the body, the skin-tight look is simply achieved by throwing on a pair of those good ol' leggings you've been donning for the last year.

But what's groundbreaking about these new proportions is not what they look like individually. Rather, the combination of wearing the two together is what makes this fashion statement so chic and modern. Layering a big dress over patterned tights will gain you real street cred among the impossibly fashionable.

Proportions have been on the move for years. It's the height of the size revolution... don't be caught dead in a plain Jane jeans and T-shirt combo. With the topsy-turvy look dominating runways from Paris to New York, it's clear that proportion is the thing to change in your wardrobe this year.

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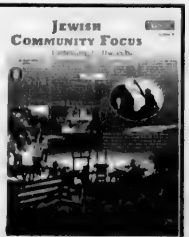


Cruise ship's beautifully refurbished spa pampers

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Often during a spa treatment your body feels afloat. At the Greenhouse Spa & Salon on Holland America Line's ms Maasdam, your esthetic treatment is truly an uplifting experience – literally.

During a day at the spa in one of the treatment rooms, you can pass a number of different landmarks with spectacular views. This summer, guests were pampered at the spa facility while cruising New England and eastern Canada during seven-day sojourns to and from Boston and Montreal.

The ms Maasdam is Holland America Line's 12th ship to be refurbished with and enhanced, which includes a number of upgrades to both staterooms and throughout the ship, including the spa. The ship came out of dry dock in April 2006 with an expanded, state-of-the-art spa and fitness centre.

The spa has nine treatment rooms with picture windows. These rooms have beige marble countertops, teak cupboards with brass fittings. The walls are painted green beige and there are gold brocade curtains.

"One of the rooms has a dry float bed in it," says spa manager Dawn Sparks, who hails from Vancouver. "You sink into the bed, it is warm and you feel like you are floating on air.

It is wonderful for sore, achy joints and bones. We have a relaxation room done in blue colours with calming wicker chaise longues to lie in while sipping fruit juices or water.

"Also in the room is an alpha capsule. It looks like a big egg. You lie in it. It has variable vibration and aromatherapy oils. Relaxing music is piped in, which takes you into a deep meditative state."

Sparks favourite room is the Thermal Suite. The walls are tiled in blue, aqua and white mosaics to resemble the sea. There are five heated chaise longues made from aqua mosaic tiles, which relieve sore and tense muscles. The room features two tiled steam rooms with essential oil steams, two aromatic massage rain showers and a Jacuzzi tub.

In the spa is a hair and barbering area where teeth whitening is offered. The fitness centre has six treadmills, each with a television set, two step machines and recumbent, regular and spinning bicycles. There's a nominal fee for Pilates, yoga, spinning and kickboxing classes.

The spa staff of 10 includes one fitness instructor, two hair stylists, one nail technician and seven massage and beauty therapists. They come from all over the world.

"The main signature treatments that we have are our Ionathermie Detoxification Treatment, which is an anti-cellulite treatment for inch loss," says Sparks.

"We have the Aromaspa Ocean Wrap, which is a seaweed and mud body mask done with or without massage. The La Thérapie Hydralift Facial is an anti-aging corrective skin-care treatment using galvanic stimuli and anti-bacterial ozone wand.

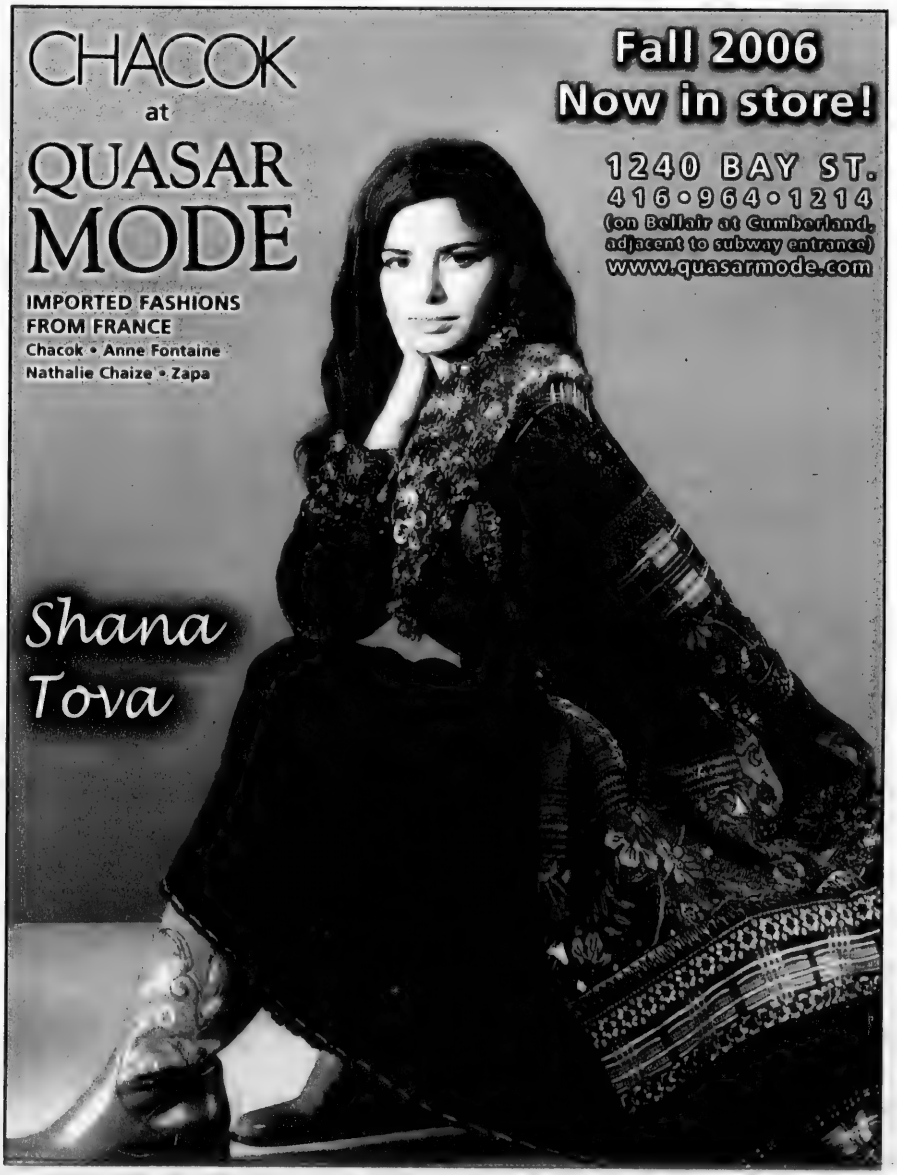
"We also have a Japanese Silk Boaster Facial that uses an actual mask made of silk that is impregnated with pro-collagen serums to decrease fine lines and wrinkles and to improve elasticity in the skin," she says.

Other services include hot stones for chakra balancing, manicure and pedicures, and an array of massages and facials.

The product lines that are exclusive to the Greenhouse Spa & Salon include the skin and body line Elemis from England, La Thérapie corrective products from France and the new Time for Men line with a full range of products.

There are a number of spa packages offered, the most popular being Design Your Own Indulgence. Guests, with the help of staff, pick the treatments they require or desire. Treatment times, especially on cruising days, book up quickly, so you may consider booking a package before your trip or on the first day of the cruise. During the first two days of your cruise, you will receive a $20 discount on all Signature treatments.

To book your Holland America Line cruise and spa treatments aboard the ms Maasdam, which includes 2006-07 cruises to New England and eastern Canada, Europe and this winter, the Caribbean, call 1-877-SAIL HAL or visit www.hollandamerica.com. To order products from the Greenhouse Spa, go to www.timetospa.com.



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Inspectors: Iran not cooperating

By RON KAMPEAS
JTA

WASHINGTON — The final, absolute, no-question deadline passed, Iran still won't give in and the world is finally ready to wait and see.

The International Atomic Energy Agency report, delivered last week to the UN Security Council, erases any last vestige of doubt that Iran might accede to international demands to stop enriching uranium, diplomats said.

"The IAEA is still unable to confirm the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program," said John Bolton, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. "Now, in the language of the IAEA and the international system, that's a red flag. That says that the Iranian program contains much that should be worried about here in New York, and that I think underlies our concern that Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons."

The report was hardly unexpected. Iran's self-set deadline to respond to the sanctions or assistance offer from the international community had been Aug. 22, and its answer, delivered that day to diplomats, was to call for more negotiations.

Jon Alterman, director of the Middle East program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said the process was still very much under way, deadlines or no.

"This has a long way to play out," he said. "The United States will go to the Security Council and see what progress it can get. It will threaten the Security Council, in subtle or blunt ways: 'If you don't act, we will.'"

Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, claimed – just hours before the IAEA report was published – that enriching uranium was Iran's "right." Iranian officials later called the IAEA report "baseless."

The Aug. 22 deadline came after two other deadlines set by the United States passed in July. A host of earlier ultimatums has come and gone since 2003, when the international community first tried to corner Iran on the issue.

Iran insists its program is peaceful, but IAEA inspectors say that's doubtful, and that the nature of the uranium enrichment suggests a weapons program.

So what happens now?

Bolton made clear that he expects the next step to be sanctions; after all, that was what the five permanent, veto-wielding members of the Security Council, plus Germany, threatened earlier this year in making Iran the offer first outlined by Britain, France and Germany, known as the "E.U.-3."

Russia and China committed to seeking sanctions when the group met about two months ago, Bolton said.

Their statement was clear "that if Iran continued to reject the very generous offer that the E.U.-3 were making on behalf of the six countries and if Iran failed to suspend its uranium enrichment activities, now as called for both by the International Atomic Energy Agency and by the Security Council, then the Perm-5 plus Germany would come to the Security Council and seek sanctions," he said.

Well, maybe – Russian and Chinese diplomats were notably silent after the IAEA report was delivered.

Even the European nations, which have been firmer in threatening sanctions, were hanging back until they heard more from the Iranians.

Javier Solana, the European Union foreign policy chief, was set to discuss next steps next week with Ali Larijani, Iran's top nuclear negotiator. Iranian diplomats were readying for a diplomatic blitz to Russia, China and European capitals next week.

Shi'ite Iran also may try to use its considerable conventional force to cow Sunni Arab neighbours into blocking international sanctions, according to a report released this month by the London-based Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

"The Sunni Arab states of Jordan, Egypt and the Gulf are wary of Iran yet feel compelled by its strength to maintain largely cordial relations while Iran embarrasses their Western-leaning governments through its stance against the United States," said the report on Iran's burgeoning regional influence.

The lack of international backing is unlikely to dampen determination in Washington to isolate Iran. The top agenda item for U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) for the last congressional session in September, before mid-term elections, is final passage of her Iran Freedom Act, which has garnered overwhelming support in the House of Representatives.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee and an array of other Jewish groups are committed to the act's passage. The legislation would considerably toughen existing U.S. sanctions against Iran, extending them to third parties that deal with Iran, a measure that would increase Iran's isolation even without formal support from China, Russia and the Europeans.

Ultimately, the world might have to learn to live with a nuclear Iran, said Shlomo Aronson, a political science professor at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. That might be tolerable for a while, as long as Iran maintains the opacity it has cultivated until now, he said.

"They will not threaten the use of a nuclear weapon that they deny exists," he said.

The problem with that scenario, Alterman said, is that even the tacit threat of a nuclear Iran poses dangers.

"A nuclear Iran is not a more confident, self-contained Iran," Alterman said. "It's an Iran that is likelier to seek a regional war at the expense of the United States and at the expense of Israeli security. An Iran throwing its weight around is not going to be on the side of the angels."

Shalit's kidnappers said to want 1,000 prisoners freed

By YAAKOV KATZ
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Egyptian officials have told their Israeli counterparts in recent days that in exchange for the release of 500 Palestinian female and juvenile prisoners, the kidnappers of Cpl. Gilad Shalit would be willing to release the IDF soldier to Egyptian custody, the *Jerusalem Post* has learned.

Two officers from Egyptian intelligence are currently stationed in the Gaza Strip and are said to be in touch with the actual kidnappers, who have passed on to them their demands.

Following the release of the first 500 prisoners and Shalit, the kidnappers are also demanding the release of an additional 500 Hamas members being held in Israeli prisons. This was the first time that an exact number of prisoners demanded by the kidnappers was stipulated in talks over the release of Shalit.

The *Post* has learned that Israel is holding up the deal, and Egypt is waiting for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's response.

"The Egyptians are keeping their line of communication with the kidnappers open on a low flame," one source said. "The plan is in place. All Israel needs to do is answer the request."

The official government stance has been that Israel refuses to negotiate the return of Shalit so as not to encourage the kidnapping of additional IDF soldiers.

PLANNING A SAME-SEX WEDDING?

I am researching Jewish same-sex marriage ceremonies in Canada for my Master's thesis at Wilfrid Laurier University. If you (or someone you know) is getting married in the next few months and would like to participate in this project, I would love to hear from you. For more information, please contact Shari at lash@wlu.ca

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Israel wants international troops at Syria/Lebanon border

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Israel is calling for deployment of international troops at nine Lebanese border crossings where Hezbollah is attempting to smuggle truck-laden missiles from Syria, a senior adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said last week.

Miri Eisen said Israel has raised the issue of arms smuggling with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who visited the region last week. "It's being discussed...We say to the United Nations and Kofi Annan that this issue is not being dealt with." she said.

In a telephone interview from Israel, Eisen laid out Israel's case that Hezbollah must be prevented from re-arming – particularly through overland routes from Syria.

Hezbollah has been repeatedly violating UN resolution 1701, which calls for its disarmament and which embargoes new weapons to the Lebanese group, she said. Because of the success of Israel's blockade of Lebanese ports and airfields, Hezbollah has turned to an overland route for arms replenishment.

Eisen said Israel is concerned that Hezbollah is attempting to smuggle Katyusha missiles on trucks through the border crossings, as well as suitcase-sized anti-tank missiles.

Miri Eisen

Iran is the source of the trucked missiles and Syria the anti-tank munitions, she said. The missiles are being shipped overland from Iran, through Turkey and Syria to Lebanon. Thousands of trucks enter Turkey from Iran each day, mostly bound for Europe, and Turkish authorities cannot search each one. Those destined for Lebanon then traverse Syria.

"Syria and Lebanon have a 330-km long border which has no fence," she said. The trucks can enter Lebanon through any of the nine border crossings. "We have evidence they are trying."

Eisen would not indicate if Israel was interdicting the shipments, saying, "Israel reserves as always the right to self defense."

Eisen's comments came as Israel tried to draw international attention to Hezbollah's repeated attempts to rearm in violation of UN resolution 1701 and to Iran's and Syria's roles in providing munitions to the Islamic terrorist group. She said Israel's successful embargo on Lebanese ports and airfields will continue until international troops take over. She called for an international presence on the Lebanese border with Syria as well.

Eisen noted that Israeli intelligence had learned that Syria provided Hezbollah with sophisticated Russian-made anti-tank missiles that were used extensively in the Lebanon war. "The short-range anti-tank missiles had a devastating effect on the troops and it is difficult to give protection against it," she said. "They fired a couple of hundred anti-tank missiles and hit around 25 different targets."

(*Globes Online*, an Israeli business website, reported that 52 tanks were hit by Cornet, Concourse and Metis-M missiles. Of that number 22 were penetrated by missiles and 23 soldiers killed.)

Eisen said the anti-tank missiles have been traced back to Syria. Cyrillic writing on some of the missiles indicate they originated in Russia and were supplied to Syrian forces.

In a related development Israeli Foreign Minister Tsipi Livni asked the United Nations to adopt a resolution preventing Iran from arming Hezbollah. She also called on the international community to pressure Lebanon to release two Israeli soldiers, whose kidnapping triggered the month long war.

Learning the lessons of the Katyusha war

By UZI RUBIN
Jerusalem Post

Between July 13 and August 13, the Israel Police reported 4,228 strikes by Hezbollah rockets in the North. No area in the world has suffered so many rocket impacts since the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s.

The great majority of the rockets were supplied by Syria rather than by Iran. Most of the warheads contained anti-personnel munitions – a mixture of explosives and steel balls or fragments designed to kill anybody near the impact site.

Nearly a quarter – 23 per cent – of the rockets that landed in Israel hit built-up areas. During the first two weeks, rocket attacks averaged about 100 per day. In early August, Hezbollah doubled its rate of fire to a daily average of 200 attacks. There was a decline during the final week, but on August 13, the day before the cease-fire, 250 rockets landed in Israel.

At one point, Hezbollah was able to fire approximately 150 rockets in an hour.

Approximately 250 longer-range rockets (50+ kilometres) were fired at Israel.

Israeli counter-attacks apparently had no significant affect on Hezbollah's rate of fire, but they did succeed in reducing the accuracy and altering the geography of the attacks.

Israel's losses from the rockets included 53 killed, 250 seriously wounded and 2,000 lightly wounded. There was also extensive damage to hundreds of dwellings, several public utility facilities and dozens of industrial plants. One million Israelis stayed near or in public shelters or protected rooms, with some 250,000 relocating to other areas of the country. Most economic activity in northern Israel was suspended for a month. Warning sirens saved innumerable lives. The long-standing policy of constructing public shelters, combined with building codes that require reinforced spaces in private dwellings, proved to be a generally effective passive defence system. Nearly 80 per cent – 41 out of 53 – of fatalities involved people caught in the open.

Rockets and rocket launchers emerged as one of the defining weapons of the second Lebanon War and will impact on the security of United States and Western interests in the Middle East for the foreseeable future. Effective counter-measures must be devised and deployed as soon as possible. Two objectives should be pursued: first, to reduce the "Flash to Bang" (Hezbollah rocket launch to Israeli response) cycle time to a few seconds from the time the launcher's location is pinpointed; and second, to provide an effective and affordable active defence against rockets at vital civilian and military installations. On July 12, Hezbollah gunmen crossed the border and set an ambush, killing three IDF soldiers and kidnapping two. Five more soldiers were killed after the army crossed into Lebanon in pursuit. The following morning, Hezbollah fired a Katyusha rocket that hit the main street in Nahariya, killing one woman and wounding at least 10.

When the decision was made to respond in force to the attacks, it was taken into consideration that Hezbollah would almost certainly fire numerous rockets at northern Israel.

The head of IDF Military Intelligence, Maj.-Gen. Amos Yadlin, told the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee on August 24 that, with the exception of the long-range Iranian Zelzal missiles, most projectiles fired by Hezbollah came from the Syrian arsenal rather than from Iran. However, the remains of an Iranian-made 240-millimetre Fajr-3 missile, which has a range of 45 kilometres, have also been identified.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz told the foreign affairs and defence committee on August 16 that Israel had been "successful in destroying 90 per cent of [Hezbollah's] long-range rockets."

On July 14, Hezbollah attacked the INS Hanit with a Noor (C802) anti-ship missile, killing four sailors. In addition, Israel Radio reported that at least one Hezbollah unmanned aerial vehicle downed by the Israel Air Force carried a 30-kilogram bomb, in the first recorded use of UAVs as an air-to-surface cruise missile.

A home in Haifa damaged by rocket fire during the early days of the war. [Israel]

In August, Hezbollah changed its tactics, firing more rockets at the same target, in part in an effort to kill people emerging from shelters after they believed it was safe.

Most rockets were tracked by early warning systems, which helped to identify launch sites. Counter-fire by artillery was only marginally effective, as were raids by special forces units on rocket launchers and command posts.

IAF strikes were moderately effective in reducing the accuracy of the rocket fire and forcing the launchers out of the areas in optimal range of Haifa. Thus, downtown Haifa was not hit during the later stage of the conflict, except on the last day, when Hezbollah made a special effort to this end.

Uzi Rubin has been involved in Israeli military research, development and engineering programs for almost 40 years. Between 1991 and 1999, he served as head of Israel's Missile Defence Organization, and in that capacity oversaw the development of Israel's Arrow anti-missile defence system. He was awarded the Israel Defence Prize in 1996 and is the author of The Global Range of Iran's Ballistic Missile Program.

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Controversial authors at it again

By RON KAMPEAS
JTA

WASHINGTON — The "Israel Lobby, The Sequel" is officially on the road, and it's forcing the Jewish community to reassess the two professors peddling its story of Washington in the grip of nefarious pro-Israel lobbyists.

In an address last week in Washington hosted by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer expanded their original thesis of an excessively influential Israel lobby by addressing the reaction to their March paper, *The Israel Lobby*, and assessing its theories in the wake of the Lebanon war.

The result was clarity: there no longer is any doubt about what drove the two academics, critics of the original paper say.

"It'll be much easier now to deal with them and their arguments," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "They're not academics – they're handmaidens of the Arab propaganda machine."

CAIR and Mearsheimer did not return requests for comment.

The most damning criticism of the original paper was that it made assertions not backed by evidence. Yet instead of retreating from their critique, Mearsheimer and Walt seemed to revel in it.

Not only had Israel long planned its war this summer against Hezbollah in Lebanon, Mearsheimer claimed, but it did so with the connivance of the Bush administration.

"It now seems clear that Israel had been planning to strike at Hezbollah for months before the July 12 kidnapping" of two Israeli soldiers "and that key Israelis had briefed the administration about their intentions," Mearsheimer said. "The available evidence indicates that the Bush administration enthusiastically endorsed Israel's plans for war in Lebanon."

No serious researcher has made this claim. *New Yorker* investigative journalist Seymour Hersh and others have reported on Israeli contingency plans and how senior Israeli officials believed a confrontation was inevitable because of Hezbollah's missile buildup in southern Lebanon, but the argument that Israel was seeking a pretext to attack – and that the United States "enthusiastically" endorsed it – seems to be Mearsheimer's alone.

Asked to present evidence, Mearsheimer cited articles quoting Israel's "understandable" fears of a missile buildup, but failed to cite evidence of a search for a pretext with U.S. collusion.

Mearsheimer also said the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) was the "driving force" behind efforts in Congress to remove language from pro-Israel war resolutions that called on all sides to preserve civilian life.

In fact, JTA has established that the initiative was purely Republican and had nothing to do with AIPAC. Some pro-Israel lobbyists told JTA they found the partisan dustup on the issue distasteful.

The appearance at an event hosted by CAIR, a group that calls for cuts in U.S. funding to Israel and in the past has been accused of excusing Arab terrorism, was enough for some to underscore the lack of seriousness of men once better known as leading advocates of "realist" foreign policy – the school that argues that nations pursue power, not ideals, in their foreign dealings.

Eric Rozenman, Washington director for the committee for accuracy in Middle East reporting in America, the first group to deconstruct the *Israel Lobby* paper, said Mearsheimer and Walt were marginalizing themselves. "This shows how far from academic moorings they've drifted," he said.

But that doesn't mean they should be ignored, said Foxman, who noted that the professors had speaking engagements planned on the topic.

Ya'alon: Israel's leaders should quit

By GIL HOFFMAN AND YAAKOV KATZ
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Defence Minister Amir Peretz and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz should take responsibility for their failures during the second Lebanon war, and resign, former IDF chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. (res.) Moshe Ya'alon said last week.

Ya'alon, whom polls show would be a serious candidate for prime minister if he decided to run with the Likud, blamed prime minister Ariel Sharon's Gaza Strip disengagement for causing the war.

Responding to charges from Olmert's associates blaming his policies as IDF chief for the war, Ya'alon told the *Jerusalem Post*, in his first interview with an Israeli media outlet since his return from the United States last week, that until disengagement, Hezbollah had restrained itself, but that withdrawing unilaterally from Gaza had encouraged it to attack.

"I am in favour of a state commission of inquiry to investigate," Ya'alon said.

Israel and the international community must wake up from their approach of appeasement and make Iran and Syria pay a price for the war in Lebanon, Ya'alon said.

Ya'alon started work this week at the new Institute for International and Middle Eastern Studies at the Shalem Center, a Jerusalem-based academic institute. Together with Prof. Martin Kramer and other top scholars, he came to the institute to strategize how Israel and the world should respond to the Islamic fundamentalist threat. "When Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says Israel should be wiped off the map, he means to destroy the West," Ya'alon said. "The world is sleeping. We are sleeping, too."

Moshe Ya'alon

Upon taking over as chief of General Staff in 2002, Ya'alon said he believed that Hezbollah was in the midst of undergoing a process of restraining itself. Every Hezbollah provocation, he said, was met by a fierce IDF response. The world, he said, was also beginning to recognize Hezbollah as a terror group, and Israel was succeeding against Hezbollah both diplomatically and militarily. But then came disengagement.

"The disengagement was portrayed as a victory for terrorism, and it was a reward for Hezbollah and the Palestinians," said Ya'alon, a vocal critic of withdrawal.

Calling Israel's war against Hezbollah the "world's war," he said that the international community's approach of appeasement "encourages terror against the world."

"I am worried by the world's behaviour," he said. "The West is stronger than Islamic fundamentalism, but the West's lack of determination worries me."

UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which called for a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, was another act of appeasement, Ya'alon said.

"The world agrees that Lebanon must have sovereignty and that Hezbollah must be disarmed. Most of Lebanon is in favour," he said. "But the world put out a resolution that helped Hezbollah with a ceasefire and the rest is just declarative... the disarmament of Hezbollah should have been possible to achieve even without a war."

Iran and Syria, he said, had to be held accountable for the war. He said that Hezbollah was their proxy, and the world was letting Iran and Syria get away without paying a price.

"We have to handle this at a diplomatic level," he said. "Iran uses proxies, and Syria plays the role of facilitator, and the world is letting them get away with it. We need a diplomatic effort to make sure the world holds them responsible."

If Syria and Iran didn't pay a price, he said, it would put into question Israel's achievements in the war.

Nablus bomb-maker killed

Israeli special forces killed a senior Palestinian terrorist form the Al-Aksa Brigade in Nablus last week. Security sources said he was wanted for recruiting and equipping suicide bombers. In the Gaza Strip, tanks and troops withdrew from the district of Shajayia after an almost weeklong mission to uncover a tunnel dug by Palestinian terrorists intent on attacking an Israeli border position. Twenty Palestinians, most of them gunmen, had been killed trying to repel the Israeli force. Palestinian terrorists fired at least three rockets from Gaza into Israel, but caused no damage or casualties.

Israelis want independent probe of war

Most Israelis want an independent inquiry into the recent Lebanon war, a survey found. Israel Radio published the results of an opinion poll it conducted on Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's decision to limit probes of the 34-day offensive against Hezbollah to a government-appointed panel. Sixty-four percent of respondents were unhappy with the decision, preferring that an independent body look into the war's planning and execution, the station reported. The findings added to pressure mounting on the Olmert government since an Aug. 14 truce ended the Lebanon war. Israeli media reported that even Olmert's junior partner in the coalition, Labor Party chief and Defence Minister Amir Peretz, favoured an independent probe. According to the Israel Radio survey, there is waning support for Olmert within his Kadima Party, with only 15 per cent saying they would vote for him if there were an election today. Thirty-nine percent said they preferred Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni to head Kadima and 46 per cent were undecided.

Labor chief challenged

The head of Israel's Labor Party is facing his first formal leadership challenge. Two senior Laborites announced they would run against Amir Peretz in the party primary, currently scheduled for May 2007. The two contenders, former security chief Ami Ayalon and veteran economist Avishai Braverman, agreed they would campaign jointly, though they have not yet determined who will be the lead candidate against Peretz. The Labor leader also faces potential challenges from Ehud Barak, Danny Yatom and Matan Vilnai, all party members with strong military backgrounds.

Lebanese leader cool to peace treaty

Lebanon's prime minister said his country would not sign an independent peace deal with Israel. "Let it be clear, we are not seeking any agreement until there is just and comprehensive peace based on the Arab initiative," Fouad Siniora said.

He was referring to a proposal endorsed by the Arab League in 2002 under which Israel's neighbours would make peace if Israel withdraws from all territory captured in the 1967 Six-Day War and accepts a solution to the "right of return" demanded for millions of Palestinian refugees and their descendants. Israel rejected the initiative, saying peace should come without preconditions. Siniora announced this week that his government would pay compensation to Lebanese whose property was damaged in the conflict, an apparent bid to offset similar payouts being made by Hezbollah.

Livni spared lawsuit

Danish authorities turned down a request to prosecute Israel's visiting foreign minister for alleged war crimes. The Attorney General's Office in Copenhagen rejected the appeal filed by a left-wing lawmaker against Tzipi Livni, who visited Denmark this week as part of a European tour, Israel Radio reported. The lawmaker had argued that Livni should be arrested and prosecuted for her role in Israel's recent offensive against Hezbollah.

Sharon's condition improves

Doctors reported improvement in the condition of the comatose Ariel Sharon after he was treated for pneumonia. Israel's former prime minister was moved back to the rehabilitation unit of Tel Aviv's Sheba Medical Center after two weeks in intensive care. Doctors reported a "noticeable improvement in his kidney function and the pneumonia in his lungs." Sharon suffered a major stroke Jan. 4 and is not expected to recover.

— *JTA*

He begged to take command of his tank

By URIEL DOMB

Feature

On Wednesday morning Aug. 9, as the latest war between Israel and Lebanon was picking up momentum, *Seren* (Capt.) Gilad Stuckelman's Merkava-2 tank hit a huge mine in the Lebanese village of Ayta-al-Shaab, just across from the Israeli village of Zaryit, where the war started four weeks earlier. The tank's massive turret blew off and then a Russian Koronet anti-tank missile hit the chassis, setting it on fire. Gilad and his crew of three, all young reserve soldiers, were instantly killed. They never knew what hit them or felt anything.

I first met Gilad in Toronto a little over three years ago, just following his long military service in the Israel Defence Forces elite 7th tank brigade. Gilad was 23 at the time and came to Canada to "breathe some fresh air" and "see the world," before deciding what he wanted to make of his life – not unlike many other Israeli youth following the strenuous military service.

We were looking for an Israeli Hebrew teacher for our youngest kids, Arielle, 10, and Mikey, 8, so they could learn to speak "real" Hebrew, and Gilad was a match made in heaven. Within a few months, both children started to speak with a real Israeli accent and vocabulary, and Mikey became a big fan of Maccabi Tel Aviv and the 7th brigade. Every Thursday evening following the Hebrew lesson and an Israeli supper, Gilad and Mikey were glued to our satellite TV to watch the latest Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball game. Often Gilad would fall asleep in our family room and stay until morning. We all loved him, and he became an integral part of our family.

In the cold winter months we made sure he didn't go home without a coat and gloves – something he had a hard time getting used to after Israel.

We had another common tie – music. Gilad never learned music formally and couldn't read a musical note, but he could sit at the piano and play almost any tune by heart. He was a real pro on the guitar, and often we would combine all our musical talents – voice, cello, piano and guitar to play Israeli songs. At other times, he would sit in our living room and listen to our daughter Gabi practise the Elgar cello concerto with Arielle singing arias from operas he loved. Music almost moved him to tears.

Though Gilad kept himself busy in Toronto with a variety of odd jobs including baking doughnuts and selling paintings, we all recognized that he had a deep intellectual curiosity combined with a maturity beyond his age – something he must have developed during his career as a tank officer. We kept on urging him to go to university, and he knew that someday he would, but he still wanted to discover other parts of Canada and travel to South America.

He accomplished both with the same drive and determination that characterized everything else he did. He travelled through Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador the way few natives have ever done, managing to befriend the locals in spite of the language barrier. By the time he reached Sao Paulo, Brazil, he already managed to have his passport, airline ticket and most of his money stolen. We asked our good friend Oscar to take care of him in Sao Paulo. That he did, in an armoured Mercedes, showing him the sights and ending up in the fashionable Jewish country club in Morumbi, Sao Paulo.

After his adventures in South America, Gilad was almost ready to settle down. He returned home to his parents Micha and Rachel and brothers Eliran, Yarden and Yair in the beautiful hilltop village of Timrat in the Yizrael valley, not far from Nazareth. We would visit him and his family there often, and he and Mikey despite their age difference of 14 years were like two close brothers. When Gabi attended an international cello workshop in Israel in 2005, Gilad came to the concerts and felt right at home surrounded by musicians from around the world.

He also began the lengthy application process to university, and was successful in gaining admission to the Hebrew University and Haifa University. He planned to major in economics and Far Eastern studies. But Gilad hadn't quite gotten rid of his travel itch yet, so he decided to become an El Al flight attendant for another short while before going on to university. That gave him another opportunity to visit Canada, and on one of these occasions he brought his parents along to show them the country he loved most after Israel, and visit our family who had adopted him as a son.

Gilad Stuckelman

Our last encounter took place in Israel on Tuesday, Aug. 1. The war was already in its third week, Katyusha rockets were raining on the northern region of Israel on a daily basis and the reserves were being called up. I went to Israel the day before to see what I could do to help out in the war and telephoned Gilad to get the latest scoop. He had received a call-up order from his reserves tank brigade the previous week, but at the last moment the call-up was suspended. So he decided to squeeze in another trip to New York as an El Al flight attendant on Wednesday, Aug. 2. We agreed to meet in Timrat at midday on Tuesday on my way up north.

With his typical Israeli demeanor, Gilad opened a bottle of rosé wine he bought in New York and chopped up a watermelon. We spent a lovely hour talking and laughing – myself, Gilad and his young brother, Yair. The parents were away and his other two brothers were already in the army. We didn't pay much attention to the sirens warning people to go to the shelter; neither did we realize it was our last encounter, forever. We both felt the war would end as soon as the reserves marched across the border.

The following day, Gilad flew to New York, and I ended up volunteering in the Magen David Adom station in Metulla right on the Lebanese border. I stayed there for more than a week under almost continuous Katyusha bombardment, but was never afraid for my life. Neither were the brave residents of Metulla or the soldiers stationed around there. One day, though, a direct Katyusha salvo hit an encampment of Israeli reserve soldiers near us at Kfar Giladi, killing 12 soldiers and injuring many others. Our station and ambulances participated in the rescue operation and many others.

As soon as Gilad reached his hotel in New York he checked his cellular phone messages from home. One of the messages was an immediate recall from the army to report to his unit. He wasn't due to fly back for another few days, but managed to talk El Al into letting him fly return the next day as a passenger. El Al had to fly another attendant from Israel to take his place.

He reached his reserves tank brigade on the western sector of the Lebanon border on Saturday, Aug. 5 and begged his commander to allow him to take command of his tank. Four days later, he was killed. He didn't even have a chance to get to know his tank comrades. They all shared the same tragic fate. I immediately came from Metulla to be with his family. I felt like I had lost a son.

Gilad was laid to rest two days later in a full military ceremony attended by more than 500 friends and relatives, and many officers and soldiers from his brigade, who were given a special leave from the front line for a few hours. He was the first military casualty in Timrat, and was given a place of honour in the famous military cemetery of Nahalal on the gentle hill of Timrat, close by Moshe Dayan and Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut. Gilad, born in the Jordan Valley settlement of Gitit, would have turned 27 on Sept. 6. For us, he would live forever.

Uriel Domb is the CEO of Telespace, in Toronto.

Gaza journalists protest censorship

By KHALED ABU TOAMEH
Jerusalem Post

GAZA CITY, Gaza – Palestinian journalists in the Gaza Strip complained last Tuesday that they were being subjected to a campaign of intimidation and terror by various armed groups and urged the Palestinian Authority to punish those responsible.

Several Palestinian journalists and editors have been killed or beaten over the past few years by unidentified gunmen, especially in the Gaza Strip. Until today, none of the assailants have been caught.

At a demonstration outside the offices of the Palestinian Legislative Council in Gaza City, dozens of journalists said they were suffering from growing attempts to restrict their work.

"We condemn all methods of terror and threats practised by some irresponsible parties in Palestinian society against Palestinian newsmen," said one of the journalists. "We are facing attacks from internal and external forces."

The journalists urged the PA to guarantee freedom of expression in its territories and take legal action against anyone who threatens or attacks them. They also denounced the recent kidnapping of two Fox News journalists in Gaza City and said those who carried out the abduction acted against the interests of the Palestinians.

Ibrahim Barakat, a Fatah activist who joined the protest, described the kidnapping of the journalists as an "immoral act that distorts the image of the Palestinian people's struggle." He urged the PA to reveal the identity of the kidnappers and to bring them to court without delay.

Some of the journalists also attacked Israel for wounding some of their colleagues during Israel Defence Forces incursions into the Gaza Strip.

In a separate development, a row has erupted between journalists in the Gaza Strip over a meeting some of them held earlier last week with PA Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh.

The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, a body dominated by Fatah supporters, accused Haniyeh's office of "discrimination" in deciding who would attend the meeting. It claimed that only Hamas-affiliated journalists were invited to the meeting.

"Haniyeh's office ignored journalists working in important media outlets such as Palestine TV and the Wafa News Agency," the syndicate said. "This is a very serious development that will have repercussions on many levels."

According to the syndicate, Haniyeh's decision to boycott many of its members coincides with increased attempts to terrorize Palestinian journalists and prevent them from carrying out their jobs.

In response, the 13 journalists who were invited to interview Haniyeh launched a scathing attack on the syndicate, accusing it of stupidity and impotence. They said the attack on Haniyeh's office was an indication that the syndicate was acting out of "factional considerations." They said the syndicate had lost its right to represent all journalists because of the behaviour of its heads.

Jamal Nazzal, a spokesperson for Fatah in the West Bank, accused the Hamas-controlled government of harassing local journalists and media outlets.

Holiday Food Ideas

Food traditions may provide comfort

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

As has been the case many times in the past, this year has not been an easy one for Jews worldwide. With the High Holy Days almost upon us then, it is a good time to call upon our traditions to help us in our quest for a sweet and prosperous new year.

Food plays a large part in these traditions. We dip apples in honey and eat pomegranates whose seeds represent a new year filled with many mitzvot.

Editorial

While many people bake round challot that represent the never-ending circle of life, some shape their challah like a ladder, symbolizing the fortunes of people for the year ahead when some will ascend and others will descend life's ladder.

Often, the custom is to bake raisins in the challah, perhaps to enhance its sweetness.

Sephardi Jews may serve a whole fish to wish for prosperity, fertility and good luck in the coming year, and some Jews present fruit baskets covered to hide the contents, symbolizing the idea that no one can know what the new year will bring.

These are all customs, however, and people may interpret them in the same way as their own families did before them, or in their own new, special way. We may serve traditional foods before the meal or incorporate them into our holiday meals.

In our upcoming holiday food supplements, we've tried to offer both traditional recipes, so that readers can get a glimpse of holidays past, and some new recipe ideas for those who want to put an original twist on their dinners.

Whether you're making your first holiday dinner, or you're a veteran meal planner, we're sure to have something to offer.

From all of us at *The CJN*, we wish you happy cooking and a Shanah Tovah.

–*CB*

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Take advantage of fall harvest produce

By DAPHNA RABINOVITCH
Special to The CJN

This Rosh Hashanah, take advantage of all the late harvest produce still overflowing at grocery stores and farmers' markets. Beets with orange, already colourful and bursting with flavour, is made all the more remarkable with fresh basil. Likewise, the easy and mouth watering mushroom and hazelnut stuffing for the chicken (or turkey) includes some zucchini as well as parsley, both bountiful at this time of year. I've also taken advantage of Indian summer fruit in a rather unconventional dessert, pairing peaches and raspberries in a wonderful rustic crisp. Feel free to follow tradition, however, and substitute apples for the peaches.

BEETS WITH ORANGE

In a pinch, you can substitute three cans (15 oz. each) of beets. Drain and cube as directed. Or, if your oven is already otherwise occupied, boil beets in boiling salted water for about 50 minutes or until tender. Proceed as directed.

3 lb. fresh beets, scrubbed and trimmed
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
4 fresh oranges, segmented
1/4 cup chopped fresh basil or mint

Dressing:
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tbsp. freshly squeezed orange juice
2 tbsp. raspberry or red wine vinegar
1 tsp. honey
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil

Place large piece of foil on work counter. Arrange half of beets snuggly in one layer in centre of foil; drizzle with half of olive oil. Sprinkle with half of salt and pepper. Fold foil tightly to enclose beets. Repeat with another large piece of foil and remaining beets, olive oil, salt and pepper. Place on large rimmed baking sheet.

Roast in centre of preheated 400-degree oven for 45 to 60 minutes or until beets are tender when pierced with a fork. Cool slightly; peel and cut into 1/2-inch cubes. Place in bowl.

Meanwhile, in separate bowl, whisk together garlic, orange juice, vinegar, honey, salt and pepper. Slowly whisk in olive oil until well emulsified. Pour half over beets while still warm. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 6 hours or for up to 24 hours.

Before serving, toss orange segments with beets, drizzling with remaining dressing. Gently stir in basil. To serve, line salad plate with lettuce and mound beet mixture in centre. Makes 8 servings.

Continued on page 52

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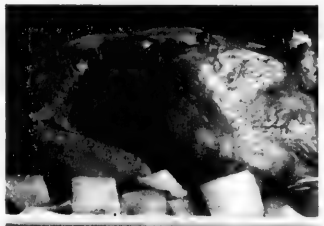
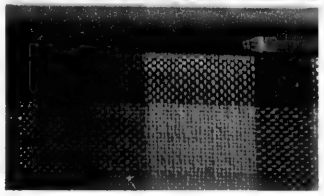
Try peaches instead of apples in desserts

Continued from page 50

ROAST CHICKEN WITH HAZELNUT MUSHROOM STUFFING

You can use half the stuffing in a large chicken, about 6 pounds, and bake the remainder alongside in a casserole dish. It makes enough for a 14- to 15-pound turkey.





1 chicken, about 6 lbs.
1/3 cup Dijon mustard
2 tsp. soy sauce
4 tsp. all-purpose flour
2 cups chicken stock (approx.)

Hazelnut Mushroom Stuffing:
3 tbsp. vegetable oil
6 cups coarsely chopped mushrooms
1 tsp. each salt and pepper
1/2 cup margarine or chicken stock
2 onions, chopped
4 cloves garlic, minced
2 stalks celery, chopped
1 large zucchini, grated and drained
10 cups cubed day-old French or Italian bread
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
1 cup coarsely chopped toasted hazelnuts

Heat oil in large skillet set over medium heat. Add mushrooms and half of salt and pepper. Cook, stirring, for 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned and any excess liquid has evaporated. Transfer to bowl. Melt margarine in same skillet; add onions, garlic, celery and remaining salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, for about 7 minutes or until softened. Add to mushrooms, along with zucchini, bread, parsley and hazelnuts, tossing together until everything is thoroughly moistened.

Remove giblets and neck from chicken. Rinse and pat chicken dry inside and out.

Loosely place about 1 cup of stuffing into body cavity of chicken, without packing. Transfer remainder to 8-cup greased casserole. Pour 1/4 cup of chicken stock over casserole. Cover casserole with foil and set aside.

In small bowl, combine mustard with soy sauce; brush all over chicken.

Roast in centre of preheated 325-degree oven, basting occasionally, for 2 1/2 to 3 hours or until juices run clear when chicken is pierced and meat thermometer inserted in thigh registers 185. Remove chicken from pan to a warm platter; tent chicken with foil.

Add casserole to oven during last hour; cook, covered, moistening stuffing every 20 minutes with about 3 tbsp of stock. Uncover casserole and bake for an additional 10 minutes or until topping is crisp.

Meanwhile, skim fat from pan juices, sprinkle flour over juices; cook over medium high heat, stirring, for 1 minute. Pour in 1 cup chicken stock and any juices from platter. Boil, stirring, until thickened. Strain into warmed gravy boat and serve with stuffing and chicken. Makes 8 servings.

PEACH AND RASPBERRY CRISP

If you are substituting apples, you will need about 8 cups of peeled, cored apple slices. Try to use an apple that will keep its shape as it cooks, such as Golden Delicious or Northern Spy.

12 large peaches (or 8 cups frozen sliced peaches)
1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
3 tbsp. all purpose flour
2 cups fresh raspberries

Topping:
1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
1 cup quick cooking rolled oats
1 cup packed brown sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
2/3 cup melted margarine or butter

Using small paring knife, cut an "x" at the base of each peach. Immerse by twos or threes into boiling water for 30 seconds. Using slotted spoon, remove one by one and place in bowl of ice water. Peel and slice into thick wedges; let cool completely in large bowl. Once cool, gently stir in brown sugar and flour, tossing to coat well. Gently stir in raspberries. Transfer mixture to an 8-10-cup rectangular or oval baking dish.

In separate bowl, combine flour, oats, brown sugar and cinnamon. Pour margarine over, stirring until mixture is clumpy and crumbly. Sprinkle topping evenly over fruit. Place on rimmed baking sheet.

Bake in centre of preheated 350-degree oven for about 1 hour or until top is golden and crisp and fruit is tender.

Can be served warm or made 24 hours ahead and rewarmed for 20 to 30 minutes in the oven at 350. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

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Holiday Food Ideas

Eat symbolic foods for Rosh Hashanah

By SUE EPSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Many Jews have a special short ceremony on the first night of Rosh Hashanah immediately after *Kiddush* and *Hamotzi* are recited and the apples are dipped in honey. In this ceremony, called *Yehi Ratzon*, blessings are said over foods with symbolic value. After the apple, one can then have all, none or some of the other symbolic foods. There is also no special order in which they should be eaten.

Here are some of the symbolic foods and the blessings that accompany them:

- Apple and honey: that we be renewed for a good and sweet year
- Black-eyed peas: that our merits multiply
- Carrots: to increase our merits
- Leek or cabbage: that our enemies be decimated
- Beets: that our adversaries be removed
- Dates: that our enemies be consumed
- Gourd: that our merits be proclaimed before God
- Pomegranate: that our merits increase like the seeds of a pomegranate
- Fish: that we be fruitful and multiply like fish
- The head of a fish: that we be like the head and not like the tail

All the quantities in these recipes will depend on how you serve them – whether for just a taste or as a side dish.

BLACK-EYED PEA SALAD

I find it interesting that in the American South it is traditional for both Jew and non-Jew to eat black-eyed peas on New Year's Day for good luck.

16 oz. black-eyed peas, dried or frozen
1 mild red onion, diced or 2 garlic cloves, minced
salt and black pepper to taste
1/2 tsp. cumin, optional
5 tbsp. olive oil
1/3 to 1/2 cup lemon juice

If using dried black-eyed peas, cover the peas with water and soak overnight. Drain the water. Place the peas in a saucepan and cover with water. Boil the peas until tender. Drain and dry the peas. If using frozen black-eyed peas, thaw and simmer until tender. Mix the peas with the remaining ingredients. Makes 8 side dish servings.

PUMPKIN OR GOURD SCONES

1 tbsp. margarine
1/2 cup sugar
1 egg
2 cups self-rising flour
1 cup cooked, mashed cold pumpkin or gourd or canned pumpkin
1/8 tsp. salt

Grease a baking tray. Cream together the margarine and sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg and beat well. Add pumpkin, flour and salt and fold in by hand. Knead lightly and cut into 1-in. squares. Place close together on the baking tray and bake at 425 until well risen and golden on top (about 15 minutes). Serve warm. Makes 4 servings.

Continued on page 56

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Honey production in Israel - a sweet undertaking

By BATSHEVA POMERANTZ
IPS

Honey is a popular ingredient in Rosh Hashanah dishes, and the greeting, "Shanah tovah u'metukah," "Have a good and sweet year," is on everyone's lips. At the festive Rosh Hashanah meal, a piece of challah trickled with honey is followed by a slice of apple dipped in honey, and honey cake often tops off the feast as a classic dessert.

Because of an increased local demand for honey in recent years, the proverbial Land of Milk and Honey (whose 90,000 beehives produce a whopping 3,600 tons of honey annually) has found itself in the unlikely situation of having to import honey.

In order to solve the problem, the Jewish National Fund earmarked certain forests for beehives and agreed to provide the Honey Council with some 100,000 nectar-producing saplings and plants each year. When this didn't suffice, the JNF, together with the country's 500 apiarists, took further action, and in early 2006, implemented the planting of some 200,000 additional trees as a source of nectar for bees. Beekeepers can now travel with their beehives to one of 6,300 pasture points around the country, and the situation has improved greatly.

The raising of honey bees first took off in the Land of Israel in the late 19th century. However, in the biblical era, honey was made from dates, and many people believe the notion of a "land flowing with milk and honey" actually referred to date honey.

Fifth-generation apiarist Malka Ben Zeev of the Dvorat HaTavor Land of Silk and Honey Center in the Lower Galilee, can trace her profession back to her Hungarian ancestors. Her agronomist husband Yigal learned the art of rearing silkworms in Iran in the late 1960s when he was an emissary of the Israeli government. The two joined forces, and in 1970, the newlyweds established the only silkworm breeding farm in Israel and began developing a successful honey production business at Moshav Shadmot Dvora, a stone's throw from Mount Tabor and the second-century BCE Silk Road.

Dvorat HaTavor, which is recognized by the Israel government as an agro-tourism attraction, enjoys visits from students of all ages, retirees and groups of young people from the Diaspora. A program in Arabic is geared to the Arab residents of the Galilee.

The visitors centre employs Galilee residents – often recently discharged Israel Defence Forces soldiers – as guides, to explain about removal of the combs and extraction of the honey from the hives, each of which produces approximately 45 kilograms of honey a year.

"We place our hives in Galilee fields where there are natural wildflowers," Malka Ben Zeev explains, "and avoid orange or avocado orchards that are sprayed with pesticides. The bees graze on white forest flowers according to the season. In the summer, our honey is produced from thistles."

Israel has two to three blossom seasons when the bees suck the nectar from more than 100 types of plants, starting the production process. The plants are divided into cultivated plants, like citrus – from which most of the honey is produced in Israel – and wildflowers. The flowers from which the nectar is collected affect the flavour and colour of the honey. Plants include avocado, marjoram, eucalyptus, thorns, citrus, three-lobed sage, thyme and clover.

Some types of honey, like those made from avocado and eucalyptus nectar, are suitable for roasting meat, while others, from the nectar of wildflowers for example, are best for lighter meals of leafy salads, fruit and yogurt. Honey produced from citrus is good for baking cakes and dishes with a dough base.

Honey has been used for thousands of years for health purposes. Its shelf life is so long that jars of still edible honey have been discovered entombed with Egyptian mummies.

According to the Honey Council, honey is a sterile, natural food that can be effective in warding off winter illnesses and boosting appetite and energy. As a sweetener, honey has 25 per cent fewer calories than sugar, with 25 to 30 calories per teaspoonful.

A wonderful collection of honey pots

Healthy by-products of the beehive include propolis, "the natural antibiotic," which protects the beehive from illness. It is scraped from each hive in small quantities and used in anti-fungus creams, creams to soothe the skin and sprays for irritated throats. Another healthful by-product is pollen, which is used to nourish the bees and is rich in vitamins, including vitamin B-12.

"Propolis and pollen are expensive because of the intensive work needed to extract them from the beehive," Ben Zeev notes.

Finally, it's interesting to look at the hard-working bees who must visit more than 4.5 million flowers and travel over 140,000 kilometres to produce a single kilogram of honey so that we may enjoy this traditional treat on Rosh Hashanah.

Note: In 2004, the apiarists' organization in Israel changed the name of its profession. Until then an apiarist was known as a *kavran*, which although spelled differently, sounded identical to the word for "undertaker" in Hebrew! An Israeli apiarist is now called a *dvorai*, from *dvora* (bee).

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MENU #2

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish	Carrot Tzimmes
Chicken Matzo Ball Soup	New Dills
Roast Chicken	Cole Slaw
Roast Brisket of Beef	Honey Cake, Challa
Lockshen Pudding	Mohn Cookies
Pan Roast Potatoes	Apple Pie
Green Beans Almondine	Honey & Apples

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MENU #3 - *low fat menu*

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish	Cole Slaw
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MENU #4

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish	Green Beans Almondine
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Chicken Fingers	Honey Cake, Challa
Lockshen Pudding	Mohn Cookies
Pan Roast Potatoes	Apple Pie
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MENU #5

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish	Green Beans Almondine
Chicken Matzo Ball Soup	Challa
Roast Chicken	Mohn Cookies
Roast Brisket of Beef	Honey & Apples
Chicken Fingers	
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Roast Duck	Grilled Vegetables
Flanken in Borscht	Apple Farfel Pudding
Meat Loaf	Rice & Mushrooms
Lemon Chicken	Potato Latkes
Baked Chicken Breast	Green Beans Almondine
BBQ Wings	Broccoli & Mushrooms
Honey Garlic Wings	Candied Yams
Chicken Fingers	Handmade Egg Noodles
Knishes-Beef or Potato	
Kishke	
Pre Carved Roast Turkeys	
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SALADS	DESSERTS
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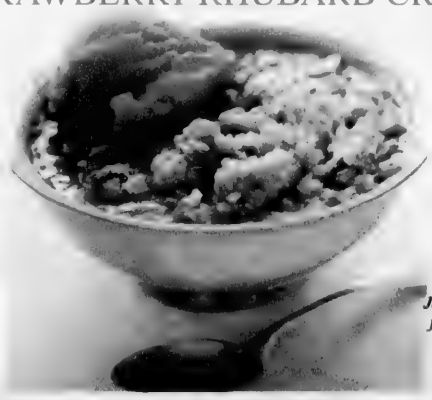

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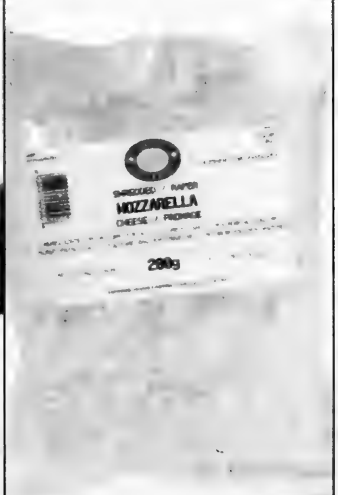

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A holiday meal from sides to desserts

Continued from page 53

LEEK FRITTERS WITH GARLIC

4 cups leeks, cleaned and thinly sliced (white part only)
1 tbsp. olive oil
3 cloves garlic crushed
1 tbsp. parsley, chopped
3 eggs, beaten
1 tbsp. flour
salt and black pepper to taste
olive oil for frying

Cut off the bottoms of the leeks and discard. Thinly slice the white part only of the leeks. Rinse and drain well. Discard the dark green tops of the leeks. Heat a large frying pan and add the oil, garlic and leeks. Saute quickly over high heat for 3 minutes. Remove to a bowl to cool. Add the remaining ingredients to the bowl and mix together.

Heat a large nonstick frying pan and add the oil for frying. Measure out 1/2 cup quantities of the fritter mixture and add to the hot pan. Flatten each one slightly and fry over medium heat until golden brown on both sides. You will have to do this in batches so there is ample room in the frying pan. Add more oil, if necessary. Remove to drain on paper towels, and serve hot. Makes 6 side dish servings.

BEET SALAD WITH APPLES

You can substitute canned beets for the fresh if desired.

7 medium beets
2 tart apples
1 tbsp. plus 1 tsp. prepared mustard
4 tbsp. mayonnaise
1 tsp. sugar
salt and freshly ground pepper

Preheat oven to 350. Wrap each beet in a piece of foil, sealing tight. Place all the beet packages on a foil-lined baking dish. Bake for 60 to 75 minutes. Leave the beet packages on the baking dish, but carefully pull open a corner of the foil package to let the steam escape. Let the beet packages sit in this manner for 5-10 minutes. Carefully open the foil package more fully. Let the beet packages sit in this manner for an additional 5-10 minutes or until the beets can be handled comfortably.

Slide your fingers over the surface of the beets and the skin of the beets will peel off easily. Cut the beets into 1/4-in. julienne sticks. Coarsely grate the apples and combine with the beet sticks. Add the remaining ingredients and blend well. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Serve cold. Makes 8-10 servings.

DATE BALLS

1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
8 oz. pitted dates, chopped
1/4 cup sugar for rolling

Preheat oven to 350. In a mixing bowl, beat 1 cup sugar with eggs until fluffy. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. Blend dry ingredients into the sugar mixture. Fold in dates. Spoon batter into a greased 8-inch square pan; bake for 30 minutes. Remove from oven and stir immediately with a wooden spoon. Let cool completely, then roll mixture into 1-inch balls and toss in 1/4 cup sugar. Makes 36 date balls.

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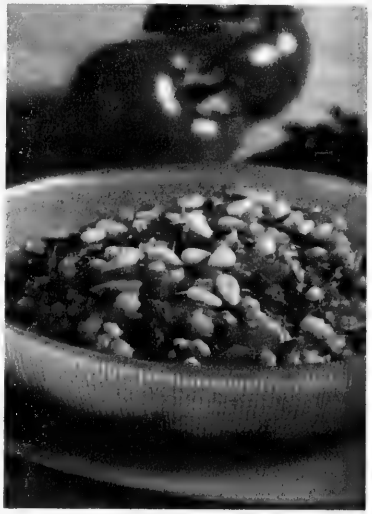
Holiday Food Ideas

Pan pals share traditions and recipes from around the world

By NORENE GILLETZ
Special to The CJN

As I write this article, it's hard to believe that the long, hot summer is nearly over and the High Holy Days are just around the corner. It's always an adventure to find out what my friends from different corners of the globe are cooking for the holidays and to learn about their special traditions. Here are some tasty offerings from their kitchens, along with some food for thought. Enjoy!



Although Ruth Baks lives in Jerusalem, we share a special friendship over the miles because of our love of good food. We've never met in person, but thanks to the Internet, it seems like we've known each other for years! Originally hailing from San Diego, Ruth came to Israel when she was a student and never left. She is an amazing cook, very knowledgeable and articulate. She is well-known in my culinary circle for her excellent Sababa, a delicious chocolate liquor that she bottles and sells. I am lucky enough to own a bottle and I save it for very special celebrations.

Ruth and I became "pan-pals" through the Jewish Food list http://www.jewishfoodlist.com/, a worldwide online food community with a membership of more than 1,800 members from 39 countries around the world. If you have a culinary question or are looking for a special recipe from your childhood, there's a good chance you'll find it there!

Ruth Baks is currently writing a Shabbat cookbook and there is no doubt it will be fabulous, so be sure to reserve a space for it on your cookbook shelf! Ruth was generous enough to share her recipe for this fragrant carrot souffle with me, along with her enlightening comments about special Rosh Hashanah traditions.

CARROT SOUFFLE WITH CANDIED PECANS

Combine in a medium saucepan:
6 cups water
2 lbs. carrots, peeled and sliced (4 cups sliced)
1½-in. knob fresh ginger root, peeled and sliced
1 stick cinnamon or cassia bark
dash of salt

Bring to boil; cover and reduce heat. Cook for 25 minutes or until carrots are very tender; drain. Discard cinnamon. Preheat oven to 350. Transfer cooked carrots and ginger to bowl of food processor fitted with the steel blade.

Add:
5 oz. butter or margarine
1 tsp. fresh lemon juice, strained

Purée, occasionally scraping down sides of processor bowl, until smooth and creamy.

Add:
1⅔ cups sugar
4 large eggs
⅓ cup all-purpose flour
1½ tsp. vanilla extract
1½ tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. ground cinnamon
¼ tsp. freshly grated nutmeg

Purée until smooth. Taste and adjust flavouring. Turn into well greased, 9-cup shallow oval casserole. Smooth top with spatula. (Note: Casserole should be filled no more than 75 per cent as the soufflé will puff up. When baked, this recipe will fill a 9-cup casserole all the way to the very top. A 9 x 9 x 2-in. square baking dish may also be used.)

For candied pecan topping, combine in 1-quart bowl:
¾ cup packed light brown sugar
¾ cup coarsely chopped pecans (see note)
6 tbsp. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. ground cinnamon

Add:
3 tbsp. melted unsalted butter or margarine
1 tbsp. Bourbon (optional)

Stir until crumbly; sprinkle over soufflé.

Dust lightly over top with ¼ tsp. freshly grated nutmeg.

Continued on page 59

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Use recipes from online friends

Continued from page 57

Place casserole on centre rack of preheated oven and bake at 350 for about 1 hour or until soufflé is puffed and set, and top is beautifully crusted. Serve warm.

Do not cover when reheating, in order to preserve the crisp topping. Serves 10.

Note: There are numerous customs regarding the eating of nuts on Rosh Hashanah. If your custom or preference is to avoid nuts, you may omit the pecans, but do not omit the rest of the crunchy, candied topping!

* * *

My friend Nava Atlas is a cookbook author who lives in the Hudson Valley region of New York State with her husband and two sons. Nava is the well-known author of many classic books on vegetarian cooking, including *The Vegetarian Family Cookbook*. She generously shared the following favourite vegetarian dish from her website, In a Vegetarian Kitchen with Nava Atlas. For more Jewish New Year dishes, including her recipes for challah, carrot and sweet potato tsimmis and honey cake, visit her website at http://vegkitchen.com/recipes/jewish-new-year.htm#2

SEVEN-VEGETABLE COUSCOUS

1½ cups couscous
3 cups boiling water
1 tbsp. margarine
1 tsp. turmeric
1 tsp. salt
2 tbsp. light olive oil
2 medium onions, chopped
1 cup finely shredded white cabbage
1 medium turnip, peeled and diced
1 medium yellow summer squash, halved lengthwise and sliced ¼-in. thick
1 medium zucchini, halved lengthwise and sliced ¼-in. thick
½ cup cooked or drained canned chickpeas
1½ cups diced ripe tomatoes
1 tsp. freshly grated ginger
½ tsp. each: ground cumin, coriander, turmeric and salt

Garnish:

½ cup golden raisins or finely chopped dried apricots
½ cup sliced or slivered almonds

Combine the couscous and water in a heatproof bowl. Cover and let stand until water is absorbed, about 15 minutes. Fluff with a fork, then stir in the margarine, turmeric and salt. Cover and set aside.

For the vegetable stew, heat the oil in a large saucepan or soup pot. Add the onions and saute over moderate heat until translucent. Stir in cabbage and saute until both it and the onion are lightly golden.

Add remaining stew ingredients. Bring to a simmer, then cover and reduce the heat to medium-low. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 15 to 20 minutes. Add water as needed to produce a moist, but not soupy, consistency. The vegetables should be tender, but still firm.

To serve, arrange the couscous on the outer edge of a large serving platter. Pour vegetable mixture in the centre, then sprinkle with the garnishes. Let each guest place a mound of couscous on his or her dinner plate and top it with the vegetable mixture. Serves 8.

* * *

Foodie-friend Chantal Clabrough of Montreal is the author of *A Pied Noir Cookbook, French Sephardic Cuisine from Algeria*. Her fascinating cookbook is not only a family memoir, but is packed with food history.

Chantal writes, "Fruit is an integral part of the meal and is usually regarded as blessed, especially those fruits mentioned in the Bible, such as dates, figs, carobs and pomegranates.

"The seven biblical foods are also present on the table: barley, wheat, raisins, figs, pomegranates, green olives and honey. I often make this chicken dish with olives because it is very easy to prepare and tastes light and fresh."

CHICKEN WITH OLIVES

¼ cup olive oil
1 onion, diced
2 lb. boneless, skinless chicken, cubed
2 beefsteak tomatoes, diced
1 cup green olives, pitted
2 cups whole button mushrooms
½ tsp. paprika
1 cup dry white wine
juice of 1 lemon
4 fresh thyme sprigs
2 fresh parsley sprigs
2 bay leaves
salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 375. Heat the olive oil in a large pot, then saute the onions and brown the chicken.

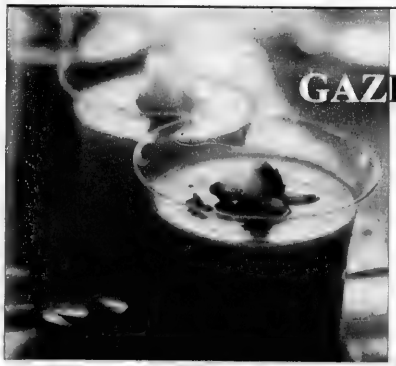
Pour the chicken, onion and drippings into an 8-inch baking dish. Spread the tomatoes, olives and mushrooms around and on top of the chicken. Sprinkle the paprika over the chicken.

Pour the white wine and lemon juice over the chicken. Place the thyme, parsley and bay leaves on top and add salt and pepper to taste.

Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through. Spoon the juices over the chicken from time to time. Serve with rice or vegetables.

Serves 4. Multiplies easily for a crowd.

Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher, lecturer and food consultant. For more information, recipes and tips, visit Norene's website at www.gourmania.com.



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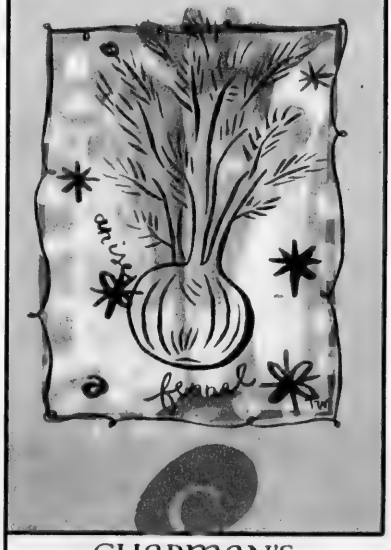

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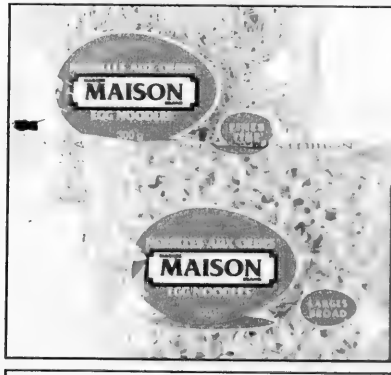

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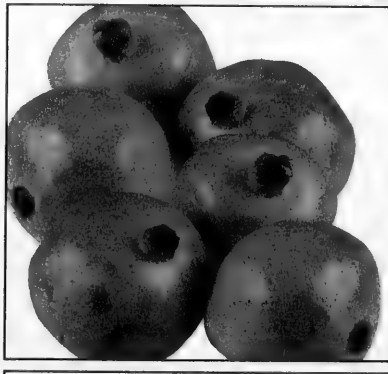

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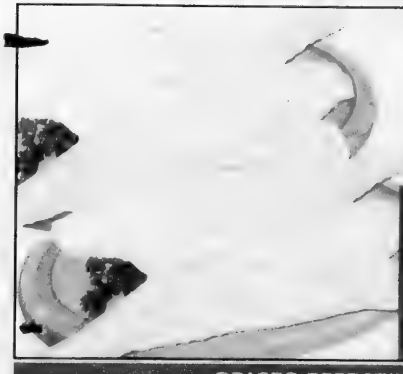

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Israeli organization treats kids with heart diseases

By JENNA ROSMAN
CJN Intern

The Canadian chapter of the Israeli-based humanitarian organization Save A Child's Heart (SACH), which treats children from the Third World and developing countries born with congenital heart diseases, is hosting a fundraising concert on Nov. 11.

Liel

The concert at the Toronto Centre For The Arts features Israeli songbird Liel. The former head of cardiac surgery at the Hospital For Sick Children, Dr. Bill Williams, will be honoured at the event.

Ephraim Diamond, president of SACH Canada, said about $60,000 was raised last year without a fundraising concert and the organization hopes to raise more than $100,000 this year.

Through SACH, established in 1996 by the late Dr. Ami Cohen, more than 4,000 children born with congenital abnormalities from at least 25 different countries have received free medical exams and assessments, and approximately 1,400 of them had cardiac surgery performed at the Wolfson Medical Centre in Holon, Israel.

"[SACH] cardiologists from Israel fly into the country to assess which children are appropriate for [the operations]," said Diamond.

Poria Heisel, who heads the marketing committee of SACH Canada, said that while many children are examined annually, few of them are able make the trip to Israel. "They look at about 900 children a year and pick about 200 of them, of the most severe cases, who they think can make the trip."

The children, from infants to teenagers, stay in a house exclusively for SACH patients while they're in Israel.

"These are children with very debilitating diseases. The majority of children born with heart problems can be treated medically, but these children are born with congenital abnormalities and they would die if they weren't operated on," said Harold Heilbut, director of SACH Canada. "Depending on what country they are coming from, there is no pediatrician, never mind pediatric cardiologist."

The 70 doctors and health-care workers associated with SACH are volunteers, said Diamond, noting that the cost of each operation is about $10,000.

While 55 per cent of the children treated are from Africa, approximately 37 per cent of SACH patients are Palestinian. Every Tuesday, SACH runs a free clinic for Palestinian children from Gaza and the West Bank, Heilbut said.

"The attitude of the village changes when one of their young children have come back, from Israel, with a repaired heart," he said.

Heisel said Palestinians often have a distorted perception of Israelis before their children are treated through SACH.

"We spoke with one mother who felt very torn, coming from the Palestinian side. She thought she'd never come back alive [from Israel] with her children. She thought her child would be murdered and that she would more than likely be raped and they would never get her body back," she said.

"Well, by the time her child was perfectly well and she returned [home with her child], the village just couldn't believe it. The way they were treated in Israel and how they were looked after... They'd never experienced anything like it."

SACH has also treated children from countries such as Iraq, Moldova, Jordan, Nigeria, Russian, Zanzibar and Kazakhstan.

The organization, which is a non-governmental, receives a significant amount of Israeli support and sponsorship, said Diamond.

The European Union gave a grant of $500,000 to the organization and "KLM [airlines] has been very generous promoting Save A Child's Heart's presence on their airline," he said.

In December 2005, visitors to the KLM official website were able to download and send Christmas cards. With each card sent, 10 Flying Blue Miles – KLM airlines points – were donated to SACH, in order to sponsor a flight for a child in need of SACH's service.

Diamond, the co-founder of Cadillac Fairview Corporation Limited, got involved with the organization in 2004, when his friend Dov Bettal, who is involved in SACH in Israel, told him about a child in St. Vincent, West Indies who was in dire need of cardiac surgery.

"Apparently [the doctors of SACH] were prepared to do the heart surgery, but the parents didn't have the funding to travel from St. Vincent to Israel," he said. Moved by the story, Diamond covered the travel expenses for the child and his mother.

"Several months later, I was asked if I'd like to head the organization in Toronto, and I said I would," he said.

In addition to the examinations, operations and rehabilitation, SACH also trains medical professionals from developing countries.

"[SACH] gives advice and assistance to people who want to set up clinics in Third World countries, and, secondly, they provide services and advice to people who come to them for training in Third World countries," Diamond said.

According to SACH literature, after the organization began operating in Ethiopia, a country of 55 million people, it now has a second pediatric cardiologist. Previously, there had been only one there.

Heisel said hospital facilities at China's Habei Children's Hospital have been upgraded since the hospital partnered with Save A Child's Heart.

SACH has five offices outside of Israel, including in the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and Australia.

For more information about the fundraising concert, visit the website www.songsforachildsheart.com or telephone SACH Canada at 416-324-9113.

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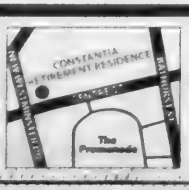

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Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — For a quarter-century, Sheila Kussner has been comforting the sick and dying at all hours of the day and night.

Last week, the untold numbers touched by Kussner, chair and founder of the Jewish General Hospital's Hope & Cope, said thank you.

More than 1,200 people attended the cancer patient support program's gala 25th anniversary celebration, which netted $2.6 million for its wellness centre, expected to open in October. In addition to the $600 basic ticket, 69 "Guardian Angels" contributed at least $25,000 each.

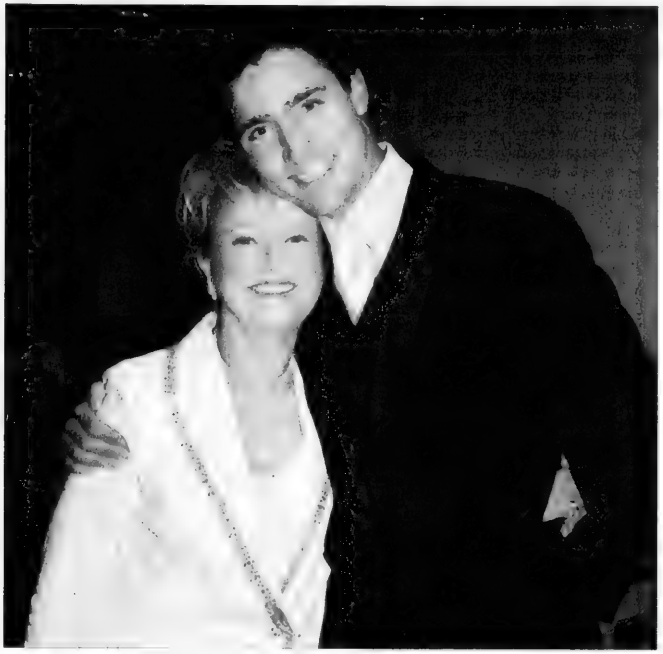
Kussner was feted as a woman of extraordinary vision, compassion and energy.

The master of ceremonies was Justin Trudeau, whose late father Pierre Elliott Trudeau was a friend of Kussner's.

Singer Celine Dion sent a videotaped message from Las Vegas; both Premier Jean Charest and Lt.-Gov. Lise Thibault spoke; and Mila Mulroney and her son Nicholas were at the head table.

This was more an evening of entertainment than of testimonial. The lineup included pianist Oliver Jones; opera singers Gianna Corbisiero and Marc Hervieux; contemporary dancers Lotta Svalberg and Pascal Sani; 12-year-old jazz singer Nikki Yanofsky; and a rousing finale with the Montreal Jubilation Choir, accompanied by the Paul Chacra Orchestra.

Continued on page 63



Sheila Kussner and Justin Trudeau embrace at the Hope and Cope's 25th anniversary gala. [Howard Kay photo]

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Health & Lifestyles

Trudeau addresses cancer support dinner

Continued from page 62

The event was so huge that it took up the Queen Elizabeth Hotel's Grand Salon and all the adjoining reception halls, and required a dozen video screens.

Former McGill University vice-principal and annual Peacock Luncheon toastmaster Derek Drummond, who got to know Kussner well when she was a governor of the university, used his famous wit to describe what was so special about Kussner, a "one-off," as he put it.

"She has friends in the thousands, but the truth is she prefers people with money. Above all, she is a frightening fundraiser. When she invites a man to lunch at the Ritz, it's not his wife that worries, it's his accountant."

Trudeau confided how shaken he and his young brother Sacha were by their father's final illness, prostate cancer. "It was very difficult for us to see someone who was so vital and strong stricken by such a devastating disease. It left us in a very bleak place."

They decided to put their own lives on hold and spend all the time they could with their father. "It was the wisest thing we could have done, not just for him, but for us."

Kussner, who was also attentive to the elder Trudeau in his last years, he said, understands the necessity of "healing the mind and spirit" of the sick, in addition to medical treatment.

Kussner, who lost a leg to cancer at age 14, vowed to dedicate herself to improving the non-medical care of cancer patients and their families after her husband Marvyn recovered from lymphoma, which he was diagnosed with at 42.

Hope & Cope began with eight volunteers, all cancer survivors, working in the cancer wards. They received initial support from Marjorie and Gerald Bronfman.

Today, there are over 300 volunteers, including several of the originals, and a professional staff who offer a wide range of services and conduct research. The wellness centre will provide a home-like environment where cancer patients can learn, try alternative therapies and relax.

Hope & Cope receives no government funding, and relies solely on private donations. It has overcome the early skepticism from physicians, as was evident in the video-taped tributes from top oncologists Richard Margolese and Gerald Batist, as well as former McGill dean of medicine, Abraham Fuks.

Dion, who recalled her husband Rene Angelil's cancer bout, said Hope & Cope has "put Quebec on the map" in healing cancer patients' souls and showing them how to live well.

Martin Levine, who had chaired a State of Israel Bonds tribute to Kussner, 23 years ago in the same room, was back to recite from *The Book on Sheila*, a delightful, biblically inspired spoof on the already mythical Kussner. Then-prime minister Trudeau was the guest speaker that night.

"It's my hope that Hope & Cope will last long after I'm gone. This is the legacy I want to leave," said Kussner. "As long as cancer is alive, I want Hope & Cope to be alive alongside it."

Kussner and her husband of 52 years took centre stage at the evening's end, and most of their remarks were appreciation for those who made the event possible and the many who have been involved with Hope & Cope over its history.

"When I think back to those early days… what I remember most clearly is the sense of passion and purpose that we all shared…

"While much has changed since the early days, and while we have grown in stature beyond my wildest expectations, what has not changed is our determination to be there, every step of the way" for the cancer patient.

"Hope & Cope was born of a dream that I had, and I suppose it is true that it became a reality because I persisted and persevered and would not take no for an answer. But to suggest that I alone am responsible for what Hope & Cope has become would be a complete misrepresentation of the truth."

She paid her highest tribute to Marvyn for his "all-encompassing support."

"He has understood and accepted the sacrifices we have had to make in order to ensure that Hope & Cope would thrive – sacrifices of time, of family life, vacations and more."

Marvyn, constantly in the background, said he has been happy to be in the supporting role all these years. "Following in Sheila's lead, helping her turn her dreams into reality, watching her work miracles on a daily basis, has been such a joy for me that I wouldn't have it any other way."

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The Canadian Jewish news

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

"Lebanon – What Happened, What It Means And What Now?"

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM founded Jewish Media Resources in 1999. He is a widely-read columnist for the *Jerusalem Post's* domestic and international editions and for the Hebrew daily *Maariv*. He is also a respected commentator on Israeli politics, society, culture and the Israeli legal system, who speaks frequently on these topics in the United States, Europe, and Israel. His articles appear regularly in numerous Jewish periodicals in the United States and Israel. Rosenblum is the author of seven biographies of major modern Jewish figures. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago and Yale Law School and lives in Jerusalem with his wife and eight children.

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Bus service will be provided on **Sunday, Sept. 10, 17** and **Oct. 1**.

A bus identified by a sign **"PARDES SHALOM"** will depart from the front entrance of the Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., at 10 a.m.

The bus will make a stop at the parking lot of Betel Centre, located on Steeles Ave. W., at 10:15 a.m., to pick up passengers before proceeding to the cemetery.

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About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. We hear so much about the obesity epidemic among children today that I am really getting worried about the future of my young children. How can we prevent what seems, in the news, to be inevitable?

A. I am glad that parents are thinking about this because we really are seeing very scary statistics about the weight and health of our children and the unhealthy future they face if they continue on this course. I recently heard someone on TV saying that we as parents "are killing our kids with kindness," kindness in not pushing them to be more active, kindness in letting them sit in front of the TV or computer, kindness is saying yes to fast food and junk food. I really think there is a great deal of truth here.

I have a six-year-old and 7½-year old, and they feel that having a mother who is a dietitian is a great misfortune. They blame my profession for not allowing them to have pop, blue beverages, unlimited hot dogs or frequent fast food. They come home from school and camp and ask me to buy the prepackaged lunches available in the grocery store containing a host of items loaded with trans fat, saturated fat and sugar. They want money to buy large juice drinks from the vending machine at school and want me to stock our house with all the stuff they eat at friends' houses – and this peer pressure is real.

Many moms, labelled as the true heroes in our kids' young eyes, deliver hot fast food to their children at school at lunch time, direct from the drive-through window, often several times a week. The meals may include fried chicken, burgers, fries, pop and dessert, and these are the "lucky kids." They then eat this food in the classroom where the "unlucky kids" get to smell and see these enticing-looking meals while they themselves eat the "boring" sandwich and piece of fruit that their mom has packed. She's the "mean mom." This is a disaster.

As parents, the official protectors of our children, we have to take full responsibility for what we feed them. They are too young to buy it and understand their choices, and too many parents want to be popular instead of responsible. Too many parents turn a blind eye to the volume of junk their kids consume, and too many parents assume that if the grocery store sells it, and especially if it's marketed to kids, then it must be okay. Wrong!

Read labels, limit food that is coloured in an unatural way, limit processed foods high in salt and refined flour and sugar, limit junk food, and encourage others to do so as well. Otherwise we are seeing a generation headed toward higher risk of diabetes and heart disease, which are preventable, now.

It probably sounds like eating at my house is not an enjoyable experience, especially for kids, but I assure you this isn't the case. In fact, many of my kids' friends actually love eating at our house, because while the foods I offer are all healthier choices, they look normal and taste great. I make a lot of my own baked goods using less sugar, yogurt or apple sauce in place of some fat, and whole wheat flour, but my muffins, brownies, cakes and cookies are very popular. I stock up on whole wheat pita, whole wheat pizzas, wraps, popcorn, crackers and baked nachos with salsa, cheese, hummus and tzatziki. I use a lot of nuts (when our allergic friends aren't visiting), and after school, I often serve my kids and their friends what I call the house special.

This special, which is a sundae, contains a good amount of fruit, usually bananas and berries (in my house that means organic) to which I add a small scoop of frozen yogurt followed by a drizzle of chocolate sauce, and sometimes whipped cream, too. They all love it. They get a ton of fruit along with calcium and protein, they're full and happy to return, and I'm happy that they weren't served chips and a blue beverage.

I know there are a lot of other moms like me out there, who continue doing the right thing. We should all explain to our children how important good nutrition is, and try to take the popular, easy way out less often. We'll all benefit in the long run.

Remember, you are responsible for what your children eat. You can't make them love brussels sprouts, but you can stock your house with healthy food that kids like in place of junk that causes disease.

Remember too that activity also plays a huge role and must be encouraged. Make this year a healthier year for your kids and get involved in their schools, encouraging healthier eating habits.

Shanah tovah!

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

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CJN Profile

'Controversial' filmmaker shys away from the label

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Igal Hecht still remembers vividly one of the first films he made, *Camels of Nahor*, for his thesis at Seneca College.

"That was a tough movie to make," the 28-year-old Toronto filmmaker says. "We shot in -30 C weather. I had frostbite. We used to eat off the hood of my car, to keep the food warm. It was nasty, but everyone [crew and actors] pulled together."

Camels of Nahor, a fictional film, a sort of *Romeo and Juliet* about a secular Jewish man who falls in love with a rabbi's daughter, was a tough film for another reason. He ended up getting sued by the rabbi of the synagogue they filmed in for misrepresenting the synagogue.

The suit got settled out of court – a resolution that Hecht is not happy with now. (Among other things, he can't show the film anywhere anymore). "If I had known then what I know now, it would have turned out different," he said. But at the time, the threat of a multi-million-dollar lawsuit was enough for him to back down and turn away from fictional films.

"I thought then that *Camels of Nahor* was going to be my big break, but then we got sued and it killed my aspirations to make fiction."

But Hecht has certainly not turned away from controversial films. After forming Chutzpah Productions in 1999, he directed a number of documentaries, all of which received their share of criticism.

Y.I.D., which focuses on Diaspora Jews' feelings about Israelis, was criticized by many local Jews; *Chosen People*, his followup about the messianic Jewish movement, annoyed some Jews for giving time to a group they don't consider "Jewish"; *Not in My Name* annoyed the left-wingers who called him a fascist and *Disengaging Democracy*, which criticized the Israeli government's handling of last year's pullout, didn't win him many friends, either.

Hecht shrugs off criticism of his films, most of which have been shown at Jewish film festivals around the world, including Warsaw where *Not in My Name* picked up an award.

"People said *Chosen People* would bring out the next Holocaust. 'How much did they [the evangelicals] pay you to make it?'

"Others said *Not in My Name* reminds them of *The Passion of the Christ*. I'm happy with the criticism. At least I know they're watching my films.

"I just give a platform to people who do exist," he says, although the community would rather we didn't hear about them.

"I try to be balanced, in as much as a documentary is always subjective, but we don't have to be. I always tell my students [Hecht teaches film part time at Seneca College] to have a balanced point of view. There are two sides to every story."

He says audiences want to see Michael Moore-style documentaries that tell people what to believe. "I am not going to do that. I document what I see and let you judge for yourself."

Hecht was born in Ashkelon, Israel, and immigrated to Canada with his parents when he was 11. He was always interested in telling stories, and his parents bought him a video camera. "They thought it would be a nice hobby for me and it would keep me occupied."

As a teenager, Hecht worked at Rogers Community Television and then went to Seneca College School of Communication Arts. In addition to teaching there now, he also works as a producer at bpm:tv, a Canadian dance and electronic music specialty channel.

All his films are self-funded. "With Chutzpah Productions I only make enough money to make the next movie. Really, the only profitable one was *Qassam* [a film about the missile launches into Sderot]."

Since Hecht films, writes, directs, edits and produces his documentaries, he saves a lot of money. "I don't want to make it sound like it's just me, me, me, though. I work with a great collection of individuals, some of the best filmmakers around. I have people in Israel who help me. We work together very well. They've been very good to me over the years."

Hecht started Chutzpah Productions with Ron Furman (who has since left,) to make films based solely on Israel, Judaism and the Middle East.

"I find Judaism and Israel fascinating," he said. "I am obsessed with it. I am very connected to Israel, I visit it at least once a year. I really love that place. There are many stories to tell.

"Chutzpah Productions picks topics that no one else likes to tell. Messianic Judaism, for instance, no one else did that."

Although he does work on other, non-Jewish projects, "with Chutzpah Productions, I just want to stick to Jewish contemporary topics."

And though he isn't bothered by the criticism, Hecht is thinking about being less controversial in future projects.

"I want to shy away a bit from the 'controversial' label," he said. "I am still going to make political films, but I want to explore Israeli culture as well. Not too many people realize that Israel has a more vibrant scene than Canada."

One of his next projects is *Israeli Nightlife*. "It is *so* not Chutzpah Productions," he says with a grin. "It's about Israeli clubs, DJs, music and hot-looking people from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This is what Israel is about – it has such a vibrant scene, and not one you see often."

He says many people don't realize that Israel is such a normal country. "Here, in Canada, clubs are closing at 2 a.m. There they open at 2 a.m. There's dancing on tables, people dress so nicely. People don't have that image of Israel."

Filmmaker Igal Hecht by the security fence in Abu Dis, just outside Jerusalem.

He's also making a film about Canadians making aliyah. "Not a controversial topic at all."

Recently, he was at the March of the Living and was commissioned to do a documentary for the organizers. "I was privileged to do it for them. It's a very powerful experience. My first and hopefully not last documentary on the Holocaust."

But don't fret. Hecht isn't completely shying away from controversial topics. After *Not in My Name*, which focused on the Israeli left-wing groups, Hecht is also working on *Promised Land*, which focuses on right-wing Judaism. "The right is going to learn about themselves," he says. "They're going to see see what they're saying about Israel."

Hecht doesn't like to pigeonhole himself into belonging to one group or the other, saying he considers himself moderate.

"Some days I'm on the left, other days I'm on the right. I just want Israel to be safe and secure."

Over the years he has spent some time with Palestinians. "I don't think the majority of them are terrorists, but at the same time there's a lot of people filled with hatred."

He remembers vividly a conversation he had with one Palestinian. "He said, 'The Jewish blood will flow outside the city of Jerusalem.'"

But at the same time, he believes, it is always innocent people who are being killed. "The leaders don't have to live with the consequences of their actions."

Hecht says his strength is that he's always willing to listen to different opinions. "I don't have a narrow mind. It's not just black or white. There is so much grey in the middle."

Another upcoming project is *Resolution 50*, about the Canadian Union of Public Employees boycott of Israel. "I spoke with [Ontario CUPE leader] Sid Ryan who is unfairly portrayed as an anti-Semite. He isn't," Hecht says. "He just isn't fully aware of the impact of what the resolution says."

Hecht is also working on *Chutzpah TV*, a series of shorts that will be aired on his website. [www.chutzpaproductions.com] "I want to be *The CJN* of tomorrow," he says with a laugh. "I want to do stories on our community – campus life, etc. I will explore issues and upload them into five- or 10-minute documentaries and put them online."

He believes this will be educational for his viewers and for him. "We can learn a lot from our community. The best education I got was from doing my films. I've spoken to so many people over the past few years, well over 1,000, from politicians to terrorists to everyday Canadians."

Chutzpah TV is still a work in progress, and meanwhile he's excited about a deal he's struck with CTS Television, which will be showing six of his films over the next two years on its *Israel Today* program. Hecht's *Disengaging Democracy*, a stirring look at last year's pullout from Gaza, is scheduled to open up the new season of *Israel Today*, the Sunday after Yom Kippur.

"I'm a workaholic," he says. "I love doing this. I wouldn't say it's a hobby, but it is fun."

A full version of *Qassam* plus selected scenes from his other features can be viewed on his website.

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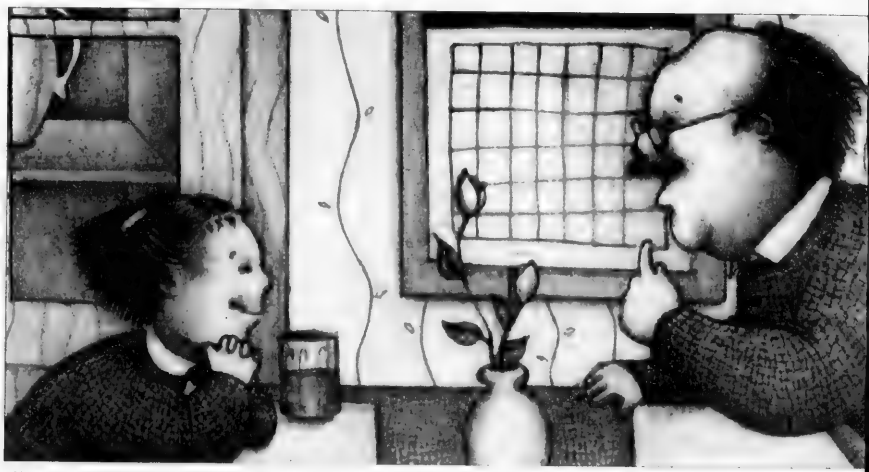
Changing places

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter



Did you ever wish you could change places with someone else? Most of us have. After all, it is easy to think that your life is really ordinary and boring, and that someone else's is more fun, more exciting or even more important.

That's what happens in *Bea & Mr. Jones*, by Amy Schwartz (Harcourt, 2006).

Beatrice is fed up with kindergarten. She is tired of beanbag games, clothespin games and "sitting on that dumb green rug and playing that dumb coloured lollipop game."

Her father, Mr. Jones, tells her that he is fed up with his job in an advertising firm. "I'm tired of running for the 7:45!

I'm tired of sitting at that desk and working so hard! I'm tired of laughing at the boss's jokes all day."

(Your parents can tell you that when you have a job, it is a very good idea to keep on the boss's good side – by laughing at his or her jokes, for example).

Both Bea and Mr. Jones think that the other person's life sounds pretty good. They decide to change places for a day.

Bea puts on her father's jacket and tie, and picks up his briefcase. Mr. Jones puts on sneakers and turns cartwheels.

Bea catches the 7:45 a.m. commuter train, and her father meets the kindergarten teacher, Miss Seymour.

Mr. Jones does very well in kindergarten. The teacher tells him he is almost as smart as the class genius. He is the milk and cookie monitor and helps out at recess. In fact, he becomes the teacher's pet.

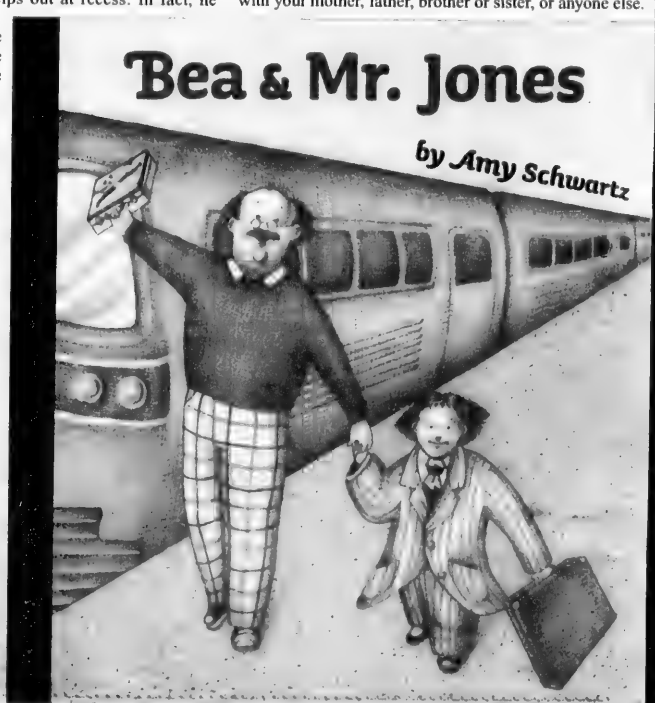
Bea has a wonderful time at the office. She thinks the boss's jokes are hilarious – she doesn't even have to pretend that she likes them. She als comes up with a wonderful advertising song for Crumbl Crackers that everyone thinks is terrific. The boss gives h a promotion.

When Mr. Jones picks Bea up at the train station, they bo feel wonderful.

What do you think happens then? Most stories like th end with the people realizing that they really prefer their ow lives and their own way of doing things.

That's not what happens in *Bea & Mr. Jones*. Both of ther are very happy to stay in their new lives.

Naturally, this is just a story, and a very funny one. But it fun to think about what might happen if you changed place with your mother, father, brother or sister, or anyone else.



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Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

The Alarm

David crept stealthily through the dense underbrush, hugging the ground. The enemy knew he was there. He had to escape. Now. His gun was at the ready, but he hoped against hope that he wouldn't have to use it. He was almost out of the forest now, a few more minutes and he would be safe. He cautiously looked up, and without warning, gunfire erupted all around him. An ambush! Desperately, David opened fire, but he was hopelessly outnumbered.

"David!" called a distant voice.

It was his mother.

David pressed pause and looked up from the computer.

"I asked you twice already to take out the garbage, and it's still sitting there in the kitchen. And your room. Look at it!"

"Oh, c'mon Mom, it's summer vacation. I'm supposed to be having a break."

"And during the rest of the year?"

"Well, during school I have so much homework every day!"

"I see," she said, with obvious displeasure.

"Fine. I'll do it soon. Okay?"

"That's what you said yesterday, remember?" She sighed. "I have to go make breakfast. Please, please take care of what I asked you to do."

The door closed, and David resumed the game. Explosions rocked the forest as he fought for his life. Finally, he breathed, relieved. The last of his attackers fell before him. He glanced at his health status: GRIM. The assault had left him severely wounded. He had to find a health potion soon. Suddenly, the air raid siren went off. *Air raid siren? That never happens in this game! It's not from the computer! It's coming from downstairs! Maybe it's the smoke detector. Maybe there's a fire!*

David dashed down the stairs, his heart pounding.

Dad was standing there, blowing his shofar, while Mom listened attentively.

So that's what it was.

"Good morning David," said Dad.

"Good morning. Uh, why are you blowing your shofar now? Rosh Hashanah isn't for awhile...I think."

"You're right, David. Rosh Hashanah isn't for another month, but today is the first day of the month of Elul. During Elul, we prepare ourselves for Rosh Hashanah, and to make sure we don't forget, we blow the shofar in synagogue every day. So I figured I would blow it for Mom also."

"You really had me scared for a minute. I thought it was an alarm or something."

"Funny you should say that. The Rambam compares the shofar to an alarm."

"Really?"

Dad went over to the bookcase, removing a slim volume. "Hmm it should be here. Nope. Maybe no, not here either. Where could it be? Oh, found it! It's in his discussion of *Teshuvah*, repentance, in chapter 3. *'An allusion can be found in the shofar's call: Wake up, sleeping ones; rouse yourselves from your slumber. All of you who have lost track of what's truly important and waste your lives away, recall what you should be doing and improve your ways.'"* Dad paused. "See, a wake-up call, an alarm, just like you said."

Mom smiled. "David, what do you think the shofar is telling you?"

"I don't know...oh!"

David headed for the kitchen and emerged with the garbage.

"Wonderful. I'm very proud of you. Now, are you ready for some pancakes?"

David ate breakfast quickly. He couldn't wait to get back to his game. But when he returned to the computer, a gloomy message awaited him: GAME OVER.

I can't believe it! I forgot to pause it when I ran downstairs! And I was so close to completing the mission. All that for nothing!

The voice of the shofar echoed in his head: *"All of you who waste your lives away."*

He really wanted to start a new game, but first he had something else to do.

David bent over, and started tidying up his room.

Five minutes a day...by Rosh Hashanah, it would be clean.

Note: The great Jewish philosopher Maimonides, also known as the Rambam, lived in Spain and Egypt in the 12th century.

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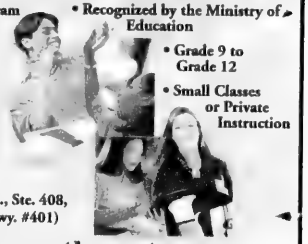

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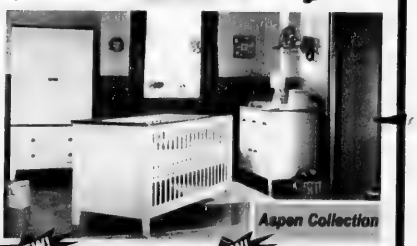

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

AGO TO EXHIBIT PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANSEL ADAMS AND ALFRED EISENSTAEDT

The Art Gallery of Ontario celebrates the outstanding work of renowned photographers **Ansel Adams** (1902-1984) and **Alfred Eisenstaedt** (1898-1995) in two related exhibitions this fall, beginning Nov. 18.

The exhibitions examine the extraordinary careers of Adams and Eisenstaedt and highlight some of their most iconic images.

Organized by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Adams exhibition will include 125 photographs spanning the American master's 50-year career. An exhibition of approximately 65 photographs by Alfred Eisenstaedt is being planned as a complement to the Adams show.

Eisenstaedt developed his candid style of photography in Germany in the late 1920s and '30s. Many of his photographs chronicled prewar Europe and were published in popular picture magazines. They attracted attention by capturing the lives of ordinary people engaged in cultural activities and vivid everyday moments. In America, Eisenstaedt became a renowned photographer for *Life* magazine; his realistic style contributed to the foundation of modern photojournalism.

The AGO owns more than 400 Eisenstaedt photographs as part of the huge Klinsky Agency collection that was donated as an anonymous gift. Key supporters of the Eisenstaedt exhibition are **Brenda Coleman Milrad** and Toronto arts lawyer **Aaron Milrad**.

* * *

Names in the News: As reported in this space, **Michael Redhill**'s play *Goodness* made its European première in August at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The play, which deals with genocide and morality, apparently impressed audiences, critics and prize juries. "I doubt if there will be a more gripping theatrical experience than *Goodness* at Edinburgh this year," wrote **Lynne Walker** in the *Independent*.

Michael Redhill

It won the Fringe First Award and was one of only five works nominated for the Carol Tambor Award ("Best of Edinburgh Award") out of more than 1,000 festival entries. As a result of the Fringe prize, it is to be performed for a 10-day run in Manhattan next March.

Redhill is a Toronto-based writer best known for the acclaimed novel *Martin Sloane*, published by Doubleday in 2001. He's also editor of the literary journal *Brick*.

* * *

Music in Exile: The Royal Conservatory of Music presents Music in Exile, a weekend of rarely heard music by composers exiled by the Nazis, performed by ARC, the conservatory's resident musical ensemble. The program includes works of several Jewish composers including **Mieszyslaw Weinberg**, who fled Warsaw for the Soviet Union in 1939.

Also included is the Canadian première of *Through Roses*, an acclaimed work by American pianist-composer **Marc Neikrug**, who is to conduct. Born in 1946, Neikrug is a longtime accompanist to violinist-conductor **Pinchas Zukerman**. *Through Roses*, which blends music and dramatic text, has been translated into many languages and performed all over the world.

Pinchas Zukerman

Music in Exile also features lectures by musicologist **Albrecht Dumling** and **Bret Werb** of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Glenn Gould Studio, 250 Front St. W. Oct. 14 and 15. 416-408-2824, ext. 321

* * *

Arts in Brief

• "Roads to Jerusalem," an exhibition of photographs by **Jack Toledano**, opens at the Blue Dot Gallery on Thursday, Sept. 7, 6 to 9 p.m. Distillery District, 55 Mill St., Building 47, Suite 101. 416-487-1500

• Toronto singer-songwriter **Peter Kastner** lambastes U.S. Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice**, among others, in Peter Kastner and Friends, a program of original songs at the Performing Arts Lodge, 110 The Esplanade, Sept. 16, 8 p.m. The friends include **Dinah Christie** and **Mary Jane Young**. Suggested donation, $10.

* The Friends of Yiddish annual membership breakfast features performer **Yitzhak Argaman** in a program called Gut Yom-Tov, Gut Yor. Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave. (just south of Lawrence). Sunday, Sept. 17. Doors open 10 a.m., breakfast begins 10:30. Admission is free for paid-up members and $15 for guests; membership is available at the door.

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Arts & Travel

Film retraces Levi's post-Auschwitz trip through Europe

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

When the Red Army liberated the Auschwitz concentration camp on Jan. 27, 1945, one of the inmates who suddenly regained his freedom was a young Italian Jewish chemist named Primo Levi, who would one day be a towering literary figure in Italy.

Having been freed, Levi embarked on a tortuous 10-month trip through the war-torn, shattered landscape of eastern Europe. It would lead him back to his home in Turin after countless detours and delays.

Primo Levi

In *Primo Levi's Journey* – which is due to be screened at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 12 at 9 a.m. and again on Sept. 14 at 10 a.m. – director Davide Ferrario and writer Marco Belpoliti retrace his steps through Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Germany and Italy.

A road movie in the classic sense of the word, it opens with a shot of Auschwitz in the dead of winter and a description, in Levi's own prose, of his bedraggled fellow inmates on the day they were finally released.

As the 92-minute documentary unfolds, Levi is seen, in a 1984 clip, returning to Auschwitz on a brief visit to mark the 39th anniversary of his liberation. Three years later, he committed suicide, never having shaken the trauma of his incarceration.

In re-enacting his odyssey, the filmmakers take us to places he passed and wrote about in two critically-acclaimed books, *If This Is a Man* and *The Truce*. These scenes are supplemented by file footage of World War II, which gives the film a certain historical perspective.

But in reconstructing Levi's adventure, they also portray current conditions in what was the Soviet empire. And so they come full circle, even if the relevance of all these scenes is questionable.

Filming in Poland, they interview the great Polish film director Andrzej Wajda and visit an empty steel mill near Krakow.

Moving on to newly independent Ukraine, they talk to American missionaries, observe the ruins of a Soviet gulag and enter the ghost town of Prypiat, which was evacuated after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

In Belarus, a war widow remembers her husband – a partisan killed in 1944 – and the director of a collective farm drones on about his job. His words are juxtaposed against the backdrop of an old-style Soviet propaganda film extolling the virtues of communism.

Moldova, possibly the poorest nation in Europe today, is portrayed as a lush, pastoral land.

In Romania, the camera pans on a watermelon vendor hawking his goods on the side of a road, on two men rowing across the Danube River and on the interior of an Italian-owned garment factory.

Alluding to the mass movements of people caused by globalization, Ferrario films Vietnamese and Chinese merchants in Hungary.

And in Austria and Germany, he respectively visits the rustic town where Adolf Hitler was born and chats with a bunch of neo-Nazis spouting their racist vision of a new Europe.

Last but not least, Levi's friend Mario Rigoni Stern reminisces about him in a mountainous setting in Italy.

As the film rèaches its denouement in Turin, where Levi lived before and after the war, Ferrrario quotes a line from one of Levi's books: "Nothing is true outside the lager."

Tragically, for Levi, life was never as intense after the random terror and uncertainty of Auschwitz.

Documentary explores Ashkenazic identity, culture in Israel

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

At a time when Israel is so preoccupied with Lebanon, it is refreshing, even therapeutic, to dwell on a far different topic.

Ashkenaz, the Festival of New Yiddish Culture which wound up last week, gave us that opportunity at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre.

There, at the Al Green Theatre, we were treated to an unusual film from Israel, *The Ashkenazim*.

Directed by the Ashkenazi and Sephardi husband-and-wife team of Dani Dothan and Dalia Mevorach, this funny and altogether charming 52-minute documentary broadly deals with the issue of Ashkenazi identity in the Jewish state.

More to the point, the movie, which was co-presented with the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, is about a small but relatively young group of Israelis who have discovered their Ashkenazi roots and celebrate them.

In some circles, this quest seems politically incorrect, since it goes against the classic Zionist grain of downplaying ethnic differences.

But in *The Ashkenazim*, which was watched by an appreciative crowd, Dothan and Mevorach ignore this imperative and explore an intriguing facet of Israeli society that dogmatic Zionist theoreticians would, I strongly suspect, rather sweep under the rug.

Their film unfolds through the medium of absorbing interviews with 20something and 30 something Israelis trying to connect with their parents' and grandparents' rich cultural heritage.

Assaf, a serious young man of Polish origin who loves the poignant melodies of Yiddish songs, is one of the central figures in *The Ashkenazim*.

He is the founder and chief promoter of The Movement for Ashkenazic Identity. Though its membership is minuscule, Assaf talks as if he is on the cusp of a new millennium.

Another interesting figure is an intense, olive-complexioned man who jettisoned his quintessential Hebrew surname, Ben-Canaan, so that he could reclaim his original Ashkenazi surname, Handelman.

He and his Russian fiancee, Olga, have returned to their roots and are proud of their Friday night Sabbath dinners.

Not surprisingly, the culinary dimensions of Ashkenazi culture are explored in some depth.

In this connection, the filmmakers focus on a man who has achieved expertise and satisfaction in the preparation of cheese dumplings, a famous Austrian dish his mother and grandmother perfected to a fine art.

In fleshing out their theme, Dothan and Mevorach also explore Ashkenazi/Sephardi tensions in contemporary Israel, but they do so with levity.

Patricia, an Ashkenazi ballet dancer who has taken up Oriental belly dancing, boasts that she can move her body with "the best of them."

A woman of Ashkenazi descent whose name I missed tells an uproarious story of how her grandmother reacted to the news that her granddaughter would soon marry a Moroccan Jew.

Dothan recognizes that the current interest in Ashkenazi identity may be nothing more than a passing fad.

During a question-and-answer session after the screening of the film, he said, "We're Israelis. We have our own culture, which is neither Ashkenazi nor Sephardi. We're a melting pot."

He could not have said it better.

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Beth Hatefutsoth – the World Center for Jewish Peoplehood

By GAIL LICHTMAN
(IPS)

BETH HATEFUTSOTH, Tel Aviv —The Nahum Goldman Museum of the Jewish Diaspora in Tel Aviv is poised to be renamed the World Center for Jewish Peoplehood, following a law passed by the Knesset in December 2005 that confers the status of "a national institute for Jewish communities worldwide" on the museum.

The new law comes at a time of changing Jewish realities, when unparalleled assimilation rates, intermarriage and waning individual and collective Jewish identity threaten the Jewish people. The world centre will serve as a powerful force in forging a vibrant, unified Jewish people and fostering knowledge, understanding and pride.

In anticipation, the museum, in the capable hands of its new dynamic director, Hasia Israeli, is now gearing up for a process of renewal and revival to meet its new status. "This," said Israeli, "will involve turning the museum's face more towards Jewish education and adding the latest in modern technology and visual effects, without changing its existing concept of providing an emotional and personal, as well as intellectual, journey through Jewish history."

A group of schoolchildren visiting Beth Hatefutsoth in the framework of the School of Jewish Peoplehood Studies, view a wall painting depicting Jewish physician and statesman Hisdai Ibn Shaprut (915-975) receiving sages and poets in his garden. Shaprut helped launch the Hebrew revival in Spain.

In order to realize this renewal, Beth Hatefutsoth has embarked on a capital campaign aimed at raising $12 million over three years. The museum has already received $2 million from the Claims Conference Against Germany, as well as the backing of the Israeli government. The government initially pledged full matching of donor gifts but due to the war in Lebanon, museum officials are no longer certain of full matching, although they do anticipate continued government participation.

In 2004, Israeli businessman Leonid Nevzlin, chairman of the museum's newly established board of governors, pledged a donation of $5 million over five years to the institution, and recently added a gift of $1 million toward upgrading and renovating the galleries of the permanent exhibit. "It is essential for the Jewish people to have a cultural institution that transcends our differences and brings us together in peoplehood," he stated.

Yefet Ozery, director of resource development and overseas relations at Beth Hatefutsoth, said that "Mr. Nevzlin's generosity has made it possible for us to expand, to develop, to reach out to communities, to offer programming and to do many other things."

Founded in 1978, Beth Hatefutsoth was one of the first Jewish museums in the world. It presents the saga of 2,500 years of Jewish dispersion, during which the indomitable spirit of the Jewish people succeeded in preserving a shared heritage and common destiny despite vast differences in language, geography and culture.

Some 100,000 visitors a year, including many youth groups from Israel and abroad, pass through its journey, which is presented through six thematic galleries, each one representing a facet that safeguarded the Jewish people throughout history. The galleries focus on family, community, faith, culture, life among the nations and the return to Zion.

In addition to the museum's permanent collection, Beth Hatefutsoth has amassed one of the world's most impressive database collections and visual documentation of Jewish cultural treasures and Jewish life in the Diaspora. The upgrading project includes digitizations of the data and making it accessible to visitors through user-friendly computer terminals throughout the museum.

The renewal will focus on upgrading and redesigning the permanent exhibition to include interactive, state-of-the-art multimedia technology. Looking ahead, Beth Hatefutsoth is in the process of establishing a new wing, to be housed in the existing Spiegel building, which will showcase the accomplishments and challenges of contemporary Jewry.

The biggest innovation involves the establishment of the School of Jewish Peoplehood, which gives the museum a new educational direction aimed at curricula and content development, teachers and educators, young adults and academics.

"The school's objective is to impart knowledge and understanding about the Jewish people, encourage pride in the Jewish heritage and address the dilemmas of Jewish life in modern times," says Hasia Israeli.

A computer-generated image of the entrance to the interactive, state-of-the-art Community Gallery, as it will look when completed.

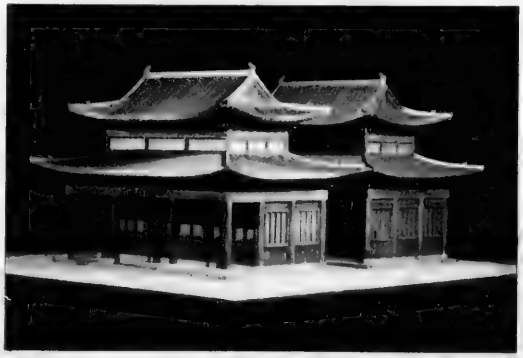
[IPS photos courtesy of Beth Hatefutsoth]

Working with Kivunim (Directions), the largest Israel-based professional development program in the Jewish educational world, the school has created a program for educators from Israel and the United States that, according to former program participant Anileen Gray, creates "an intellectual, spiritual and emotional experience that establishes a bond between those teaching in Jewish schools and the Land of Israel."

Steps are also being taken to create an Integrated Multimedia Center within the world centre that will merge and integrate all of the museum's current and future digital databases – the two million individuals listed in the Jewish Genealogy Center, the photo-documentation of Jewish communal life in the Visual Documentation Center, the extensive collection of Jewish music in the Music Center, and the thousands of entries in the Jewish family names and present database and the past Jewish communities in the Diaspora database.

The information from the Multimedia Information Center will be incorporated into a global Jewish Internet communication network.

The new centre aspires to reflect the uniqueness and diversity of the Jewish people throughout history, while at the same time emphasizing its unity. And as always, Beth Hatefutsoth looks forward – in the words of one of its founders, Jewish resistance fighter and poet Abba Kovner – to continuing to encourage the Jewish people "to remember the past, to live the present and to trust in the future."



A model of the synagogue of Kaifeng, China, built in 1163, which remained until the mid 19th century. The model is based on the 1722 drawing by a Jesuit missionary and on written reports.

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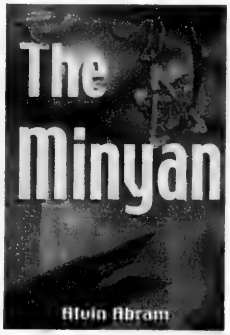
Abram's latest crime novel features hard-boiled cop

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

As a volunteer for the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, the organization created by filmmaker Steven Spielberg, author Alvin Abram gained first-hand knowledge of the experiences of Holocaust survivors.

In his recently published seventh book, *The Minyan*, Abram combines his flare for detective crime mysteries with a story about the Holocaust, featuring locales in Toronto and many other parts of the world.

The Minyan, a 428-page soft-cover book, is Abrams' second novel in a trilogy centred around Det. Gabe Garshowitz, a hard-boiled, arthritic, 30-year veteran of the Toronto police force who is partnered with Det. Iris Forester, an attractive divorcee half his age.



The novel is a mystery in which reporter Rachel Ackerman follows up on a journal that purports to tell the story of 10 Holocaust survivors who pledge to kill 10 people who were in Birkenau and who the journal says don't deserve to live.

At the same time, not realizing his case is linked to Ackerman's journal, Garshowitz and Forester are investigating the discovery of 30-year-old bones found in a home that is about to be demolished on Euclid Avenue in Toronto.

Abram, a 70-year old author, speaker, businessman and award-winning volunteer, has lived with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) since childhood. A graphic designer by trade, he has also overcome numerous life-threatening events, including five heart attacks, and has coped with his wife Marilyn's battle with cancer.

Yet, he shows no signs of losing his enthusiasm for life, or his late-in-life emergence as an award winning author.

"In 1995, after I had a severe heart attack, my wife asked me if I had any regrets," he said.

"I said that I regretted not going back to school, as I was a high school dropout and I had stories in my head and didn't know how to write them. Without telling me, she enrolled me at York University in a fourth-year writing course, and now the rest is history."

His previously published books include *Why Zaida?*, *The Light After The Dark* (parts 1 and 2), *The Unlikely Victims*, *An Eye For An Eye* and the anthology *Stories I Wrote*.

He said his interest in literature came partly from his father, Herman Abramovitz, who was the editor of *Vochenblatt*, a workers' newspaper published in Yiddish.

But he also credits his mother, Annie Abramovitz, who worked in a Spadina Avenue sweatshop, with inspiring him. She once told her young son, "Never forget your dreams. But you must learn to live in today's world as well. Maybe, someday, you'll be able to use your gift so everyone can enjoy your dreams."

Abram's books are available at bookstores throughout Canada, or via e-mail at bubbameinsa@yahoo.com.

Genealogist explores her family's history

Jews settled in Stropkov, in the Slovak Republic, around 1640.

It was a little town in the backwoods of Slovakia with a Jewish atmosphere because it was between Galicia and Hungary and thus attracted Jews fleeing from those two areas.

On May 24, 1942, the day before the Nazis began to deport Jews, the records indicate that there were some 2,240 Jews in Stropkov.

American-born amateur genealogist Melody Amsel, now living in Israel, whose family lived in Stropkov, researched her family's history. Some of Amsel's family immigrated to America in the early 1930s, but most of her relatives perished in the Holocaust.

However, what began as a yizkor (Holocaust) book for Amsel's family went far beyond. Amsel's research led to her publishing the book *Between Galicia and Hungary: The Jews of Stropkov*, about her family and the Jews of the Stropkov community, from before World War II to the 162 known survivors after the war.

In compiling the book, written in English and Hebrew, Amsel was assisted by Toronto's Maurice Kulik, whose family lived in Stropkov for several generations. Kulik himself was born in Stropkov and lost many of his family members in the Shoah.

He became acquainted with Amsel while searching for information on Stropkov on the Jewish genealogy website in 1998.

Amsel and Kulik decided to collaborate on research, and after more than 3,000 e-mails went back and forth between them and interviews with survivors were conducted, Kulik helped Amsel publish *Between Galicia and Hungary* and distribute it to the survivors who were interviewed and to selected libraries throughout the world.

The Jews of Stropkov and of neighbouring communities prior to the war fill 64 pages of the 352-page book. The identified survivors are listed among them in boldface type.

There are numerous interviews in *Between Galicia and Hungary*, and the book includes more than 100 photographs of the Jews of Stropkov, some taken by a Christian photographer during the deportations.

The book's launch took place in Bar Ilan, Israel, and was attended by the current chief rabbi of Stropkov, the Stropkov community now living in Israel and family members, and members of the famous Halberstram rabbinic hierarchy of Stropkov.

In an interview with *The CJN*, Kulik recalled his family's escape from Stropkov when he was a small child. "My sister and I were carried through the forest by Gypsies who were used as household aids," he said.

The historian Sir Martin Gilbert, Sir Winston Churchill's official biographer, told Amsel, "I must say I am very impressed by what you have done and hope that the book will find its way to every Holocaust library. You are really to be congratulated for a very fine achievement."

For more information, call Maurice Kulik at 905-731-0242 or visit www.avotaynu.com/books/stropkov.htm.

— C.G.

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A meditation on memory from the heart

***I Was A Child of Holocaust Survivors* by Bernice Eisenstein, McClelland & Stewart Ltd.**

By MORDECHAI BEN-DAT

There is an incisive, elegant aphorism in Jewish tradition about the nature of interpersonal communication: That which springs from the heart, finds its way to the heart.

Bernice Eisenstein

Our sages and ancient folklorists could have had in mind Bernice Eisenstein's book, *I Was A Child of Holocaust Survivors*, when they expressed that poignant truth. For the book is a uniquely gripping articulation of the heart that resonates with the knowing reader with strings of aching sorrow.

Eisenstein's book is a memoir that recalls her parents, their circle of friends, the home, the milieu and the culture in which she and her siblings were raised in the immediate aftermath of World War II, more particularly, in the immediate aftermath of her parents' survival of Adolf Hitler's attempt to annihilate them and the rest of European Jewry. But it is more than a memoir. The book is akin to a personal excursion into the nature and phenomenon of memory. In fact, the author describes her book along those lines.

"The work is an extended meditation to try to find my way, as honestly as I could, to reflect on memory," Eisenstein told *The CJN* recently in a downtown coffee shop.

Early in the book, Eisenstein writes: "My parents arrived in a new country draped in loss, with their memories deprived of the ability to offer comfort.

"Even though the past was something my parents tried to keep at a distance from their children, out of harm's reach, it inevitably shadowed the landscape in which we would grow."

Carefully, candidly and quite lovingly, Eisenstein depicts for the reader, through a meticulous blending of various literary and artistic devices – prose, poetry, simple illustration and textured drawing – the many emotional promontories and tearful valleys of that scarred but life-sustaining landscape in which she and her siblings took their first steps.

The geography in which these new immigrants planted the flag of their new lives and their new homes was the Kensington Market area of Toronto in the late 1940s and early '50s.

Eisenstein is especially adept in the way she captures the sights, sounds and smells of that Yiddish-speaking enclave in the very British post-war Toronto.

"Kensington Market is my babysitter, while my father and mother are in their shop just around the corner, plucking feathers from chickens…

"Across the street is the cheese emporium, displaying giant wheels of cheese in the window. From the market's small, narrow stores, all creased one on top of the other, everything can be purchased. Fish fresh from a tank or scaled and filleted, chicken plucked and trussed or sectioned into parts, barrels of herring – brined and pickled – barrels of pickles – brined and pickle-pickled – bagels, braided breads, rye bread, with or without kimmel, black bread, with or without raisins, and a cornucopia spill of fruit, vegetables and nuts. Shopkeepers wear long white aprons, which are stained with the colours of their wares by hands wiping off blood from freshly killed poultry, meat and fish or the pigmented juice of overripe fruit. Chickens, trying to cheat fate, can be seen roaming the concrete sidewalks and streets that might as well have been made of the straw and mud of the past."

Eisenstein's descriptions are so rich that the reader can close his eyes and almost sense himself stepping onto the pavement of that raucous, chaotic, effervescent neighbourhood of newcomers and old European ways.

Indeed, there are many powerful, descriptive and evocative passages in the book. The author conveys the visual sense of her upbringing as seen through the eyes of a growing child, but interprets the various compelling scenes and snapshots of time past through the understanding heart of a mature adult.

For example, in coming to grips with her limitations in trying to relate to her parents' silent pain, she writes: "I had always felt that if I could find my parents' deepest hurt, I could locate my own grief for them. But how could I have ever imagined that everything the Holocaust had voided in their lives could be replaced, as if my need to understand could somehow make up for such sorrow? I will never be able to know the truth of what my parents had experienced. It is beyond my reach, and perhaps even theirs, to know the full extent of their loss."

Sipping coffee with Eisenstein in the ease and breeze of a warm summer day, one immediately notices her dedication to precise, careful expression, to always finding just the right word, phrase or other method of depiction to accurately convey the full, nuanced meaning of her thoughts.

Artistry and creative expression have been Eisenstein's calling from a very early age. Oil painting became her pastime as a young child. Then the pastime became a vocation, which she joyfully joined to the study of English.

She received an honours degree in English literature at York University and then returned to painting in Israel and in England. In 1977, Eisenstein returned to Canada; freelancing as an editor and illustrator, but always drawing and painting.

I Was A Child of Holocaust Survivors "was actually triggered by drawings of [her] father some five years ago," Eisenstein told *The CJN*. "I never set out to write a book. But the process had its own magic.

"There is a stage in the writing and creative process at which you do not turn back," she said emphatically.

"The words and the drawings in the book were always meant to go together. They are mirror images, knitted together," Eisenstein explained.

The resulting fabric and the many mirror images that Eisenstein has knit together is an emotional and esthetic triumph. "Nothing is by happenstance in this book. Even every technical aspect of the layout, assembly and design of the book is particularly planned."

"Even the binding," Eisenstein pointed out, "and the 'ghosts' [the faint silvery impressions of the faces of individuals mentioned in the book] on the inside of the covers are deliberate."

I Was A Child of Holocaust Survivors is a wide canvas depicting the bittersweet experiences of the Holocaust survivors as newcomers in Canada and the complicated relationships between the survivors and their children. Eisenstein has deftly painted her meditation on memory and the family that pours into her memories in bold colours, while reflecting on the meaning of books, the Yiddish language, the special group of her parents' friends, her mother's taped testimony of Holocaust experiences and more.

Examples of Eisenstein's casually expressed, yet penetrating insights abound. For example, speaking about her parents' special circle of friends, she writes: "I have come to understand, in a way less known than felt, something of what my parents and their friends have meant to one another, and realize why it had always been impossible for me not to have sensed myself an outsider."

About her father's death, she abruptly expresses the feeling felt by anyone who has ever been at the bedside of a dying parent. "My father died that morning and the day somehow continued without him."

I Was A Child of Holocaust Survivors has been translated into a number of languages, including Dutch, Italian, French and Spanish and will be sold in a number of countries.

And that is all to the good, for it is sure to reach, in profound and inspiring ways, many of the individuals who take the time to read it, for as our sages told us, "That which springs from the heart, finds its way to the heart."

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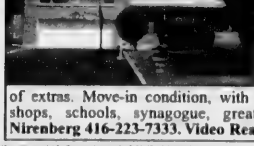

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Eleonora Michailov

If you were to consult with any real estate expert as to which part of the world experiences the fastest real estate growth, you would collectively hear only one response, Central America. The major tourist industry in the region has stimulated an unprecedented economic boom, development and investment projects of enormous proportions.

Panoramic views of such countries as Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Panama are beautifully decorated with high rise luxurious condominiums and hotel buildings. However, Panama has always positively stood out from its economically unstable neighboring countries in the region with an official domestic currency of the US dollar and solid economy that continues to flourish and grow.

To encourage foreign investment, the Panamanian government provides many lucrative incentives to investors, and most importantly, a solid legal system to protect the investment and the investor. Panama City, the capital of Panama, is a very unique place in the world. The canal that is located nearby connects two oceans, and as a result, Panamanians enjoy a vast selection of goods that pass through the ports at very low prices.

Due to its solid economic state, Panama City proudly carries the title as the second financial capital of the world following Switzerland. Over 100 different banks from all over the world have operations in Panama. All this in addition to fabulous climate and near zero crime rates makes Panama an ideal destination for investment and retirement.

"Panama is currently experiencing a major real estate boom with very elite and luxurious projects", says Elenora Michailov, an exclusive representative of a leading Panamanian real estate corporation known as HOMES.

Major developers from Europe and United States of America fight over permits for land development in Panama City. One of the most architecturally beautiful and unique luxury condominium projects "Faros de Panama", which is being built by a Spanish group, is going to be erected on a preferred and prestigious ocean front property in Panama City. On the lower levels of this magnificent complex there will be the convenience of a five star hotel, a major shopping centre and a casino. Located on the upper floors will be luxury ocean view condominiums. As a result of the extraordinary demand for the units, the construction on this astonishing project is set to commence at the end of this year.

"Investments into Panamanian real estate are an ideal and smart way for capital growth", says Mrs. Michailov. It is evident that the Panamanian real estate market is just at the beginning stages of a major growth cycle and would continue on its path for at least additional two to three years.

Panama's worldwide popularity makes the country a top choice for a heaven-like place for a dream retirement, which is supported by surveys conducted annually by reputable business publications. Panama is an ideal place to reside in for people of all ages, but in particular, Panama is very generous and kind to the retirees. Thanks to government legislation, many goods, top quality medical and dental care, among other services, are reduced in price for retirees, thus making Panama an ideal place to spend one's relaxing retirement years.

Recently, many Canadians have expressed very strong interest in Panama for both investment and retirement opportunities. For many, Panama City is a close twin of Miami with gorgeous new condos and office buildings, prestigious yacht clubs, major shopping centres and casinos, and all that on a stunning Pacific Ocean shore. There is, however, a major difference between the two cities, the price. For example, a one square foot ocean view luxury condo would cost one from 170 to 300 USD, which is much cheaper than in Miami.

"There is no need to be a millionaire to purchase and yield high returns on investment" says Elenora. "The secret behind wise investment", shares Mrs. Michailov, "is to establish a corporation and acquire property through it. By doing so, one is avoiding a mandatory 2% tax called "land transfer tax" and would not pay property taxes for 15 years in all newly constructed projects. A purchase of an ocean front condominium unit would require down payment of 30% (paid in 3 installments of 10%) throughout the year.

As a result, with an investment of only 30% you can become an owner of an exclusive luxury ocean view condominium in Panama City. It is not unusual for buyers to enjoy a return of as high as 100% if not more than their initial investment of 10% ($30,000) if they choose to sell their property" says Elenora.

Just recently, she continues, two of my clients have bought luxury condo units by investing only 40,000 USD. The value of their property rose so high that if they were to choose to sell the units now, they could easily yield a profit of 100,000 USD. Although for many these numbers seem to be astronomical, they are indeed true due to a major local and worldwide demand for property in Panama.

"There is more to look forward to in the near future" says Elenora. The government is due to release a major project regarding the expansion of the Panamanian Canal estimated at close to $8 billion US. This without doubt would further fuel the local economy by creating new jobs and increase follow of goods.

Colon, a free trade region in Panama (world's second largest after Hong Kong) annually yields the Panamanians budget an astonishing $9 billion US in profits. This free trade zone is also positively reflected on locals as well due to tax free goods. For example a pound of bananas cost only 13 cents. And a popular Chilean wine that costs in Canada over 10 dollars is only a fifth of the price in Panama. To further exemplify, a dinner for two in a well established restaurant with a bottle of wine would cost one roughly 20 USD which cannot even be compared with the Canadians or USA prices. And finally, a brand name big screen high definition television set is priced half the price seen on the Canadian market.

The strong Jewish community within Panama City and such streets as Via Israel make any Jewish person feel welcome and at home.

Many Canadians have already bought many winter properties in Panama. During the cold Canadian winters they enjoy the outstanding Panamanian climate. And during the summer time they have no difficulty renting the property to other tourists as the flow of them is continuous year round.

In order to enjoy the full scope of what Panama has to offer, a picture is worth 1000 words, says Elenora Michailov. On September 24, 2006 there would be an organized tour, accompanied by Elenora, to Panama City and the surrounding area for new buyers and investors. During the tour, attendees will be presented with a fabulous opportunity to see elite real estate projects ranging from luxury ocean front condos to villas on exclusive golf courses and meet with legal team that will be able to answer any questions that they might have.

For reservations or any additional information, kindly do not hesitate to contact the office of Elenora Michailov at 416-450-8114, www.panamareals.com

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Israel & the Jewish World

JOINT PITCH FOR PEACE: Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, right, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel arrive at a press conference last week at the chancellery in Berlin. Livni made a forceful plea to the European Union to lend its support to the UNIFIL peacekeeping effort in south Lebanon. Merkel took the opportunity to reiterate her government's support for the need to disarm Hezbollah and restore sovereign Lebanese authority in south Lebanon. [RNS/Reuters photo]

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Ceremonial pitch at Jays game 'an honour'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

As you enter Samuel Salsberg's tastefully decorated apartment, you could very easily miss the pair of battered baseball gloves that lie in a heap on the marble floor, below a carved wooden console table.

Though he's closing in on 90 and he played his last serious game of baseball decades ago, Salsberg and his grandson gave the mitts a workout in anticipation of displaying once again the form that made him a pro prospect back in the 1930s.

Salsberg has been selected to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Sept. 5 Blue Jays home game against the Cleveland Indians. It comes just a few days before his 90th birthday on Sept. 8.

Shaking off the rust in a short workout in his building's squash court (they were rained out), his throwing arm soon began to feel sore. The bursitis in his shoulder that shortened his competitive baseball career was acting up again, along with the effects of a more recently torn rotator cuff.

Luckily, however, he's only throwing out the first pitch, not actually starting for the Jays.

Had the offer come 70 years ago, he might well have been able to pitch a game for the major league team. Back when he was a young player, he helped lead his playground team, the St. Andrews Saints, to several city and provincial championships. His throwing skill was so renowned, he was asked to be the practice pitcher for the minor league Toronto Maple Leafs, an affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds. He was only 17 at the time, possessed a strong arm and threw a lot of fastballs. Add that to the numerous pitches he hurled for his city team and Salsberg overdid it and, he believes, in the long run, shortened his career.

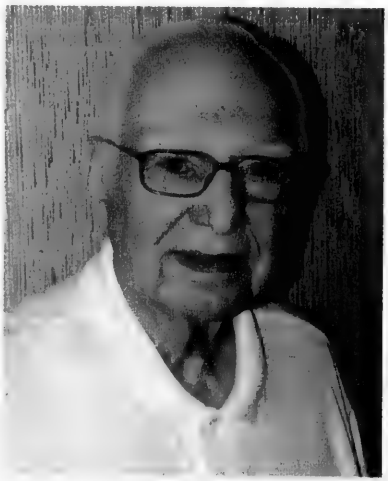
In December 1934, however, when he was still in his prime, he was offered a tryout with the major league New York Giants, which had won the World Series only a year before. Ironically, it was the 11 days he spent with the Giants at spring training in Tampa that spelled the end of his professional career.

But to digress. Before heading south to suit up for the Giants, Salsberg had received a call from the management of the Maple Leafs instructing him to come down to the Royal York Hotel to meet Larry McPhail, general manager of the Reds.

"They told me to report to Tampa for spring training and to try out professionally," he recalled.

In January, Salsberg, cousin of the late politician and community leader J.B. Salsberg, reported to Florida and started informal workouts with other prospects and pros who lived in the Sunshine State. Apparently someone liked what they saw in Salsberg and he was approached by a stranger and asked if he'd like to work out with the Giants.

Only 18 at the time, naive about player's rights and without a professional agent to represent him (there was no such animal in the '30s), Salsberg agreed. He spent 11 days in the Giants camp and at the end of that period, Salsberg recalled, a Jewish player with the Giants, Phil Weintraub, told him, "'glad you made it kid.'"



Samuel Salsberg

Unfortunately, Salsberg's freelancing did not go over well with the Maple Leafs. "The Maple Leafs found out and told me to go home," he said.

The Giants, for their part, would not break the unwritten rule about poaching other team's players.

So came an end to Salsberg's major league ambitions, though it didn't mark the end of his baseball career. He returned to Toronto and played for a time in a regional senior league. Later he moved to Kirkland Lake and played in a northern Ontario mining league, an independent semi-pro circuit that featured lots of ex-pros and top amateurs. In the heart of the Depression, it provided good money and good baseball and the newly-minted carpenter's apprentice stayed in the league until 1941, when he joined the Royal Canadian Engineers.

Later he was sent to a white collar training program and was eventually assigned as chief clerk in the army's administration wing. Salsberg was discharged in December 1945 and with a growing family to feed, he took over a cigar store at the corner of Spadina and College in what was then the heart of the Jewish community. Nearby were such landmarks as the Homestead Restaurant, the Crescent Grill and The Bagel.

The early years were tough, what with government-imposed quotas on just about every item of merchandise. It was hard to make a living when you were allotted six cases of Coke and two cases of 7UP per month, along with limited quantities of magazines, newspapers and cigarettes.

Eventually business improved, with the ticket business proving a great attraction. Even then, Maple Leafs hockey games were the top draw, though he also sold tickets for all manner of performances and even Broadway shows.

Sammy's Smoke Shop proved a great meeting place, with the likes of Wayne and Shuster, actors Lou Jacobi and Lorne Green dropping in. Another notable was Sen. David Croll, who became Salsberg's closest friend.

Salsberg gave up the business in 1985 but he never lost his love of baseball. He remains an avid Blue Jays fan and still goes to about 14 games a year. His scrapbook has plenty of memorabilia from the Jays' back to back World Series wins and he feels "it's an honour" to be asked to throw out a first pitch.

"It's a thrill," he said. "My kids arranged it because they know the love I have for the sport. I never had the opportunity to pitch major league ball. I don't know if I could have, but I had the feeling when I went down, I could've been signed. I think what could have happened had I not done what I did. I don't know.

"But my shoulder gave out early...This way, I continued on with my life."

Growing up isn't always easy

By CHAIM COHN

Guest Voice

"When are you going to grow up?" I heard this a thousand times from my mother, may she rest in peace, and then from my wife. The obvious answer is never. I could never act my age – I'm 57 – and fortunately, never tried to.

Living in Israel for almost 30 years, however, has been good for my immaturity. After all, it's a young country. But a few years ago, I discovered the ultimate address for people who can't act their age: the Israel Defence Forces has a volunteer program where people beyond the age of reserve service can volunteer for two weeks and serve in various units in the regular army with the 18- to 21-year-old soldiers.

When a friend told me about his two weeks of military service, I knew that I had found my place and immediately applied. I was accepted and underwent two days in a refresher course. I fired off a lot of bullets from an M-16, a light machine gun; and reviewed first aid, use of the field radio and other things. The army has found that older volunteers can bring some wisdom and experience that can help solve some of the everyday problems inexperienced 18- and 19-year-olds have to face. Most volunteers are stationed along the fence, which is still incomplete, between "the territories" (Judea and Samaria) and Israel proper.

Many Palestinians want to cross into Israel for employment, medical services and family visits. Soldiers have to examine their papers and check for weapons and explosives. Entry is often refused because something is not in order or out of date. The friction between the Palestinians and the soldiers is very real, and ugly incidents have occurred. It was thought that more mature and experienced people on the ground could defuse some of these tense situations.

I, however, got a different assignment and went out on patrols with the Border Police in the area of Um El Fahum, south of Afula, along the fence itself. At that time, part of the fence was constructed and part was still being built. It became immediately clear to me that without the fence, there is no control. Dozens of young men could be seen crouching in the woods, waiting for our jeep patrol to pass so that they could sneak into Israel.

Some sought employment in agriculture or construction, while others carried sacks with cheap junk made in China, which they wanted to sell, and some could have definitely been terrorists. Those were the days of the intifadah, when terrorists were blowing themselves up with sickening regularity on buses or in cafes. Our job was to stop Arabs from entering the country unless they were carefully examined. In the news, we often heard of the border being "hermetically sealed." But I saw before me the shocking reality that existed 15 minutes from my home.

> ***Older volunteers can bring some wisdom and experience***

We repeatedly caught the same young men. They could have carried cheap Chinese junk or suicide vests. Only we stood between them and the cities of Israel. The Border Patrol is not noted for having men who have gone to university after their army service. They tend to enter the police force, and force is what they sometimes resort to for problem solving. I was masquerading as a wiser and more thoughtful fellow, and in a few cases, succeeded in calming down young conscripts who lost their tempers with the repeaters who had been caught numerous times trying to cross the border without being checked.

I tried to navigate a careful course in that complex situation – on the one hand, threats or a slap might dissuade the recidivists from smuggling themselves into Israel, while, on the other hand, one doesn't want to see young Israelis acting inhumanely. But I had to keep three things in mind: nice guys finish last in this part of the world and only the tough survive; only a very small number of our soldiers exploit their position of power and act in ugly ways; and one should, in all matters, seek the golden mean. I believe I navigated these challenging waters reasonably successfully.

I don't believe that our left wing, which often seeks peace at any price is on the right track. I don't believe our enemies are true partners at all in seeking peace. Alternatively, the right wing, which believes uncompromisingly that it is all ours and there is no room for any compromise, is, in my opinion, also incorrect in its outlook. But I hope that during my two weeks back in uniform I made my extremely modest contribution to making my country slightly more safe and slightly more decent.

Before returning to my regular work, I treated myself to an afternoon at a large shopping centre where I indulged in a large frozen yogurt as a reward for defending my country. Looking for a place to sit down and eat it, I spied a sight that would excite any truly immature boy, the undergarments store, C Cup and Larger. I sat opposite the store entrance on a bench hoping to savour something beside the yogurt. There were, of course, some healthy *babushkas* who seemed to come right off the *kolchoz* and into the store, but there were also some impressively proportioned young ladies who complemented the scenery nicely. There was a sign on the window: Wanted, Saleswomen.

Then one of the employees on a break came and sat down next to me on the bench. It was obvious where she bought her intimate apparel. I told her that I was interested in applying for the job of sales person. She told me, "Only women."

I declared that this was discriminatory and I wouldn't accept it. She explained that it is obvious that many women feel uneasy when a man is present while they choose intimate apparel. I explained to her that, for sure, other women choose their apparel to please a man, and a man's opinion would help some to choose correctly.

She suggested I write down my phone number so that the manager could call me. I wrote down a false number and watched as she returned to the store muttering something about "growing up" before she filed the phone number in the waste basket.

Chaim Cohn is a teacher of English and lives in Yokneam, Israel.

SWEET BRISKET

1 (5-7 lb) brisket, washed
1/2 cup oil
1/4-1/2 cup cola
1/2 cup dry red wine
1/4 cup honey
4-5 Tbsp. ketchup
1 onion
1/2 tsp. mustard powder
1/2 tsp. paprika

Process all seasonings in food processor and pour over brisket. Marinate overnight.

Cook at 350°F loosely covered, until done, approximately 4-5 hours.

When cool, pour the gravy in a saucepan. Add 1 tbsp. flour and cook until thickens. Pour gravy over sliced meat when serving.

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A Family Business for over 60 Years

40ish and bored

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

I'd rather be lonely than bored.

I'm hearing more and more lately from friends and colleagues how bored they have become with their lives.

These people range in age from 40 and up, and most of them are quite accomplished in their lives. This is what they have been telling me: "I'm doing well [generally in Toronto this means making money] but I'm just so incredibly bored. I need some spice, some zing, man."

Here is an example. A friend moved away from Toronto and built a superb life for his family in Europe. He works hard, pulls down $250,000 a year, has visited more than 35 countries, is a community leader and has all the playthings television insurance advertisements make us believe we need and want – and this is long before 55.

Another comrade, who is one of those freaky creative individuals able to parlay his gift into a respectable living and has the ability to manoeuvre his life with great agility, made resolute eye contact with me and announced, "Avrum, I'm bored out of my mind. I'm dying here."

I asked him how it was possible he felt so uninterested. After all, his face didn't display the vapid, lifeless look of a Camus character, but rather that of an Isaac Bashevis Singer shtetl Jew – squirmy and wanting but joyful.

His explanation was as follows. He said that people like him and me have an abundant energy and a need to be excited about what we're doing. My friend further explained that when we find it, we consign ourselves to the task at hand with inexorable energy – so that sleep becomes an annoyance. Then, the dreaded occurs. We figure it out. We learn how to do it. We learn how to adjust its levers and pulleys so they are well aligned, and then this thing we once loved, now making us a grand old living, assails our soul with boredom and we're trapped like Charlie Brown on the pitcher's mound.

I figured this required some thought. Fortyish? Bored? Not good. After all, there are 80 years to go. What's up?

After some further investigation, I found it seemed some of my friends had lived out their lifelong dreams too early on and others had never climbed their highest mountain. The fellow who had made the trek to Europe, sipped Ethiopian coffee by the Eiffel Tower while reading classic literature and established himself as a family and community man achieved his goals, making his mythological life a real one.

He said it himself when he told me that in his forties he had imbibed more wine than a man should, walked the cobblestone walkways of Europe so much so that his walking shoes are worn and tattered, and has far too much firsthand knowledge of Monets and van Goghs. Like a child movie star, this man hit his stride too earlier on – his dreams had come and they had gone.

And then there are others who have found that the magical and enchanted dreams of their childhood, adolescence and early adult years simply passed them by. Boredom seeped into their lives because rather than becoming the fireman or boxer they had dreamed of, their days were spent with cartage companies and administrators sucking the spirit right out of them.

Fortyish? Bored? You're not alone. It is a growing societal infection, and if you're not inoculated, it can simmer inside of you until your soul is dreary and lacklustre. Dream. And then dream on more. I'd rather be lonely than bored.

(Allow me to end my article with a blessing for the Jews of Israel and everywhere: *osheh shalom bimromav hu ya'aseh shalom aleynu v'al kol yisrael, ve'imru amen.* In short – God bring us peace.)

avrum@yeahavta.org , SUDAN!

A Community of Caring

Mount Sinai Hospital is made up of dedicated clinicians, researchers, nurses, staff and volunteers and we are proud to be an integral part of the community. Events allow you to get involved in the Hospital while providing much-needed funds for patient programs and services.

Please join us at our two new upcoming events!

Works of heart

fine art auction and dinner

Join us for a fine art auction and dinner, featuring exquisite works from well-known artists including Tony Scherman, Charles Pachter and Group of Seven member Franz Hans Johnston, also known as Frank Johnston. Limited editions by Cathy Daley, James Lahey and Micah Lexier are also available for sale.

Works of Heart, championed by Honourary Chair Rosalie Sharp, Co-Chairs Michael Bregman and Jeffrey Rosenthal and Art Chair Lisa Draper, is a way for big hearts like yours to support the small hearts of our most fragile patients.

Funds raised will support care and research in the Neonatal Intensive Care Units at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto and Shaare Zedek Medical Centre in Jerusalem.

Please join us on *Tuesday, September 26* at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Behind Closed Doors

Imagine yourself, in a beautiful home, marveling over a collection of remarkable paintings. Or imagine your thrill to view sculptures normally hidden in corporate offices. Now your dreams to enjoy collections usually behind closed doors are possible for one day only. You can have a personal invitation to see some of the city's most revered collections in magnificent homes and affluent businesses at *Behind Closed Doors: An Entrée to Private Collections.*

Funds raised from the event will enable the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital to continue to meet the ever-growing needs of those who depend on its services.

Please join us on *Sunday, October 22.*

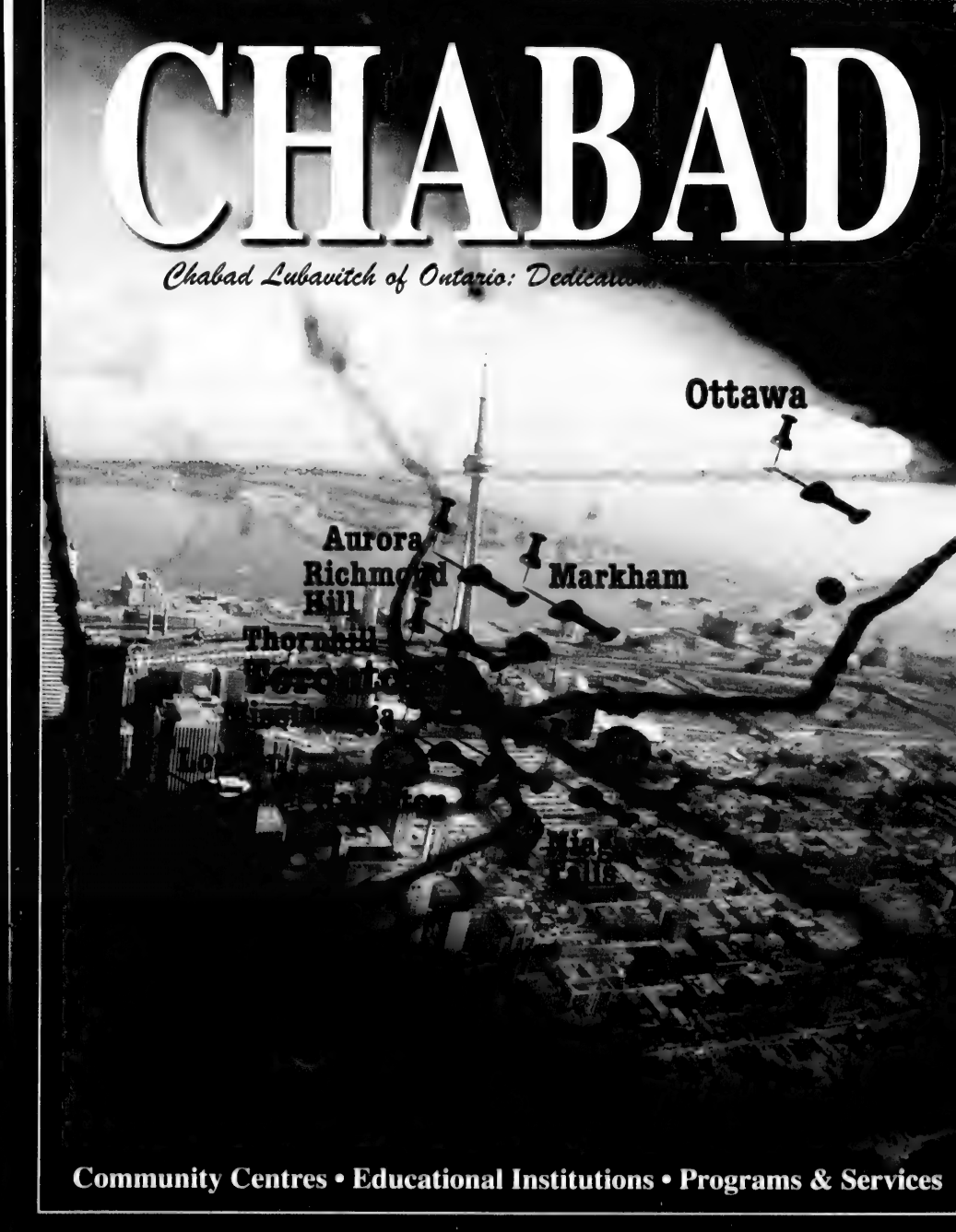
MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

For more information on any of these events, please contact the Events Team at the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation at 416-586-8203

Check out the latest updates on our events on our website at www.mtsinai.on.ca/foundation/events

CHABAD

Chabad Lubavitch of Ontario: Dedicat...



Community Centres • Educational Institutions • Programs & Services

TRANSFORMING THE LANDSCAPE

What is the purpose of life? While some will struggle to give a definitive answer, ask anyone, young or old, learned or not, who has encountered the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe and you're likely to get a clear and concise response: Humanity's purpose is to transform the world into a holy abode for the revelation of G-d here on earth. In other words, our job is to reveal the beauty that is already present, contained and concealed within the material world and within every individual. It is up to each one of us to work together to attain this potential, and to do our part to realize the long-awaited promise of a Messianic era of global peace, spiritual awareness and material prosperity. Millions of sincere, practical deeds, such as feeding a hungry family, affixing a mezuzah to someone's house, and being kind and open with those around us — none of which will make the evening news — combine to form a web of kindness that ultimately transforms the entire landscape.

In the Rebbe's teachings and visionary leadership, this ideal is the cornerstone of Judaism and Jewish life, the lens through which all its other values are most potently realized. At times, this mission entails profound soul-searching and spiritual striving, working towards living a more meaningful life. And at times it entails building the institutions, programs and infrastructure that facilitate the growth of healthy and vibrant Jewish communities.

Ultimately, Chabad is about helping people discover their inner self, the *Neshama*. This book is intended to provide an overview of the institutions, programs and activities of Chabad in Ontario that contribute to the fulfillment of this mission. You are invited to witness the revolution in progress on these pages, and more importantly, you are invited to be part of it.

4 Community Centres
8 Meet the Shluchim
10 Educational Institutions
14 Youth & Young Adults
16 Holiday Programs
18 Community Services
19 Women's Leagues
20 Adult Education
22 Media & Publications
23 Chabad across Canada

THE REBBE

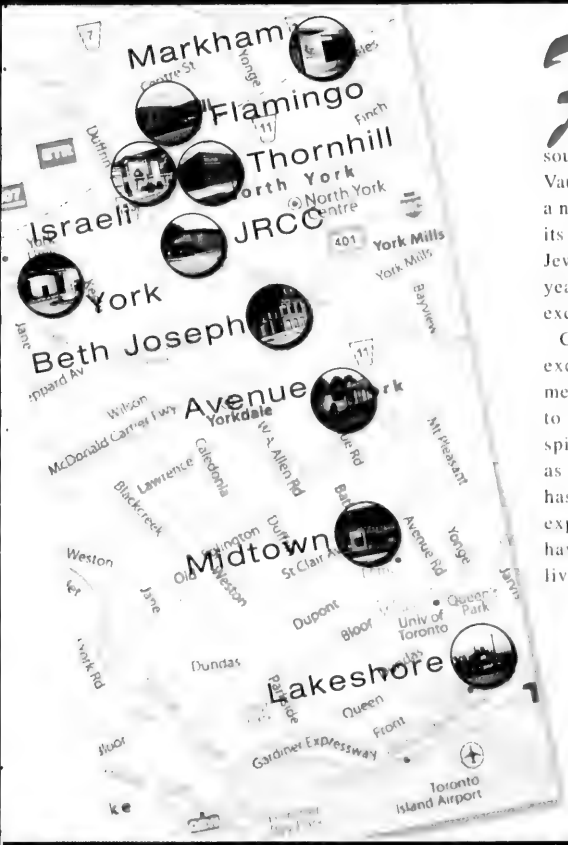
To the Rebbe, the Jewish people, and indeed all of humanity and all of Creation, are one united, indivisible organism. And just as a person is not healthy if one organ is ill, so, too, humanity is not whole so long as there are individuals who are hungry, whether for a morsel of bread or a sense of purpose. Thus, the Rebbe is not only the Rebbe of Lubavitch, he is *The Rebbe* — because he cared for the needs of every individual, in any place, under any circumstance.

A young girl hospitalized in Australia receives a letter from the Rebbe that lifts her spirit and saves her life; a depressed artist receives direct encouragement and inspiration from the Rebbe that revitalizes his life and career; a banker is brought into the Rebbe's inner circle and becomes an enlightened philanthropist and activist; thousands of IDF soldiers receive messages of inspiration and holiday gifts from the Rebbe that boost their morale and Jewish pride. The list goes on and on.

Even today, the Rebbe's unequivocal teachings, uncompromising drive and unconditional love have a profound impact on all who experience them not because of his incomparable vision wisdom, or charismatic leadership — all of which are surely true — but because of his incredible dedication. It is the dedication, love and appreciation for every individual that compelled the Rebbe to offer hope, instruction, admonition, advice and guidance to people from all walks of life. And it is the Rebbe's profound caring for every person, perhaps more than anything else, that were the catalyst for the emphasis in his teachings on the coming of Moshiach — because only then will the health of the entire Jewish people and all of humanity be complete.

CENTRES

- **Chabad Lubavitch Community Centre** [Ontario Headquarters [est. 1982]] — 770 Chabad Gate, Thornhill :: 905.731.7000 :: www.chabad.ca
  Weekday & Shabbat Services. Women's Mikvah, Men's Mikvah, Library, Educational Minyan, Swimming Pool, Banquet Hall
- **Jewish Russian Community Centre** [est. 1983] — 18 Rockford Road, North York :: 416.222.7105 :: www.jrcc.org
  Weekday & Shabbat Services. Administrative offices: 5987 Bathurst St. Suite 3, Toronto
  Shabbat Services at: Thornhill (927 Clark Ave. W & 1 Brooke St.), Thornhill Woods (8808 Bathurst St.), Concord (18 Derrywood Dr.), and North York (4455 & 3174 Bathurst St.)
- **Chabad Israeli Community** [est. 1989] — 770 Chabad Gate, Thornhill :: 905.709.7770 :: www.hebrewchabad.com
  Weekday & Shabbat Services. Administrative offices: 1136 Centre St. #211, Thornhill
- **Chabad of Midtown** [est. 2003] — 1344 Bathurst St., Toronto :: 416.516.2005 :: www.chabadmt.com
  Shabbat Services. Preschool, Hebrew School



For over fifty years, Chabad's presence has illuminated Toronto with a uniquely inspired and joyful approach to Jewish life that speaks to the soul. Almost twenty-five years ago, in the farmlands of Vaughan, Chabad played a central role in establishing a new community in Thornhill, bringing the warmth of its Chassidic approach to tens of thousands of fellow Jews. Several more centres sprung up in the ensuing years, and current construction and expansion projects exceed $15 million.

Chabad has garnered a reputation for sensitivity and excellence, understanding the obstacles to living a meaningful life in contemporary society. In response to the challenge, they offer a uniquely practical, yet spiritually attuned approach that counsels and guides as it instructs and inspires. "Let's go to Chabad," has become synonymous with seeking a lively Jewish experience, and indeed its centres and synagogues have become known as the addresses for inspired, living Judaism.

CENTRES (opposite page, right column)

- **Beth Joseph Lubavitch** [est. 1957] — 44 Edinburgh Drive, Toronto :: 416.633.7659 :: www.chabad.ca
  Weekday & Shabbat Services, Women's Mikvah
- **Chabad Lubavitch of Markham** [est. 1985] — 83 Green Lane, Markham :: 905.886.0420 :: www.chabadmarkham.org
  Weekday & Shabbat Services, Women's Mikvah, Preschool
- **Chabad @ Flamingo** [est. 1998] — 8001 Bathurst St., Thornhill :: 905.763.4040 :: www.chabadflamingo.com
  Weekday & Shabbat Services, Women's Mikvah, Men's Mikvah, Preschool, Banquet Hall
- New: **Chabad on the Avenue** — 414 Cranbrooke Ave., Toronto :: www.chabadavenue.com
- Coming Soon: **Chabad at the Lakeshore**
- Coming Soon: **Chabad @ York University**

CENTRES

- **Chabad Lubavitch of Hamilton: Jewish Student Centre** [est. 1980] — 177 Sterling Avenue :: 905.529.7458
  Shabbat Services, Student Programs at McMaster University
- **Chabad House at Western** [est. 1962] — 1114 Richmond Street, London :: 519.434.3623 :: www.chabadhouse.ca
  Shabbat Services, Student Programs at the University of Western Ontario
- **Chabad of Centrepointe** [est. 2002] — 27 Covington Place, Ottawa :: 613.594.4900 :: www.chabadcentrepointe.com
  Friday night & Sunday morning services. Shabbat hospitality
- **Chabad of Aurora** [est. 2004] — 53 Colonial Crescent :: 905.773.6477 :: www.chabadofaurora.com
  Shabbat Services, Preschool

Internationally, part of Chabad's mystique and attractiveness lies in its willingness and ability to travel to isolated communities and create a Jewish environment seemingly out of nothing. From Anchorage to Zimbabwe, wherever you can find Coke, you can find Chabad. The personal sacrifice of a young family moving to an isolated community, and their tireless efforts to create a Jewish presence where no infrastructure exists, command respect and admiration in all circles.

All of these efforts stem from the belief that every individual has the right and the need to get in touch with his or her soul. A family that finds itself far from the Jewish community and a student pursuing studies at a distant university all deserve the same opportunity. And the unconditional love that is an inherent part of the Chabad philosophy prompts it to extend its presence, and its warmth, to every place.

CENTRES (opposite page, right column)

- **Chabad Lubavitch of Richmond Hill** [est. 1988] — 10815 Bathurst Street, #20 :: 905.770.6266 :: www.chabadrichmondhill.com
  Weekday & Shabbat Services, Preschool, Hebrew School
- **Chabad Lubavitch of Mississauga** [est. 2003] — 4504 Haydock Park Drive :: 905.820.4432 :: www.jewishmississauga.org
  Shabbat Services, Preschool, Hebrew School
- **Ottawa Torah Centre** [est. 1997] — 3023 Cedarview Road, Nepean :: 613.823.0866 :: www.ottawatorahcenter.com
  Shabbat & Sunday morning services. Shabbat hospitality
- **Chabad of Niagara** [est. 2005] — 5595 Drummond Road, Unit 4 :: 905.358.1888 :: www.chabadniagara.com
  Weekday & Shabbat services during the summer tourist season. Shabbat hospitality

Chabad Lubavitch Headquarters

Chabad Lubavitch Headquarters

Chabad Lubavitch Headquarters

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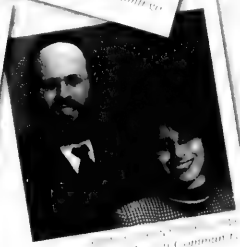
Chabad of Flamingo

Chabad of Flamingo

Chabad of Flamingo

Cheder Chabad Yeshivas Lubavitch

Chabad of Hamilton



Chabad Israeli Community

Chabad of Richmond Hill

Chabad of Richmond Hill

Chabad House at Western

Chabad House at Western

Chabad of Midtown

Bars Chava Mushka

Chabad of Mississauga

Chabad of Aurora

Chabad on the Avenue

Chabad of Niagara

Sha•li•ach. | Sha - lee - ackh | *noun*. An emissary. Someone sent on a special mission to represent the sender.

Meet the Shluchim

Imagine… A new rabbi and rebbitzin move to town, set up shop, and start encouraging people who have been living a contented life devoid of Jewish observance to start doing all sorts of new things: wrap leather boxes on your arm and head while chanting an ancient prayer; light candles and celebrate with family on Friday evenings instead of watching prime time; shake a bouquet of branches and a fancy lemon inside a wooden hut in the fall; insist that a giant menorah be erected at city hall, and that it be lit by the mayor himself. What's with these people?

You would think that the community would resist. But instead, they and their family are embraced and (for the most part) encouraged to do their work. Why? Judaism teaches that the feelings we radiate are reflected back at us from others, like the reflection of a face in a mirror. Being a Chabad *shaliach*, an emissary of the Rebbe, is not a job — it's a calling. The rabbi and his family see themselves as a permanent part of the community they move into, not a temporary appendage to it, and view the entire community as an extended family — living, laughing and growing together.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- **Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad** [est. 1986] — 770 Chabad Gate, Thornhill :: 416.663.1972 :: www.chederchabad.com
  160 Students (JK – Grade 8). Director: Rabbi Yona Shur; Principal: Rabbi Boruch Zaltzman
- **Yeshiva & Mesivta Lubavitch Oholei Menachem Mendel — Toronto** [est. 1997]
  3055 Bathurst Street, Toronto :: 416.787.6631 :: www.yeshivalubavitch.com
  166 Students (Ages 14 – 18). Director: Rabbi Yona Shur; Rosh Yeshiva: Rabbi Akiva Wagner; Rosh Mesivta: Rabbi Zalman Oster
- **Yeshivas Ateres Menachem** [est. 2000] — 812 Kirkwood Ave., Ottawa :: 613.729.1819 :: www.ateresmenachem.com
  40 Students (Ages 16 – 20). Director: Rabbi Mordechai Berger; Dean of Students: Rabbi Naftali Smith

Educational Institutions

The moment of truth had arrived. The Israelites are at the brink of liberation from centuries of slavery, and all ears turn to Moses. What would be his message? Liberation? Freedom? The Land of Israel? Instead, Moses speaks about children, about the duty to convey the Torah and its teachings to future generations. As a result, Jews have never forgotten that freedom is a never-ending effort of education in which parents, teachers, homes and schools are all partners in the dialogue and transmission from generation to generation.

Chabad's yeshivas and schools aim to continue the legacy of Jewish learning for generations to come using the same principle that drives its other activities: Every Jew has a soul to be nurtured and continuously developed. Currently, over 750 boys and girls from all backgrounds are embraced and encouraged to explore the tradition of their grandparents in friendly and intellectually stimulating programs of study.

Photos (left to right)

First row (left to right)
- Cheder Chabad school photo
- Class in session at Cheder Chabad
- Cheder Chabad faculty

Second row (left to right)
- Yeshiva & Mesivta Lubavitch building
- Yeshivas Lubavitch study hall
- Computer class at Yeshivas Iteres Menachem
- Yeshivas Iteres Menachem school photo

Third row (left to right)
- Bnos Chaya Mushka building
- Bnos Chaya Mushka students
- Cheder Rambam School students celebrate in the sukkah
- Bais Chomesh students

Fourth row (left to right)
- Ohr Menachem Academy building
- Ohr Menachem Academy chess program
- Cheder Rambam School building

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (opposite page, bottom half)

- **Bais Chaya Mushka Elementary** [est. 1996] — 4375 Chesswood Drive, Toronto :: 416.398.5932
  135 Students (Pre1A – Grade 8). Director: Rabbi Nochum Sossover; Principal: Rabbi Meir Wagner.
- **Bais Chomesh Girls' High School** [est. 1998] — 3600 Bathurst St., Toronto :: 416.631.8505
  95 Students (Grades 9 – 12). Principals: Mrs. Rochel Wagner, Mrs. Chana Janowski.
- **Ohr Menachem Academy** [est. 1997] — 8808 Bathurst Street, Thornhill :: 905.881.1800 :: www.omacademy.org
  104 students (JK–Grade 8). Director: Rabbi Yoseph Y. Zaltzman; Principal: Mrs. Svetlana Untershats.
- **Cheder Rambam School** [est. 1995] — 25 Esquimault Avenue, Ottawa :: 613.820.9484 :: www.rambam.ca
  65 students (Nursery–Grade 8). Director: Rabbi Yehoshua Botnick; Principal: Mrs. Chaya Hayes.

PRESCHOOLS

- **Torah Tots Preschool** (with Montessori stream)
  135 Students. Chabad Lubavitch of Markham.
  Principal: Mrs. Goldie Plotkin. 905.886.0420
- **Mindel & Leib Gelfand Daycare**
  99 Students. Jewish Russian Community Centre's Preschool.
  Principal: Mrs. Anya Kupinsky. 416.736.0781
- **The Rose Shwartz Nursery**
  115 Students. Chabad @ Flamingo.
  Principal: Mrs. Faigy Kaplan. 905.763.4040
- **Gan Shalom Preschool**
  100 Students. Chabad Lubavitch of Richmond Hill.
  Principal: Mrs. Toby Bernstein. 905.770.6266
- **Gan Shalom Preschool**
  16 Students. Chabad of Midtown.
  Principal: Mrs. Dvora Dietsch. 416.516.2005
- **Alef Bet Preschool**
  10 Students. Chabad of Aurora's preschool.
  Principal: Mrs. Sarah Hecht. 905.773.6477

Educational Institutions

The Israelites are about to receive the Torah at Mount Sinai, and G-d asks for a guarantor to ensure the continued bond between the people and the Torah. All of Moses' candidates, even angels and scholars, are categorically rejected. But when he offers the Jewish children as the guarantors, G-d agrees.

Since then, Jewish children have been the guardians of the Jewish faith and the future of the Jewish people. Therefore, it is vital that every child has the opportunity to connect to his or her Jewish roots. Because the early years are the most formative, Chabad is dedicated to providing early childhood education programs that are highly stimulating and provide a creative introduction to Judaism, the Hebrew language and Jewish life. Currently, over 500 children are enrolled in Chabad preschool programs. Because not all family circumstances allow for a child to enroll in a full-time Jewish day school, Chabad provides several part-time Hebrew School programs in various locations that foster a connection to Judaic studies and community life for over 500 students. Because summer provides a unique opportunity for learning in a fun environment, Chabad hosts exciting day camp programs that have been engaging children of all backgrounds for 30 years.

◀ Photos on opposite page

First row — Preschools (left to right)
- Mindel & Leib Geltand Daycare school photo
- Torah Tots (Markham) students
- Gan Shalom (Midtown) students

Second row — Preschools (left to right)
- A class photo at Torah Tots (Markham)
- Circle Time at Gan Shalom (Richmond Hill)
- Rose Shwartz Nursery students

Third row — Hebrew Schools (left to right)
- Markham Hebrew School girls group photo
- Students at the Midtown Hebrew School
- Richmond Hill Bat-Mitzvah students
- JRCC Hebrew School Chanukah performance

Fourth row — campers at Summer Day Camps

Hebrew Schools

- **Chabad of Markham**
  160 Students in 2 locations. Principal: Rabbi Meir Gitler. 905 886 0420
- **Jewish Russian Community Centre**
  135 Students in 5 locations. Principal: Mrs. Rachel Halperin. 416 222 / 905 6225
- **Chabad Lubavitch of Richmond Hill**
  250 Students. Principal: Rabbi Shlomo Vorovitch. 905 770 6266
- **Chabad of Midtown**
  10 Students. Principal: Mrs. Dvora Dubson. 416 516 2005

Summer Camps

Well over 1,000 campers and counsellors enjoy a meaningful and exciting summer year after year at one of four branches:

- Lubavitch Day Camp — Thornhill :: 770 Chabad Gate :: 905 731 7000
- Kindercamp — Markham :: 83 Green Lane :: 905 886 0420
- Camp Gan Shalom — Richmond Hill :: 10815 Bathurst St :: 905 770 6266
- Gan Israel Day Camp — Midtown :: 1344 Bathurst St :: 416 516 2005

TZIVOS HASHEM

Program Director: Rabbi Yona Vilenkin :: 416.661.0650 :: www.tzivoshashem.ca [est. 1991]

Tzivos Hashem provides programs for children of all ages. Jewish identity and Jewish education are bolstered through informal and entertaining programs, publications and social events. Participants in Tzivos Hashem programs are youngsters from all backgrounds, without regard to social and economic status.

Programs include: Jewish Scouts, creative holiday workshops, the Shofar Factory, Olive Press and Torah Scroll workshops, the Chanukah Dreidel House, Lag BaOmer Fun Day. Tzivos Hashem also publishes a seasonal educational newsletter that is sent to 2,500 homes.

TORAH 4 TEENS

Director: Rabbi Yona Vilenkin :: 416.661.0650 :: www.torah4teens.com [est. 2004]

Torah 4 Teens is a supplementary high school accredited by the Ontario Ministry of Education. With a tradition of academic excellence and fostering communal commitment in its students, Torah 4 Teens encourages each student to value Jewish education as a means to advance Jewish continuity, culture and observances with a strong commitment to Israel and the Jewish community. Students earn a range of high school and pre-university credits through joining the program and meeting the credited requirements. As of September 2006, the program will be available in Concord, Thornhill, Markham, North York, Toronto, Richmond Hill and Mississauga with an enrollment of over 180 students.

Youth & Young Adults

◀ Photos on opposite page

First row — Tzivos Hashem programs (left to right)
- Jewish Children's Expo
- Lag BaOmer Fun Day
- Olive Press at Centrepoint Mall
- Jewish Boy Scouts of Canada

Second row — Youth Programs (left to right)
- Torah 4 Teens, Flamingo
- Matisyahu rocks the house at Chabad Flamingo
- Torah 4 Teens, JRCC Rockford

Third row — Gen-J Students & Singles (left to right)
- Sightseeing on a Birthright Israel trip
- At the Kotel
- Jeep tour

Fourth row — Students & Singles (left to right)
- Vidal and Chana Leah Bekerman, directors of Chabad @ York University
- A Flamingo outing for young adults
- Students at the University of Toronto, Mississauga Campus
- A skiing trip for young adults

The teenage years provide a child with many challenges and opportunities for personal growth. At this stage in life it is critical to be exposed to diverse programs and activities that are both socially rewarding and personally fulfilling. To that end, Tzivos Hashem, Chabad's youth wing, has teamed up with several Chabad centres to create the Torah 4 Teens courses that offer students ministry-approved high school credit for taking an extracurricular Jewish course at their own school. Tzivos Hashem also runs a variety of educational holiday programs, and is currently launching a Jewish Boy Scouts division affiliated with the Boy Scouts of Canada.

Equally important in the formation of one's identity are the initial years of early adulthood before or just after marriage. Meeting fellow Jews and having an opportunity to openly discuss issues that will impact how one chooses to live one's life down the road are crucial. To this end, several Chabad centres have created highly successful, well-attended programs for university students, singles and young adults in various communities.

GEN-J

Director: Rabbi Levi Jacobson :: 416.222.7105 x240 :: www.genj.net [est. 1999]

Gen-J (Generation Judaism) is the Jewish Russian Community Centre's program for young adults. The point of this program is to provide an environment for Jews age 18 – 31, specifically from the Former Soviet Union, where they can discover their roots, heritage, culture and each other, by creating educational, and social programs and events that are fun and exciting in a warm, accepting and non-judgmental atmosphere.

Programs run by Gen-J include: Birthright Israel trips, monthly Shabbat dinner program, weekend getaways, social events and classes.

STUDENTS & SINGLES

Providing learning, spiritual growth and socializing opportunities at this critical juncture in their lives:

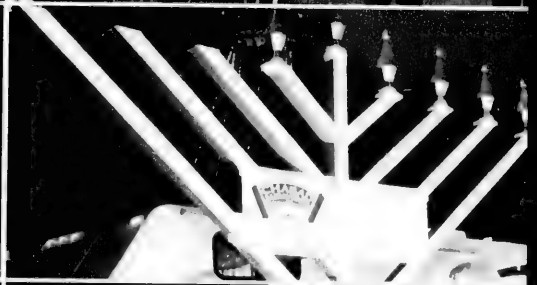
- Chabad House @ Western: 519.434.3623
- Hamilton Jewish Student Centre: 905.529.7458
- Chabad Lubavitch of Markham: 905.886.0420
- Chabad @ Flamingo: 905.763.4040
- Chabad of Mississauga: 905.820.4432
- Coming Soon: Chabad @ York University: 416.856.4575

Jewish holidays are not merely commemorations of historic events – they relive them. The spiritual energy of each holiday is present at its annual observance, along with the heavenly gifts and the opportunities for personal growth that come with it. Celebrated with the right focus and enthusiasm, each holiday presents a unique window into a different dimension of the Jewish soul. Passover, for example, is the festival of liberation when we can become motivated to liberate ourselves from our personal slaveishness.

HOLIDAYS

Synagogue Services
Holiday Awareness Programs
Shofar Factory
Sukkah at Toronto City Hall
Sukkah Celebrations
Sukka-Mobile
Public Menorah Lightings
Chanukah Parties
City-Wide Megillah Readings
Purim Banquets & Parties
Communal Passover Seders
Model Matzah Bakery
Shmurah Matzah Distribution
Lag BaOmer Picnics
Shavuot Ice Cream Parties
Children's Holiday Programs

Chabad strives to bring the authentic holiday experience to every Jew. Classes and seminars leading up to each holiday prepare us for the its observances and attune us to its unique energy. Holiday programs, incorporating both traditional synagogue services and educational services for children and adults, are the heart and soul of the holiday experience. Holiday awareness programs, where Chabad brings the Judaism out into the streets in the form of Sukkamobiles, Public Menorah, Mitzvah Tanks and the like, bring the spark of Jewish life to those who might not otherwise experience it.



Community Service

Chabad's commitment to every Jew is perhaps most evident in its extensive community services programs. The Friendship Circle provides one-on-one programming for children with special needs. Every week, hundreds of volunteers meet with people at their homes and businesses offering a word of inspiration, assistance with Jewish observance and a friendly chat. Volunteers and chaplains also pay regular visits to hospitals to visit the ill and to jails to visit Jewish inmates, helping to lift their spirits and ensure that all their needs, both material and religious, are being met.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Directors: Mrs. Esty Grossbaum & Mrs Chaya Perman (pictured top right)
190 Children & Volunteers :: 905.731.7000 :: www.chabad.ca [est. 2002]

The Friendship Circle matches children with special needs and teenage mentors. Volunteers visit the homes of challenged youngsters and establish a bond through interaction, whether it is crafts, computer games, sports, or music. The weekly visits, eagerly awaited, help boost moral, and the teenage volunteers learn to share and give, and recognize that they can make a difference. Other programs include: Sunday Circle drop-off program that gives families a much-needed respite and the seasonal Mom's Club, where mothers get to network, learn relaxation techniques and other enjoy a night out.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Hospital Visitations
- Visits to Penal Institutions
- Visits to Seniors
- Chaplaincy
- Counselling
- Kitchen Koshering
- Subsidized Mezuzahs & Tefillin
- Shabbatons
- Candlelighting Campaign
- Mitzvah "Tanks"
- Student Outreach
- Outlying Community Reach

Specially For Women

In many ways, women are the unsung heros of Jewish life. The Rebbe's teachings are replete with messages of inspiration directed at Jewish women, telling them of the central role they must play in the survival of the Jewish people, as in centuries past, and encouraging them to take active, leadership roles in community life. Chabad's mikvahs enable women to perform the important *mitzvah* of Jewish family purity in pleasant and luxurious settings. Programs and classes for women offer occasions for socializing and learning, and foster a unique exploration of the feminine spirit within Jewish life.

WOMEN'S MIKVAHS

- **Chabad Lubavitch Community Centre**
  Thornhill. 905.731.4068
- **Chabad @ Flamingo**
  Thornhill North. Call for appointment. 905 886 3856
- **Chabad Lubavitch of Markham**
  Markham. 905.886.0420 x236
- **Beth Joseph Lubavitch**
  Toronto. 416.633.4608

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

- **Lubavitch Women's League.** 905 731 7000 x22
- **JRCC Women's League.** 416 222 7105 x221
- **J.E.W.E.L.S. (Markham).** 905 886 0420
- **Chabad @ Flamingo Sisterhood.** 905 763 4040
- **Jewish Women's Circle (Aurora).** 905 773 6477
- **Rosh Chodesh Club (Richmond Hill).** 905 770 6266
- **N'shei Chabad of Greater Ottawa.** 613 722 5029
- **Jewish Women's Circle (Centrepointe).** 613 224 7050

SUN - MON-FRI

6:30 am	Talmud - D. Schochet	770 Chabad Gate	ENG	M
6:30 am	Parsha - M. Kaplan	Chabad@Flamingo	ENG	M
7:00 am	Chassidic Thought - Y. Gansburg	770 Chabad Gate	ENG	M
8:00 am	Chassidic Thought - Y. Gansburg	770 Chabad Gate	ENG	M
8:15 am	Mishna - Y. Landa	770 Chabad Gate	HEB	M
8:30 am	Chassidic Thought - S. Dietsch	Chabad Midtown	ENG	M
10:00 am	Halacha (Breakfast) - D. Schochet	770 Chabad Gate	ENG	M
10:15 am	Chassidic Thought - Y. Botnik	Jewish Youth Library	ENG	M/W
10:30 am	Smicha Course - D. Schochet	770 Chabad Gate	ENG	M
11:00 am	Parsha - R. Goldstein	3036 Bathurst St	ENG	M/W

MON

afternoon	Chassidic Thought - I. Schochet	Beth Joseph	ENG	M
10:30 am	Mishna - M. Kaplan	Chabad@Flamingo	ENG	W
12:30 pm	Torah Studies (Lunch) - Y. Gansburg	Sheppard&Chesswood	ENG	M/W
7:30 pm	Hebrew Language - Mrs. I. Rubin	Chabad@Flamingo	ENG	M/W
8:00 pm	Smicha Course - D. Schochet	770 Chabad Gate	ENG	M
8:00 pm	Bible Studies - Mrs. Itkin	Chabad Hamilton	ENG	W
8:00 pm	Chassidic Thought - C. Mendelsohn	Chabad Centrepointe	ENG	M/W
8:30 pm	Advanced Chassidus - Y. Botnik	1504 Raven Ave	ENG	M
9:00 pm	Talmud - Y. Karpilovsky	14 Antibes Dr	RUS	M

TUES

2:00 pm	Chassidic Thought - Y. Gansburg	66 Ranee Ave	ENG	W
7:00 pm	The Chumash in Depth - M. Kaplan	Chabad@Flamingo	ENG	M/W
7:30 pm	Jewish Philosophy - Y. Landa	770 Chabad Gate	HEB	M
8:00 pm	JLI Course - M. Blum	Soloway JCC, Ottawa	ENG	M/W
8:00 pm	Laws of Shabbat - Mrs. F. Kaplan	461 Highcliffe Dr	ENG	W
8:00 pm	Chassidic Thought - Y. Karpilovsky	JRCC 18 Rockford	RUS	M/W

TUE

8:30 pm	Advanced Talmud - Y. Botnik	Jewish Youth Library	ENG	M
9:00 pm	The Rebbe's Teachings - Y. Zaltzman	JRCC 18 Rockford	RUS	M/W

WED

12:05 pm	Maimonides (Lunch) - Y. Karpilovsky	181 Bay St., 2nd Floor	RUS	M/W
8:00 pm	Jewish Law - Y. Karpilovsky	JRCC 18 Rockford	RUS	M/W
8:00 pm	Jewish Philosophy & Holidays	770 Chabad Gate	HEB	M/W
8:00 pm	Smicha Course - D. Schochet	770 Chabad Gate	ENG	M
8:30 pm	Tanya - Y. Karpilovsky	JRCC 18 Rockford	RUS	M/W
8:30 pm	Bible Studies - Mrs. T. Bernstein	143 Laratt Lane	ENG	W
11:00 am	Maimonides - Z. Itkin	Chabad Hamilton	ENG	M
1:30 pm	Lunch & Learn - N. Dietsch	Chabad Midtown	ENG	M/W
7:15 pm	Talmud - M. Kaplan	Chabad@Flamingo	ENG	M/W
8:00 pm	Bringing Heaven Down to Earth - T. Freeman	770 Chabad Gate	ENG	M/W
8:15 pm	Chumash/Rashi - Y. Botnik	33 Leacock Way	ENG	M/W
9:00 pm	Mishna - Y. Hecht	Chabad of Aurora	ENG	M/W

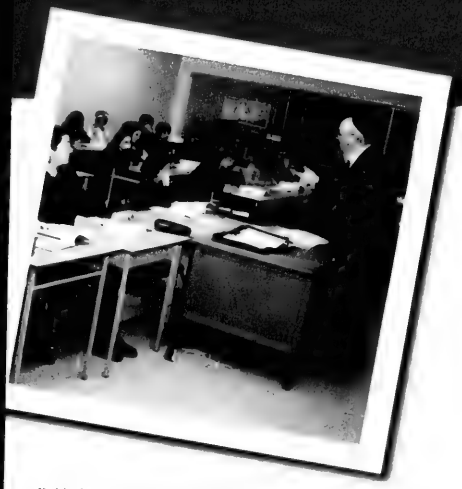
THURS

9:00 am	Chassidic Thought - Y. Landa	770 Chabad Gate	HEB	M
7:00 pm	Teen Rap - M. Gitlin	Chabad Markham	ENG	M/W
8:30 am	Tanya - A. Plotkin	Chabad Markham	ENG	M/W
9:00 am	Chassidic Thought - Y. Karpilovsky	JRCC 18 Rockford	RUS	M
9:00 am	Jewish Law - N. Dietsch	Chabad Midtown	ENG	M/W
11:45 am	Ethics of the Fathers - A. Plotkin	Chabad Markham	ENG	M/W
before mincha	Chassidic Thought - Y. Drookman	JRCC Concord	ENG	M/W
before mincha	Ethics of the Fathers - Y. Gansburg	770 Chabad Gate	ENG	W
before mincha	Jewish Law - Y. Landa	770 Chabad Gate	HEB	M
before mincha	Intermediate Talmud - N. Forer	Chabad Markham	ENG	M
after mincha	Ethics of the Fathers - C. Hildesheim	JRCC Thornhill Woods	ENG	M

FRI

SHABBAT

Adult Education



▲ Rabbi Yossi Gansburg delivers a lecture.

The Torah contains wisdom for living a meaningful life that transcends time and space — it has been the foundation and inspiration of the Jewish people throughout history. The Chabad approach makes even the most esoteric teachings of Judaism accessible, opening up the mind to ideas that are both motivational and grounding. On any given day, at virtually any time, there is a class in progress in which participants and instructors grow and learn together. The opposite page contains a sampling of these ongoing classes.

Chabad's Jewish Learning Institute (JLI, see below) offers three 6-8 week courses per year in various locations in the GTA, as well as Parsha and Talmud courses.

Additionally, every Chabad centre hosts an assortment of special lectures and seminars that bring the best inspirational speakers from around the world to local communities.

In total:

- Over 200 regularly scheduled classes take place each week
- Over 1,700 people attend these weekly classes
- Thousands more attend seasonal courses and special lectures

Chabad @ Flamingo's ***Robinson Family Institute of Jewish Learning*** provides thought provoking adult learning that is diverse, participatory and stimulating. Courses and lectures are presented in relevant, exciting subject areas that are practical to the ordinary, are received with feedback from the community, catering to all, regardless of background or affiliation.

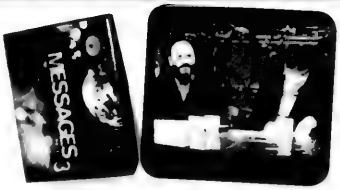
Topics change each semester with material that is presented at a comfortable pace, ensuring that there is something satisfying for everyone. These down to earth presentations encourage questions, dialogue and critical thinking are becoming increasingly popular and well attended.

The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute brings authent[illegible]

Maimonides writes that in the Messianic era knowledge will permeate the world like the water covers the sea. Part of the mission in anticipation and preparation for that time is to bring about a reality in which every individual, including those who do not access traditional modes of learning, can share in the privilege of the self-discovery and transformative quality of Jewish wisdom. Because it affirms that everything is created with a purpose, Chabad philosophy insists that every medium, if properly utilized, can contribute to this goal. Chabad's media and publication projects provide inspiration and food for thought in television, radio, magazines, telephone and the Internet. Through these initiatives, Chabad takes the idea of Jewish content at your fingertips to a new level and provides exciting, fresh Jewish content that can be accessed 24 hours a day, six days a week.

Media & Publications

22,000 viewers weekly



▲ Messages Weekly TV Show

Sundays at 10:30pm on Rogers Cable 9

Over 200,000 copies annually

▲ Magazines

Exodus Magazine, Russian & English (monthly)
World of Lubavitch (6 issues/year)

30,000 Titles

▲ Libraries

Jerry & Fanny Goose Judaica Library (Thornhill)
Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa

Over 36,000

▲ Jewish Calendars

English, Russian & Hebrew

☎ 905.731.7777

3 For Children
2 English Classes
1 Yiddish Classes
4 Daf Yomi (Talmud)

▲ The Jewish Connection

Torah by phone 875 callers/week

5,000 weekly

▲ Weekly Newsletters

L'Chaim (English) Shabbat Shalom (Russian)
Likrat Shabbat (Hebrew) Chitas (Russian)

40,000 Viewers Daily

▲ Electronic Sign

Community Bulletin

▲ Holiday Guides & Brochures

Information & Inspiration Hundreds of thousands of pages

Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets with Chabad representatives from across Canada at his office in Ottawa (L. to R): Rabbis Chaim Mendelsohn - Ottawa, Menachem Matusof - Alberta, Yitzchok Wineberg - BC, Zimmy A. Gorelik - Ontario, Berel Mockin - Quebec, Avraham Altein - Manitoba, Mordechai Berger - Ottawa, Mendel Feldman - Maritimes

Chabad Across Canada

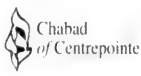
Alberta ***Calgary*** Chabad Lubavitch of Calgary 403-238-4880 Yachad Hebrew School 403-281-0338 ***Edmonton*** Chabad Lubavitch of Edmonton 780-486-7246 **British Columbia** ***Vancouver*** Chabad Lubavitch of Vancouver 604-266-1313 Chabad House of Kitsilano 604-266-1313 Chabad of Downtown 778-371-9508 ***Richmond*** Chabad of Richmond 604-277-6427 Center for Judaism of the Lower Fraser Valley 604-542-5454 Chabad of Vancouver Island 250-595-7656 **Manitoba** ***Winnipeg*** Lubavitch Center of Winnipeg 204-339-8737 Ohel Menachem Torah Centre 204-489-9733 **Nova Scotia** ***Halifax*** Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes 902-422-4222 **Ontario** ***Toronto*** Chabad Lubavitch Community Center 905-731-7000 Beth Josheph Lubavitch 416-633-7659 Beth Chabad Israeli Community 905-709-7770 Chabad @ Flamingo 905-761-4041 Chabad Lubavitch of Markham 905-604-0420 Chabad of Midtown 416-516-2005 Jewish Russian Community Center 416-222-7105 Chabad Lubavitch of Mississauga 905-820-4432 Chabad Lubavitch of Ajax 905-683-4477 Chabad Lubavitch of Richmond Hill 905-770-6266 Ohr Menachem Academy 905-[illegible] 2 Bais Chanoch High School 416-631-0585 Ohr Menachem [illegible] Scheder Chabad 416-663-1972 Yeshivas Lubavitch-Oholei M[illegible] Torah Vos Hashem [illegible]416-6[illegible]0650 ***Hamilton*** Chabad Lubavitch [illegible] Chabad of Niagara [illegible]88 ***London*** Friends of Lubavitch [illegible] at Western 519-434-[illegible] ONAwa [illegible] the Ottawa-Carleton Re[illegible] Chabad in Cornwall 613-938-9177 Chabad in Quinte 613-594-4900 [illegible] 613-820-9484 Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad 613-233-0[illegible] Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa 613-725-1819 Yeshivas Ateres Menachem 613-729-1819 **Quebec** ***Montreal*** Chabad Lubavitch Youth Org. of Montreal 514-342-6610 Congregation Lubavitch 514-487-6815 Beth Chabad Cote St. Luc 514-485-7221 Mikveh Israel 514-487-5581 Gutnick Mazal Jewish Center 514-624-7708 Montreal Torah Center 514-739-0770 C.H.A.I. Center 514-344-2424 Centre Chabad 514-738-4654 Chabad Chabanel 514-385-9514 Chabad House of Montreal 514-288-3130 Chabad of Park Avenue 514-279-7351 Chabad Queen Mary 514-738-3434 Jewish Russian Community Center of Montreal 514-737-5438 Mercaz Dovrei Ivrit - Chabad 514-342-9150 Mada Community Center 514-342-4969 Chabad of the Town 514-342-1770 Chabad of Ville S Laurent 514-747-1199 Chabad of Westmount 514-937-4772 Rabbinical College of Canada T.T.L. 514-735-2201 Rabbinical College of Quebec 514-227-7770 Beth Rivkah Academy 514-731-3681 Chabad Resource & Education Center 514-342-2919 Chaya Mushka Seminary 514-733-2221 Free Hebrew Schools For Juniors-Lubavitch 514-735-2255 Hebrew Day School Cote St Luc 514-486-5423 Camp Gan Israel 514-343-9606 Camp Pardes Chana 514-731-3681 ***Chomedey*** Chabad of Chomedey & Laval 450-681-5412 ***Laurentians*** Chabad du Nord 819-326-1527 ***Mont Tremblant*** Chabad of Mont Tremblant 819-681-0337 ***Quebec City*** Chabad Lubavitch of Quebec City 418-688-3277

Presented by the network of Chabad Lubavitch institutions in Ontario.

Chabad
Lubavitch
of Ontario

YESHIVAS LUBAVITCH TORONTO

Chabad of Midtown



לעילוי נשמת

ר' יוסף ב"ר אברהם ע"ה
מ' ציפא בת ר' ליפא אליעזר הלוי ע"ה
רמי דוד משולם ב"ר יוסף ע"ה
ר' מאיר ב"ר יהודה ע"ה
מ' שרה בת ר' יעקב ע"ה
ר' אברהם ב"ר ישראל ע"ה
מ' אלטא פיגא בת ר' יוסף שמשון ע"ה

ולזכות

אמו מ' אסתר תחי' בת שרה
אביה ר' שמעון הכהן שי' בן רחל לאה
בתם מ' חנה תמר תחי' ובעלה הרב שמואל אשר שי'
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This Week

National

Peace with Palestinians less likely since Lebanon war, Dershowitz says. ***Page 3***

Cousins separated by Shoah reunite after 65 years. ***Page 16***

School firebombing suspect still at large. ***Page 32***

Reunion marks century of Jewish life in Newfoundland. ***Page 55***

Arts & Travel

Photo exhibit by May Karp inspired by a ray of sunshine on a rainy day. ***Page 70***

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Blair urges talks with Palestinians

By HERB KEINON
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and visiting British Prime Minister Tony Blair shifted the spotlight from Lebanon to the Palestinians during a meeting in Jerusalem last Saturday night, with Olmert saying at a joint press conference that he's willing to meet Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas without preconditions, including the release of kidnapped Israel Defence Forces corporal Gilad Shalit.

"I remain dedicated to advancing the political process with the Palestinians, according to the 'road map' [peace plan], in accordance with the sequence in all of its phases, starting with the implementation of the first phase, which calls for the dismantling of the terrorist organizations," Olmert said. "There can be no short cuts in implementing this process."

The prime minister said he told Blair he would be willing to work closely with Abbas and that he intends to meet with him.

Olmert, who had recently said that such a meeting would not take place until Shalit is released, now says a meeting could actually help in winning freedom for Shalit, who was kidnapped in June by Hamas members in a cross-border raid and taken to Gaza.

"The first priority with the Palestinians is actually the immediate release of Cpl. Gilad Shalit," Olmert said.

Blair, facing a barrage of criticism at home and within his own party for what is perceived as too strong support for Israel during the

Continued on page 63

DESTROYING MORE HEZBOLLAH BUNKERS: **An Israeli reconnaisance unit destroys yet another Hezbollah bunker that they found last week near the village of Marun-a-Ras in south Lebanon. The Katyusha rockets in the bunker were aimed at Israel.** ***[Israel Sun photos]***

1 in 3 Canadians blame Israel for 9/11

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MOTREAL — Thirty-eight per cent of Quebecers think 9/11 was at least partly the result of Israel's actions in the Middle East, the highest of any region of Canada, according to a poll commissioned by the Montreal-based Association for Canadian Studies (ACS).

Overall, 31 per cent of all Canadians, including Quebecers, hold the same opinion. When Quebec responses are deducted from the national total, about 27 per cent of the rest of Canada think Israel's actions were a "primary cause" of 9/11.

Opinion more common among Quebecers: poll

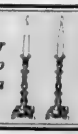
ACS director Jack Jedwab said the more than 10-point spread on this question between Quebecers and other Canadians is significant. In addition, the great majority of Quebecers, more than three-quarters – well above the Canadian average of 63 per cent – believe the Sept. 11 attacks were also at least in part caused by U.S. foreign policy.

When Quebec is compared to the rest of Canada alone, the spread is about 20 per cent, which Jedwab also sees as a wide gap.

An equal proportion of Quebecers and Canadians as a whole, about two-thirds, said a primary cause of 9/11 was a reaction of Islamic fundamentalism against the West.

Continued on page 33

Nitzavim–Vayelech Slichot
Candlelighting: 7:10
Havdalah: 8:15
Greater Toronto Area



British Jews worry about anti-Semitism — see page 66

The News in Brief

CANADA

Search Continues

NORTH BAY, Ont. — An Ontario Provincial Police search for the body of a Toronto man who is presumed to have drowned in Lake Nipissing continued last week with the help of Jewish volunteers. Eli Horowitz, 30, a father of three, went missing Aug. 21 after going on a swimming and fishing trip in a rented six-metre boat with his father-in-law, Eli Mondrowitz, 56, of Richmond Hill, Ont. The two were vacationing in the North Bay area with their families and failed to return from the trip. The boat later turned up empty, and Mondrowitz was found dead five days later on the shore of an island on the lake. Horowitz is a paramedic who helped found the Toronto chapter of Hatzoloh, a volunteer-based emergency medical service eight years ago. It has offered a $3,000 reward to anyone who finds his body. Scores of volunteers from Hatzoloh and the Toronto Jewish community have been helping in the search.

Rallying For Darfur

TORONTO — Retired UN peacekeeper Senator Romeo Dallaire will be the keynote speaker at a Sept. 17 rally in Toronto's Ramsden Park that's part of a Global Day for Darfur. Co-sponsored by Canadian Jewish Congress, Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan and others, the 2 p.m. event is being held to mark the opening of the UN General Assembly. For more information, go to dayfordarfur.org. Rallies will also be held in Calgary, Montreal and Vancouver on the same day.

WORLD

Annan Chides Iran

TEHRAN — UN Secretary General Kofi Annan urged Iranians to accept the Shoah as fact. "I think the tragedy of the Holocaust is a sad and an undeniable historical fact, so we should really handle that, accept that fact and teach children what happened in World War II and ensure that it is never repeated," Annan said Sept. 3 on a visit to Tehran. Annan stirred up Jewish ire by meeting with Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has called the Shoah a myth and urges Israel's destruction. While in Tehran, Annan also dismissed as "distasteful" a state-sponsored exhibit of cartoons denying the Holocaust.

Irving Loses Appeal

VIENNA — Austria's Supreme Court rejected an appeal by British Holocaust denier David Irving. A Vienna court sentenced Irving to three years in prison in February for speeches he gave in 1989 during which he argued the Shoah was exaggerated. He was arrested in November when he returned to Austria to give a lecture. He has been in custody since. Austria has some of Europe's strictest punishments for Holocaust denial. Irving pleaded guilty and said he erred in claiming Auschwitz did not have gas chambers.

Anniversary Marked

HELSINKI — Finland marked the 100th anniversary of the Helsinki synagogue. The Sept. 3 celebration, led by the Jewish community, was attended by President Tarja Halonen and Israel's tourism minister, Isaac Herzog, as well as Muslim, Lutheran, Catholic and Orthodox church leaders. The Finnish capital is home to 1,200 Jews; about 600 more live outside of Helsinki.

Interfaith Agreement

LONDON — Israel's chief rabbis and Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams signed an agreement last week aimed at continuing interfaith dialogue. Sephardi Chief Rabbi Rabbi Shlomo Amar and Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yona Metzger signed the document Sept. 5. Williams acknowledged there are differences of opinion over how to reduce Mideast tensions.

Child Porn Suspect Worked in Jewish Area

David Miller

TORONTO — A man who was arrested last month on child porn charges once worked at a day-care centre in a heavily Jewish area, and parents with information about him are being urged to contact police.

Police said David Miller, 33, worked at a licensed day-care centre in the Bathurst Street and Lawrence Avenue area from 1989 to 1999 and babysat for area families, mostly through contacts he made at the centre. Police wouldn't reveal the centre's name, so as not to alarm parents there, and said there have been no known complaints from day-care clients and no evidence day-care children were depicted in seized material.

Miller was arrested after an Aug. 15 raid on an apartment he shared with another man turned up thousands of pornographic photos and movies containing young children, police said. Most are boys and the youngest is a toddler. Miller has been charged with possessing and making child pornography, while the other man has been charged with possessing, making and distributing child pornography.

Anyone with information can call Toronto Police at 416-808-8500, or Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS (8477).

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Two-state solution has receded since war: Dershowitz

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The prospect of peace between Israel and the Palestinians has been set back by the recent war in Lebanon, Harvard law professor and Israel advocate Alan Dershowitz said last week.

But the fighting has made it possible for Israel to make peace with Syria, he added.

Dershowitz, here to address the UJA Israel Emergency Campaign and speak to Jewish students at the University of Toronto, struck pessimistic and optimistic notes in discussing the current situation in the Middle East.

The chance of peace with the Palestinians based on further Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank and a two-state solution has receded since Hamas and Hezbollah ambushed Israeli army border posts earlier this summer and Israel responded by attacking them in what turned out to be a two-front war in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, he said.

"It's hard to ask Israel to give up land today. This war has set back the chances of peace considerably."

As a result, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's plan for a unilateral Israeli pullout from the West Bank would be "a very hard sell now," and the Palestinians have missed an opportunity to gain more territory for a future state, he noted.

But Dershowitz did not altogether rule out the chances of a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

"I think there will be peace eventually. A two-state solution is the only possibility."

Rebutting the accusation that Israel's occupation of the West Bank causes terrorism, Dershowitz said that terrorism is, is fact, the cause of the occupation.

If not for terrorism, he observed, Israel would be willing to withdraw from the West Bank.

Urging Israel to make a peace overture to Damascus, Dershowitz said that Syria, a supporter of Hezbollah, could hold the key to breaking up Arab radicalism in the region.

Saying that Syria might be willing to sign a peace treaty with Israel modelled on Israel's 1979 accord with Egypt, he stated that Israel would be better off dealing with the present Syrian secular regime than with an Islamic one in the future.

But an Israeli leader who opts for peace with Syria would have to be bold and courageous, said Dershowitz, author of *The Case for Israel* (2003) and *The Case for Peace: How the Arab-Israeli Conflict Can be Resolved* (2005), which came out in paperback during Israel's war with Hezbollah.

Calls in the Arab world for a one-state solution to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute are an implicit rejection of Israel's right to exist, he said.

But if faced with a "realistic possibility for peace," Israel should be ready to relinquish territory.

Israel has a right to annex Hebron, the only town in the West Bank partially inhabited by Jews. But if he were Israel's prime minister, he would give it up in the interests of peace. Nevertheless, he added, Jews have a right to live in Hebron.

In a reference to the war in Lebanon, Dershowitz said that Israel was not all that prepared for it, and that its uncertain outcome has weakened Israel's deterrent posture.

Dershowitz attacked Louise Arbour, the Canadian head of the United Nation's human rights commission, who recently suggested that Israel had committed war crimes in Lebanon.

Describing her as an ignorant and villainous person who does not know "the first thing" about international law, he said that she is "a terrorist's best friend."

Attacking Tehran's bid to be a nuclear power, Dershowitz said that Iran is the world's most dangerous country today, bar none.

If there was even a one per cent chance that Iran intended to drop an atomic bomb on Tel Aviv, Israel would have no option but to preempt the attack.

Asked if Israeli Arabs are second-class citizens, Dershowitz said that Israel must grant them full equality, both in de facto and de jure terms.

Arab citizens still face de facto discrimination, but legal discrimination is ending, he pointed out.

In reply to another question, Dershowitz said that criticism of Israel is very healthy, should be welcomed and is not anti-Semitic. But he added that demonizing Israel is wrong and unacceptable.

Proceeds from the 2006 JNF Toronto Negev Dinner will be used towards the restoration and conservation of Beit Eshel in Beersheva. This 4,000 square meter site will function as an active and dynamic centre for education in the fields of heritage and environment as well as serving as a focus of leisure time activities. It will be known as ***The Edward and Fran Sonshine Beit Eshel Historical Site Restoration.*** Through the generosity of Edward and Fran Sonshine and those attending this year's Negev Dinner, this project will become a reality.

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Camp Kadimah

From the editor's desk

There is an especially memorable, throat-catching scene in the movie *Field of Dreams* and in the book *Shoeless Joe*, on which the film was based.

Magically transported to an impossibly beautiful, ethereally green and glistening baseball diamond patched out of a luscious, dense field of high, waving stalks of corn, one of the bewildered, long-gone, but suddenly alive again baseball players turns to the protagonist, the creator of the playing field, and asks "Is this heaven?"

"No," comes the quick reply. "It's Iowa."

That is how I felt at the end of July this past summer.

It seemed like heaven. But it wasn't Iowa.

It was the fabled, deeply inspiring premises of Camp Kadimah in Nova Scotia, about an hour northeast of Halifax.

Much like the bewildered ballplayer in the novel and the movie, I was in awe of the heavenly harmony of the sheer sylvan splendour of the place and the buzzing energy of this camp for Jewish youth.

The site was alive with an abundant sense of happiness. That was the first and lasting impression the camp left with me.

Invited by one of the camp committee's co-chairs to visit during the summer, to meet with and address the staff, I was very happy to oblige.

"In Atlantic Canada, this is where you start to be Jewish," the camp's engaging director, Joanna Wexler, told *The CJN* as we walked slowly, discoveringly, around the perimeter of the camp.

By that, Wexler meant that in understanding the historical, cultural, social and educational significance of Camp Kadimah, one can better understand one of the sources of the remarkably close, family-like sense of mutual responsibility and generosity that characterizes the Atlantic Jewish community.

Camp Kadimah is both a fashioner and a reflector of the uniquely giving Jewish spirit of Atlantic Canada.

Indeed, that was the original intention behind the founding of the camp more than six decades ago. It was, according to camp archives, the dream and the ambition of Eli Zebberman, who "decided that a way had to be found to get the young people of the scattered Jewish communities in the Maritimes to meet and get to know each other."

Zebberman realized his dream.

Through his determination and the farsightedness and philanthropy of Canadian Young Judaea and others, Camp Kadimah came into existence in the summer of 1943. It had 47 campers that year.

Three years later, it established itself on a campsite on the shore of Lake William, in Barss Corner of Lunenburg County, where it has been ever since.

The essence of the camp's purpose was poignantly expressed in an excerpt from the report of that year, 1946. "All the major cities and half a dozen small communities of two or three Jewish families were represented in the camp population. Especially for the children of the smaller towns, and to a certain extent for all children, life at camp was an indispensable part of their Jewish religious and secular education. Parents were amazed and gratified that children learned the blessing over bread, and we found children who were ignorant of Purim and had never seen hamantaschen."

Today, very few Jewish children, if any, reside in the small communities of the Atlantic region. That is because very few Jews reside in the small communities of the Atlantic provinces. They left long ago for the larger communities, mostly further east. Indeed, not more than 500 Jewish families reside in Halifax itself.

Approximately 75 per cent of the camp (340 campers and 125 counsellors this past summer) now come from the Greater Toronto Area. The remaining 25 per cent are from the Halifax area.

But the outstretched hand of the Atlantic Jewish Council, the organizational face of the Jews of Atlantic Canada headquartered in Halifax, which owns the camp, has never been withdrawn from those families wishing to send their children to Kadimah.

"No child in Atlantic Canada is refused acceptance to Camp Kadimah because of financial inability," Wexler advised as a point of both information and pride.

The mission statement of Camp Kadimah is a bold yet concise restatement of Eli Zebberman's founding aspiration for the Jewish children of the region: "To build a foundation of Jewish identity and a love of Israel in generations of campers and staff, by providing a safe, caring community in which to foster knowledge, skills and leadership, for the benefit of Atlantic and Canadian Jewish children."

Wexler and her talented, capable staff and counsellors are uniquely successful in distilling the essence of that mission statement and disbursing the distillate, like seeds across fertile fields, into the hearts and minds of their many campers.

Next week, we will try to understand how they do so and, in part, what the camp has meant to the thousands of campers who have basked in its verdant spaces and seen the very best of Jewish examples these past three score and three years. — *MBD*

SeeJN

FAMILY HONOURS MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

The Berger family of Toronto recently purchased and dedicated an ambulance for Magen David Adom in memory of one of their members, David, who died this past summer. Standing in front are Shija and Janet Berger. In the back, from left, are Berger family members Sam, Eveline, Gail, Alex, Jonathon, Linda and Michael.

Guest Voice

Orthodoxy is moving toward more rigorous observance

By RABBI REUVEN TRADBURKS

The recent articles in the *Canadian Jewish News* on the Orthodox community's apparent shift to the right ("Toronto's Orthodox community: Is it becoming too religiously right-wing?" Aug. 24; "Is Orthodoxy becoming too religiously right-wing?" Aug. 31) need some nuanced comments.

In particular, it's necessary to draw a distinction between a shift to more rigorous observance of Halachah and a shift to the right in philosophy and attitudes.

Today's Orthodox world in Toronto is vastly different than it was 50 years ago, or even 25 years ago. And the change is a direct function of the strength of our educational system.

Education for an Orthodox Jew is focused on two things: knowledge and observance. We want our children to live as we do – and actually, to surpass our knowledge and observance in areas where we may be lax.

The Orthodox world's vast educational system has been wildly successful in these two areas – knowledge and observance. Today, it's the norm for both young Orthodox women and men to study in yeshivas and seminaries after high school. And this is true among both haredim and modern Orthodox. And, increasingly, they study not for just for one year, but for two years or more.

As a result, without impugning the fine Jews of the past, today's Orthodox community is much more observant than it used to be. This is not a shift to the right, it's a shift to the correct. There has been a reclaiming of the *Shulchan Aruch* by the modern Orthodox as much as by the haredim.

In some areas of observance, whether it be kashrut or eruv and conversion standards, rabbis in the past made certain decisions based on the reality of the community and what Halachah would allow in often extenuating circumstances. But as the world has changed, circumstances have changed – and hence, some of those decisions are simply not appropriate to the modern community. You can't argue that we need to keep up with the times and then react negatively when we actually do just that. The changing times have created a world where we are not in extenuating circumstances anymore, hence the application of Halachah may change.

And sometimes the facts themselves change and require a response. For example, if there are bugs in leafy vegetables, it would be irresponsible to ignore it. That's not a shift to the right, it's a shift to the correct and an effort to follow Halachah responsibly. Inconvenient, irritating, a change – checking for bugs may be all these, but it's following Halachah responsibly.

I realize that much of what I have written requires more nuance and qualification – the education system is not perfect, observance is not universally meticulous and there are different approaches in Halachah to various situations – but the demographic and sociological changes are real. And this trend will continue, because families are getting larger and schools are growing in quantity and quality. (There are more than 30 schools – excluding pre-schools – and more than 70 synagogues in Toronto's Orthodox community.) And I believe the broader Toronto community benefits enormously from this. I believe that an ambience of Jewish sights and smells – kosher food, lulavim, Judaica shops, people walking on Shabbat and holidays in the streets – strengthens the observance of the broader community somewhat.

The above discussion focuses only on observance, which I've argued is moving toward a more meticulous observance of Halachah. But I'd also like to address the much more thorny issue of a shift to the right in attitudes and philosophy. There is no question that the modern Orthodox and haredi communities see things differently on a number of issues. And it's also true that the tenor of these disagreements can be very hurtful.

However, I feel strongly that the true test of an inclusive philosophy is whether it can be inclusive of those who exclude it. The modern Orthodox community prides itself on being inclusive of different attitudes. The haredi community at times takes positions that make the modern Orthodox community feel excluded. However, the true test of the elasticity of the modern Orthodox community is its ability to be respectful of attitudes that are critical of it. The burden here is on the modern Orthodox – not to necessarily agree with a haredi philosophy if through honest and thorough learning they feel this is not an approach to Torah they feel they can be true to, but to nonetheless respect it, and respect and honour its adherents.

One last comment. It's hurtful to see disputes aired publicly in the pages of *The CJN*. But it's not because we should cover them up. It's because there is so much that's good and beautiful in the Orthodox community that the broader Toronto Jewish community does not have exposure to. And many fine Jews in Toronto will walk away from these articles with a distorted view of the Orthodox community, which is filled with wonderful people and wonderful institutions of kindness and Torah learning. It has beautiful synagogues; sincere, passionate young people; organizations that reach out to all types of Jews, including the poor and those with special needs; organizations that visit the ill in hospitals and blow shofar for all Jews in hospitals; and organizations that reach out to educate and involve Jews in their Judaism. The list could go on and on.

I understand that news by definition is that which is new – and the daily, rich Jewish living that is filled with Torah in all its parts – its ritual, its learning, and its kindness – is not really news, it's "olds." Nonetheless, it hurts me as an Orthodox Jew to feel that only the growing pains of a rapidly expanding community make the headlines, while its richness and passion remain unmentioned.

Our Toronto Orthodox community contributes in many ways to the strength of the wider Jewish community, and Toronto's Jewish community is richer in many ways as a result. And with a fine communal structure of schools and institutions, the Orthodox community will continue to grow both numerically and in quality. Growth brings challenges, but they are good challenges. And with this growth, the Toronto Jewish community will continue to benefit and continue to be a model of full and rich Jewish living in the world Jewish community.

Rabbi Tradburks is spiritual leader of Kehilat Shaarei Torah in Toronto.

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Greater Toronto Area

Israeli hospital helped war 'refugees' in distress

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Two weeks after the eruption of the recent war in Lebanon, the Meir Medical Center in Kfar Saba set up a telephone line to assist Israeli "refugees" in distress.

Mannned by a team of psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers, the help line catered to civilians who had reached the safety of central Israel after temporarily leaving their homes in the Galilee to escape the daily barrage of Hezbollah rocket fire.

The help line, the subject of considerable media coverage in Israel, was established at the suggestion of staff members.

When hostilities ended on Aug. 14 with a United Nations ceasefire, it was closed.

"Dozens of people called," said Dr. Ehud Davidson, the chief executive officer of the Meir Medical Center, which serves about 10 per cent of Israel's population in the Sharon region, and is Israel's seventh biggest hospital.

The individuals who called the help line had suffered trauma and were now in need of advice and counselling.

"It was important for them to talk about it," said Davidson, who was in Toronto last week to discuss plans to create the Canadian Friends of the Meir Medical Center.

The callers, now out of enemy rocket range, were primarily concerned about the effects that the barrage may have had on their children.

As far as he can ascertain, the pschological impact of the Katyushas was negligible and short-lived.

During the war, the Meir Medical Center, with 2,400 employees and 713 beds, also treated a handful of civilians injured by Katyushas.

Twenty of its 500 doctors, mostly surgeons and orthopedic specialists, fulfilled their reserve duty by tending to wounded soldiers back from the fighting in Lebanon.

The centre has a track record in treating trauma.

"We're about five kilometres from the West Bank and, unfortunately, we're used to terrorist activities," Davidson said.

Dr. Ehud Davidson

During the second Palestinian uprising, which broke out six years ago this month, Palestinian suicide bombers wreaked havoc in the Sharon region, targeting such towns as Netanya and Kfar Saba, and the Meir Medical Center treated the casualties.

Davidson will be back in Toronto in November to officially launch the Canadian Friends of the Meir Medical Center, the first chapter of its kind in Canada.

"Whatever assistance we can get for renovations, building projects and the acquisition of modern medical equipment will be greatly appreciated," he said.

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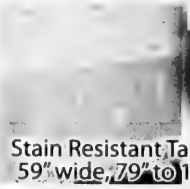

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Durban, 9/11, plus 5

"Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, dawned temperate and nearly cloudless in the eastern United States. Millions of men and women readied themselves for work." These are the first lines, understated and elegantly written, of *The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.*

Thirteen chapters and 567 pages later, the commissioners, under the chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton respectively, carefully and comphrehensively documented "the facts and the circumstances relating to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001."

Their report, delivered some three years after the attack, was straightforward and non-partisan. "Americans are still thinking and talking about how to protect our nation in this new era. The national debate continues." Two years later, the debate ensues. None of the issues laid bare on that "nearly cloudless" morning five years ago when 2,749 people were killed, has been resolved. But the debate has been joined far beyond the shores of the United States.

How do democracies, how does the West, how do civilized, decent, life-loving individuals wherever they live, fight against violent, radical, suicidal, death-embracing terrorism?

Canada is part of the debate. Indeed, it is part of the fight. Some 2,200 Canadian soldiers are in Afghanistan at this very moment, part of a larger NATO mission trying to root out Al Qaeda terrorists and stabilize the country in which the terrorists found sanctuary and that their Taliban protectors brutalized.

But 9/11 was part of a more complicated anti-Western grotesquerie, and it may have been foretold merely days before the planes slammed into the twin towers and the Pentagon. A week before 9/11, the World Conference Against Racism, an unrestrained, ugly festival of hate and invective against Jews, Israel and the West was held in Durban, South Africa. As Irwin Cotler has written, "Indeed, if 9/11 *overshadowed* Durban, Durban may be said to have *foreshadowed* 9/11."

The two events were ideologically linked.

Those who perpetrated 9/11 celebrated Durban. And those who perpetrated Durban found full justification, if not full celebration, for the terror of 9/11. Even within Canadian boundaries we have seen and heard the shrill, often deeply felt, polemics. The explainers and justifiers of 9/11 blame it on America's support for Israel. They attribute the rise of anti-western, radical Islamism in large part to the West's support of the Jewish state. If only the occupation of Palestinian lands would cease… they angrily demand! If only Israel would no longer exist… they dreamily fantasize! In other words, if only Durban's anti-Israel message had been heeded, there would be no terror against the west.

The justifiers of terror are its midwives. We reject their perverse philosophy. It brings only monsters into the world.

Until the civilized world rejects it as well, our skies will never again be cloudless.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Despite disagreeing on Palestinian autonomy, the sale of AWAC planes to Saudi Arabia, and the crisis in Lebanon, U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin described their recent meeting as friendly and productive, saying they agreed on a policy of "strategic co-operation" to deal with Soviet involvement in the Middle East.

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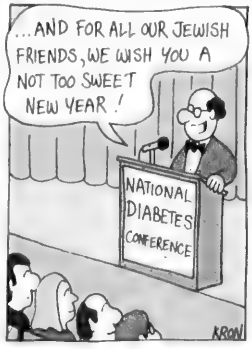
Tolerance needed within Orthodoxy

The article "Toronto Orthodox community: Is it becoming too religiously right-wing?" (*CJN*, Aug. 24 and 31) was e-mailed to me and also appeared in the blog world. Much of the article highlights our lack of tolerance. Today, we are faced by so many enemies. We clearly don't need additional enemies amongst ourselves. We need to be careful before publishing views that may be hurtful to others. As Rabbi Ahron Soloveichik (quoting the Beis Halevi) used to say, "Not all that is thought should be said, and not all that is said should be written, and not all that is written should be published, and not all that is published should be read."

In the recent war in Israel, we saw a good deal of *achdut* (togetherness), people putting aside their differences and working together to help one another. I think that especially in the month of Elul, we must all work together on things that keep us together instead of things that create divisiveness.



In Israel, there is an organization that works to create dialogue between religious and non-religious. Perhaps now would be the appropriate time to have a similar organization to create tolerance and dialogue within Orthodoxy. The article points out the obvious need – creating such an organization seems to be a logical solution.

Rabbi Baruch Kelman
Jerusalem

* * *

Rabbinic power

Philip Davidovits cannot point to any authoritative source to support the unfair censorship of the books authored by an outstanding rabbinic figure such as Rabbi Natan Slifkin, so he instead points to an authority of a different kind – rabbinic power ("Toronto's Orthodox community," letters, *CJN*, Sept. 7).

Davidovits attempts to have us embrace this objectionable ban of legitimate Torah views by suggesting that there is no other rabbinic authority "as learned" as Rabbi Shlomo Miller. The state of Orthodoxy is certainly in peril if rabbinic authority completely takes precedence over reason and open dialogue and debate of the issues at hand. Davidovits, like Rabbi Miller's spokesperson, Jonathan Ostroff, is desperate to show us that the haredi way is the only way, and is in accordance with "God's plan" ("Toronto Orthodox community: Is it becoming too religiously right-wing?" *CJN*, Aug. 24). By delegitimizing differing yet traditionally acceptable Torah opinion, however, they depart significantly from the cardinal Jewish principle of pursuing justice and truth, wherever it may be found.

I am convinced that it is simply a matter of time before a more intellectually honest, tolerant and charitable Orthodox approach will once again ascend and hopefully correct this sad state of affairs.

Joseph Y. Adler
Toronto

* * *

Don't discredit the UN

It's superfluous on our part to discredit the motivations and accomplishments of the United Nations, particularly the recent diplomatic involvements of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in the Middle East, which were supported by U.S. President George W. Bush's administration ("UNIFIL, UNISHAME," *CJN*, Sept. 7). If Israel continually discredits the United Nations as an authoritative international organization passing resolutions worthy of adherence, then why should any Muslim country or terrorist organization respect resolutions passed by this globally recognized institution?

In the end, what really matters for the Bush administration and the "road map" peace plan is the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. These resolutions stipulate Israel's withdrawal from territories occupied in the 1967 and 1973 wars, and that all parties recognize established states with secure boundaries. These two resolutions are aimed at resolving 60 years of Middle East conflict, providing the permanent two-state solution that both Israel and Palestinians aspire to shortly negotiate.

Smadar Meiri
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Politicians fuel the fire

How ironic that Quebecers and some of her most important politicians suddenly give support to the Jewish community after a Molotov cocktail was thrown at the Taldos Yakov Yosef school in Montreal. This despicable act was not born in thin air. This vile act was born out of anti-Israel, anti-Semitic protests during Israel's war with Hezbollah. If the politicians had bothered to read some of the signs people held up high at those protests or bothered to understand how dangerous it was for politicians to walk in a protest where Hezbollah flags were flying freely in the wind, then perhaps this ugly incident would not have happened ("Politicians criticized for joining anti-Israel rally," *CJN*, Aug. 17). A child can understand that one cannot fuel the fire and then stand back and be shocked when the fire burns and does harm.

Vardit Zafri
Toronto

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Fighting academics' attacks against Israel

The following is the conclusion of a two-part article. Part 1 appeared on Sept. 7.

By MANFRED GERSTENFELD

With a new academic year recently underway, many verbal and other attacks on Israel and Jews can be expected on campuses. The defenders of Israel and the Jewish people therefore have to prepare themselves to counteract these attacks. Given this reality, the approach taken by many – Israel's enemies will run an Israel Apartheid Week, while pro-Israel organizations will hand out Jaffa oranges – is doomed to failure.

To turn the accuser into the accused is among the most effective strategies in any conflict or debate. This simple message has, after years of anti-Israel actions in the academic world, been understood by only a few. In my previous article, I mentioned a classic example of how this works. British Jewish academic Ronnie Fraser contacted the *Sunday Telegraph* in 2003 about Oxford University professor Andrew Wilkie's discriminating against an Israeli who applied for a research position. When the university was informed of this case, it was investigated, and then Wilkie was severely censured.

But anti-Israel incidents in the academic world have to be dealt with according to their specific circumstances. The 2002 boycott campaigns took Israeli academia by surprise. When the open letter in the *Guardian* proposing discriminatory measures against Israeli academics appeared and gathered a few hundred signatures, scholars at Hebrew University in Jerusalem reacted by opening a website on which, by June 2003, 15,000 academics had expressed their opposition to the boycott.

Similar actions against boycott attempts were also taken elsewhere, for instance in Australia and the United States. Their concept was simple: mobilize a large number of boycott opponents and thus show the lack of support for the boycott. Broadly similar approaches were taken with respect to the divestment petition. The pro-Israel forces showed that they could mobilize far more academics against divestment than there were in its favour. They also convinced many university presidents to condemn the divestment proposals.

A second approach consisted of calling on well-known personalities to declare their support for Israel. One example was Baroness Susan Greenfield, a British scientist who does research on diseases of the brain and is head of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. When she announced her intention to lead a delegation of top British scientists to Israel, Jordan and Egypt in mid-March 2003, she called it "a positive response to ongoing boycott efforts."

Another supporter of Israel was Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, a French Jewish Nobel Prize-winner who wrote an article in the French daily *Le Monde*, titled "I'm ashamed," which said, inter alia: "I'm ashamed about those colleagues who dare to express abhorrence about other colleagues because of their nationality."

More effective were the interventions of Alan Dershowitz, a leading American law professor. Criminal lawyers debate boycott proponents much better than most other academics.

There were also several initiatives to hold conferences in Israel in various scientific fields to show support for the country and protest against divestment and other anti-Israel activities. The International Academic Friends of Israel (IAFI) is one grassroots organization in the medical field established for this purpose. It is headed by Andrew Marks, chair of the department of physiology and cellular biology at Columbia University.

Alan Dershowitz

Baroness Susan Greenfield

Claude Cohen-Tannoudji

A third approach was to use personal contacts to solve specific problems. An Israeli scientist asked a Norwegian colleague to intervene at Oslo University, where Dr. Ingrid Harbitz had refused to deliver genetic material to Israeli scientists. Afterward, the case was also taken up by various media, and Harbitz's behaviour was condemned by the editor of the leading journal *Science*. Harbitz changed her mind and provided the material.

Yet another approach consisted of articles against the attackers by Israeli and pro-Israel academics. In the arguments, a mix of principles and apologetic elements were often brought forward. The protection of academic freedom was a central one. Hillel Shuval, Eva Illuz and Aaron Benavot from Hebrew University, criticized the boycott idea on several grounds, saying that much internal criticism of current Israeli policy comes from within the Israeli academic world.

> Turn the accuser into the accused

They added that the boycott against Israel ignores ongoing terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens and might damage continued academic co-operation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Yet another argument was that a unilateral boycott of Israeli academics unfairly identifies Israel as the only party responsible for the violent shift in Israeli-Palestinian relations. Furthermore, it said that such a one-sided perspective is contrary to academic standards of truth-seeking.

This last argument has a somewhat pathetic tone. Usually anti-Israel ideologists on campus are not truth-seekers. They see their university positions as a platform for extreme left-wing propaganda.

Initially, when a fast reaction was needed, the concept of collecting as many signatures as possible against the boycott was a practical response. In the long run, however, it lacked sophistication. Even worse: initially, neither the Israeli government nor academia understood that the anti-Israel actions were there to stay. They were therefore surprised when, in April 2005, the Association of University Teachers (AUT) in Great Britain adopted an anti-Israel boycott motion. Later the decision was reversed after the supporters of Israel in British academia mobilized. Legal threats against the union by Israeli universities seemed to have been effective as well.

The boycott re-emerged in 2006 at the other British academic teachers union, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE). A motion promoting the boycott was adopted a few days before the union merged with the AUT, but the merged University and College Union (UCU) did not consider the motion relevant.

In their reasoning, the defenders of Israel don't use the most elementary argument. The subject of academic boycotts should be approached in a rational way by those who pretend to be human rightists. The argument should be that universities to be boycotted should be ranked according to severity of misbehaviour. At the top of such a list would be those institutions where teachers and student unions call for genocide or murder. Next in line would be those where other criminal incitement takes place.

> Pro-Israel advocates should shift their paradigm

Such a ranking approach would identify several Palestinian universities as prime candidates to be boycotted. A well-known proponent of incitement to mass murder is Dr. Ahmed Abu Halabiyah, the rector of advanced studies at the Islamic University of Gaza. In 2004, he said on the official television of the Palestinian Authority, PA TV: "The Jews are the Jews… They do not have any moderates or any advocates of peace. They are all liars. They must be butchered and must be killed… Anyplace that you meet them, kill them."

Halabiyah spoke in the framework of a Friday sermon. This genocidal call was thus part of the governmental, academic and religious spheres of the Palestinian Authority and its so-called civil society.

At another Palestinian university, Nablus Al-Najah University, the student unions promoted suicide attacks against Israeli civilians. At Bir Zeit University, in the student elections, the campaign featured models of exploding Israeli buses. During their debate, the Hamas candidate asked the Fatah candidate: "Hamas activists in this university killed 135 Zionists. How many did Fatah activists from Bir Zeit kill?" Needless to say, the "Zionists" are largely Israeli civilians.

Pro-Israel advocates should thus shift their paradigm. Rather than focusing on defence against the anti-Israel attacks, they can use these opportunities to expose Palestinian society and universities for what they are: environments profoundly permeated by a culture of murder, death, crime and corruption. Their so-called humanitarian supporters should be uncovered as allies in mischief.

The analysis of some additional case studies can illustrate how specific cases have to be looked at in an individual way. When the late Sheikh Zayed of Abu Dhabi offered to fund a chair at Harvard's divinity school, one student, Rachel Fisch, fought this promoter of Holocaust denial and succeeded in thwarting his plan.

In its documentary *Columbia Unbecoming*, the David Project, a small non-university grassroots group, exposed the anti-Jewish intimidation at Columbia University and tarnished the Ivy League school's reputation. Several American academics told me that when they mentioned the anti-Israel bias at their university to administrators, the administrators reacted: "I hope you are not going to do a Columbia on us." Indeed, all one needs is a camera and a DVD to interview victims of intimidation by teaching staff.

Sometimes people unwillingly help the pro-Israel forces. At the end of June 2006, administrators at Utrecht University in the Netherlands tried to censor the remarks on Islamic anti-Semitism in the farewell lecture given by Prof. Pieter van der Horst. Thereupon, the censored text was published in leading Dutch dailies, and the case was given major publicity. So, at the official end of his academic career, Van der Horst, an academic recognized by his professional colleagues, became a scholar who was known nationwide. The discussion about his statements raged for weeks.

The attacks on the Jews and Israel in the world's universities come in many forms. There is no standard model for best defence. Therefore, the publication of case studies is important. Each case has to be judged on its own merits. This is not so surprising an idea, because in the business world, there is also no single recipe for success. There are many specific ones depending on the circumstances.

Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld is chair of the Board of Fellows of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. He is preparing a book on academics against Israel.

Their devious narrative

While truth is often regarded as the first casualty of war, there are, nonetheless, certain facts and reasonable assumptions that should logically provide the framework for meaningful debate during any conflict. Sadly, such a premise has very little traction when the focus turns to the Middle East.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

For all who have been glued to their television sets since the war against Hezbollah began, and even more particularly, for those among our pro-Israel activists who have been invited to contribute to the overall discourse, it has been astounding that Arab propagandists and others who promote their cause have been so brazen in their distortion of reality.

How can it be, we might ask ourselves, that any rational interlocutor, with any modicum of education, insight, or sense of justice could possibly dispute that Hezbollah was responsible, directly or indirectly, for provoking hostilities on the Israeli-Lebanese border? How is it possible to ignore that, by international law or any other yardstick, the abduction of soldiers and the unleashing of missiles across a sovereign border would be construed as an act of war?

How can there be any denial that Hezbollah is a terrorist group, or that it has been armed to the teeth by Iran and Syria, or that it created for itself a complex infrastructure in southern Lebanon, or that it used non-combatants as human shields, or that it deliberately targeted civilian populations in northern Israel?

Why is it, that even after a full accounting of the unfortunate deaths in Qana, there is still insistence of inflated casualty numbers and histrionic accusations of a "massacre"? And why has there seldom been an acknowledgement of Israeli losses and Israeli suffering?

Rehashing these questions, even with indignation, is naive. The answers are self-evident. They are the kernels of an ugly campaign of misinformation that has been calculated to sway public sympathy and deflect from the ignominy of terrorist labelling and affiliation. They are the essence of a mindset that seeks to validate a philosophy that is as retrogressive as it is threatening and anarchic.

What is even more problematic, however, is that so many reporters and interviewers have eagerly or unwittingly accepted, or at least not absolutely dismissed, the devious narrative that has so sustained these Israel-bashers and apologists for radical ideology and practices.

For those who have been striving to make the case for Israel, it has been extremely difficult to defend against the twisted messages and overt biases of our adversaries. Unless, and until, a new and enlightened paradigm is somehow found, any possible path toward genuine dialogue, mutual respect, and, most importantly, some acceptance of historical truths, will be no more than a pipe dream – clouded in the smoke of hypocrisy and intellectual bankruptcy.

A mood of disquiet

I got my first taste of how bad things can get in Israel soon after making aliyah. Before my first year was out, I'd seen military action on the Golan Heights and entered, along with everybody else, the dark gloom that settled over the country on the heels of the Yom Kippur War. Something had gone terribly wrong, and everybody knew it. We had paid for the systemic failure with thousands of young lives. In the coming months and years, the relatively large-scale exodus of disillusioned Israelis for greener fields abroad spawned dismally black humour. One of the more popular quips went, "Whoever's last [to leave the airport and Israel] should remember to turn off the lights."

Ross Culiner in Jerusalem

The rest is history. A penetrating national soul-searching resulted in the Agranat Commission, as well as a revamping of the military establishment and its policies, the ousting of the Chief of Staff, a grassroots protest movement that evolved into Peace Now, and the eventual assumption of power by a representative (Yitzhak Rabin) of the "new generation" of homegrown politicians, replacing the old guard prime minister, Golda Meir, who, in the popular mind, was associated with the disaster.

Nothing as disastrous as the Yom Kippur War can be read into recent events. But the public disquiet, if somewhat more muted (to date) than back then, is not dissimilar. The same diminished confidence in the elected leadership and military command can be felt in every quarter, from the proverbial average taxi driver to the ivory tower intellectual. It crosses all political and ideological divides and unites widely divergent points of view.

The street is abuzz with talk about the gross failure of many of the fundamental and, in some cases, vital mechanisms of our society to cope satisfactorily with the challenges we faced during four weeks of war.

The truth, starkly outlined, was there for all to see, or at least hear about from eyewitness testimony and personal experiences. Its main components can be summarized rather simply. Two thousand highly-motivated guerrilla combatants with relatively primitive ballistics held mighty Israel hostage for a month and there was little we could do about it. The legendary Israeli army was ill-prepared, ill-equipped, ill-informed, ill-trained, ill-supplied, ill-fed and even poorly commanded in a number of critical areas. The political leadership was arrogant, bombastic, loud-mouthed, out of touch with reality, unjustifiably overly confident, and very unclear about what it wanted, what it could achieve and what it should do. The policies, statements and orders were marked by hesitancy, uncertainty, inconsistency, lack of authority and downright incompetence. The local governments and services in several northern communities failed wholesale to function. The populations in the bomb shelters depended largely on civilian volunteers and foreign assistance to fill the void left by the dysfunctional civilian authorities.

In short, if it smells, looks and tastes a bit like 1974, then it just might be in fact the same sort of deep-seated national crisis. No wonder there are scattered calls for the immediate resignation of Chief of Staff Dan Halutz, for a complete overhaul of military thinking and manpower, and for a serious investigation into bungled operations and conceptions to track down and address their root causes. Alas, everybody seems to be asking the same question with the same degree of trepidation, namely: "If we couldn't deal effectively with 2,000 elusive irregulars armed with big firecrackers, how in the dickens are we going to meet the challenge of Iran, Syria or even terrorism closer to home in Gaza and the West Bank?

We are not talking here about winning and losing. We might, in the final account, have won, in a manner of speaking. I should hope so. But then again we won in 1973, too – brilliantly – but only after an extremely costly initial catastrophe. It was the courage of the individual fighting men, their awareness of the utter necessity of not losing, not the inspiration of leadership, political and military, that brought victory – then as now.

No clever spin doctors at the top will be able to smooth over the lacklustre national performance. We owe the limbless, blind, mangled and shocked young men that I visited recently at Sheba Medical Center some definitive conclusions and measures.

Culiner@netvision.net.il.

Israel's extended leadership crisis

For Israelis, both religious and secular, the month of Elul and the period before the High Holy Days this year has been a particularly intense time of national introspection and soul-searching. The chaos and mismanagement of the war in Lebanon, the strategic muddle, and the needless casualties in the conflict have left many questions, including how the war could end suddenly without the return of the kidnapped soldiers, or even a sign that they're alive. Tens of thousands of Israelis from all walks of life gathered in Tel Aviv on Aug. 31 to demand the soldiers' freedom and warn the Israeli government that this must have the highest priority.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

The issues go beyond the particular form of investigation into the war, and whether any future commission of inquiry will have the power to subpoena witnesses and assign responsibility for the failures in preparation on the battlefield and on the home front. And they go beyond assigning responsibility among inexperienced political leaders and overconfident military officials.

The core of the problem, as most Israelis now realize, is that an extended leadership crisis has brought us to this condition. The responsibility is not limited to the current prime minister and the defence minister – the lack of professional dedicated leadership and the widespread corruption in the political class have been evident for many years. And as a result of this deeper crisis, the response must go beyond simply replacing the current leaders with others carrying similar limitations.

Part of the problem results from the dysfunctional political process that we use to choose our leaders, which encourages mediocrity and manipulation while driving away good people. The system, based on small parties and weak coalitions, was designed for 19th-century Poland and allows wily political manipulators to rise to the top.

The moral bankruptcy among the political leadership – financial, sexual, and otherwise – has added to the collapse. In addition to violating the ethical core of Jewish tradition, there is a huge price to be paid for diverting attention and energy away from the fundamental challenges of survival and toward crude personal gratification. The career politicians whose experience is based on the manipulation of power and money in party central committees and local unions don't have the knowledge or the interest to deal with preparing bomb shelters in the event of war, or preventing Hezbollah from acquiring 14,000 missiles, or reforming the educational system.

At the same time, intelligent and talented Israelis who understand the main challenges and priorities have also avoided politics, using their talents in the army or high-tech business. Not every general or CEO is qualified for high office, although some have acquired a depth of knowledge and experience necessary to meet the challenges of political leadership. However, they are repelled by the existing political process and the corruption.

Overall, however, all Israelis share the blame for this crisis. In a democracy, we get the leaders and the policies that we deserve, and there is no one else to blame. The upside is that democracies are also able to recognize and repair their mistakes. The failures of the Lebanon war are a warning sign, and the demonstrations taking place around the country are ultimately demanding an end to the mediocrity and corruption at the top.

In 4,000 years of Jewish history, there are many other examples of failed leadership, including those in the Book of Judges in the Bible. Some of those leaders were good in war, but failed in peace. Others used their positions of trust to promote themselves and their families. After enduring these ups and downs for many generations, the people of Israel pleaded to God, "Give us a king."

Royal families are currently out of style, but most Israelis recognize the need for better leaders and a system that might produce someone who can measure up to the standards of David Ben-Gurion or Menachem Begin. Perhaps the soul-searching and atonement of the coming weeks, particularly among the younger generation of Israelis, will lead to the emergence of a new group of leaders who will dedicate their time to these important goals.

The Kirshner File

Iran committed to building a nuclear bomb

A United Nations deadline calling on Iran to suspend uranium enrichment or face the threat of sanctions has come and gone, and Tehran remains defiant.

Under a UN Security Council resolution drafted by Britain, France and Germany, supported by the United States, Russia and China and passed on July 31, Iran had until Aug. 31 to voluntarily comply.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

If it had complied, Iran would have been eligible for a package of political and economic incentives. But on Aug. 21, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khameni, declared that Iran would "forcefully" pursue its nuclear program, and on the following day, the Iranian government, playing for time, presented a counter-proposal offering further talks on the matter.

Reiterating his resistance to UN demands, Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, then made two provocative gestures. He formally inaugurated a heavy-water reactor – a link in the atomic chain – and said that Iran would not succumb to foreign pressure.

As a result of these developments, the International Atomic Energy Agency delivered a report to the Security Council confirming that Iran has neither suspended enrichment-related activities nor addressed long outstanding verification issues.

In the face of Iran's truculence, U.S. President George W. Bush asserted that Iran poses "a grave threat" to the security of the Middle East, declared that Iran must not be allowed to develop a nuclear device and challenged the Security Council to make good on threats to enforce the July 31 resolution.

Significantly, Bush talked of the need to find "a diplomatic solution" to the crisis, thereby dispelling speculation that the United States will resort to military measures to deal with Iran's nuclear facilities.

So what now?

The major powers will rehash the issue ad infinitum, but Russia and China – which have significant commercial interests in Iran – are opposed to punitive sanctions. Speaking on behalf of President Vladimir Putin recently, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said that sanctions will not work. Visiting Tehran last week, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan voiced agreement with this assessment.

But if sanctions are unfeasible, and if a military solution is out of the question, what steps can the UN take to persuade Iran to abandon its militarized nuclear program?

Precious little.

But if Israel's deputy prime minister, Shimon Peres, is correct in his analysis, Iran will eventually suspend its nuclear ambitions.

Rightly or wrongly, he believes that sanctions will deepen Iran's international isolation and aggravate the poverty of many of its inhabitants, thus forcing Tehran to come to its senses.

There may be substance to this argument. Ahmadinejad was elected president on the populist promise of redistributing Iran's vast oil and gas wealth and improving economic conditions for his working-class constituents.

But Ahmadinejad, who claims that Iran's nuclear program is purely peaceful and aimed at generating electricity, may jettison these promises because he considers nuclear energy a project of national prestige. Indeed, he has turned it into his political raison d'etre.

Iran's defiance is a function of its belief that Russia and China will endorse its proposal for more talks and continue to oppose sanctions, and that the United States, mired in Iraq and Afghanistan, will refrain from using brute force to resolve the issue.

Iran is in a confident mood these days due, in part, to its perception that Hezbollah defeated Israel in a "divine victory" in the recent 34-day war in Lebanon. The Iranian regime supplied Hezbollah with short-range and long-range missiles, which wreaked devastation on northern Israel, and provided Hezbollah with funds and training as well.

But long before the outbreak of the second war in Lebanon, Iran showed no signs of a readiness to compromise.

On June 2, Ahmadinejad said that the package of Western incentives was designed to block Iran's "access to advanced technology."

On May 17, he warned that Iran might drop out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty – which Israel has yet to sign – if it is subjected to increased pressure.

On May 10, after Iran successfully enriched uranium at a low level for use in power plants, he said that Iran would not be bound by UN restrictions. On April 26, he said that no Security Council resolution could induce Iran to give up its nuclear program.

On March 12, shortly after Ayatollah Khamenei claimed that nuclear weapons were against Iran's interests and contravened Islamic principles, he rejected a Russian compromise under which Moscow would perform atomic fuel work on its behalf to allay fears that it was seeking nuclear arms.

On Jan. 22, Ali Larijani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said that Iran would resume full scale production of nuclear fuel if it is referred to the UN for sanctions.

On Jan. 13, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki threatened to limit Iran's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency should it be referred to the UN.

It was an empty threat, since the Iranian parliament had already passed a bill closing nuclear sites to UN inspectors.

Iran, with the assistance of the United States, initiated its nuclear program in the 1950s. Then ruled the pro-Western Pahlavi monarchy, Iran regarded itself as a great regional power and an ancient civilization with hegemonic aspirations.

The anti-Western Islamic government that succeeded the monarchy in 1979 temporarily suspended nuclear activities. But by the mid-1980s, the new Islamic regime had a change of heart.

Iraq had invaded Iran and bombarded Iranian cities with Scud missiles, and Iraq was in the process of rebuilding the Osiraq nuclear reactor, which Israel had destroyed in a 1981 air strike.

Bent on reviving its nuclear program, Iran wooed back many scientists who had emigrated after the Islamic revolution, and enlisted the help of the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, A.Q. Khan.

Iran also purchased components from western Europe, and signed an $800 million (US) agreement with Russia to rehabilitate the Bushehr reactor, which had been abandoned.

Today, Iran is believed to have assembled the basic building blocks of a nuclear infrastructure. It is widely scattered and deeply buried, and would be exceedingly difficult to destroy by air strikes alone.

In addition, Iran has devised the means to deliver an atomic bomb, having developed long-range missiles that can theoretically reach Israel.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

The current crisis pitting Iran against the UN erupted four years ago, when an Iranian opposition group disclosed that Iran had built a uranium enrichment factory at Natanz and a heavy-water facility near Arak without the knowledge of the International Atomic and Energy Agency.

Having been exposed, Iran opened its nuclear program to International Atomic and Energy Agency inspections and started a dialogue with Britain, France and Germany.

In exchange, the European Union pledged to support Iran's membership in the World Trade Organization, sign a bilateral trade and co-operation pact with Iran and sell Iran Airbus civilian aircraft.

According to Hans Blix, the former UN chief weapons inspector, Iran is at least five years away from developing a nuclear bomb – an appraisal shared, more or less, by the United States.

But some analysts contend that Iran will require about 15 more years before it can acquire a bomb.

Israel is understandably troubled by Tehran's nuclear program, given Iran's visceral hostility to its existence, Ahmadinejad's oft-repeated threat to wipe Israel off the map and one of his predecessor's inflammatory comment that the Jewish state can be destroyed by a single nuclear strike.

Successive Israeli prime ministers have therefore expressed grave concern about Iran.

Yitzhak Rabin described Iran as Israel's "arch enemy" and Ariel Sharon said that Israel would not tolerate a nuclearized Iran.

Ehud Olmert has branded Ahmadinejad as a "psychopath" whose declarations resemble those of Adolf Hitler.

Israel has appointed the commander of the air force, Gen. Eliezer Shkedy, to oversee a possible conflict with Iran, but a war could be extremely costly and maybe not even beneficial in terms of goals accomplished.

Even if Israel stays its hand and lets Washington handle the Iran file, Israel will surely face Iran's wrath, in the form of missile attacks and surrogate terrorism, should Iran be attacked by the United States.

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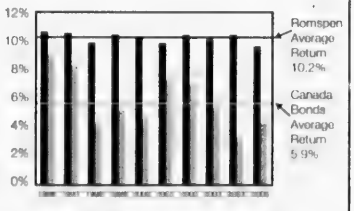

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Havurah movement reaches out to young Jews

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Sarah Brodbar-Nemzer is a self-described "unpeggable" Jew. She said she is Jewishly observant, but has a hard time fitting herself into a particular box. She is Shomer Shabbat – to an extent – and egalitarian.

"I'm unpeggable. I was telling a friend that I wouldn't use the telephone for a local call, but I would use the telephone to call people I couldn't walk to," she said.

Maybe this is why the National Havurah Committee (NHC) is such a good fit for her, and hundreds of other liberal thinking Jews of all levels of observance, denominations, professions and education levels.

The NHC, founded almost 30 years ago, is a network of non-denominational, multigenerational, and egalitarian individuals and communities dedicated to Jewish living and learning, community building, and tikkun olam.

Brodbar-Nemzer, 22, a philosophy and contemporary studies graduate from the University of King's College in Halifax and the coordinator of the Family Place at the Jewish Discovery Museum at the BJCC in Toronto, has been involved with the NHC since she was eight years old, and has served on the board since she was 15.

The NHC's flagship program, the Summer Institute, described by Brodbar-Nemzer as a cross between an educational conference and summer camp, attracts Jews of all ages and denominations by offering a place where they can study, pray, sing, dance and meditate while feeling part of a community.

"The havurah movement started in the 1960s by people who felt alienated by the large mainstream suburban synagogues," Brodbar-Nemzer explained. "They felt like they were going to watch a performance rather than engage in something."

She said havurot, Hebrew for fellowships, began forming and groups would meet in people's homes, with each havurah being different from the next.

"Some would focus more on learning, some would focus more on praying, some were for families, others for adults," she added.

"Years later, people felt they could better service the Jewish community by becoming better organized," Brodbar-Nemzer said.

By 1979, The NHC was established as a way for individuals and communities to get together and share with one another.

"[One of] the two main principles of the havurah movement is that it is participatory, which means everyone, no matter who you are in your life, no matter what you do, you are equal in terms or participation. You have something to teach and you have something to learn," she said, adding that at the summer institute, every teacher is a student and vice versa.

Classes, which range in topics from "Men, Women, and Sex in the Talmud," to "Writing and Listening to Jewish Poetry," are taught and attended by professors, carpenters, students and doctors.

"And these people are sitting next to you in a class. So, a renowned Torah scholar might be sitting next to you, learning interpretive dance," Brodbar-Nemzer said with a laugh.

Another important NHC principle is that the havurot are egalitarian.

"Normally, egalitarian focuses on questions of gender. We also focus on issues of age. It was a community in which I grew up thinking of myself as an equal participant, and an equal leader. When I joined the board, I was in high school and people said to me, 'Oh, are you the youth representative on the board?' I wasn't there as a token young person. I was there because I was smart and had things to say."

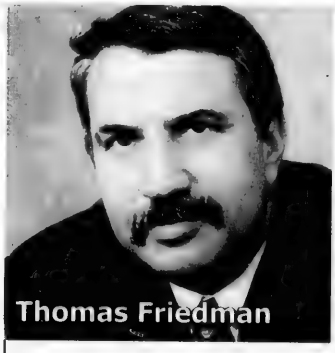
Continued on page 23

The Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Fall 2006 Lecture Series at Holy Blossom Temple

In Exile or at Home?

Reflections on the Jews, Israel and Anti-Semitism in an Uncertain World

Even after enduring and surviving several millennia, even at a time of statehood and prosperity, Israel and World Jewry struggle for a place among the nations in an unbalanced and precarious world. What will be now as genocidal Islamism is on the march? Does the West care and how will it respond? Four leading observers will reflect on these unavoidable questions. ***All lectures begin at 8 p.m.***



Mon. Oct. 30

Three-time Pulitzer Prize winner Thomas Friedman is the author of many books, including *From Beirut to Jerusalem* and *The World is Flat.*

Introduction: Heather Reisman

Mon. Nov. 13

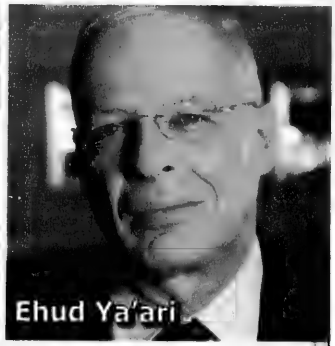
Director, editor, host and researcher, Barbara Amiel has written for every major publication in Canada and is a columnist for *Maclean's* magnazine.

Introduction: Robert Lantos

Mon. Nov. 20

Malcolm Hoenlein is the Executive Vice Chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He is perhaps the foremost spokesperson for Diaspora Jewry.

Introduction: Rabbi Moshe Shulman



Mon. Nov. 27

One of Israel's leading political commentators and a respected expert on Arab affairs, Ehud Ya'ari is an Associate Editor of *The Jerusalem Report.*

Introduction: Hershell Ezrin

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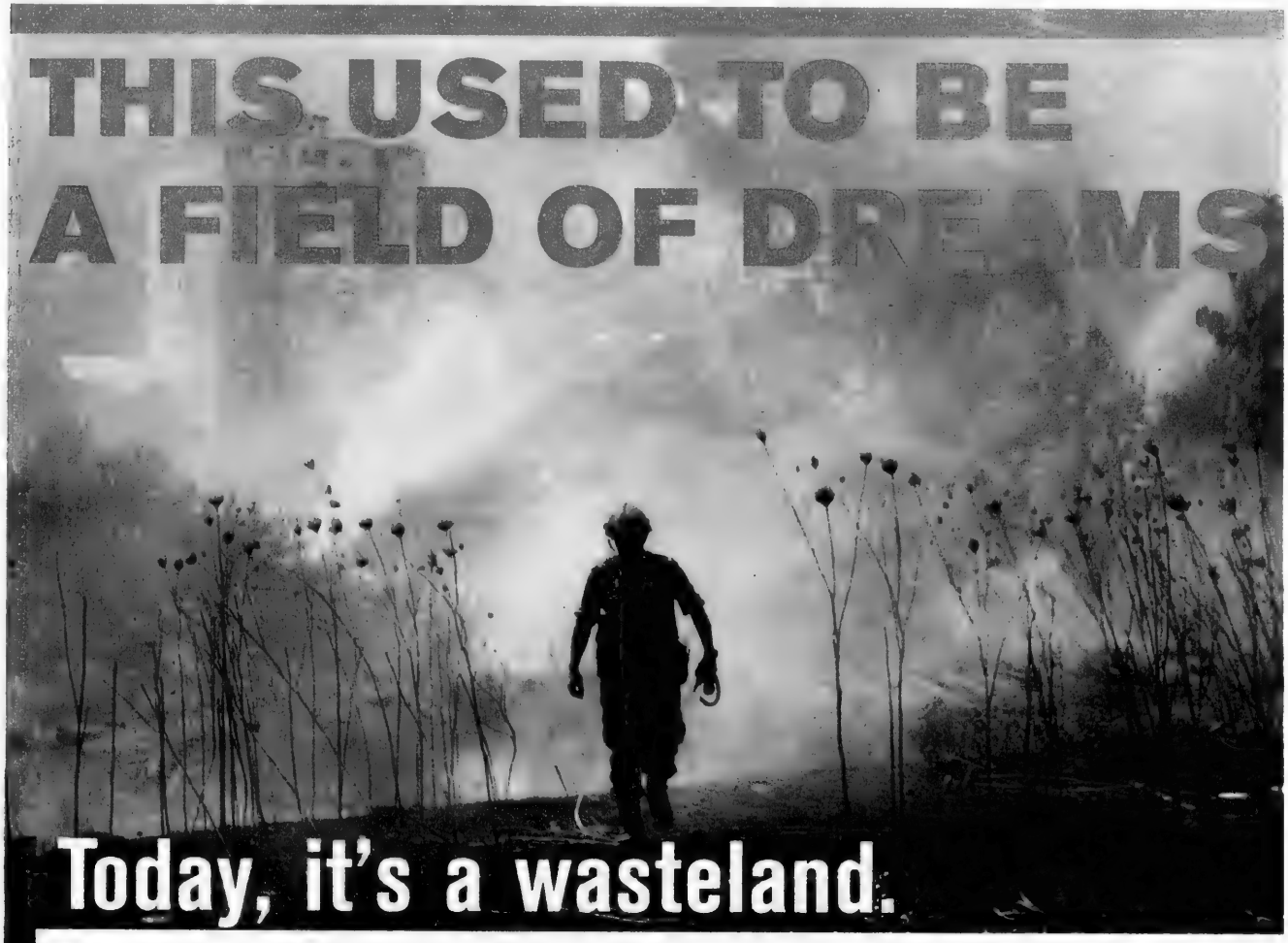

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Arrangements have been made by Pardes Shalom to provide complimentary transportation to the cemetery during the High Holidays, for those who require it.

Bus service will be provided on **Sunday, Sept. 10, 17** and **Oct. 1**.

A bus identified by a sign **"PARDES SHALOM"** will depart from the front entrance of the Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., at 10 a.m.

The bus will make a stop at the parking lot of Betel Centre, located on Steeles Ave. W., at 10:15 a.m., to pick up passengers before proceeding to the cemetery.

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Friday 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

For further information, and to register, please call the cemetery office 416-635-2883, ext. 224, or ext. 300.

Repenting for hypocrisy and inauthenticity

BY ELLIOTT MALAMET

Sin gets bad press these days, because it's experienced as a guest that brings a whole slew of unwelcome associates into the house – such as guilt, bad feeling and punitiveness. These alleged running mates of sin are anathema to most, and so the very ability to examine our realities is muted by the desperate postmodern drive to feel good at all costs. And the costs are indeed high, as the soft-pedalling of our spiritual mistakes morphs into a full-blown denial of the need to change.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel once noted that in a democratic society, not all are guilty, but all are responsible. But accountability is not in vogue right now. The great western irony is that the individuals or groups most willing to rush to take responsibility for their actions are invariably evil. Al Qaeda and Hamas, I notice, rush to the fore candidly (alas, gleefully) when it is a matter of confessing who plants bombs that kill thousands of innocents. It's a tragic moment in our development as a species when the virtue of owning up is being taught to us by the most debased elements on Planet Earth.

Children learn accountability from their parents and from others, such as teachers or clergy. That's why an acknowledgment of wrongdoing or just ignorance from such authority figures, when appropriate, can model for kids how to mature into responsible adults. As I have noted previously, the phrase "I don't know" is a teacher's best friend. When the words "I don't know" are suppressed by teachers, out of pride or ego or embarrassment or lack of discipline, or out of a misguided belief that we can answer all questions, and instead a forced and often not credible response is substituted, children learn that you don't have to be accountable for what you don't know or understand. You can cover it up, falsely, with explanations that lack authenticity.

The sin of inauthenticity is implied in the *Viddui* (confessional) prayer that we utter on Yom Kippur. By saying "*dibarnu dofi*," that we have spoken with "two mouths," we concede that hypocrisy is our stock in trade as human beings. Rabbi Avraham Danzig, known as the Chayei Adam, comments that this sin is when we say one thing aloud and another in our hearts. Discretion sometimes dictates that we do not express all that we feel or know, but often the duplicity is simply to save face or curry favour with others in situations when truth-telling or honesty are desperately required.

None of us are free from the hypocrisy that damages our souls and our relationships. "*Dibarnu dofi*" is not the province of any particular denomination or Jewish group. My assumption is that God does not check our badge of congregational affiliation before deciding what's in our hearts on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. May we merit the courage to confront our existence in ways that feel uplifting and not spirit-breaking, and may we have peace in the Land where our ultimate destiny lies.

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Your Rosh Hashanah seder

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Are you ready for the seder?

No, not *that* seder. Although it is far less famous than the one in the spring, Rosh Hashanah does have its own traditional seder. And like the one on Passover, the New Year's seder is centred around food and is rich in symbolism. Today, a look at the Rosh Hashanah seder.

The seder revolves around several foods whose connection to Rosh Hashanah may not be immediately apparent: carrots, leeks, black-eyed peas, dates, beets, gourds and even a sheep's head. The connection? These foods have names in Hebrew (or Yiddish) that are reminiscent of – or even puns of – good omens for the Jewish people. For example, before we eat carrots at the Rosh Hashanah table, we traditionally ask "that our merits increase" because "carrot in Yiddish is '*mehren*,' which can also mean 'to increase.'" **[http://tinyurl.com/nt4sn]**

The Hebrew word for gourd, *karu*, sounds like the Hebrew words for both "tearing" and "reading." As that vegetable is eaten, we recite this prayer: "May it be the will of our Heavenly Father that any bad decree be torn up and that our merits be read before You." **[http://tinyurl.com/lmlnk]**

And what about that sheep's head? Bessie Krapfman explains why we eat a sheep's head (or alternatively a fish head). "The purpose of having a 'head' on your table is not to turn your stomach, but that we should use it as a *simmon* [or sign]; we pray to God that we be the head and not the tail." **[http://tinyurl.com/pjmer]**

Rabbi Yehudah Prero suggests these foods can actually trigger a deeper psychological reaction appropriate to this time of year. By eating these foods "a person realizes that now is the time he needs to be asking for these good things, because now is the time he is being judged. As soon as the person realizes that now is the time that he is being judged, he will realize that omens alone will not be enough for his salvation, and that repentance is needed." **[www.kashrut.com/articles/simanim/]**

Although some sites emphasize that the Rosh Hashanah seder is quite fluid, others present a formalized ritual in English **[http://tinyurl.com/ovnch]** and in Hebrew. **[http://tinyurl.com/ru9x9]** In order to set the proper tone, the Jewish Agency site suggests that certain verses be recited many times before the *Kiddush*, such as: "*Or zaru'a latzadik, uleyishrei-lev simchah* – Light [of Creation] shall shine for the righteous [in the world to come] and happiness for the upright." (17 times) **[http://tinyurl.com/msk8t]**

The most elaborate seder that I found was created by Noam Zion of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. In addition to explaining the foods, he also recommends readings and discussions that can take place around the New Year's table:

• Today is the birthday of the world. What aspect of the Creation most impresses you?

• Name one mitzvah you are proud of having participated in over the past year.

• Today is the beginning of new possibilities. What impossible dream would you pursue if you had enough money to take off for a year from your present occupation? **[http://tinyurl.com/s8m4d]**

Gilda Angel has taken these symbolic foods and performed some gastronomical magic. She crafted a menu from them. Her Turkish-inspired Rosh Hashanah meal includes Keftes de Prasa (leek croquettes), Lubiya (black-eyed peas), Pollo con Susam (sesame-seed chicken), Borekas de Calabaza (pumpkin turnovers) and Tishpishti (honey-nut cake). **[http://tinyurl.com/qlasm]** Apparently Ms Angel didn't deign to include *all* the traditional foods in her meal – so I've saved you the trouble and tracked down a classic recipe for Sheep's Head Soup. **[http://tinyurl.com/pv9ax]**

Although Jewish practices are steeped in ancient tradition, a Rosh Hashanah seder site I visited recommended a contemporary makeover. Here's one modern addition for your table: "Take some lettuce, half a raisin and some celery, and pray, 'Let us have a raise in salary.'" **[http://tinyurl.com/lmlnk]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Jewish Life

God's discriminating look

By RABBI DAVID CADOCH

RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

In the parshah Ki Tavo, we read about the mitzvah to bring our tithes of produce from the land, what is called in Hebrew *ma'asser*. Once the obligations of giving to the Levite, the orphan, the widow and the poor have been fulfilled, an interesting declaration, which expresses a hope of blessing, is pronounced by the person offering his tithes.

The person goes to the courtyard of the Temple in Jerusalem and makes the declaration.

"Then you shall say before Hashem your God, 'I have put away the hallowed things out of my house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all Your commandment which You commanded me; I have not transgressed any of Your commandments, neither have I forgotten them.

"'I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I put away thereof, being unclean, nor given thereof for the dead; I have hearkened to the voice of Hashem my God, I have done according to all that You commanded me.'" (Deut. 26:13-14)

Then, the following declaration is pronounced in the form of a petition to Hashem: "Look testingly [*hashkifah* in Hebrew] down from Your Holy Abode, from Heaven and bless Your people Israel, and the ground which You gave us. You did swear unto our fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey."

Immediately, two interesting points beg clarification. The usage of the word *hashkifah* connotes more than just "look forth." It hints at an outlook, a specific perspective or point of view. The word also alludes to a branch of Torah philosophy that our Sages called Hashkafah, a Judaic religious ideology, or more precisely moral philosophy, based on conduct sanctioned by Torah Law.

Another interesting point is the obvious statement "from Your Holy Abode, from Heaven." Excluding any profound analysis into mysticism, where else would Hashem be looking from? Is it not obvious?

Our entire raison d'être begins with the history of our ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and runs until the Exodus from Egypt. Then, at the receiving of the Torah at Sinai, we begin our destiny as a nation, as Am Israel.

In effect, the declaration is a testimony to Hashem's kingship. The one who offers the tithes is petitioning and demonstrating his trust and hope that Hashem will send blessings from Heaven to His people. That's where blessings come from. However, they only come as a result of sincere efforts to elevate our lives to Torah Hashkafah standard, which translates to moral standards of honesty, kindness and justice.

Hashem scrutinizes our offerings (prayer petitions) and examines their intent. Actions that harmonize with Torah Hashkafah raise the petitions to Heaven. Hashem examines the actions of each of us as individuals, as a community and finally as a nation and sends His blessings accordingly.

How do we know if our petition has been accepted? The month of Elul is a time to prepare for the Days of Awe (the Yamim Nora'im) through a soul-searching quest. The Talmud teaches that Hashem promises us blessings on Rosh Hashanah even though this day is the day of worldly judgment. As the Talmud teaches, "All pass before him to be judged."

The essential point to remember is that Hashem observes us with a discriminating eye. The word "discriminating" refers to the ability to identify subtle differences and appreciate character-building actions.

With this in mind, we can rejoice in our hearts and look forward to a year of blessings for Am Israel and our holy land Eretz Israel. May this land always flow with milk and honey.

Rabbi Cadoch is a talmid of HaGaon HaRav Leib Baron of Montreal and a chaver of the Rabbinical Council of Canada and the Rabbinical Council of America.

***The Great Transformation: The Beginning of Our Religious Traditions* by Karen Armstrong, Random House.**

Axial sages preached compassion

Books
Bernard Baskin

Karen Armstrong is something of a phenomenon. Where others have failed, she has succeeded in writing popular, but serious, books about religion. These include *A History of God*, *The Battle For God*, *Holy War*, *Islam* and *Buddha*.

With a readily accessible writing style, a knack for simplifying complex ideas and an astonishing range of knowledge, she is a reliable and informative guide in the realm of religious experience.

At the heart of *The Great Transformation* is the idea that between the years 800 and 200 BCE – what has been called an "Axial Age" – the people of four distinct regions of the world, Israel/Judea, Greece, India and China, created the ethical and philosophical concepts that have edified and nourished humanity to the present day.

Moreover, she contends that later generations, inspired by these earlier religious insights, were able to create rabbinic Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Just consider, in a period of about 600 years the following occurred: Confucius and Lao-tse were living in China and all the schools of Chinese philosophy came into being; India produced the Upanishads and Buddha; in Iran, Zarathustra taught a challenging view of the world as a struggle between good and evil; in Palestine, the prophets made their appearance, from Elijah to Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel; Greece witnessed the appearance of Homer, and of the philosophers Parmenides, Heraclitus and Plato.

Remarkably, Armstrong discovers that during this period, there was a consensus of thought that stressed compassion over hatred. She writes that despite their different locations, each religion developed its own formulation of the "golden rule," as well as the desire to outlaw war and the need to confront suffering and death as part of the human condition.

The Axial sages preached a spirituality of empathy and compassion; they insisted that people must abandon their egotism and greed, their violence and unkindness. Not only was it wrong to kill another human being; you must not even speak a hostile word or make an irritable gesture. Further, they realized that you could not confine your benevolence to your own people: your concern must somehow extend to the entire world.

In her discussion of rabbinic Judaism, Armstrong relates an astonishing talmudic incident. Once when the sages were involved in a theological argument, God intervened on the side of Rabbi Eliezer. The others protested that God had no place in their discussion. Rabbi Joshua quoted from the book of Deuteronomy, "It is not in heaven."

Armstrong writes that "the teaching of God was no longer confined to the divine sphere. It had been promulgated on Mount Sinai and was therefore the inalienable possession of every Jew. Therefore, there was no need to pay attention to a 'voice from heaven.'"

In her introduction and closing chapters, Armstrong challenges us to learn from the past. "Today we are making another quantum leap forward. Our technology has created a global society, which is interconnected electronically, militarily, economically and politically." She stresses that we now have to develop a global consciousness, because whether we like it or not, we live in one world. Even though our problem is different from that of the Axial sages, they can still help us.

"Auschwitz, Bosnia, and the destruction of the World Trade Center revealed the darkness of the human heart. Today we are living in a tragic world where, as the Greeks knew, there can be no simple answers; the genre of tragedy demands that we learn to see things from other people's point of view. If religion is to bring light to our broken world, we need, as Mencius suggested, to go in search of the lost heart, the spirit of compassion that lies at the core of all our traditions."

A brief review can only touch on the scope and erudition of this magisterial work. It will be the rare reader who will not be able to learn from its richness.

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Cousins reunite after 65 year separation

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

For 65 years, first cousins Eva (Moskovitz) Klein of London, Ont., and Vera (Moskovitz) Hershkovitz of Haifa, Israel, believed the other had perished in the Holocaust.

Their emotional reunion in Israel in 2005 can be credited to Klein's daughter, Rita Hoffman, who lives in Thornhill, Ont.

Hoffman was researching her family's history in preparation for a trip to Israel to visit her son, Shaun, who was studying at Hebrew University. She says that, to her surprise, she found testimonies on her immediate family, completed in 1957, by Hershkovitz's husband, Rudolph. The Yad Vashem record stated that Hoffman's mother had perished in the Holocaust.

Rudolph's address was on the testimonies, and Hoffman immediately contacted him for more information about the family, and to inform him that her mother was alive and living in Canada.

"My mother was absolutely stunned at the prospect of finding family members alive. She believed that her entire family had perished during the war. She then decided to join my family on our visit to Israel," Hoffman says.

Vera (Moskovitz) Hershkovitz in 1942

Klein was born and raised in a small town, Ajak, in Hungary, and her cousin, Hershkovitz, lived in Nyirbaror, an hour away. Klein says that as children they would often get together.

Vera (Moskovitz) Hershkovitz, left, and Eva (Moskovitz) Klein were reunited in Israel in 2005.

Klein was 12 years old and Hershkovitz was 14 when, in 1942, the Jews of Hungary were rounded up and deported. Klein was sent to Auschwitz, then Dachau and then liberated from Bergen-Belsen. At the end of the war, she discovered that her father, sister and brother had perished in the camps. Her mother died one week after liberation.

Eva (Moskovitz) Klein in 1946

Klein was brought to Canada in 1947 by Congress as an orphan. "I am very grateful to them," she says. In Toronto, she married David and they had four children.

"I was longing for family and discovering my lost Moskovitz family was wonderful," she says.

Hershkovitz and her family went to Israel from Hungary in 1957, along with her sister, Nusi, and Nusi's family. Nusi died several years ago.

During their reunion in Israel, Klein and Hershkovitz spent several emotional days catching up on family history, and Klein met several generations of family members living in Israel.

Klein said one of the highlights of the visit to Israel was a family Chanukah party.

"What a cherished time it was for all us," says Hoffman. "I am so pleased that my son, Shaun, has had an opportunity to attend Vera's granddaughter's wedding in Israel."

While Klein and the Hoffmans were in Israel, they updated their family history in the Yad Vashem data bank and corrected the information about Klein's death.

"I am thrilled that we now keep in touch regularly," Klein says.

Hoffman adds, "There is such a warm feeling, and we feel as though we've known our Israeli family all our lives. We also met Nusi's son and his wife, and they kept in touch with Shaun while he was studying in Israel.

"For my mother, it has given her a past that she thought was gone."

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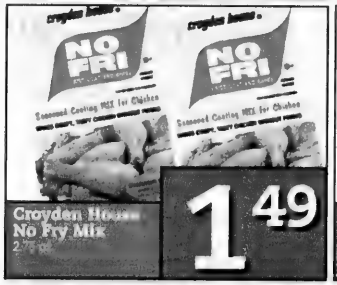

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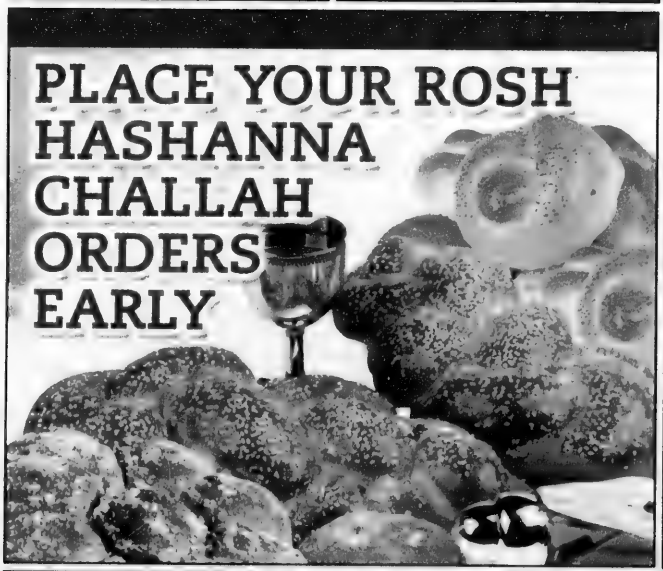

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Greater Toronto Area

The tough and the toothless

A journalist's task in searching for the truth almost always requires asking tough questions – if not repeatedly, then at least once or twice during an interview. That's the way veteran journalist Mike Wallace handled an interview with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (*60 Minutes*, Aug. 13), writes former CBC News correspondent Bernard Goldberg in "Mr. Ahmadinejad's Neighbourhood" (*Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 15).

According to Reports
By PAUL MICHAELS

Goldberg notes that Wallace repeatedly attempted to get Ahmadeinejad to explain why he said that Israel must be wiped off the map. Goldberg writes that while the media-savvy Ahmadinejad evaded the questions, "[t]o his credit, Mike [Wallace] never let up... in the end all a reporter can do is ask the tough question and let the subject answer. If he doesn't, you can try again."

Then there is Nahlah Ayed who, in her reports from Lebanon for CBC Television, rarely asks tough questions.

During her July 28 interview with pro-Syrian Lebanese president Emile Lahoud, she failed to challenge him even once. More recently, on *The National*, Sept. 4, Ayed interviewed the family of Samir Qantar, a Lebanese man who, as a member of a PLO terrorist group, brutally murdered two members of an Israeli family nearly 30 years ago and has been jailed by Israel ever since. Hezbollah has demanded Qantar's release as part of a prisoner exchange for the two Israeli soldiers it kidnapped on July 12.

Ayed begins her report by introducing Qantar's mother and brother in their home: "Suham Qantar has been waiting to see her elder son for 27 years. She won't speak about it publicly. It's just too disturbing. So she lets her younger son, Bassam Qantar do the talking." During the interview, the family is looking at photos of Qantar, creating a sympathetic atmosphere.

Ayed explains, over a shot of archival footage, that in 1979 "Qantar and a group of militants snuck in to the Israeli coastal town of Nahariya" and held a father and his four-year-old daughter hostage.

Then she says: "After a firefight with Israeli security forces, Qantar shot the father and clubbed the four-year-old to death with the butt of a rifle. Qantar became a hero to many Lebanese. As they saw it, he was fighting for his country against a hated enemy."

The sudden jump from clubbing a child to becoming a hero is jarring, even shocking.

Instead of providing balance by including comment from the remaining Israeli victim of Qantar's attack, Ayed's story only includes comments from an Israeli foreign affairs spokesperson, not about the terrorist attack, but rather only about why Israel in the past refused to release Qantar as part of a prisoner swap – because Hezbollah had reneged on its promise to provide information about Israeli Air Force pilot Ron Arad whose plane went down in Lebanon in the 1980s.

Running a clip of Nasrallah vowing to free prisoners, Ayed remarks: "Nasrallah called the capture of the Israelis 'Operation True Promise,' suggesting the Israelis were taken in part to force the release of Samir Qantar. But Israel says releasing Qantar is not on the table, despite Nasrallah's calculations."

Ayed does include a brief statement of the Israeli spokesperson saying, "Israel's position on the abducted soldiers is exactly what the UN Security Council resolution says. They must be released unconditionally at once."

But she concludes: "Samir Qantar's fate is still out of his family's hands and depends on the prospect of negotiations. All they can do is wait for the outcome."

Ayed's words make Qantar's release appear to be a political mission, while the pictures of his family treat it as a humanitarian campaign. In fact, the kidnapping of the Israeli soldiers was arguably a crime designed, among other things, to allow a brutal murderer to walk away from prison.

What is missing from Ayed's report is even a hint of a tough question – what does his family think about Qantar's cold-blooded murder of a father and-his four-year-old daughter?

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

UNIFORMLY PROUD:

Jordana Ansel, Zahava Fortinsky and Orly Ames show off their new uniforms on the first day of Grade 1 at Netivot HaTorah Day School. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

On turning 150 years old

(Adapted from an article in the Holy Bossom Temple Bulletin.)

By RABBI JOHN MOSCOWITZ

Guest Voice

Think about how remarkable it is that Holy Blossom Temple is now within days of turning 150 years old. In this country alone, there are very few institutions – religious, civic or otherwise – that are 150 years old. When in 1856 a number of Jews came together to build a fledgling community, Canada itself was still more than a decade away from becoming a nation. These original members coalesced, seeking what Jews always do in a new land: comfort and fellowship in community, a place for worshipping God and acculturating their young to old ways in a new land – and not very far away, a small plot of land to lay their dead to rest.

Who knew that the cornerstone laid down then would turn into one of the great synagogues of the world? Who knew that, 150 years later, what men such as Joseph Lyons, Isaac Davis & A.G. Asher founded would develop into an institution that's been so important to so many for so long?

Why has Holy Blossom Temple endured, and indeed often succeeded?

It's primarily because the congregation – led by professional and lay leaders, but supported by generations of diligent and serious Jews – remained true to the requirements of Judaism and responsive to the needs of Jews. A venerable tradition was respected, as was the power of modernity – each generation refashioning things as they sought the delicate balance between the competing claims of the past and the future. I suspect that something else is true as well: for all the successes enjoyed by individual members and the congregation, a sense of modesty and self-restraint, a kind of elegant dignity, became the cultural norm of the congregation – as I think it does in any great religious community.

And what about the previous generations' utter lack of fear about the future? In the mid-1930s, that courage saw a number of congregational leaders of the Bond Street synagogue take upon their shoulders the responsibility to move uptown – and more than that, to build a vibrant future for the next generations, a congregational culture that would engage and inspire, teach and challenge. They wanted Jews to feel comfortable in their world – and in the world.

What the 1938 generation accomplished is exactly our purpose now at the beginning of the 21st century: to ensure that our grandchildren, their children and grandchildren and beyond have a vibrant synagogue community in which to learn and come together as Jews. The difference is that we will do this exactly where we are now, at 1950 Bathurst St. – only better.

And so there is much to celebrate: 150 years, a synagogue that is as strong as ever, a future bright with promise, even as – or especially as – challenges now draw out our best. So let's come together and celebrate, first on Sept.16 and 17, then on various occasions throughout this coming year.

Rabbi John Moscowitz is spiritual leader of the Holy Blossom Temple.

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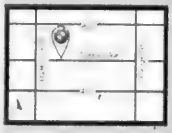

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Trauma counseling underway for Kiryat Shmona residents

Psychologist is trying to avoid post-traumatic stress disorder

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

Sitting just a mile and a half east of the Lebanese border, Israel's northern community of Kiryat Shmona is slowly emerging from more than a month of daily Hezbollah rocket attacks. Roughly 25% of the 4,000 rockets that rained down on northern Israel struck the city.

Kiryat Shmona has long been on the front line of confrontations with Lebanon, and after being hit by countless rockets since the 1960s, a local psychologist believes residents today are still paying the price for a lack of treatment back then.

"We can now see the negative psychological affects of this latest war on residents of a town that suffered barrages of rockets 30 and 40 years ago, because these people - the parents today who were the children then - did not receive proper counseling," says psychologist Masha Album. "Many residents are having a tough time dealing with the war and its aftermath, which also makes it harder for them to protect their children."

Album says that, unlike 30 years ago, today's residents of Kiryat Shmona are being treated in a proper and timely manner, helping to prevent the development of post traumatic stress disorder.

Funds raised through UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign are supporting this much-needed psychological support.

Residents of Kiryat Shmona are currently being treated to help them avoid post traumatic stress disorder.

According to Album, one of the biggest psychological problems among parents is severe guilt: a feeling that they weren't functioning properly as parents during the war due to their own stress levels.

"Parents found it increasingly difficult to set and keep basic boundaries with their kids: things like what time they'd eat or when they should get up – things that are the basis of parental functioning – were easy to neglect due to the circumstances," says Album. "Many were feeling a loss of control over their kids which, of course, leads to even more stress and anxiety."

"People here have been through an extreme and unhealthy situation. We've been treating people with a variety of psychological problems since this war began, and we must continue to treat them to help them move on," says Album.

Special education teachers take lessons home from Israel

When Andi Shapiro travelled to Israel this past summer on a UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE) mission to connect with fellow special education teachers, she felt validated in the work she does at home and inspired to carry on.

"My colleagues from Israel gave me a lot of strength," related the Associated Hebrew Schools teacher. "It was an extra sense that I'm doing the right thing with the kids and it inspired me to continue with what I'm doing."

Shapiro was part of a group of 25 educators from the Jewish day school system in Toronto who recently ventured to Israel.

The 10-day trip was the culmination of a year-long, additional qualification course for special education teachers, under the auspices of the BJE and its Tikun Chaim program.

"The initiative in Israel focused on a triangle between Jewish education, Jewish identity and connections with Israel," said Dafna Ross, the director of the course and senior special education consultant at the BJE. "The purpose was to tighten our connections with Israel and our Jewish identity through our profession."

A contingent of 25 educators from Toronto's Jewish day school system recently took part in a special mission to Israel.

The Toronto educators toured centres and schools that educate and nurture kids with a diverse array of special needs.

The students they met were coping with everything from autism to physical disabilities, from terror attacks to the loss of their parents.

"The schools we went to for autistic children showed the complete dedication of the teachers," said Shapiro. "The kids are treated with dignity and their strengths are brought to the forefront."

"Israel happens to be very advanced in its special education approach," said Ross. "We visited places which have exemplary practices and this enabled us to examine and discuss how we, as Jewish educators, can take this experience and bring it back to our classrooms."

With strong connections established, the educators in both Israel and Canada are intent on continuing contact with the teachers they met. They also hope to incorporate into their classrooms what they gained from their experiences in Israel.

"We hope they are able to engage their students with Israel in a much more relevant and meaningful fashion," said Rabbi Natan Kandler, a trip participant and the Jewish Agency's representative to the BJE.

Unique Thornhill school set to open its doors this fall

By A.M. SEGAL
UJA Federation

A brand new school with a unique focus on Hebrew and Israeli studies will be opening its doors in Thornhill this fall.

Kachol-Lavan, (Hebrew for blue and white), a Sunday school for students in grades 1-8, will be taught entirely in Hebrew by experienced teachers who will intertwine Jewish values into all lessons and programs.

Held at Leo Baeck Day School in Thornhill, Kachol-Lavan is primarily reaching out to the children of Hebrew speaking parents who want their kids to enrich their command of contemporary Hebrew and connect with their Israeli culture.

"The first emphasis is Hebrew and any child, no matter how well he or she speaks, can join the school. The second thing is studying Israel and its history and the third level is literature," said David Zaltzman, co-chair of the school's steering committee and a parent of students enrolled for this inaugural year.

"What we would really like is for our children to have some of the same experiences we had in school when we were children."

The school, a collaborative effort of the Israel Forum, organized by UJA Federation, the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and Israel House – an initiative of the Israeli Consulate - recently hosted an open house at Leo Baeck for parents to learn all about what's in store for the year.

"It was a meet and greet with the teachers, where some volunteer members gave presentations on the curriculum and the programming," noted Bryan Keshen, vice president of strategic planning and engagement for UJA Federation. "We did it so parents could actually walk through a model day at the school in an interactive way."

A mother and her son – a prospective student at the new Kachol-Lavan Sunday School in Thornhill – take in the school's recent open-house.

Because this is supplementary to the children's school experiences during the day, Kachol-Lavan is going to have a strong "fun" component, with material presented using arts and crafts, drama and music.

As well, the students and their families will join in celebrating Jewish holidays.

"We want the whole family to be part of this experience," said Zaltzman, who co-initiated the school with colleague Amir Freund. "So when it comes to Chanukah or Purim, we will take every holiday and celebrate it as a community."

The school, which will also offer a bar/bat mitzvah program, will incorporate social engagements with the Israel scout troops in Toronto.

Keshen said the school's enrolment target is 100 students and space is filling up fast.

For more information, call 1-866-772-4282 or visit www.kachol-lavan.org.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Northern Israel recovery represents unprecedented challenge for Jewish Agency

Agency chairman toasts Toronto support at community event

By HOWARD ENGLISH
UJA Federation

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), according to its chairman, Zeev Bielski, is in the midst of an endeavour never before undertaken by the organization – the rebuilding of northern Israel following more than 4,000 terrorist rocket attacks.

"There was never involvement like this by the Jewish Agency," Bielski said in an interview with *Jewish Toronto*.

Through contributions from Jewish Federations across North America, JAFI will be spending $300 million U.S. on northern Israel recovery, including social service relief for thousands of residents.

Bielski was one of the guest speakers at a community event last week, featuring Alan Dershowitz, sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, which the JAFI chairman profusely praised for its Israel Emergency Campaign relief effort.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, which was the first Federation in the world to initiate an Israel emergency campaign, has already raised a total of $45 million, which includes $15 million for the urgent social service needs of northern Israel residents.

The social services supported by the campaign include trauma counselling for northern Israel residents; temporary housing for the uprooted; vocational training for the unemployed who have lost jobs or their own businesses; re-equipping damaged community facilities, such as libraries, community centres and homes for the elderly; and special care for the vulnerable.

UJA Federation financial support, said Bielski, who came to Toronto from Israel for just 24 hours, allowed JAFI to move 40,000 children from northern Israel to safer sections of the country during the war.

"Toronto is one of the most beautiful Jewish communities on earth," he said.

Before the appearance of Alan Dershowitz at the community event, the renowned law professor treated Toronto's Jewish university students in the afternoon to a dialogue on building the case for Israel, during a forum sponsored by Hillel of Greater Toronto.

During the session, Dershowitz severely criticized former Canadian Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Arbour had censured Israel during the war for attacking civilians.

"Your own Louise Arbour is a villainous, uninformed woman who, at the very start of the war between Israel and Hezbollah, declared Israel guilty of war crimes, which makes her a terrorist's best friend," said Dershowitz. "I think she needs to go back to school and learn the fundamentals of international law before she starts preaching," he said.

(above) Zeev Bielski, Chairman of The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), spends some time with new olim from Ethiopia at a summer camp for northern Israel children during the war.

(left) Professor Alan Dershowitz addresses Hillel of Greater Toronto students at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the U of T.

UJA Federation missions bolster northern Israel spirits

By A.M. SEGAL
UJA Federation

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has not only been sending millions of dollars in emergency relief funds to Israel, it has also been sending concerned Torontonians on missions to provide personal comfort.

UJA Federation's first solidarity mission arrived during the war.

Both before and after the war with Hezbollah, Toronto mission participants toured northern Israel to witness first hand the anguish of its residents.

While on a mission in early August, 12 participants found themselves doing the unlikeliest of deeds in Israel - picking tomatoes.

"Because residents were moving out of the north, they weren't always bringing enough food with them," recalled Ronit Holtzman, UJA Federation's vice president of planned giving and endowments. "So we went to pick these tomatoes for displaced Israelis."

In addition to assisting with social services like food provision, participants on the August mission also met with many Israelis impacted by the war, including children who were moved out of the cramped quarters of bomb shelters into summer camps in safer sections of the country.

"We visited a youth aliyah village where kids from the north had been taken in order to get them out of the line of fire and provide them with breathing space," said mission co-chair Sheldon Disenhouse. "The kids missed their parents, but they were being kept busy and it was very much a summer camp atmosphere."

Because the north was bombarded with a barrage of rockets, the participants weren't able to travel to the main war-zone, but they did visit a somewhat forgotten theatre of conflict - the towns that border Gaza.

These areas are still the targets of fatal Qassam rocket hits.

"We met with these people who told us what it's like to live with rockets falling all the time," said Disenhouse. "It has become a forgotten story…and I think it's important for people to not forget about it."

On a recent solidarity trip, UJA Federation board chair David Engel met with several mayors of northern Israeli communities to find out their most pressing issues following the onslaught of rocket attacks.

"We met individually with each of the mayors to see what their needs are, what their plans for the future are, and how we can build a strategy in Toronto to help them out," said Engel, who was joined on the mission by UJA Federation president Ted Sokolsky. "And we came here to show them that we're family, we feel for them and we're standing beside them."

"Throughout our visits, we were told by so many…that while their government may not have been there for them in the early days of the war, Diaspora Jewry surely was," said Sokolsky. "We heard story after story of the great and immediate effect our dollars had in the shelters, in the centres, at the summer camps and in the homes of so many northern Israelis."

Northern Israeli children receive gifts from Toronto mission participants.

A common thread that has and will continue to link all these missions is the response the participants receive from Israelis from all walks of life.

"People there are very appreciative of the fact that as the war was raging, people from Toronto continued to travel to Israel to show our very strong commitment for its people," said Disenhouse. "That bond with Israel is what brings us all together."

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Educator looks at women and spirituality in new TV show

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rachael Turkienicz is having a great time filming *Uncommon Ground*, her new television series on women and spirituality.

"I'm meeting incredible people... Everybody's bringing such wonderful insights. It seems everyone wants to talk about this," she enthused last week, having taped five of the 13 themed episodes.

The hour-long program kicks off Sat., Sept. 30 on CTS at 10 p.m. with guest Leonard Nimoy of *Star Trek* fame. Television's former "Mr. Spock" talked with Turkienicz about his 2000 book *Shekhina*, a controversial collection of his black-and-white photographs of women, many of them wearing only prayer shawls and tfillin.

Other guests scheduled for upcoming shows include Canada's justice minister Irwin Cotler, who talks about Canadian law and memories of his mother; Turkienicz' sister Anna Morgan, an author and former *CJN* reporter with whom she discussed spirituality and education; Raheel Raza, a Muslim advocate of interfaith dialogue and author of *Their Jihad... Not My Jihad*; Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, founder of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning; and the Rev. Eleanor Clitheroe, former CEO of Hydro One and now an Anglican deacon.

Turkienicz' involvement in the new show, which she is co-producing with her brother Mark, a real estate developer, resulted from conversations she had with the executive producer of the CTS show *Passages*, on which Turkienicz began as a guest scholar and later hosted.

Turkienicz proposed the new show after noticing a dearth of programming on the combined subject of women and spirituality.

The format, with one guest per show, will be "conversation, rather than interview or analysis," said Turkienicz, who said that "half the time" she forgets the camera is on when she is discussing subjects that are "near and dear" to her.

A graduate of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Turkienicz acquired a taste for Talmud as a Grade 7 student at Associated Hebrew Schools.

"It originally created a bit of a dilemma," she said, recalling the decision of whether to tell her friends how much she enjoyed it. "It was one of the few classes where the bell would ring at the end of the class, and I'd be disappointed. That feeling just never left."

In high school, however, her dilemma was more serious. She was allowed to study Talmud only behind a mechitzah (no longer the case at the school). The situation left her angry, and she lost her desire to pursue Jewish studies, entering York University as a fine arts major instead.

Rachael Turkienicz

But one day she realized that it would be pointless to "try not to want to study [Talmud]." After completing bachelor degrees in education and religious studies at York, she went on to Brandeis University for her master's degree and PhD in talmudic and midrashic literature.

At the time, she had "no clue" what she wanted to do careerwise, only an insatiable thirst for learning the material, which has not been entirely slaked.

The director and sole teacher of the Learning Centre, a denominationally unaffiliated institute for Jewish studies which she founded, Turkienicz thrives on teaching adults from a range of Jewish backgrounds who all study text together there.

"Someone who's never seen the words before can bring something so fresh and new to someone who's seen the words a hundred times," she said. "That's a strong way to learn. I very much like not putting people into beginner, intermediate and advanced groups."

The mother of five, who co-founded the Toronto Heschel School, is also a professor at York University's faculty of education and its Centre for Jewish Studies. She is heard twice weekly on CHIN radio's *Zelda Show*, and writes a monthly *CJN* column. She has a children's novel coming out this winter, co-authored with her sister; and is a popular lecturer at synagogues and other locales.

The first recipient of the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University Person of Distinction award last year, Turkienicz' community involvements include Canadian Jewish Congress, for which she serves as associate chair of the national executive and chair of the Holocaust Remembrance committee.

Explaining how the pieces of her life and career come together, she says she is "really blessed. My kids are very helpful, and we all work together. When I'm preparing lectures, they're doing homework. We share and we 'angst' together. And my husband [Vadim Bychutsky, a professor of engineering] is incredibly supportive."

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Institute encouraged her to take the initiative

Continued from page 12

As a member of the board, Brodbar-Nemzer's responsibility is to reach out to some of the younger members, to help them get the most out of their week, and foster relationships between their families and the rest of the community.

She said she reports to the other board members to define for them what her role should be and how to work pro-actively with the teens and young adults.

Brodbar-Nemzer said she is a woman who takes the initiative, and the institute was a program that encouraged that.

"I didn't have to fight. At most places, as a young person, you have to fight to be taken seriously. Here was a place where people kvelled when I took the initiative. And everyone was ready to follow our thinking and support us."

She said that at 14 years old, she and her friends started organizing Shabbatons themselves, with the support of their parents, as a way to see each other throughout the year.

"We organized all our own davening, all our own projects and learning sessions," she said.

For young, unpeggable Jews like Brodbar-Nemzer, havurah Judaism is about creating their own Jewish experience.

In fact, the single largest group of participants at this year's summer institute held in New Hampshire last month, was people in their 20s.

"There are just 300 really cool Jews. And there is a community feeling… having all these people around and engaging with each other. And young people get involved too," she said adding that a couple years ago, a group of children organized a discussion on Jewish influences in the *Harry Potter* series.

With more than 150 havurot and minyanim in 34 states and provinces in North America listed on the NHC website, including Har Kodesh in Montreal, and Or Shalom in Vancouver, there are no listings for anything in Toronto.

That is not to say that there are no minyanim or havurot in Toronto, but none affiliated with NHC.

Brodbar-Nemzer said that in Toronto, it seems that efforts are being made to create a community for young Jews, such as the relatively new minyan Kehilat Or Hadash, but most organizations in Toronto eventually "fizzle out and die."

"There are lots of great, vibrant, interesting Jews in Toronto and in some ways we are at the forefront. We've got great education, we've got a lot of great things here, in terms of kosher restaurants. But [we're lacking] in terms of davening options."

It is because of this, Brodbar-Nemzer prefers to spend most Shabbatot out of the city, either in New York, Boston or Washington, D.C., with friends she made at the institute.

She said that perhaps the Jewish community needs to reach out to the next generation more to combat this problem.

Toronto rabbi writes the book on yahrzeit

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Aaron Levine may have all the answers when it comes to the Jewish laws and customs of yahrzeit – how to observe the anniversary of a death – but he prefers not to give advice on the matter.

Instead, he has meticulously compiled the relevant information – including laws and customs, anecdotes, appropriate prayers, and the gamut of [Orthodox] rabbinic opinions – into a handsome, two-volume, Hebrew-language set called *Kol Bo L'Yahrzeit*, self-published earlier this year (Zichron Meir Publications, $42.50).

The British-born former principal of Toronto's Eitz Chaim Day School and former principal of Toronto's Ner Israel Yeshiva High School, who immigrated to Canada with his family at age 12, has devoted himself full time to writing for 4½ years, following a bout of colon cancer from which he recovered. The two most recent volumes are his seventh and eighth books.

The rabbi's writing career – which included a stint as a *CJN* columnist in the early 1990s – began after the death of his son Ephraim 32 years ago at age 2, in Deal, N.J. where the Levine family was living at the time.

"I wanted to do something in his memory," said Rabbi Levine, 64, in an interview. Another catalyst for his first book was the realization that the answers to his many questions – like whether or not to say Kaddish if one's parents are still alive – were not easy to find in one place.

The book, also in Hebrew, was a volume on mourning, covering everything from illness to burial. *Sefer Zichron Meir*, like Rabbi Levine's publishing company, was named in memory of his father, who died shortly before it was published. Following rabbinic advice, he did not name the book for his son.

Rabbi Aaron Levine

At the time, Rabbi Levine, who has a PhD in talmudic law from Ner Israel Yeshiva College of Baltimore, anticipated writing a further three volumes, but much of the material he would have used is covered in depth in the new set.

Parts of the first book have been published in English as stand-alone books. The first was a 1987 paperback – *How to Perform the Great Mitzvah of Bikkur Cholim: Visiting the Sick*.

Rabbi Levine is also the author of *To Comfort the Bereaved: A Guide for Mourners and Those Who Visit Them*.

For a change of focus, he wrote an anthology about Rosh Hashanah, which he published in 2001. Rabbi Levine hopes it will be the first in a series on all the Jewish holidays.

His most recent endeavour includes references dating back to the 15th century and draws on a bibliography of more than 1,100 works from the rabbi's extensive home library as well as libraries in Israel and the United States.

The words "Kol Bo" in the title mean "everything is in it," and refer to the encyclopedic nature of the work. The text includes footnotes on every page citing responsa and scholarly Hebrew texts. There are approximately 150 pages on the subject of kaddish alone.

Kol Bo L'Yahrzeit took almost three years of intensive work to finish. Rabbi Levine started with a 30-year-old rough draft and found himself intrigued by the research, tracking down references to their original sources and unearthing little-known customs, such as one recommendation, based on Kabbalah, not to go to a cemetery alone. There are very few books written exclusively about yahrzeit, said Rabbi Levine, who is working on a more accessible English adaptation of his *Yahrzeit* work.

The Hebrew edition was written for scholars, rabbis and university libraries, he said. The reason he wrote the book in Hebrew, aside from it being "the language of Halachah," was to facilitate the writing of letters of approbation (*haskamot*) from rabbis whom he described as "great poskim" (halachic decisors). The set includes 17 such letters.

In addition to the letters of approbation, the book includes dedications from sponsors whose contributions enable Rabbi Levine to devote his time to his writing.

On a personal note, he said that writing the book has made him "much more aware of the significance of a yahrzeit.

"Unfortunately a lot of the things we do [in observance] are just mechanical. All the great rabbis write that the way to combat that mechanical aspect is to study about it."

Correction

In the article titled "Canadian Jews send eight ambulances to Israel" (Aug. 17, 2006), Iris Ehrent was misidentified. She is the Toronto office administrator of Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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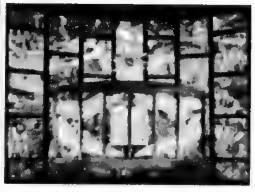

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Coast to Coast

Edmonton man jailed 16 months for web hate

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Canada's first-ever criminal prosecution for promoting hatred on the Internet has resulted in a 16-month jail sentence.

Reni Santana-Ries, formerly known as Reinhard Gustav Mueller, was sent to prison by Edmonton Court of Queen's Bench Judge Philip Clarke, who cited an "appalling" level of hatred in his web postings.

Clarke noted that Sentana-Ries showed no remorse and was likely to re-offend. He added three-years of probation following the jail term and ordered Sentana-Ries not to access the Internet during that time.

Sentana-Ries was convicted by a jury in December 2005 for using his U.S.-based website to accuse Jews of a host of malevolent activities. Jews, he claimed, created the deadly AIDS and Ebola viruses, fabricated the Holocaust and were intent on world domination. The website also described Jews as subhumans and demons and blamed Jews for the destruction of the World Trade Center and the Columbia space shuttle disaster. Sentana-Ries added a bizarre science-fiction element to his postings, styling himself the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and calling his website The Federation of Free Planets.

Crown attorney Steven Bilodeau had asked the judge for a sentence that ranged between 12 and 18 months. The maximum jail penalty for promoting hatred is two years. Sentana-Ries' sentence is the longest ever imposed for a hate promotion conviction.

Bilodeau called the case a "benchmark" and said the 16-month term sends a clear message that society won't tolerate the kind of messages published by Sentana-Ries.

"The material he put on [the web] as so hateful and so strong in its toxic nature, it called for the strongest possible response," he added.

Police and the Crown did not hesitate to employ the anti-hate law in the case, Bilodeau said.

Using the Internet – as opposed to distributing the same anti-Jewish material in printed flyers – made the case more serious. "The reach [of the Internet] is enormous," making it incumbent on the Crown to send out a strong message that it will not be tolerated, he said.

Bernie Farber, CEO of Canadian Jewish Congress, was called to testify as an expert witness for the Crown regarding the impact on the Jewish community of the website, as well as the role of the Internet in promoting hate.

The length of the sentence "has now set the tone and sent a very significant message to hatemongers," Farber said.

Richard Warman, an Ottawa human rights lawyer, said the sentence's deterrent aspect could be significant: "It will give people a very long pause before continuing to distribute hate propaganda."

Warman, who has launched complaints in 16 cases of Internet hate before the Canadian Human Rights Commission, said Sentana-Ries is not known as a member of any racist organization. "Clearly he is on the extreme fringe of an extreme fringe."

But, Warman said, "when he describes the Jewish people as demonic and spilling blood, that kind of threat has to be taken seriously."

Bilodeau rejected suggestions that Sentana-Ries was more of an eccentric than a dangerous hatemonger. "Anyone convicted [of promoting hate] is not going to be a right-thinking member of the community," he said.

He pointed out that Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel also employed science fiction (claiming Antarctica was a base for Nazi UFOs). "They are doing their level best to persuade people to feel the same hatred they do."

Representing himself at the trial and in the recent sentencing hearing, Sentana-Ries repeated his often bizarre theories, saying that as Lion of the Tribe of Judah, he served as guardian and protector of the Jewish people. At trial he claimed to be of ancient Egyptian descent with "authority recognized by all high councils of this galaxy." He also claimed a number of titles, including Grand World Councillor, Starship Commander Dexter and Guardian of the Arab Prophetess Uthrania Seila.

Farber was cross-examined by Sentana-Ries and in nearly three hours was asked numerous bizarre questions about the Bible, about Allied treatment of German soldiers after the war, about the alleged vengefulness of Jews and about supposed Jewish control of the Canadian economy. On several occasions, Sentana-Ries claimed he had secret information that led him to his beliefs about the Jews, Farber stated.

Ironically, it was Sentana-Ries himself who brought attention to his website.

He called Edmonton police to complain that someone had left Molotov cocktails on his lawn as revenge for his politically incorrect website. Police investigated the site and that led to charges, Bilodeau said.

In all, investigators compiled enough anti-Semitic material to fill three binders, he added.

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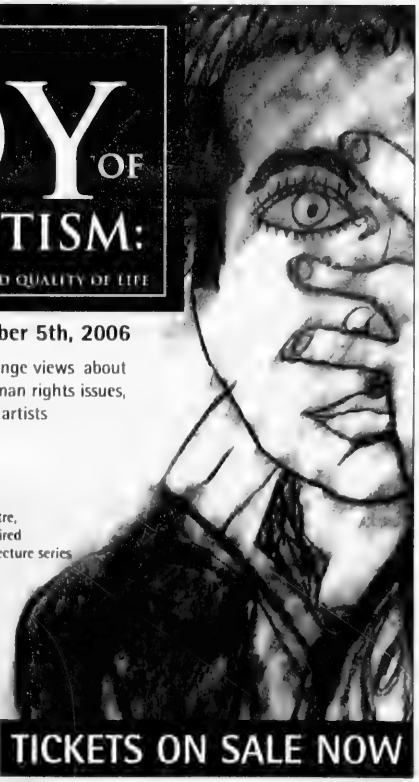
"Who is a Jew?"
New Developments in Israeli Supreme Court Rulings

Dr. Gidon Sapir, LL.M & S.J.D. (Northwestern) graduated from Bar Ilan University. He served as a senior lecturer at Northwestern University and is an assistant professor at Bar Ilan University Law School, specializing in constitutional law. Dr. Sapir is an ordained Rabbi. At Bar Ilan he serves as a chairperson of the advanced studies committee and is the founder and supervisor of a legal clinic for people with disabilities. Dr. Sapir publishes extensively in both Hebrew and English in the areas of constitutional theory and religion and state.

Dessert Reception at 11:00 p.m.
Selihot Service at 11:45 p.m.
Led by **Rabbi Wayne Allen** *and* **Cantor Tibor Kovari**
With the **Festival String Quartet**
And the **Beth Tikvah Choir** *under the direction of* **Eyal Bitton**
Musical arrangements by **Srul Irving Glick** *z'l*
Beth Tikvah Synagogue 3080 Bayview Avenue Toronto - M2N 5L3 - 416-221-3433

THE JOY OF AUTISM:
REDEFINING ABILITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE
October 5th to November 5th, 2006
A series of events that challenge views about autism as illness; current human rights issues, and an exhibition of autistic artists
Presented by
The Autism Acceptance Project
The Lecture Series at Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal Bloor JCC, Tickets Required
$30 per evening or $90 for entire lecture series
Gallery Exhibitions at
LONSDALE GALLERY
FREE
For event information visit:
www.taaproject.com or
(416) 487-3600
Tickets call:
1-800-965-4827
Illustration by Jonathan Lerman



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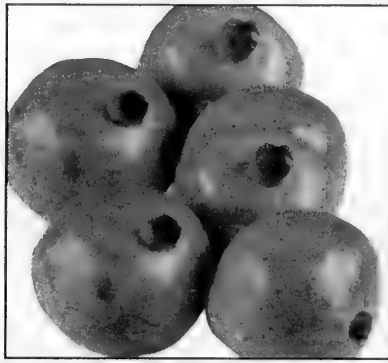

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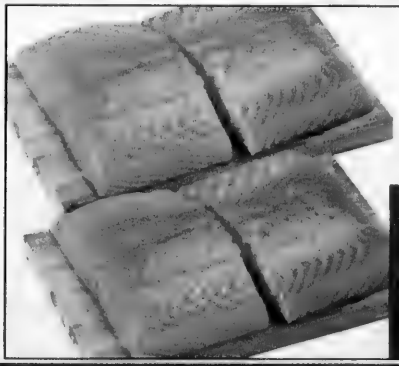

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Coast to Coast

Gertie and Fred Narvey

Winnipeg couple celebrate 70th anniversary

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Fred Narvey still clearly remembers the first time he met his future wife, Gertie.

"I was 17 and she was 16," he said. "We met at a Labour Zionist program. Her smile was so beautiful. I said to myself, 'That smile is what I want with my grapefruit every morning.'"

On Aug. 30, Fred, 93, and Gertie, 92, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with a party for friends and the staff and residents of the Sharon Home, the Jewish seniors residence where they live.

During the course of the afternoon, Fred recounted some of the highlights of the couple's courtship and marriage.

He recalled how when they would go out for hamburgers and a soft drink, Gertie would never be hungry.

"But she always ate half of my hamburger," he said.

Continued on page 35

See what the buzz is about!

Spend Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur at Pine Villa with family and friends, and get a sneak peek at our exciting changes. Your guest stay includes three traditional festive meals daily. We are also within walking distance to several neighbourhood synagogues.

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Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Mazel tov on the engagement of Jennifer Stern to Brett Cranson. Proud parents are David & Pam Stern, and Steve & Lori Cranson.

Vanessa LaPerriere
and Ron Kimel
are proud to announce
the birth of their daughter
Stella Elkie Kimel
born at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Toronto on August 24th, 2006 at 8:00 pm.
Weighing 9lbs 2ozs.
Stella Elkie is lovingly welcomed by grandfather Manny Kimel
(This is his 10th grandchild!)
grandmother Josett, sisters, brothers, numerous aunts and uncles and friends.

It is with a hearty mazel tov that we wish happy 70th birthday to David Bisgould. To 120! Your very loving family.

Happy third birthday Jonathan and first birthday Elle. May you both have much joy and nachas this coming year. Love and kisses, mom and dad.

Mazel tov to Jeremy Hass on your recent bar mitzvah. Mom, Dad, Aaron and Noah, Meme & Pepe, Tonton Sil, Tata Vero, Ilana, Simon and Brahm.

Mazel tov to Brahm Tancredi on your bar mitzvah. Mom, Dad, Ilana and Simon, Meme & Pepe, Tonton Monty, Tata Joelle, Aaron, Jeremy and Noah.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to:
The CJN, Family Moments,
1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205,
North York, ON. M3B 3K4

JNF
Say it with Trees
"In Loving Memory"
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
416-638-7200

What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

CJN DATING
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JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

What's New deadlines: Monday, September 18 is the deadline for the September 28 issue and Monday, September 25 is the deadline for the October 5 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Saturday, Sept. 16

PARSHAH DISCUSSION

Lionel Sharp will discuss the weekly portions, *Nitzavim/Vayelech*, 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

SHABBAT SHUVAH

Rabbi Moshe Stern will speak on "Twenty-First Century Version of Idol Worship" at his annual Shabbat Shuvah drashah at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. 5:15 p.m. 416-787-1631

***SLICHOT* SERVICES**

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents To Listen to the Song and the Prayer, a special choral *Slichot* service with narration conducted by **Cantor Simon Spiro** with the Beth Tzedec Choir. 10 p.m. Reception after service. 416-781-3511.

Rabbi Moshe Stern will speak at a melaveh malka at 10:30 p.m. followed by *Slichot* services at midnight at **Shaarei Tefillah Congregation**. 416-787-1631

Sunday, Sept. 17

SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Join Walk and Talk Etc., a walking club for Jewish Singles 50+, meet new friends and enjoy the Toronto Islands. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Mainland Ferry Terminal, Bay St. and Queens Quay W. Info, email walka ndtalketc@hotmail.com.

GUT YOM-TOV, GUT YOR

Friends of Yiddish hold their membership breakfast with entertainment by **Yitzhak Argaman,** in a program entitled Gut Yom-Tov, Gut Yor. 10:30 a.m. at 788 Marlee Ave. Non-members $15.

KADIMA OPEN HOUSE

Kadima Centre, the social-recreational program for developmental handicapped adults, meets at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue on Tuesdays, 4-6:30 p.m. and on Sundays, 2-4 p.m. Kadima hosts an open house, dance and registration at 2 p.m. For info call **Suzanne Agasee**, 416-635-6800.

A HEALING SERVICE

The Toronto Healing Project offers a special Rosh Hashanah healing service with **Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum**, of Beth Tzedec, **Judy Shier Weisberg**. 3-4 p.m. at Lipa Green, 4600 Bathurst St. Wheelchair access. 416-944-3359.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Arthur Kurzweil will discuss "Jewish Genealogy As A Spiritual Pilgrimage: Why And How To Trace Your Jewish Family Tree," 2 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Non-members $5. www.jgstoronto.ca.

SINGLES DANCE

Shaar Shalom Singles 45+ are holding a dance with DJ **Dave Jones,** 7:30 p.m. $12. Info, 416-224-9494.

JEWS N'SCHMOOZE

Join Jews N'Schmooze for 40-55's for Kaballah, mysticism and astrology, 7:30 p.m. at The Village Shul. Prepaid $10, $15 at the door. 905-764-1818

Monday, Sept. 18

MEDICATION SAFETY

Dr. Paula Rochon, geriatrician and senior scientist, **Monica Lee**, research pharmacist, and **Radmilla Nikolic**, pharmacist, participate in an information session on medication safety and older adults followed by a questions and answers. 2-3:30 p.m., Wortsman Hall, main floor of Baycrest Hospital. To register call 416-785-2500, ext. 3374.

MARCH OF THE LIVING

Learn about the March of the Living program and the application process at an information session. 7 p.m. at Adath Israel Synagogue. For information contact **Sherri Rotstein**, srotstein@ujafed.org or 416-398-6931, ext. 359.

Continued on page 29

L'Shana Tova & Chag Sameach
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What's New

Continued from page 28

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Circle of Care invites the public to its volunteer recognition and general meeting, "Celebrating 40 Years of Kosher Meals on Wheels," 7 p.m. at Beth Emeth Synagogue. 416-635-2860

BINGOMANIA

Jewish Women International Nagillah Chapter 55+ opening meeting with bingomania, refreshments and prizes. 7:30 p.m. at 866 Sheppard Ave W. $3. RSVP to **Helen** 416-638-4326.

NOREEN GILLETZ

Noreen Gilletz will discuss her new book, *Healthy Helpings,* at Emunah Women of Toronto's fall opening program, 7:45 p.m. at 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Free. 416-636-0036

DA VINCI & THE LAST SUPPER

Barry Fluxgold will speak on "Leonardo da Vinci: The Last Supper and Its Jewish Possibilities" at the Beth Emeth Sisterhood opening program. 8 p.m. All Welcome. 416-633-3838 or www.beby.org

Tuesday Sept. 19

YIDDISH CLASSES

Beth Emeth Synagogue offers Yiddish classes beginning today, 9:30-11:30 a.m. for 10 weeks. Reading and writing are required. $80. Register at the first class. 416-497-4695

Wednesday Sept. 20

TALMUD CLASS

The Beth David Synagogue weekly Talmud class continues its study of the seventh chapter of Sanhedrin. Newcomers welcome. The class, with **Dr. Aaron Nussbaum**, is conducted in English using the Hebrew text. For info rmation call 416-633-8097.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

A Tehillim/Psalms class is held every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the downtown Toronto business core. Men and women welcome. For info, contact **Avi** at Aslodovnick@SRGLEGAL.com or 416-947-1093.

LIZZIES OLD TIMERS

The Lizzies Old Timers Association will hold their 23rd annual dinner and pay tribute to the late **Bob Abate**, a former coach. In addition, they will recognize the last five championship teams. For tickets call **Henry**, 905-886-6580 or **Norm**, 416-749-6735.

Other News

EMBRACING ELUL

Mekorot presents "Embracing Elul: Four Thursdays in September," with **Rabbi Joseph Kanofsky** (Sept. 14) on "Sovereignty, Remembrance and *Shofar*: *Musaf* of Rosh Hashanah" and **Prof. Hindy Najman** (Sept. 21) on "Tshuvah and Soul Transformation in Second Temple Judaism." For locations and registration, 416-877-2050 or visit www.mekorot.ca.

TSHUVAH SERIES 5767

Torah Conferencing Network offers a series of lectures on tshuvah. This week, **Rabbis Matisyahu Solomon** and **Shmuel Dishon** on Sunday, Sept. 17, 8:30 p.m., and **Rabbi Hershel Schachter** on Monday, Sept. 18, 8:15 p.m. Both at Clanton Park Synagogue, 11 Lowesmoor Ave. For information drsis@rogers.com.

JWI KINNERET CHAPTER

The Kinneret Chapter of Jewish Women International welcomes Hebrew speaking women as new members for monthly meetings, holiday celebrations and more. Call **Lillian**, 905-326-8767 or **Michelle**, 905-709-4665.

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES

Looking for services for the High Holy Days? **Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto** has a complete list of synagogues with extra seating for non-members. For information visit www.jewishtoronto.com or call 416-635-5600.

The Winchevsky Centre hosts a secular humanistic celebration of Rosh Hashanah, Sat. Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. The observance includes shofar blowing, holiday readings and poetry, with music in English, Hebrew and Yiddish led by musicians **David Wall** and **Aaron Davis**. Babysitting and children's holiday programs are available. Adults $30, children $18, unwaged/students $22. To reserve tickets, 416-789-5502, mws@on.aibn.com, at www.winchevskycentre.org.

MONEY FOR COLLEGE?

Are you experiencing an end-of-summer cash crunch? If you need financial assistance with the costs of post-secondary tuition and books, Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa may be able to help. TJFLC lends up to $5,000, interest-free, to needy Jewish post-secondary students who are residents of the GTA to help with school-related expenses. For information about loan requirements and eligibility, call 416-635-1217.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com.

Successful Parenting of Children with ADHD, a six-session program. Thursdays, Sept. 14-Oct. 19, 6:30-9 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St. Register at ext. 246.

Birthdays, Hockey Games and Holidays: Making It Work After Divorce, a workshop, Mon. Sept. 18, 7-9 p.m. at Promenade Mall, suite #313. Register at ext. 215.

When You're About to Separate: What to Tell the Kids, a workshop, Tues. Sept. 19 6:30-9 p.m. at The Promenade Mall, suite #313. Register at ext. 215.

Effective Parenting, a four-session group to help parents learn what they can do to raise a happy, motivated and well behaved child. For parents of children ages 2 to 11 years. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. beginning Sept. 27 at Lipa Green Bldg., 4600 Bathurst St. Register at ext. 215.

Couple Communication, a four-session group for couples wanting to learn communication skills to help them deal better with day-to-day issues, resolve conflicts and build a more satisfying relationship. Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. beginning Sept. 27 at Lipa Green Bldg., 4600 Bathurst St. Register at ext. 215.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Emeth Chai Shalom presents a Rosh Hashanah Luncheon with tenor **Peter Marino**, Sun. Sept.17, 12:30 p.m. $20, non-members $25. Membership $15. Call **Sandy**, 416-736-8073 or 416-458-1440. Tickets at shul office.

The Association of Jewish Seniors' Sukkah Luncheon will take place on Thursday, Oct. 12, 11:30 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Entertainment by The Original Impressions performing Klezmer, Jewish and Broadway songs. Members $10, guest $15. Reserve by Oct. 3, call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Sunday dance, Sept. 17; Casino Rama, Wed. Oct. 11; Call Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka**, 416-631-5574.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Rosh Hashanah Concert, Sept. 19, 7 p.m.

High Holy Day Luncheon and Concert, Sept. 20 at noon. $12, non-members $15. Call to reserve.

Sunday Pilates and Strengthen Class begins soon. Call to register.

High Holy Day services with **Cantor Ron Graner**, $75/$85 add $15 for reserved seating.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Friday Afternoon at the Movies, Sept. 15 and 29, 1-3 p.m. in the Volunteer Lounge. Call **Mara** ext. 2275 further details.

"Book and Munch Club" meets every Wednesday, 12-1 p.m. Short stories are read aloud by group members after which a discussion occurs. Bring your lunch. Call **Monica**, ext. 2273.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Israeli Dancing begins Monday, Sept. 18, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Call **Teme** ext. 364.

The Family Place at The Jewish Discovery Museum offers the following new classes in September, Boogie Babies and Jammin Tots, music for 0-3 yrs, Stirring Stories, My Mishpacha (Family) & Me, and Holiday Cooking club, children's cooking classes for ages 4 and up. Classes will begin in October classes. Call ext. 390 for details.

The Family Resource Centre in the Promenade Mall has new parenting workshops and programs for children aged 0-5 including, Daddy & Me, Ima & Me, Music Mavens, Kids Yoga, Hebrew Sing-Along and Jewish Story Time. Morning drop-in programs include kosher snacks, daily crafts, music circle and weekly Shabbat Party. Call 905-882-8509 or visit www.thefamilyresourcecentre.ca.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Hebrew Marathon Sundays, Sept. 10 and 18, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Beginners Hebrew, Tuesdays, Sept. 12-Nov. 7, 7-8:30 p.m.

Conversation Hebrew, Thursdays, beginning Sept. 21, 7-8:30 p.m.

Intermediate Hebrew, Mondays, beginning Sept. 18, 7-8:30 p.m.

Yiddish for Beginners, Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m. Sept. 18-Oct. 30.

Intermediate Yiddish, Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Sept. 19-Oct. 24.

Call ext. 0 for information and registration.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 31

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Radmila Nikolic	Aug 26/06	1781 Medallion Court
John Weinzweig	Aug 24/06	33 Castle Frank Road
Regina Buchman	Aug 27/06	40 Hearthstone Crescent
Izzy Kirshenbaum	Aug 27/06	19 Jenkins Drive
Barbara Rotman	Aug 27/06	1 Clark Avenue West,
Arnold Robins	Aug 28/06	866 Sheppard Ave. West,
Morris Ross	Aug 29/06	72 Norfinch Drive
Anne Klein	Aug 28/06	28 Fairholme Avenue
Sony Miller	Aug 29/06	25 Coulson Avenue
Raziel Gershater	Sep 2/06	9 Montclair Ave.

HEBREW DASIC BURIAL

Murray Roher	Aug 20/06	55 Ameer Avenue,
Mollie Milne	Aug 21/06	193 Wilson Avenue,
Stella Mantin	Aug 24/06	550 Cummer Avenue
Laurence Tate	Aug 26/06	81 Albany Avenue

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Wishniak, Liubov	Aug. 12/06	47 Tinti Place
Shekhter, Olga	Aug. 13/06	31 Brooke St
Stearn, Steven	Aug. 14/06	22 Bainbridge Ave
Rabinovitch, Sosi	Aug. 14/06	184 Hilda Ave
Richer, Anne	Aug. 17/06	11 Townsgate Dr
Soukholitko, Boris	Aug. 17/06	Private
Novik, Efim	Aug. 18/06	33 Keremeos Cres
Azagury, Leon	Aug. 19/06	3560 Bathurst St
Liberson, Sophie	Aug. 21/06	38 Rockford Court
Green, Nathan	Aug. 21/06	3560 Bathurst St
Seidman, Ruth	Aug. 21/06	302 Hidden Trail
Bolotovsky, Solomon	Aug. 22/06	541 Finch Ave. W.
Davidson, Frances	Aug. 23/06	Private
Roth, Gerald	Aug. 23/06	163 Viewmount Ave
Berman, Samuel	Aug. 24/06	100 Observatory Lane
Gross, Bunnie	Aug. 24/06	Private
Ambrose, Lillian	Aug. 25/06	55 Ameer Ave
Zoldan, Livia	Aug. 25/06	60 Fruili Crt
Dancygier, Jack	Aug. 26/06	3560 Bathurst St
Vigon, David	Aug. 26/06	541 Finch Ave. W.
Greenfield, Jack Louis	Aug. 26/06	Private

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MORRIS (MOSHE) BITTERMAN ז"ל
Beloved husband, father & friend
will take place on
Sunday, September 17th at 1:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Tikvah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DR. NEIL KOVEN ז"ל
Beloved husband, father, son and brother
will take place
Sunday, September 17th at 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Avenue
New Beth Shalom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SARAH (SALLY) DZIALOSZYNSKI ז"ל
will take place
Friday, Sept. 15th, 12:30 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JONATHAN ENCHIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 17th, 12:30 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACK GANZ ז"ל
will take place
Monday, Sept. 18th, 11:00 a.m.
Dawes Rd. Cemetery
Beth David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
KATHRINE (KATHY) GREEN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 17th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
B'nai Torah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The family of the late
CECILE ARIAS (née BIANCO) ז"ל
Would like to extend our appreciation to rabbis, family, friends and neighbours, for the outpouring of support which has been a source of comfort during our recent bereavement, and to the shivah meals and donations given in Cecile's memory.
The Arias, Salama and Zweig families

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MOLLY HELLER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 17th, 1:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Zaglembier Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SHLOMO NELKIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 17th, 2:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
The BAYT Congregation Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The family of the late beloved
JEAN MARKIN ז"ל
wishes to express our sincere gratitude to our family and friends for your many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy. Your comforting support during this difficult time will always be remembered.
, Joe & Sarah Markin, Murray & Stacy Markin, Yaakov & Helen Cohen, Manny & Natalie Langer, & Sylvia Teitelbaum and family

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FLORENCE PHILLIPS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 17th, 1:00 p.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Toronto Hebrew Benevolent Society - Section #1
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JASON (JACKIE) TEITELBAUM ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 17th, 12:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section 5 DDDD
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Obituary

Writer, historian dies at age 98

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Isadore Wolch, a retired dentist and former Winnipeg alderman who became a writer and historian in his old age, died, Aug. 30, after a short illness. He was 98.

Wolch practised dentistry in Winnipeg for 55 years and was the city's first root canal specialist. "For the last 15 years in practice, I only did root canals," he once said.

Twenty years ago, Wolch put down his dental tools for good and took up the pen. Since then, the late-blooming writer wrote numerous articles about his life and people he has known for Winnipeg's *Jewish Post & News* and a newspaper in Palm Springs, Calif. He also delivered many talks on the same subjects.

Isadore Wolch was a former Winnipeg alderman

In 2000, he published his autobiography, *A Wandering Wolch*. In 2001, he published *Winnipeg's Unknown Celebrities*, a 45-page volume that profiles prominent Jewish Winnipeggers John Blumberg, a longtime city councillor; Sol Kanee, a onetime president of Canadian Jewish Congress and chairman of the World Jewish Congress board of governors; the Hollenberg family of doctors; and garment manufacturer Max Freed.

Wolch's own life could have been a chapter in the book. His public service resume, reflecting his eclectic interests, includes stints as president of the Jewish Historical Society, the Contemporary Dancers, B'nai Brith Lodge 650 and the Canadian Academy of Endodontics.

He also enjoyed a respectable political career. As a youngster, he became sympathetic to left-wing causes. His father was a labourer and neighbours were active in the labor political parties of the time. Wolch joined the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF), the forerunner of the NDP, when he became an adult.

In the early 1960s, he was approached by longtime NDP MP David Orlikow to run for a seat on the Winnipeg School Board. He lost on his first try by a handful of votes but won a solid majority the next time. He served for six years on the school board and six more years as an alderman on Winnipeg City Council. He received several awards for public service.

Two-and-a-half years ago in Palm Springs, he celebrated his 96th by having his third bar mitzvah. At the time, he explained that "your second bar-mitzvah is traditionally at 83. That is four score and ten years plus 13. Another 13 years adds up to 96."

"I didn't make too many mistakes and nobody heckled me," he said at the time. "It was very enjoyable."

Wolch was predeceased by his wife, Betty, in 1998, after 63 years of marriage. He was also predeceased by his daughter Judith Schaffer. He is survived by daughter Rona Brown.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2007
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TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2007
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2007
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by Nathan Englander
Presented by Rabbi Joe Kanofsky

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No progress in search for school firebomber

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The perpetrator of a Molotov-cocktail attack on a chassidic boys' school in Montreal over Labour Day weekend remains at large despite the act having been videotaped by the school's surveillance camera and despite a $5,000 reward offered by an anonymous donor for information leading to his arrest.

The images released by police show, from an angle, a masked black-haired man, seemingly in his 20s and apparently alone, wearing a beige top and beige pants reaching to below the knees. He is seen lighting an accelerant and throwing it through a glass panel of the main entrance of the Skver community's Toldos Yakov Yosef school in the city's Outremont neighbourhood shortly after midnight on Saturday, Sept. 2.

In the last frame, he removes his hood-like mask as he flees.

School and Jewish community officials told a press conference last week that they're confident and grateful police are putting the necessary resources into their investigation.

The community and police, however, differ on the motivation for the crime.

Police have so far not labelled the incident a hate crime, because of the absence of evidence such as graffiti or phone calls, and are treating it as arson. But Canadian Jewish Congress, B'nai Brith Canada and Toldos leaders are convinced the perpetrator deliberately targeted a Jewish institution. No one was in the school at the time. About a dozen teenaged students had left the building only about 20 minutes beforehand.

Damage was limited to the school's vestibule because sprinklers put out the fire and the fire department responded quickly, school director Binyomin Mayer said. He thanked the school's non-Jewish neighbours for immediately alerting police and coming to see if anyone was on the premises.

The school reopened the next day, but it estimates it will cost $150,000 to repair damage and add new security features.

Asked if he thought there was a connection between the incident and the recent Israel-Hezbollah conflict, Rabbi Reuben Poupko, co-chair of the Montreal Jewish Security Advisory Committee, told reporters that it's "a fair question to wonder whether the gathering of 15,000 Quebecers under the flag of Hezbollah – unfortunately further legitimized by the presence of politicians – creates an atmosphere where fanatics draw the conclusion that violence against Jews is somehow acceptable."

He said many in the community have been asking themselves that question. Rabbi Poupko was referring to the Aug. 6 demonstration against the recent war in which three politicians – Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe, Parti Québécois leader Andre Boisclair and federal Liberal MP Denis Coderre – participated prominently.

At the press conference, held three days after the firebombing, community officials asked that political leaders forcefully denounce the Toldos attack. But reaction was slow and scattered, unlike the firebombing of United Talmud Torahs' library in April 2004, when politicians at all levels, including then-prime minister Paul Martin, immediately condemned the act. (Prime Minister Stephen Harper has yet to issue a statement.)

Duceppe was one of the first politicians to condemn the incident and affirm that Quebecers do not tolerate any such "hateful act whoever it is directed at, or for whatever reason." Boisclair soon after denounced the incident as well.

Quebec Premier Jean Charest said: "No one can determine at this point if it was motivated by hate. But nonetheless I think it is important that all Quebec see very clearly on this issue that we are a society of tolerance, that we are a society that encourages free speech and that we should not and cannot tolerate these kinds of acts."

Federal Liberal leadership candidate and Nova Scotia MP Scott Brison visited the school to express his revulsion against what he called an act of "terrorism" against children and education.

NDP leader Jack Layton likewise stated: "How could someone be so callous as to attempt to strike terror into the hearts of young children?"

Alex Werzberger, president of the Coalition of Chassidic Organizations of Outremont, pointed out there is an Armenian church and school two blocks away from Toldos, as well as a French school on a nearby block, which suggests to him that the perpetrator had "his pick of schools" but went for the Jewish one. "You can't put any other spin on it than anti-Semitism."

Werzberger said there hasn't been a serious anti-Semitic incident in Outremont for a long time, nor has there been any recent contentious issue, such as disputes over shul locations, parking problems or an eruv, which were all prominent several years ago.

"Other than someone yelling 'damned Jews,' which is almost a daily occurrence, there has been nothing," he said.

FEDERATION CJA, which co-ordinates community security, is re-evaluating security at Jewish schools and other institutions in the wake of the incident, but it did not raise its threat-assessment level as a result of the incident. It continues to call for "heightened vigilance" and implementation of existing procedures.

Since the UTT firebombing, the federation has had a full-time community security director, Michel Bujold, formerly in charge of security at Concordia University. He was on the Toldos crime scene about three hours later.

After UTT, Combined Jewish Appeal raised $2.3 million specifically for security, and all 40 school and day-care sites were assessed by a U.S security professional. Toldos was found to be at risk and CJA heavily subsidized the installation of a surveillance camera. The school, located in a former industrial area that is now mainly home to condominiums, has been defaced with swastikas in the past. Its girls' school is down the street, as is a Belzer chassidic school.

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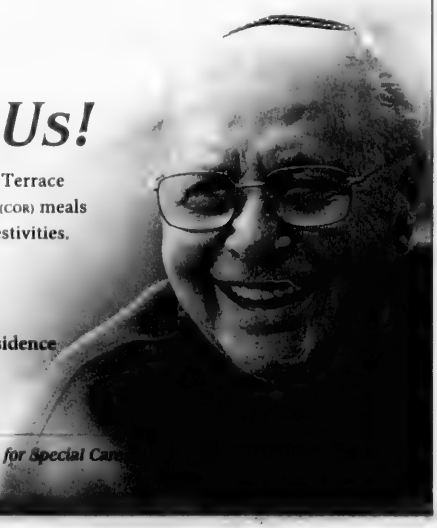
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'The Jewish community should be concerned'

Continued from page 1

"While the proportion of all Canadians citing the U.S. and Israel as bearing some of the blame for 9/11 is quite high, the results suggest that other Canadians do see the problem as more multidimensional than Quebecers," he said.

Interviewees were asked to rate their level of agreement or disagreement with three separate choices offered by interviewers, so the results from the three questions do not add up to 100 per cent.

Leger Marketing interviewed 1,508 adults by phone between Aug. 22 and 27. The margin of error for the national results is plus or minus 2.5 per cent. Some 400 Quebecers were polled as part of the overall sample of Canadians, and the smaller number makes the margin of error for Quebec alone somewhat higher.

Jebwab said the Jewish community should be concerned that a sizeable minority of Canadians overall are ready to blame Israel for 9/11. "It will be a big challenge to change their minds. A lot of work and dialogue is needed to help people better understand why the Jewish community, legitimately, feels differently."

On a separate question, Quebecers were slightly more inclined than other Canadians to agree that Canada should be more sensitive to the concerns expressed by Mideast terror groups. Just under half of all Canadians were of that opinion, compared to 53 per cent of Quebecers

"I was astonished by the results," said ACS director Jack Jedwab. "I knew there was a lot of naivete out there, but not this much."

Another Leger poll done in late August indicates Quebecers' opinions of Jews has suffered since the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. However, a solid majority still have a positive view of Jews.

Quebecers also think relations between Jews and Christians and between Jews and Muslims in Canada have deteriorated since the hostilities. There was no change in Quebecers' attitudes to Muslims, who are viewed in a positive light by just over half of those polled.

The second Leger poll, about perceptions of religious groups and relations between them, was conducted among 1,003 Quebec adults between Aug. 23 and 27 and was also commissioned by the ACS.

Sixty-nine per cent of Quebecers have a positive opinion of Jews, down five per cent from a similar survey taken July 11 to 16, when the war was just beginning.

A quarter in the August poll have a negative opinion of Jews and the rest don't know or have no opinion.

Jews are most highly regarded by the young, ages 18 to 24 (81 per cent), and those whose annual household income is between $40,000 and $60,000 (76 per cent).

The groups with the least favourable opinion of Jews are between the ages of 55 and 64 (56 per cent), while those over 65 have a slightly better opinion.

The differences according to income are not so pronounced. Those earning less than $20,000 and those making over $80,000 view Jews favourably at rates of 61 and 66 per cent, respectively.

Education did not have the effect on attitudes that might be expected. People with a high school education were found to be more positive toward Jews (71 per cent) than those who went to university (66 per cent).

Fifty-three of Quebecers have a positive opinion of Muslims, 37 per cent have a negative one, the same as in the July poll.

Attitudes to Christians remain unchanged from July as well, with 81 per cent of Quebecers having a good impression of this religious group and 12 per cent a poor opinion.

As with Jews, Muslims are most likely to be viewed positively by the youngest age cohort, and the difference between ages is dramatic.

Eighty-two per cent of those aged 18 to 24 have a positive opinion of Muslims, while only 41 per cent of those 55 and over do.

Asked about their perceptions of relations between the three religious groups, two-thirds feel relations are good between Jews and Christians in Canada. But that's down 11 per cent from July.

Just over half think relations are good between Muslims and Christians, which is the same as in July.

Only about a third canvassed in the latest poll perceives relations as good between Jews and Muslims in this country, five per cent fewer than in July.

The perception of good relations between Jews and Christians was higher among the young, the better educated, and those with higher incomes.

Those over 55 were more likely to think relations were not good between Jews and Muslims.

Jedwab thinks the five-per-cent drop in Jews' image over the 30-odd days of the war in Lebanon is a significant erosion.

But the 11-per-cent drop in perceptions of good relations between Jews and Christians may be of even more concern, he believes, because the biggest decline was seen among those who had thought the relationship had been "very positive" – in other words, those most committed to inter-religious harmony.

Jebwab said the perception by so many that Jews and Muslims in Canada are not getting along well is also something to watch, even though that may not be the reality. "This opinion is obviously a function of what is happening in the Middle East and elsewhere internationally. It's source of concern because perception has a way of becoming reality."

Leger says the results of the August poll are accurate within 3 or 4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

In the July poll, 1,502 Canadians were interviewed, of whom 400 were Quebecers, which means the margin of error for the July Quebec results is higher than for the August poll.

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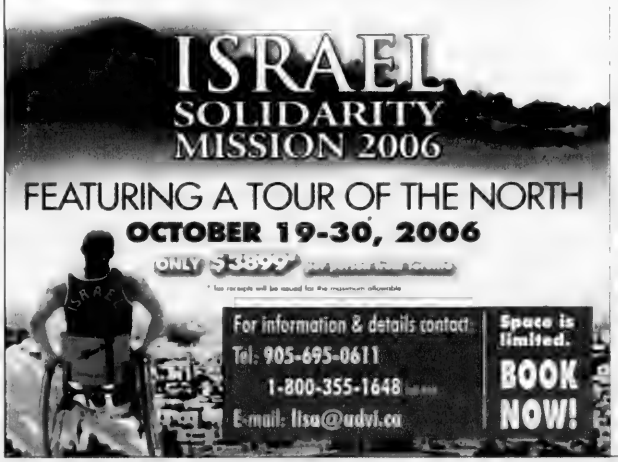

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Kashrut dispute resolved in Winnipeg

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The long-running dispute between longtime kosher butcher Omnitsky Kosher Foods and Winnipeg's Vaad Ha'ir has been resolved.

Don Aronovitch, the president of the Vaad, which administers the WK hechsher, said Vaad staff worked over the September long weekend to bring the butcher shop up to the kashrut standards that the Vaad had been demanding, and he said owner Sasha (Sam) Gehkt and his staff were the epitome of co-operation.

"We are pleased that we were able to reach an agreement with Omnitsky," Aronovitch said. "The butcher shop has long played an important role in the community."

The crisis came to a head on July 14 when Vaad officials entered what was then Winnipeg's only kosher butcher shop and removed its certification papers from the wall. That left Winnipeg kosher consumers scrambling to find alternate sources of kosher meat over the summer. It also created a lot of heat for the Vaad among many of the city's north end Jewish residents.

> ***'The butcher shop has long played an important role in the community'***

But the showdown between the Vaad and Omnitsky, which has been in business in north Winnipeg since 1922, had been building for a long time.

Gekht, a Russian immigrant, bought the business in 2000.

It has always been the store's practice to kasher meat on request, but not as a matter of course. For the past few years, the Vaad had been trying without success to get the butcher shop to kasher all of its fresh meat. The Vaad most recently sent Omnitsky a letter in May to that effect, but received no response.

"It wasn't until we took action that Mr. Gekht responded," Aronovitch said.

At the same time, the Vaad announced that its two longtime shochets were retiring and that there were no plans to replace them. That effectively meant that there would be no more local shchitah in Winnipeg. Gekht said that a Vaad promise to look into re-establishing local shchitah was one of the factors that induced him to sign a new contract with the Vaad.

Omnitsky had enjoyed a monopoly on kosher meat for the past 10 years, since an IGA store in south Winnipeg with a kosher meat section closed. But Omnitsky's loss of its Vaad certification over the summer opened the doors to a new rival in south Winnipeg.

Hali's Kosher Meat Market is an offshoot of Norman's Meats, a Jewish, family-owned non-kosher butcher shop that's been in business since the 1930s.

"We were getting numerous calls from people asking us if we would open a kosher butcher shop," said Harry Odwak, the son of Norman Odwak (the "Norman" in "Norman's Meats") who is operating Hali's with his sister, Lisa. "We realized that there was a void in the community and we decided to step in and help fill it."

Under the terms of its agreement with the Vaad, Hali's is operating inside Norman's Meats for three months on a trial basis. The Odwak Family is committed to relocating Hali to a stand-alone store if sales are strong.

Harry Odwak said business thus far has been good, but he and Lisa are not yet prepared to commit to the long term.

"Right now, we are still taking this one day at a time," he said. "So far, we are happy with the support that we are getting from the south Winnipeg Jewish community [where more than half the city's Jewish population now lives]."

Odwak said his family played no role in the dispute between the Vaad and Omnitsky. "We don't want to see anybody lose his business," he added.

Both Gekht and Aronovitch said they are happy to see competition in the city's kosher meat business once again.

"Competition is very good for the customers," said Gekht, who was bringing in kosher meat from Shefa Meats in Toronto during the time he and the Vaad were estranged.

Anecdotal evidence over the past two months indicated that most Omnitsky customers in the north end would have continued to shop there or looked to the supermarkets for non-kosher meat if the dispute had not been resolved. One IGA store a few blocks north of Omnitsky did try to fill the void by bringing in some kosher meat from Toronto on a trial basis. Now that Omnitsky has WK certification again, it's quite likely that most of the store's north end customers will continue to support the business.

But with new competition, others are considering their options.

The Gwen Secter Creative Living Centre, a north Winnipeg Jewish seniors drop in centre, had previously ordered its meat from Omnitsky. When the shop lost its hechsher, the centre looked to Shefa to fill its meat orders. Now, executive director Marilyn Regiec said she is looking at Shefa, Hali's and Omnitsky and will order from the supplier with the best prices.

Coast to Coast

Praying man removed from Air Canada flight

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — An Air Canada Jazz spokesperson denied that an Orthodox Jewish man was removed from a Montreal flight bound for New York City because he was praying, as has been reported.

Manon Stuart said the unidentified man was escorted off the plane because the crew "was unable to verify visually or verbally that he was complying with safety regulations" before take-off. The crew could not communicate with the man because he apparently did not understand English or French, she said.

Stuart said there were a few complaints from other passengers about the man's behaviour, but that was not the reason for removing him.

While she did not know the exact details of the incident, she said it is possible the flight attendants could not see if the man's seat belt was fastened because he was wearing a prayer shawl. (According to a reported eyewitness account from a nearby passenger, Yves Faguy, the man had a "sort of cover over his head" and was reading a book.)

The incident occurred Sept. 1 at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Airport. The plane had just left the gate for its 9 a.m. departure when the crew decided to remove the man from the plane, Stuart said, in order to find a translator.

A Hebrew translator was found within an hour and the airline was satisfied that the man understood what was required of passengers in preparation for take-off. The man was put aboard the next Jazz flight to New York between 1½ to two hours later, Stuart said.

Jews praying on board flights between Montreal and New York is not an uncommon occurrence.

"It is a delicate situation. We try to find a balance between respect for cultural diversity and ensuring the safety of all passengers. Safety must come first," she said.

Stuart said the airline is conducting an internal review of the "very unfortunate" incident "to see if it could have been handled differently."

CBC reported a quite different account of the incident based on what Faguy said he saw. Faguy said the man was not loud and did not seem to be bothering anyone, but a flight attendant approached the man and told him his behaviour was making other passengers nervous.

"The attendant actually recognized out loud that he wasn't a Muslim and that she was sorry for the situation but they had to ask him to leave," Faguy was quoted as saying.

Couple lived in own home until 2005

Continued from page 27

For their honeymoon, the couple boarded a train for Minneapolis without bringing any food along.

"We were young and naive," he recalled. "A Jewish fellow on the train recognized that we were newlyweds and treated us to two corned beef sandwiches and a bottle of Wynola. That was our wedding feast."

Fred spent 33 years on the road as a commercial traveller.

After he retired in 1968, Gertie persuaded him to take a creative writing course at the University of Winnipeg. That led to a second career for Fred as a writer and raconteur. He said he has written 65 short stories, many of which have been published in Winnipeg's *Jewish Post & News* over the years.

For many years, Fred and Gertie were very active in the community in seniors and Yiddish activities.

They were among the founders of the Stay Young Club, a Jewish seniors group that was started at the YMHA more than 25 years ago and still meets Tuesdays at the Asper Jewish Community Campus. Fred also sang in the Stay Young Choir for many years.

They have also been active in the Mamaloshen group and the United Jewish People's Organization.

The couple lived in their own home in north Winnipeg for more than 50 years, until the summer of 2005. Because of advancing Alzheimer's disease, Gertie was admitted into the Sharon Home. Shortly thereafter, Fred suffered a mild stroke. Although he has completely recovered, he also moved into the Sharon Home from the hospital.

"We are millionaires," Fred said at the anniversary party. "We have one son and one daughter, one grandson and one granddaughter and one great-grandson and one great-granddaughter, a lot of friends and a wonderful place to live. Who could ask for anything more?"

Fred said he and Gertie are happy in the Sharon Home. Gertie still enjoys playing the piano, while Fred is still able to get out and about. He attends the weekly Stay Young program, for example.

"We've made the Sharon Home our home," he said. "The staff is wonderful, the meals are excellent and there are programs every day."

He noted that he also enjoys reading his stories to fellow residents.

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Holiday Food Ideas

Traditional dishes with some new twists

By JUDY BART KANCIGOR
Special to The CJN

With the first crisp breeze at summer's close, I am filled with memories. Colour war games and the end of camp. The smell of newly sharpened pencils. New school clothes, and for the High Holy Days, a new hat, new gloves, new dresses for each service. Smells of roasting chicken and honey cake wafting downstairs from my grandparents' apartment, where Mama Hinda busily prepares her Erev Rosh Hashanah feast for the onslaught of Rabinowitzes that will soon fill those tiny rooms.

When I choose a menu for the holiday, some traditional dishes that I remember my mother, my aunts and my grandmother preparing beg for inclusion. Would it be Rosh Hashanah without Mama Hinda's majestic spiralled challah or Aunt Sally's tzimmes? But I also like to mix it up with some new twists on the old themes as I explore the new cookbooks of the season.

What a delicious way to celebrate the holidays!

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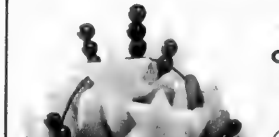

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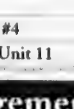

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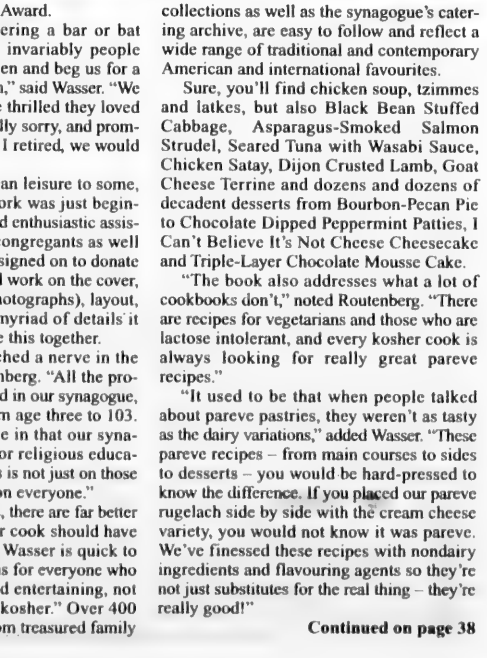
This year, I will be cooking from *Divine Kosher Cuisine* by Risé Routenberg and Barbara Wasser (Wimmer), the long-awaited, all-volunteer fundraising project of Congregation Agudat Achim in Niskayuna, N.Y.



Routenberg and Wasser draw on their years of experience with As You Like It, the synagogue's kosher catering service, which for decades has been a magnet in the area for all events Jewish, garnering national attention in 2003 when it won the Gold Solomon Schecter Award.

"When we were catering a bar or bat mitzvah or a wedding, invariably people would come in the kitchen and beg us for a recipe for this or that dish," said Wasser. "We would tell them we were thrilled they loved the dish, but we were really sorry, and promised that when Risé and I retired, we would write a cookbook."

Retirement might mean leisure to some, but for these two, the work was just beginning. Fortunately they had enthusiastic assistance from almost 150 congregants as well as local businesses who signed on to donate recipes and test them and work on the cover, art (over 200 luscious photographs), layout, publicity, etc. – all the myriad of details it takes to put a project like this together.

"This cookbook touched a nerve in the community," said Routenberg. "All the proceeds go to education, and in our synagogue, that means everyone from age three to 103. We are somewhat unique in that our synagogue does not charge for religious education. We feel that the onus is not just on those who have children; it is on everyone."

Worthy as this cause is, there are far better reasons that every kosher cook should have this cookbook, although Wasser is quick to point out that "this book is for everyone who loves cooking, eating and entertaining, not just for those who keep kosher." Over 400 tried-and-true recipes, from treasured family collections as well as the synagogue's catering archive, are easy to follow and reflect a wide range of traditional and contemporary American and international favourites.

Sure, you'll find chicken soup, tzimmes and latkes, but also Black Bean Stuffed Cabbage, Asparagus-Smoked Salmon Strudel, Seared Tuna with Wasabi Sauce, Chicken Satay, Dijon Crusted Lamb, Goat Cheese Terrine and dozens and dozens of decadent desserts from Bourbon-Pecan Pie to Chocolate Dipped Peppermint Patties, I Can't Believe It's Not Cheese Cheesecake and Triple-Layer Chocolate Mousse Cake.

"The book also addresses what a lot of cookbooks don't," noted Routenberg. "There are recipes for vegetarians and those who are lactose intolerant, and every kosher cook is always looking for really great pareve recipes."

"It used to be that when people talked about pareve pastries, they weren't as tasty as the dairy variations," added Wasser. "These pareve recipes – from main courses to sides to desserts – you would be hard-pressed to know the difference. If you placed our pareve rugelach side by side with the cream cheese variety, you would not know it was pareve. We've finessed these recipes with nondairy ingredients and flavouring agents so they're not just substitutes for the real thing – they're really good!"

Continued on page 38

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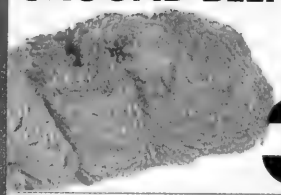
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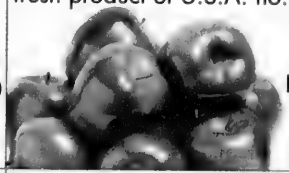
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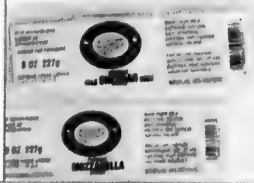
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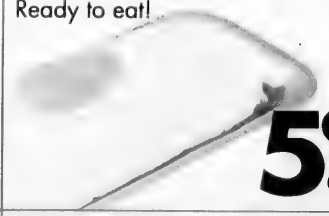
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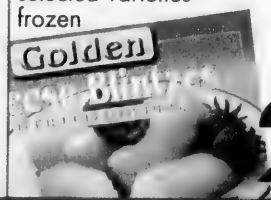

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Don't wait till the last minute

Continued from page 36

Cooks will especially appreciate the traditional and updated sample menus for Shabbat and the Jewish holidays and the tips for entertaining large groups that evolved from years of catering experience.

"Start warming everything up much earlier than you think is necessary," advised Wasser. "Cover your dishes well and warm them at 350. Then turn the heat down to 250. We have found you won't dry things out, but if your dish does need a little extra moisture, add a little water and rotate the dishes in and out of the oven.

"Most of our recipes you can prepare and freeze ahead. Keep last-minute things to a minimum so that you can relax and enjoy your company."

FRAGRANT CARROT SOUP WITH INDIAN SPICES

½ cup olive oil
2 large onions, chopped
2 tbsp. brown sugar, firmly packed
1 tsp. ground coriander
2 tbsp. curry powder
½ tsp. ground cardamom
⅛ tsp. ground nutmeg
2 lb. carrots, peeled and chopped
4 medium potatoes, peeled and chopped
3 quarts vegetable broth
salt and pepper to taste
cilantro, mint leaves or nondairy sour cream for garnish

Heat oil in soup pot and sauté onions until soft but not browned. Add sugar and spices and cook 1 minute.

Add carrots, potatoes and broth and bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer 30 minutes or until vegetables are soft. Add salt and pepper. Cool and puree.

Serve soup hot or at room temperature, and garnish. Makes 12 servings.

Hint: For a lower fat version, reduce oil to ⅓ cup.

CURRIED APPLE-SQUASH RINGS

6 tbsp. butter for dairy, divided (use margarine for pareve)
1 large onion, chopped
1½ tbsp. curry powder, divided
2 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and diced
⅔ cup apple juice
½ cup dried currants
salt and pepper to taste
2 acorn squash, cut into 1-in. rings and seeded

Preheat oven to 350. Grease cookie sheets. Heat 1 tbsp. butter or margarine in large skillet and sauté onions until soft. Stir in 1 tbsp. curry powder, apples, juice and currants. Simmer until liquid evaporates. Season with salt and pepper.

Melt remaining butter or margarine in saucepan, add remaining curry powder and stir until fragrant, to make curry glaze.

Arrange squash rings in single layer on sheets. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place scoop of filling into centre of each squash ring. Drizzle with curry glaze. Cover with foil and bake until tender, about 45 minutes. Transfer to platter with spatula to serve. Makes 8 servings.

BULGARIAN CHICKEN

Sauce
½ cup olive oil
2 tbsp. lemon juice
3 tbsp. red wine vinegar
2 garlic cloves, minced
3 tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley
1 tsp. dried dill
1 tsp. dried rosemary
salt and pepper to taste

Whisk together sauce ingredients.

Chicken
5 medium potatoes, peeled and coarsely chopped
5 medium tomatoes, peeled and coarsely chopped
3½ lb. chicken, cut into eighths or 6 chicken breasts, boned and skinned
1 tsp. paprika

Preheat oven to 350. Grease 9x13-in. baking pan. Place potatoes and tomatoes in pan, cover with chicken and brush with half the sauce. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake uncovered 20 minutes.

Baste with remaining sauce and bake until tender. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

APPLE-HONEY DESSERT PIZZA

9-in. unbaked pie shell
flour for dusting
¼ cup honey
1 cup applesauce
2 medium apples, peeled and thinly sliced
⅓ cup ground nuts
¼ cup raisins
¼ cup sugar
½ tsp. ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 400. Grease cookie sheet or pizza pan. Remove pie crust from foil pan, dust lightly with flour and roll into 12-in. circle directly on sheet or pan.

Crimp edge of dough to form rim, prick with fork and brush with honey. Cover with applesauce to rim. Top with apple slices in concentric circles.

Sprinkle with nuts and raisins. Combine sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle over top. Bake 20 minutes or until crust is firm and golden brown. Cut into wedges.

Hint: Add chocolate mini-chips, nuts or finely chopped maraschino cherries. Makes 12 slices.

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- 2 cooked baking potatoes
- 2 cans (170 g each) **Clover Leaf® Chunk White Tuna** U Parve, drained
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) each chopped green onion and corn kernels
- 2 cups (500 ml) mild salsa
- 1 cup (250 ml) shredded Cheddar cheese
- Sour cream (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Cut potatoes into 1/2-inch (1 cm) cubes, leaving skin on. Stir potatoes gently with tuna, green onion, corn and salsa. Scrape into a 7 x 11-inch (2 L) casserole.

Sprinkle evenly with Cheddar cheese and transfer to oven. Bake for 25 minutes or until casserole is bubbly and cheese is melted. Serve with sour cream, if using. Makes 4 servings.

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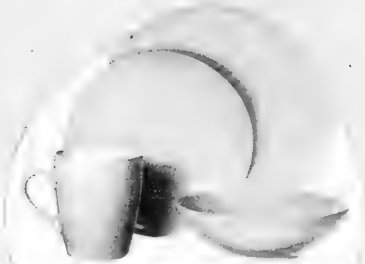

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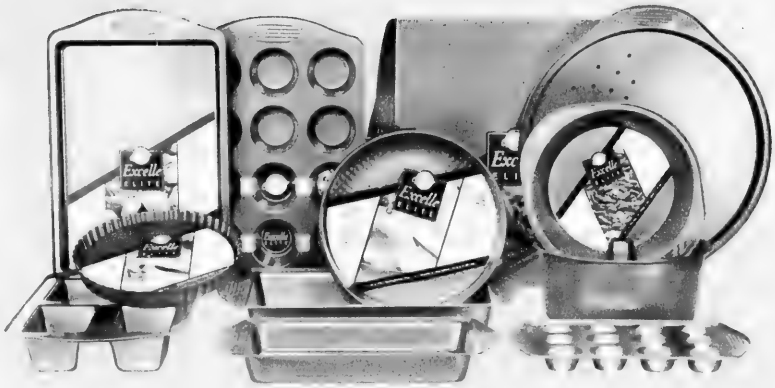

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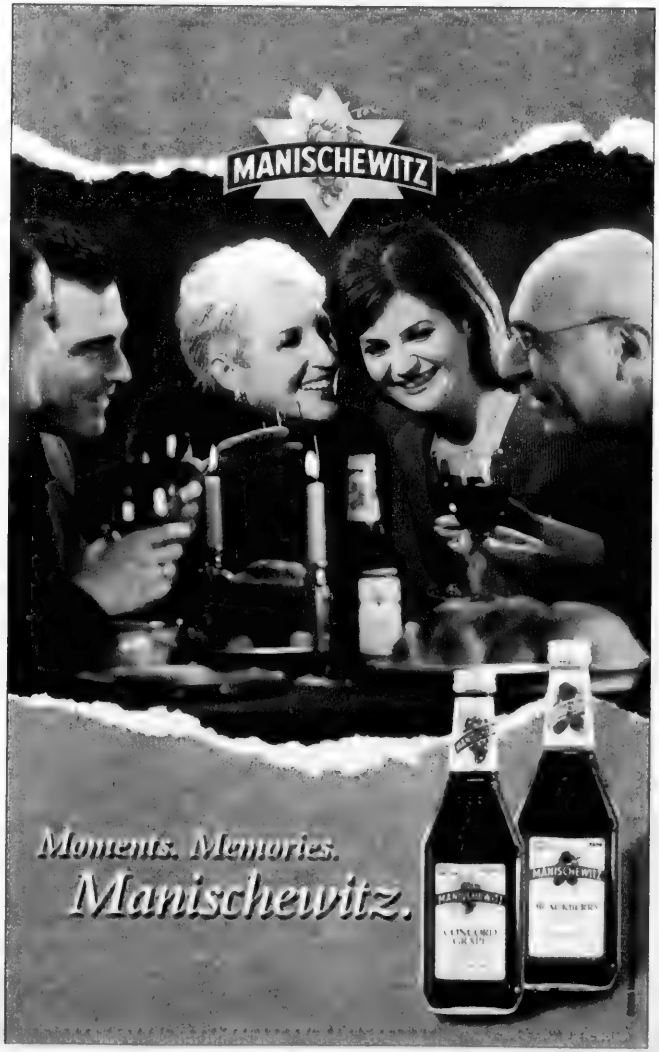

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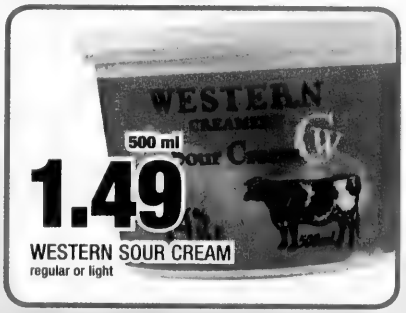

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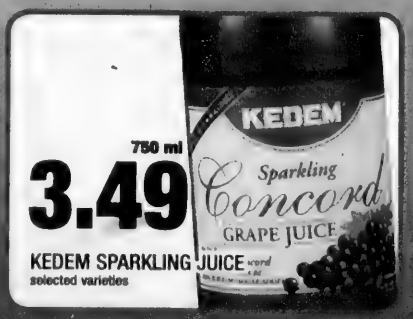

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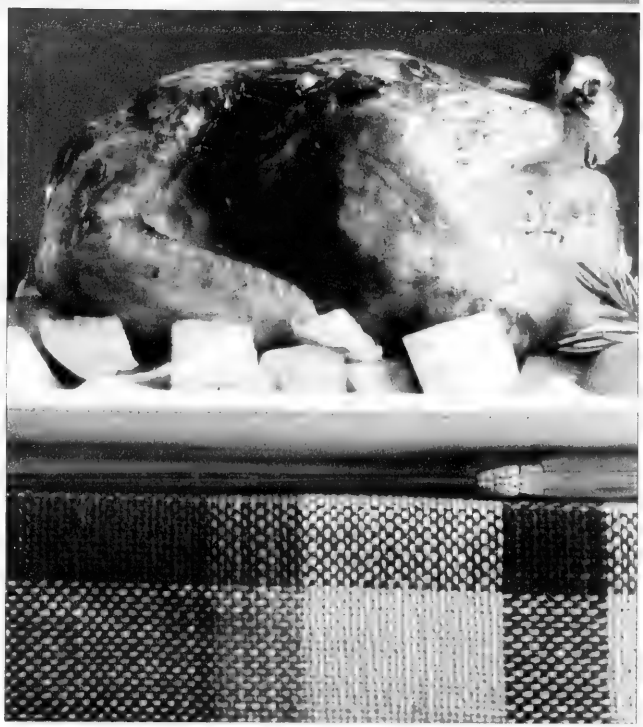
Holiday Food Ideas

Lighten things up with side dishes

By DAPHNA RABINOVITCH
Special to The CJN



During the High Holy Days, I'm as traditional as they come. I love the heady perfume of simmering chicken soup. I make way too many matzah balls (and can never quite get them heavy enough for my husband's liking). I serve both brisket and chicken.

Where I like to lighten things up, however, is in the side courses and the desserts. This menu represents this personal pattern in that the salad is refreshingly tangy and citrusy and a pleasant change from the heaviness of the meat. The brisket is deliciously dark and can be made up to 48 hours ahead. And although I tend to serve an apple dessert as well, the apricot raspberry linzer torte is a tart alternative as well as a bitter-sweet nod to the last lingering days of summer produce.

BIBB LETTUCE SALAD WITH GRAPEFRUIT, AVOCADO AND PISTACHIOS

2 large heads butter or bibb lettuce
2 large red grapefruit
1 ripe avocado
1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1/4 cup pistachios, toasted and coarsely chopped

Dressing:
2 tbsp. grapefruit or orange juice
2 tbsp. sherry vinegar
2 tsp. honey
2 tsp. Dijon mustard
1/2 tsp. each salt and pepper
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil

Wash and dry the lettuce. Tear lettuce into bite size pieces (you should have about 10 cups) and place in serving bowl.

Continued on page 43

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WE WISH OUR CUSTOMERS A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR

Try an alternative to apples in desserts

Continued from page 42

Cut off peel and pith from both grapefruits. Holding grapefruit over a bowl to catch its juices, cut out segments; set aside to drain on paper towels. Peel avocado and cut into cubes; toss with lemon juice and set aside. (All of the above can be prepared up to 4 hours in advance.)

Dressing: In bowl, whisk together juice, vinegar, honey, mustard, salt and pepper. Gradually whisk in oil until well emulsified. (Dressing can be made up to 2 days ahead. Bring to room temperature before serving.)

To serve, toss together lettuce, grapefruit segments, avocado and dressing. Sprinkle pistachios over. Makes 8 servings.

BEEF SHORT RIBS IN WINE AND BALSAMIC SAUCE

6 lb. beef short ribs
¼ cup all purpose flour
1½ tsp. smoked paprika
1 tsp. dried thyme
1 tsp. each salt and pepper
3 tbsp. vegetable oil
3 cups dry red wine
1 cup beef stock
4 carrots, peeled and cut into large chunks
2 stalks celery, cut into large chunks
2 onions, peeled and quartered
4 cloves garlic
2 each sprigs fresh rosemary and thyme
3 tbsp. balsamic vinegar

In shallow bowl or plate, combine flour, paprika, thyme, salt and pepper. Coat beef ribs on both sides in mixture, and reserve leftover flour. Heat oil in skillet set over medium heat. Brown ribs well on each side, transferring to large roasting pan as finished. Skim off any extra fat. Sprinkle remaining flour in pan; whisk for 1 minute. Pour in red wine and stock. Bring to boil. Boil for 5 minutes. Let cool.

Arrange carrots, celery, onions and garlic around ribs in roasting pan. Lay herb sprigs over meat. Pour cooled wine mixture over. Cover with aluminum foil and refrigerate for 24 hours.

Bake in centre of preheated oven at 325, basting occasionally, for 3 hours or until ribs are very tender and meat is falling off the bones. Transfer to serving dish; cover with foil to keep warm.

Strain liquid, discarding all vegetables and herbs. Spoon off any excess fat. Pour liquid into pot; pour in vinegar. Bring to boil; boil for 5 minutes or until thickened and shiny. Pour sauce over ribs to serve. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

APRICOT RASPBERRY LINZER TORTE

Filling:
2 cups fresh or frozen apricots, washed and pitted, and sliced
⅔ cup apricot jam
¼ cup granulated sugar
1 tbsp. cornstarch
1 cup fresh or frozen raspberries
1 egg, lightly beaten

Pie Crust:
1¼ cups all purpose flour
½ cup ground pecans
½ tsp. salt
2 tbsp. packed light brown sugar
1 cups stick margarine, frozen
¼ cold water

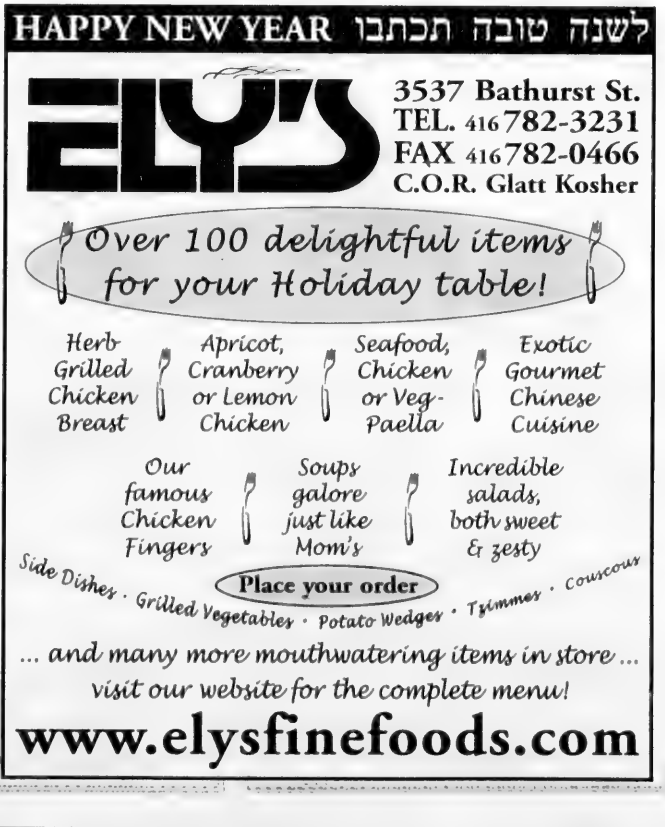
Crust: Place flour, pecans, salt and brown sugar in bowl of food processor. Pulse to aerate. Cut in margarine. Pulse until mixture resembles coarse meal with a few larger pieces. Pour in water; pulse just until mixture starts to hold together but is not yet formed into a ball. Transfer mixture to counter; knead very lightly until in a ball. Halve and flatten into 2 discs. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or for up to 24 hours.

Filling: In saucepan, combine apricots, jam, sugar and cornstarch. Bring to boil; reduce heat and gently boil, stirring occasionally for 5 to 8 minutes or until thickened. Transfer to bowl. Cover surface directly with plastic wrap; refrigerate for at least 8 hours or for up to 24 hours.

On lightly floured surface, roll out half of dough to 10-inch circle. Fit into 9-inch tart pan with removable bottom. Spread apricot filling in shell. Sprinkle with raspberries. Brush egg over rim.

Roll out remaining dough to 9½-in. circle. With plain pastry tip or ¼-in. cookie cutter, cut out small holes from pastry. Roll up pastry around rolling pin and unroll on top of filling, pressing rim to adhere. Trim excess pastry off. Brush egg all over surface of pastry.

Bake in centre of preheated 375 oven for about 45 minutes or until pastry is golden and filling is bubbling. Let cool completely in pan on rack. Makes 8 servings.



food Basics

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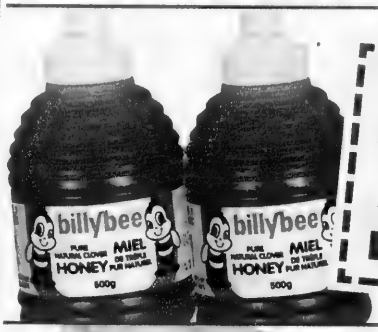

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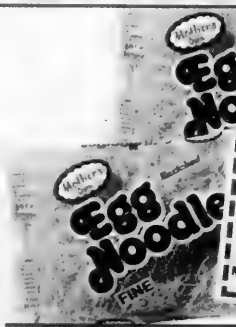

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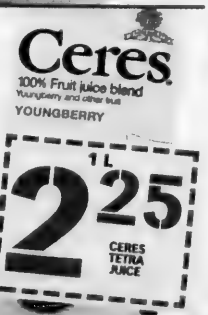

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Rabbis in the kitchen

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

If you're looking for a recipe for curried cholent; low-fat crispy schnitzel; or barley risotto with shiitake and oyster mushrooms, onions, and sweet red peppers, try asking Rabbi Yossi Sapirman, spiritual leader of Beth Torah Congregation.

When he was growing up in Toronto in a family of nine children, his mother Minna always let them cook, he says. "We would often have guests at our dinner table and she trained us to be efficient.

Rabbi Yossi Sapirman

"We would have six things going at once – two in the oven, three on the stove top and a huge bowl of rising challah."

To this day, he says, she still loves new recipes. "She is always trying something new, and she trained us to experiment. How many kids knew about black strap molasses? She would use it in her wholewheat bread."

The rabbi, who eats chicken and fish but not red meat, says he and his siblings were always part of their mother's kitchen. "We would lick the bowl, preview the next day's menu and try her experiments. The food was much more than physical nourishment; it had far more meaning."

Particularly at Rosh Hashanah, says Rabbi Sapirman, food takes on deep significance. "When we blow the shofar, we say that it is the world's birthday, and it is important to acknowledge the birthday by partaking in seasonal fruits and vegetables. They are the offspring of the earth.

"It's also time to slow down and take stock of the year, and there's no better way to do that than with some slow cooking. Start every dish from scratch, and appreciate that moment in life."

In celebrating the world's birthday, he says, it is a good time to bring the world's influence into our cooking. "Discover what other Jews are eating. What are Syrian or Indian Jews preparing for the holidays? When I think about that, it connects me spiritually to communities around the world."

Cook slowly with spiritual meaning

God looks down on us, he says, "but we are the caretakers. By cooking healthy and nourishing food we are sanctifying the world.

"Food is an instrument of health and wellness. We need to think about that during Rosh Hashanah when we are taking stock of our lives.

"And speaking of stock, there is nothing like soup stock to make food more flavourful. When I make stir fry, I reduce some stock, add in a little sugar-free jam, and I've created a sauce."

When making barley risotto, he says, he starts by cooking two cups of barley in a crock pot. "Meanwhile I stir fry a sweet vadalia onion, red pepper, and chopped yellow and green zucchinis. Then I add coarsely chopped shiitake and oyster mushrooms, so they just flash in the pan.

"Add that to barley, then pan fry some spicy chicken sausage chopped into one-inch pieces. Squeeze the juice of one lemon into the pan, turn off the heat, and let it sit so it continues to cook.

"Add to barley, squeeze in more lemon juice, and then salt and pepper. This can be served hot or cold."

He finds cooking relaxing, Rabbi Sapirman says. "Listening to music while I cook is a sensory experience that is unparalleled. I use my sense of touch, smell and sight, and my creative juices flow. There is also a sense of anticipation. Cooking can be a romantic activity for one."

Rabbis Baruch Frydman-Kohl and Sean Gorman of Beth Tzedec Congregation agree that being involved in the preparation of yom tov and Shabbat meals is a mitzvah.

"Everyone is supposed to be engaged in the shopping and preparation of food – not just the women," says Rabbi Frydman-Kohl.

Rabbi Gorman tries to leave shul every Friday afternoon by noon, he says, in order to get home in time to bake the challah. His wife Jennifer, also a rabbi, "is just not as happy with anyone else's challah. The secret is honey."

Continued on page 46

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, left, and Rabbi Sean Gorman

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'Fire-and-forget' cooking for busy family

Continued from page 45

He learned to bake by necessity, he says, while he was a U.S. naval chaplain on duty in Hawaii, and the local bakery was not under kosher supervision.

Shabbat and holiday menus at their home depend largely on who is doing the cooking, he says. "I enjoy cooking Middle Eastern cuisine, and Jennifer likes European, so you always know who has done the cooking.

"If I were cooking the Rosh Hashanah meal, I would prepare a Moroccan-type dish such as a vegetable stew with couscous. My wife would be more likely to cook brisket."

Their three children, ages nine, six and four, are starting to take an interest in cooking, he says. "It's a lot of fun for them to help in the preparations."

With their hectic lifestyle, he says, they concentrate on dishes that are not labour intensive. "We call them fire-and-forget. It's a marine term. You put it in the oven and forget about it until it's ready. If I need to write and cook on Friday afternoon, fire-and-forget dishes are great."

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl, who kneads the Shabbat challah in a bread maker, says he uses one part multi-grain flour to four parts of unbleached flour. "Sometimes I add raisins or chocolate chips for fun."

His family – he and his wife Josette have three boys ages 22, 19 and 16 – usually have company for Rosh Hashanah lunch, he says.

"My wife does the shopping, and I do the cooking. A typical menu would include wine, challot, gefilte fish and brisket or standing rib roast.

"We buy frozen fish and cook it with celery, carrots and sugar. It's very good, and quick. We're always concerned about moving quickly," says Rabbi Frydman-Kohl, who eats fish but not red meat or chicken.

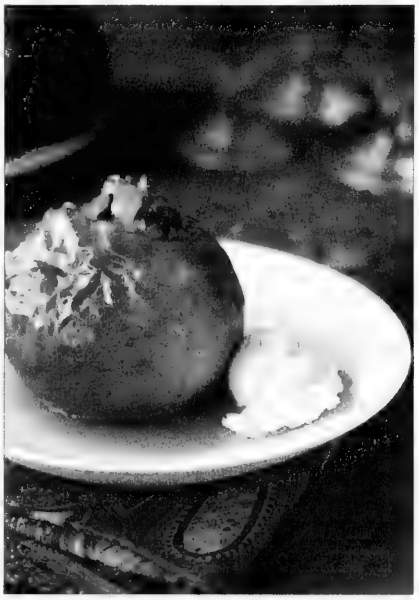
Among the favourite side dishes at their home are mashed yams with maple syrup and topped with marshmallows, and Jerusalem kugel made with caramelized sugar.

For Sukkot, he says, he may cook a rice medley with dates, figs and raisins.

Some of his best sermons have evolved while he was cooking, he says. "I often go back and forth between writing and cooking, and I have turned rice into a sermon. I told [my congregants] that just as a pinch of saffron rice can flavour an entire recipe, a small gesture can affect an entire life."

There is much more to food than physical sustenance, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl says. "It should taste good and impart meaning."

BAKED APPLES



with dates and apricots as seen in *Jewish Cooking for All Seasons* by Laura Frankel, Wiley publishers

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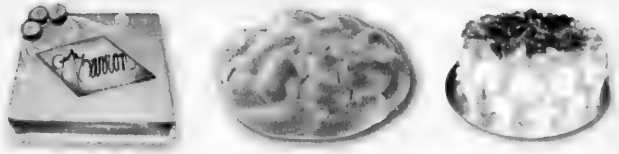

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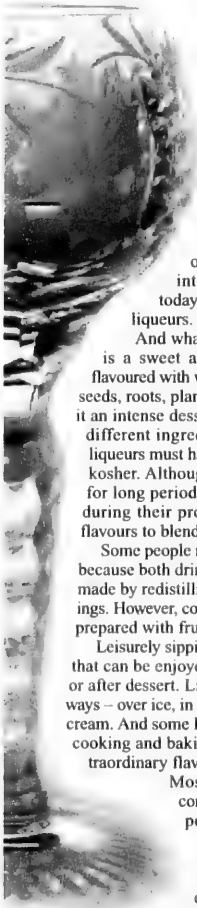
Liqueurs… a sweet treat for a sweet Shanah Tovah



Today, people are becoming very knowledgable about fine wines from around the world and the many factors involved in their production.

But what about fine liqueurs? Where do they come from and how are they produced? The word "liqueur" is derived from the Latin "liquifacere," meaning to dissolve, and it's the delicate process of dissolving many flavourings into one another that produces today's large variety of exciting, tasty liqueurs.

And what exactly is a liqueur? A liqueur is a sweet alcoholic beverage that can be flavoured with wine, fruits, herbs, spices, flowers, seeds, roots, plants, barks and even cream to give it an intense dessert-like taste. Because so many different ingredients are blended together, all liqueurs must have certification to be considered kosher. Although liqueurs are not usually aged for long periods, they can have resting periods during their production to allow their various flavours to blend and marry each other.

Some people may refer to a liqueur as a cordial because both drinks are highly sweetened and are made by redistilling spirits with aromatic flavourings. However, cordials, unlike liqueurs, are usually prepared with fruit pulp or juices.

Leisurely sipping a fine liqueur is a special treat that can be enjoyed after dinner as well as during or after dessert. Liqueur can be served in different ways – over ice, in cocktails, coffee or poured on ice cream. And some liqueurs can even be added while cooking and baking to give specific foods an extraordinary flavour.

Most liqueurs have lower alcohol content than liquor, usually 15 to 30 per cent, although some have as much as 55 per cent.

An excellent liqueur, just like a superb wine, can enhance every table and special occasion. New this year are some quality kosher liqueurs.

The famous Herman Jansen kosher parve liqueurs, produced under the supervision of the London Beth Din and the OU, are now available in Toronto. Herman Jansen liqueurs are renowned for their excellent quality and outstanding taste. And Herman Jansen is also well-known for being the first company to produce a kosher chocolate mint liqueur! The Curacao Blue and the ever-popular Chocolate Mint are especially pleasing, full of rich flavour, and truly satisfying whenever or however they're served.

With their distinctive, elegant presentation, Herman Jansen liqueurs will impress your host or hostess and delight your family and guests, as well as enhance your assortment of liquor and wines.

This year, outstanding Rosh Hashanah wines from Israel include the Barkan Classic Cabernet Sauvignon with its gorgeous aromas of blackberry, cassis and oak. When you taste this wine, layers of fruit and spice cover the palate, while its well-balanced tannins and acidity maintain a perfect structure. The charming, velvety smooth texture combined with the long, lingering finish makes this red wine a true celebration. The Barkan Classic Chardonnay is a full-bodied white wine with pear and citrus fruit flavours.

From Israel's impressive Efrat Winery is the Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot, 2004, a bronze medal winner, and described by Daniel Rogov, the country's internationally respected wine authority, as being "young, fresh and lively, with soft tannins and an appealing berry-cherry personality. Hints of spices and Mediterranean herbs add complexity. Drink now." The Shiraz, 2004, is delicious 100 per cent Israeli Shiraz, a fruity wine with pleasant plum and wild berry fruits, as well as intense red colour and lovely purple hues. On the palate, it exhibits full-bodied wine with fine, ripe tannins complemented by French oak.

All liqueurs and wines are available at the LCBO. Agent Mazel Wines.

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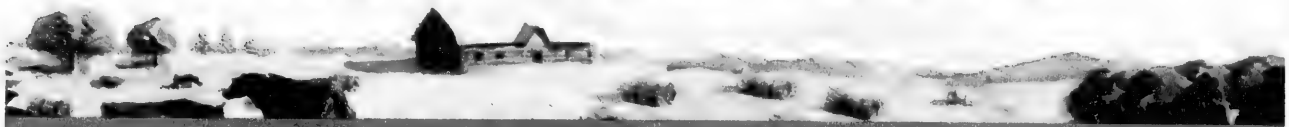

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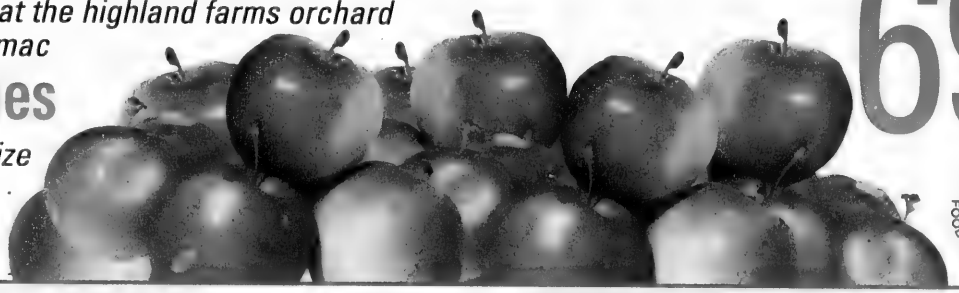

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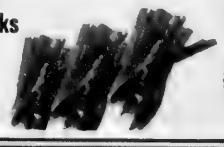

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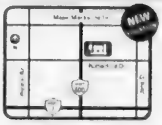

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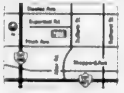

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Holiday Food Ideas

Honey cake a holiday tradition for many

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

Whether you're Ashkenazi or Sephardi, honey cake and the holidays are synonymous. I've developed quite a repertoire of interesting and different honey cake recipes, some of which are dairy and can, for the most part, be converted to pareve with a few minor substitutions.

SPICY HONEY CAKE WITH CRANBERRIES

2¼ cups flour
1 tsp. ground cloves
2 tsp. ground cinnamon
¼ tsp. freshly grated nutmeg
¼ tsp. cream of tartar
¼ tsp. baking soda
¼ tsp. salt
6 tbsp. (¾ stick) margarine or butter, melted
1½ tbsp. oil
3 tbsp. packed dark brown sugar
1 tbsp. white sugar
3 large eggs, beaten
1½ cups honey
1 cup sour cream
1 cup dried cranberries or sour cherries
1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans
sliced almonds for garnish

Preheat oven to 350. Grease and flour a 12-cup bundt or 10-in. tube pan, tapping out the excess flour, and set aside. In a bowl, sift together the flour, spices, cream of tartar, baking soda, and salt. With an electric mixer in another bowl, beat together the melted margarine or butter, oil, and both sugars in a large mixing bowl until well blended.

Beat in the eggs, one at a time, then add the honey and sour cream all at once and beat until you have a smooth batter. Beat in the flour mixture, 1 cup at a time, beating well after each addition. Fold in the cranberries and walnuts. Pour the batter into the prepared cake pan.

Bake the cake until a cake tester inserted near the centre comes out clean, 45 to 50 minutes. Invert the cake onto a wire rack and let cool. As soon as the cake is cool enough to handle, press the flaked almonds into the top. Place the cooled cake in an airtight container to ripen for 2 days before serving. Serves 8 to 10.

Emma's Honey Cake as seen in *Jewish Cooking Jewish Cooks* by Ramona Koval, New Holland publishers

CLASSIC HONEY CAKE

3 cups flour
1½ tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. ground cinnamon
½ tsp. baking soda
1 tbsp. instant coffee
½ cup boiling water
¼ cup oil
1 cup honey
zest (grated peel) of one orange
2 tbsp. any whiskey
4 eggs
1 cup sugar
1 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 325. In a bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, cinnamon and baking soda and set it aside. Mix the instant coffee with the water, blend in the oil, honey, orange zest and whiskey.

In a large bowl, beat the eggs until frothy, gradually add the sugar and beat until light. Add to the honey mixture. Combine the flour mixture alternately with the honey mixture, starting with the flour and ending with flour.

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What's the holiday without it?

Continued from page 49

Stir in the walnuts. Pour the batter into an oiled and waxed paper-lined 13 x 9x 2-in. baking pan. Bake for about 50 minutes. Test for doneness with a toothpick. If the toothpick comes out clean and dry the cake is done. If moist, keep baking until the toothpick comes out clean. Turn the cake upside down onto a wire rack. Cool. Peel off the waxed paper and wrap in aluminum foil to keep fresh. Serves 8 to 10.

SHELLIE'S PISTACHIO AND APRICOT HONEY CAKE

My friend Shellie sent this recipe to me last year and everyone I served it to raved about its rich pistachio flavour and the tangy apricot taste.

oil and flour to prepare the baking pan
3½ cups flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. ground cloves
½ tsp. cardamom
½ tsp. salt
½ cup boiling water
2 cups honey
¼ cup oil
1 tbsp. plus one tsp. lemon juice
zest of 1 lemon
4 large eggs
1 cup sugar
1 cup shelled pistachio nuts, roughly chopped
1½ cups dried apricots, cut into ¼-in. pieces

Preheat oven to 325. (Note: If using a single oven, place one rack in the centre of the oven and the other above it, allowing enough room in between for the height of the loaf pans. If a double oven is available, preheat both ovens.)

Line two 9 x 5-in. loaf pans with foil. Coat the foil with oil and flour, shaking out excess flour. Coat a 12-muffin tin with the oil and flour mixture, omitting the foil step.

Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, spices and salt in a bowl. In a separate bowl or cup, stir the boiling water into the honey. Add the oil, lemon juice and lemon zest, stirring to combine.

In an electric mixer, beat the eggs and the sugar until light and fluffy. Starting and ending with the flour, alternately add the flour and the honey mixture to the eggs and sugar.

Stir in the apricots and pistachios. Pour the batter into the large pans, filling them three-fourths of the way. Distribute the remaining batter evenly among the muffin cups. Place a cookie sheet on the oven racks. Bake the loaves on the cookie sheets for about 1 hour and 10 minutes or until a tester in the centre comes out clean. Let the cakes cool in the pans on a cooling rack.

As the loaves have finished baking, place the muffin tin in the centre rack of the oven and bake for 30-35 minutes, or until a tester comes out clean. Run a knife around the edges of the muffins and invert them on the rack to cool. Makes 2 cakes and 12 muffins.

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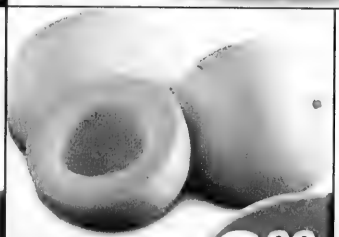

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Carrot tzimmes with a slight difference

By SUE EPSTEIN
Special to The CJN

For many of us, the onset of fall feels like a time of renewal. A new school year has just begun and we're getting back to a sense of order and reality after the often lazy pace of summer. Our thoughts turn to Rosh Hashanah and planning for it both spiritually and physically.

As with every other Jewish holiday, food plays a central role and is laden with symbolism.

The choice of produce for the Rosh Hashanah meals differs somewhat depending on whether one is Ashkenazi or Sephardi. Ashkenazi dishes traditionally feature apples, carrots, sweet potatoes, beets and other foods native to eastern Europe. Sephardi dishes feature foods like apricots, dates, pumpkins and turnips, foods common to the Middle East. Both make liberal use of leeks, zucchini and other produce that is plentiful in the early fall.

The foods served emphasize Rosh Hashanah's optimistic spirit and our hope for a sweet New Year, and thus sweet foods are called for and salty or bitter foods omitted.

There are those who like to serve gastronomic meals for Rosh Hashanah and those who prefer the traditional dishes. There was a time that I tried to serve very different and interesting dishes for the holidays, but as I grew older, I became much more traditional in my menus. But I still try to add one dish each year that is different for my family.

CARROT AND SWEET POTATO TZIMMES

This is an Ashkenazi standard. It's delicious any time of the year but the combination of carrots, sweet potatoes and dried fruits make it especially appropriate for Rosh Hashanah.

2 tbsp. oil
1 large onion, chopped
5 large carrots, thinly sliced
1 large can sweet potatoes or 3 large sweet potatoes
1 small can applesauce
½ cup chopped prunes
¼ cup chopped dried apricots
½ cup orange juice
1½ tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. ground ginger
½ tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 350. If using fresh sweet potatoes, cook in the microwave in their skins, then peel and slice. Heat oil in a large skillet. Saute the onions until they are translucent. Add the carrots and continue to cook until onions and carrots are golden.

Continued on page 53

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Cooking with fruit

Continued from page 52

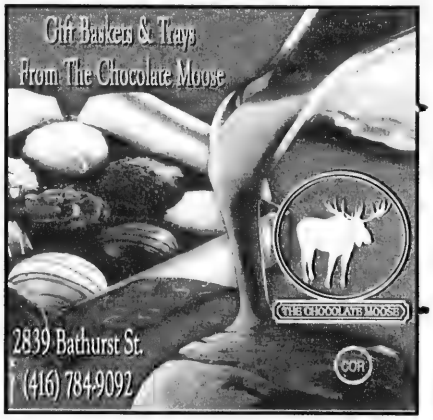
In a mixing bowl, combine the onion-carrot mixture with all the remaining ingredients. Mix thoroughly and don't worry if the potato slices break apart. Transfer the mixture to a large shallow baking dish that has been greased. Bake for 45-50 minutes, or until the top begins to turn slightly crusty. Serves 8.

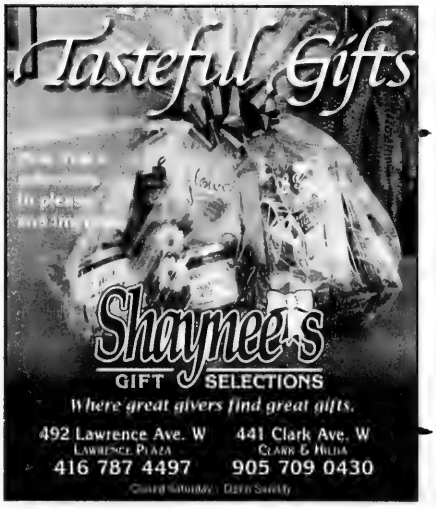
CRANBERRY SHIMMER

A refreshing addition to any meal, this can be served as a side dish or as a light dessert after the heavy holiday meal. An attractive way to serve it is to top it with frosted raw cranberries and fresh mint. To frost the cranberries, dip each berry into egg white and roll in granulated sugar. Set aside to dry before using.

1 6-oz. package raspberry gelatin
2½ cups boiling water
¼ cup lemon juice
1 cup diced celery
1 cup crushed pineapple, drained
2 16-oz. cans whole cranberry sauce
½ cup pecans, chopped (optional)

Thoroughly dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Add lemon juice and refrigerate until mixture begins to set. Remove from refrigerator and mix in celery, pineapple, cranberry sauce, and pecans if using. Pour into a 2-quart mould and refrigerate until completely set. This recipe can also be made in eight individual one-cup moulds. Serves 8.





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The fish head may not be everyone's choice

By JOSIE AARONSON-GELB
Special to The CJN

My 12-year-old cousin Hannah thinks that for Rosh Hashanah an appetizer of chocolate bars fulfils the same symbolic purpose as apples and honey – sweetness for a sweet New Year. Not a bad argument. But this Rosh Hashanah, I'm ignoring all pre-teen pleas and getting back to original culinary traditions. I'm talking about fish heads.

Fish heads have long been part of the Rosh Hashanah feast. There's an obvious symbolism to this practice: Rosh Hashanah literally translated means "Head of the Year." But fish heads also represent our hope that this New Year we will be leaders ("heads" of the fish), not followers ("tailing" behind).

Finding a fish head, while not problematic in shopping terms, did pose a problem when it came to menu planning. There are plenty of fish head soup recipes out there and even some fish head curries. But try generating excitement around a family dinner where the main tour de force is a simmered fish head. Strikes were threatened.

So this Rosh Hashanah we're indulging in fish bodies (on which there was once a head). Apples and honey though, those will remain in their pure form. Some traditions are not to be messed with.

GRILLED FISH SKEWERS WITH COCONUT CURRY

2 cloves garlic
2 tbsp. honey
¼ cup Dijon mustard
¼ cup olive oil
¼ cup + 1 tsp. apple cider vinegar, divided
¼ cup + 2 tbsp. tarragon leaves, divided
2 lb. tuna, monkfish, or halibut fillets, cut into 1-in. chunks
2 tbsp. butter
2 large tart green apples, peeled, cored, cut into ½-in. pieces
1 tsp. madras curry powder
1 cup coconut milk
1 tsp. brown sugar
salt and pepper

Prepare barbecue or pre-heat gas grill to medium-high heat. In a processor, pulse garlic, honey, Dijon, olive oil, ¼ cup of apple cider vinegar and ¼ cup of tarragon leaves until tarragon and garlic are roughly chopped.

Place fish in a large Tupperware or bowl. Pour tarragon marinade over fish and toss to coat. Marinate 15 minutes or up to 1 hour.

Meanwhile, in a skillet, melt butter and sauté apples and curry powder for 5 minutes. Add coconut milk. Simmer for 3 minutes. Add brown sugar, remaining 1 tsp. of apple cider vinegar, remaining 2 tbsp. tarragon leaves, salt and pepper. Stir and keep warm.

Thread fish onto 6 metal skewers, about 5 chunks per skewer. Season fish skewers with salt and pepper. Grill until fish chunks are just opaque in centre, turning occasionally, about 5 minutes.

Serve fish over rice and top with warm curry mixture. Serves 6.

HONEY LEMON SQUARES

½ cup plus ⅓ cup all-purpose flour, divided
½ cup sweet, flaked coconut
2 tbsp. packed light brown sugar
¼ tsp. salt
⅛ tsp. ground cloves
7 tbsp. cold butter
½ tsp. grated lemon zest
4 large eggs
¼ cup granulated sugar
½ cup honey
¼ cup fresh lemon juice
powdered sugar for dusting

Preheat oven to 350. Combine ½ cup flour, coconut, brown sugar, salt and cloves in processor; blend 5 seconds. Add butter and lemon zest. Process until mixture resembles fine meal and begins to clump together. Scatter dough evenly over bottom of greased 9-in. square baking pan. With a metal spatula, press dough down to form a uniform crust over the bottom of the pan. Bake crust until golden at edges, about 20 minutes.

While crust is baking, whisk together eggs and granulated sugar until combined well. Stir in honey and lemon juice. Whisk in remaining ⅓ cup flour. Pour lemon mixture over hot crust and reduce oven temperature to 300. Bake in middle of oven until set, 30-40 minutes. Cool completely in pan and cut into 16 bars. Bar cookies will keep (covered and chilled) for 3 days. Dust with powdered sugar before serving. Makes 16 bars.

Reunion marks century of Jewish life in Nfld.

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

ST JOHNS, Nfld. — More than 80 former and present Newfoundlanders celebrated their Jewish heritage at a gala mid-August reunion in St. John's.

Guests arrived from as far as Israel, Texas and western Canada to enjoy the hospitality that many of them knew as youngsters.

Organized and directed by a small committee led by Claire Frankel Salama, president of Beth El Congregation, and its past president, Michael Paul, the event, called "Kum Ahaym," celebrated more than 100 years of Jewish life in the province.

"One of the highlights was a Shacharit service held at Cape Spear, the nearest point in North America to Jerusalem, on a brilliant Sunday morning just after sunrise," said Doug Wilansky, now living in Toronto, whose father was spiritual leader of the Newfoundland community from 1922 to 1949. Doug, and Messod Salama, head of the Spanish department at Memorial University in St. John's, blew shofars to herald the day.

Like many young Newfoundlanders in the 1950s and '60s, Wilansky left the province to further his education. He earned a medical degree from Dalhousie University and was later a teacher at the McGill University and University of Toronto medical schools.

"I personally was moved to tears by the spirit of this event and the dedication to Jewish continuity generated by a handful of Jews in a distant and isolated part of Canada," Wilansky said. The St. John's Jewish community currently has about 25 families.

Claire Salama spoke of Sherwin Wilansky, a Lubavitch man who left at age 10 to attend yeshiva. "His father died while he was away, and he never returned until the Kum Ahaym. He saw his father's grave for the first time."

Douglas Wilansky of Toronto blows the shofar at the end of a shacharit service at World War II-era bunkers in Cape Spear, Nfld. Behind him is Harry Dubow of Dallas, Texas.
[Israel Ben-Ishai photo]

Randy Mauskopf, who works in sales for CHUM Radio in Toronto, spent his formative years in Newfoundland and continues to visit "home" and his father, Ernest, and his in-laws, a few times a year.

"I edited the memory book [a publication of recollections by former and present Newfoundlanders]," Mauskopf said. "It was amazing putting it together. There was such a good feeling around it. People from Badger and Corner Brook, and other communities somewhat distant from St. John's, contributed to it. My eyes were really opened to the history of the community and of Jews in Newfoundland."

The five-day, Wednesday-to-Sunday gathering (which ran Aug. 9-13) was an opportunity for people to renew ties. "People might have come back eventually, but this certainly spurred them," Claire Salama said. "Everyone received a memory book, which let everyone know about other families and established links between them all."

Social events were held at the synagogue, as were services Friday night and Saturday morning. "The only fully kosher winery in Canada [Rodrigues Winery of Whitbourne, Nfld.] produced berry wines for us and offered a wine tasting," Claire said.

As well, writer and poet Robin McGrath, a member of the St. John's Jewish community, launched her book, *Saltfish and Schmattes: a History of Jews in Newfoundland from 1770 to the Present*.

"We held a dinner of Newfoundland cuisine, drew 80 people to an Oneg Shabbat Friday night – and we'll probably never see a number like that again – and held a walking tour of former Jewish business sites," Claire said.

Continued on page 56

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Please find event details and registration information at www.fswc.ca

Reunion draws guests from Israel

Continued from page 55

Claire, who emigrated from Toronto with her husband Messod 21 years ago, said it was "magical to see these people discovering to whom they were related. The enthusiasm of the people when they attended services at what they called 'their synagogue' made me wonder how different our community would have been if these people stayed."

She noted the return of Jeffrey Platt, a transplant surgeon at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., who, while in St. John's, gave a lecture at Memorial University's medical school. He is the grandson of a rabbi who came to St, John's in the 1930s but couldn't make a living in his chosen profession, so he moved inland to Badger, where he operated a general store for a few years before moving to the United States.

Sandra and Ivar Riff of Montreal, left, and Harry Dubow and Sheryl Pearlman were among 80 current and former Jewish Newfoundlanders at the mid-August reunion.

"Many large family groups, including those of Wilansky, Sheffman, Cohen, Plotsky/Platt, Nathanson and Dubow, used this [reunion] as a forum for family get-togethers," Wilansky said.

"When you reflect on what might have been and could have been, St. John's would have been a flourishing Jewish centre," Claire Salama added wistfully.

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האמת לאמיתה

לא משנה אם דעתכם הפוליטית ימינה או שמאלה, פרו ישראלית או פרו פלשתינאית- שני המשפטים הבאים מסכמים את האמת לאמיתה:

אם הערבים יניחו את נשקם היום- לא תהיה אלימות.
אם היהודים יניחו את נשקם היום-לא תהיה מדינת ישראל.

Regardless of your feelings about the crisis in the Middle East the next two sentences say it all;
If the Arabs put down their weapons today-there will be no more violence.
If the Jews put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel.

דברים שאסור לשכוח

יש דברים שפשוט אסור לשכוח, ולא חשוב מה שיהיה.
איציק שכח את יום הנישואין. בחמת זעמה צפרדה אמרה לו בכעס: "מחר בבוקר, כשאני קמה, עומד בחניה משהו שמסוגל לעבור מ-0 ל-200 תוך חמש שניות, וחסר לך שלא!"
כשקמה ציפורה בבוקר היא ראתה שאיציק כבר הלך לעבודה. היא הציצה החוצה וראתה בחניה של הבית קופסה ארוזה וקטנה. היא יצאה החוצה ומצאה שם ...מאזני משקל לחדר שינה שהולכים מ-0 ל-200 ק"ג בחמש שניות.....
על מועד ההלוויה של איציק ביתק שישי תצא הודעה מיוחדת...

כתבה מן הכותל

כתבת סי.אן.אן רואה יהודי זקן מתפלל בכותל במשך שעות ארוכות. היא מראיינת אותו ושואלת למה הוא מתפלל. ענה לה היהודי: "כבר ששים שנה אני מתפלל לשלום בין היהודים והערבים".
"ואיך אתה מרגיש עם המצב הקיים?" מתעניינת העיתונאית.
-"אני מרגיש שאני מדבר לקיר", ענה היהודי.....

מה יהיה

אחירה קשה בישראל על חוסר היכולת לנצח במלחמת לבנון השניה, בעיקר לאור הכשלים השונים.
בתוך שלל קולות העליהם כדאי גם להקשיב לכמה קולות שקטים יותר, אך פי כמה יותר חכמים:
השיגיה המדיינים של המלחמה כנראה חשובים בהרבה ממה שחושר הניצחון הצבאי מציע- כל העולם הנאור, כולל האירופאים , תמך בחיסול החיזבאללה והזותו מהגבול. כוח בינלאומי גדול נשלח לשמור שהגבול לא יתלקח. אפילו נאסראללה הודה שהופתע, תשלו ידע את עוצמת התגובה הישראלית-לא היה יוצא למלחמה. או עכשיו הוא יודע. בקרב הערבים על פלגיהם השונים לגמרי מקובל לחטוף, לחרוג, לסחוט. אנשים חם סך הכל כלים במשחק שחמט ואין להם ערך אנושי בחברה הערבית. על כן הופתעו חם אנשות שישראל מוכנה לצאת למלחמה על שני חיילים שנחטפו.
אחד משרי החמאס, דוקטור ומדען, אמר לפני שבועות מספר לבני עמו: "תפסיקו לחאשים את הישראלים. הם יצאו מעוה והשאירו לנו חמנת ארץ פרחת, ועכשיו-החמנת כולן הרוסת ומשמשת שטח אימונים לטרוריסטים, וחכל מושחת כי אנחנו נוחנים רוצחים ומשחדים".
רק הזיסטוריה תוכל לשפוט האם המלחמה הזאת הזיזה משהו. מה שברור, החיסקריה הציבורית והעיתונאית היא המשך של הספרטי הלאומי של ישראל, אלופת העולם בבלהבלהבלה.
אבל שישאר ביניע.

Coast to Coast

Newfoundland teacher nominated for G-G award

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. — Keith Samuelson recognizes his nomination for a 2006 Governor General's Award as an opportunity for global understanding.

The English teacher at Prince of Wales Collegiate in St. John's, Nfld., is one of 25 finalists for the national award for excellence in teaching Canadian history.

He is the only Atlantic Canadian on the list, selected primarily for his major contribution to Holocaust and human rights education in Newfoundland.

In 2000, Samuelson was invited to attend the B'nai Brith-sponsored Holocaust and Hope educators' tour of Germany, Poland and Israel. He has since been awarded a Goethe Fellowship for summer study in Germany and a 2003 fellowship for additional study in Japan for his human rights work.

Although he's not Jewish, Samuelson turned the emotional experience of the B'nai Brith trip into a program of human rights education that has been emulated across the province. It ties together classes in history, technology, science and the arts, as well as voluntary community service. He has also helped Newfoundland playwright Terry Rielly produce his play *Some Picnic*, the true story of how the father of Rielly's partner escaped the day before the Nazis invaded Belgium.

Keith Samuelson with Holocaust survivor Philip Riteman

Samuelson was also asked to initiate the Asper Foundation program in Newfoundland. The program educates young people about the Holocaust, and Samuelson co-ordinates and accompanies the young people's visits to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

"I've always had humanitarian ideals," says the 53-year-old St. John's native, who received his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Memorial University in St. John's. "But in 2000, the Holocaust and Hope tour showed me you have to do everything in your power to push those ideals."

His voice rises in excitement as he talks about the Asper tour. "Students and parents, mostly non-Jewish, have readily accepted the program. When the [Asper-sponsored] Canadian Human Rights Museum is completed in Winnipeg, every Grade 9 student in Canada will go there to study the Holocaust and its tragedies and triumphs, and the profound affect human rights has had on Canadian culture."

Samuelson says the intensity of his 2000 trip emphasized how he had to do something to promote human rights.

He says he's also been inspired by events and people closer to home.

"I met [Holocaust survivor] Philip Riteman [of Halifax]. I was teaching a class and there was a knock at the door. There stood Mr. Riteman, tears streaming down his face. He had seen a story of me about my Holocaust education program in that day's newspaper. He was in St. John's on that particular day and wanted to meet me. The vice-principal brought him to my classroom."

Samuelson recalled Riteman grabbing his hand and saying, "Thank you."

"I asked him 'Why, compared to you and what you've been through?' but he called me an angel. I've been called many things, but never that," laughed Samuelson.

"Riteman pulled up his sleeve, showed his camp number tattoo and spoke to the youngsters. He's been back many times since. I've seen the toughest kids in school with tears streaming down their faces after he's finished, which shows we have to continue teaching them about human rights."

The Jewish community of Newfoundland is very supportive of Samuelson's programs in global education and human rights.

"Keith's teaching of Holocaust education has brought this story to countless students who now have a better understanding of this dark period in our history," says Ruth Noel, a member of Jewish Community Havura in St. John's, who, along with Shari Ritter of Beth El Synagogue, Samuelson credits with being of great help to him.

"There are no Holocaust deniers among these students. He is teaching students what happened to us, as well as to others, throughout the last century," Noel says. "He is promoting tolerance, and to be vigilant against hatred of any group. This benefits the Jewish community and all peoples."

Samuelson says that the "nomination is a tribute to the young people I teach. I have optimism for these people, if they are taught well to be humane, and apply it throughout their lives."

Six award finalists will be named shortly. The prizes are to be presented in Ottawa on Sept. 28.

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Montreal orphans meet for the last time

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Myer Gordon was not quite three and his older brother five when their father died at just 29 years of age in 1926. Their mother could not cope alone and went back to her native New York where she believed she had a better chance of making a living.

She placed her sons in the Jewish orphanage on Jeanne Mance Street, promising to come back for them as soon as she could. True to her word, she did; but the orphanage officials told her to take only Benny, the eldest, back with her to New York.

"They said, 'Myer is such a good boy, we will keep him.' So I stayed at the orphanage for 10 years. I saw my mother only five or six times over those 10 years," Gordon recalled.

Yet Gordon is not bitter; he feels he had a good upbringing in the orphanage and formed strong bonds with the other boys and girls living there that endure to this day.

The Montefiore Home closed in 1936 when Gordon was 13. High school was not an option anyone offered him. He left the orphanage with a small box that contained all his worldly goods: a crystal set, a pair of gloves and a change of socks.

He got a job in a clothing factory, earning eight cents an hour, and lived with an aunt, until he joined the air force during World War II.

Gordon still has that battered box and, at a recent reunion of the few surviving former residents of his orphanage and another, the Montreal Hebrew Orphans' Home, which was in Westmount, he passed it around to help defray the costs of the breakfast.

Gordon and his wife, Judy, who live in Toronto, have organized reunions for the dwindling numbers of "alumni" for the past 17 years. They say this is the last one. Too many of those who remain are not well enough. Eleven have died in the last year alone.

Several of the 22 who attended the final reunion were over 90, including Max Matt, 95, an orphan from Ukraine, who became a teenaged supervisor at the Montefiore. He was driven in from Hartford, Conn., by his son Barry, insisting on coming one more time despite poor health.

Matt is a beloved figure among the alumni. Although not much older than his charges, he was "a mentor and instilled in us values we've kept all our lives. He encouraged us to do the best we can in life," Gordon said.

Max Alper, 93, and Helen Kovitz, 92, who live in Montreal, were also there. Henry Albert, 89, also made it, and brought regards from his two big brothers, Julius, 98, and Sam, 100, who were both in the orphanage as well.

Judy, who was born in Montreal in 1935, said she had never heard of a Jewish orphanage here until she met Myer, whom she married 24 years ago. She has since devoted much of her time to tracking down the alumni and keeping them in touch. She has become the orphanages' historian and archivist, collecting the alumnis' reminiscences, photos and other memorabilia. It is estimated that 400 children stayed at the two orphanages from 1909-42.

She wrote a book, *Four Hundred Brothers and Sisters*, and a sequel; and edits a newsletter called *The Mishpocha*, which today has a mailing list of about 90.

"There are probably more still alive, but they either were never found or did not want to talk about their past," she said.

Judy also created the alumni website, montrealorphanages.com. In the past few years, she has arranged for plaques commemorating the orphanages to be hung at the former sites. The Jeanne Mance building now houses an immigrant services group, and the large Westmount facility is a residence for retired Catholic priests.

The Gordons published and promoted the books themselves, selling over a thousand copies. All proceeds – $4,000 to date – have been given to Jewish Family Services, the successor agency of the Baron de Hirsch Institute which ran the orphanages.

Gordon says she will put out two more newsletters – this fall and in the spring – and that will be it.

Matt told the gathering he left his native Ukraine in 1919 after his mother was killed in a pogrom. He spent a few wretched years in an orphanage in Bucharest, before arriving in Montreal on New Year's Day 1924 with his sister.

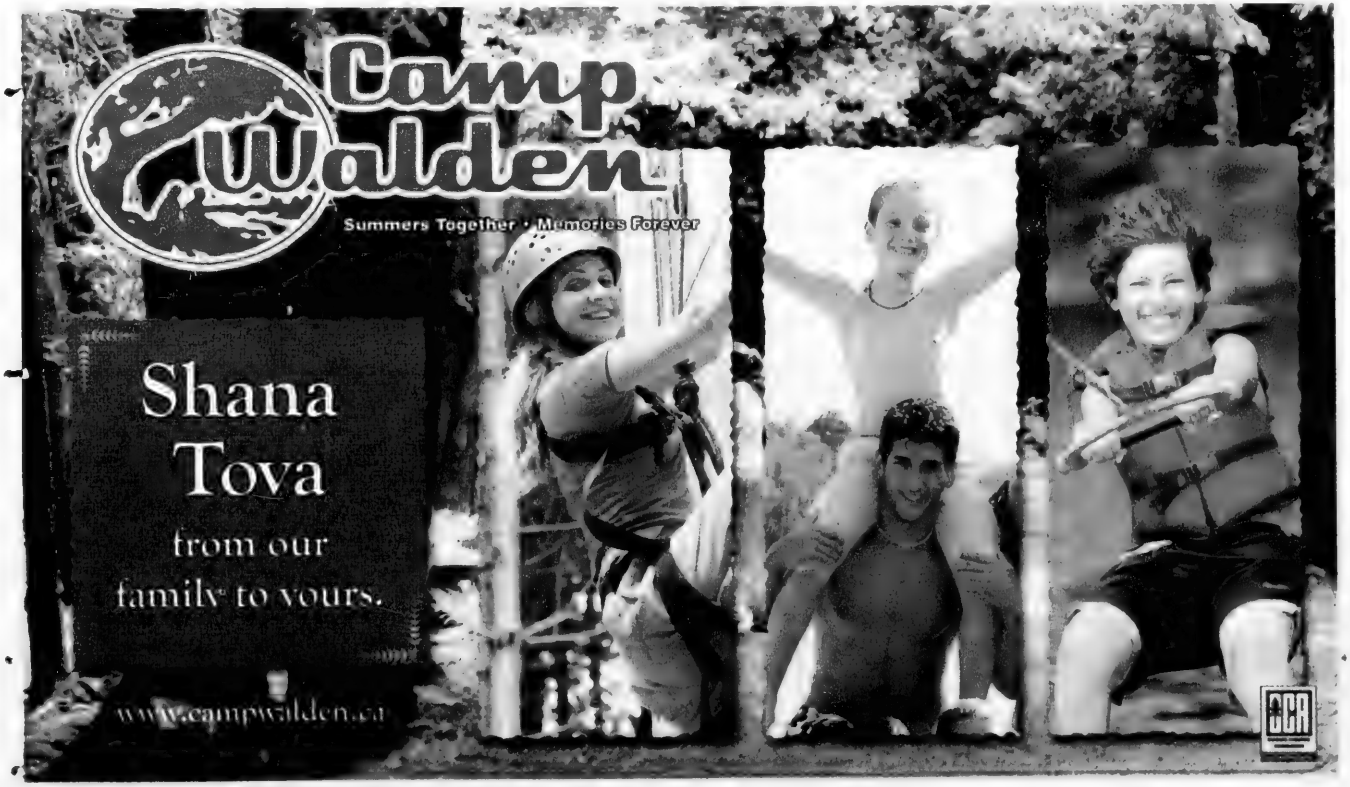
"When I learned I had to go to another orphanage, I went berserk. I thought I would be adopted." But the Westmount home turned out to be "a heaven," he said. At the leaving age of 16, Matt was trained to become a supervisor and worked at the Montefiore home.

Having difficulty holding back the tears, Matt said, "My memories of those days are deep, and my emotions are even deeper. How happy I am that we're together again."

About 75 people were at the reunion. Many alumni came with children and grandchildren. Ida Lewis née Sklar, who was at the Montefiore from age seven in 1931 after her mother died, to age 16, was with her two daughters, Marlene Lewis and Neile Schlein.

"I grew up with stories of the orphanage. When I told people my mother grew up in an orphanage, people used to look at me and say, 'Oh, you're poor mother.' But it was a wonderful home life. And Mr. Matt was like family to us," said Marlene.

As a last effort to preserve the orphanages' memory, Judy is trying to find someone to make a documentary. Karen Meyers, a film agent from Chicago who learned about the orphanages from the website, attended the reunion and interviewed some of the alumni. She hopes the material will interest a filmmaker.



On Campus

Fellowship trains Jews to be future leaders

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Organizers of the Maimonides Leaders Fellowship Program, are getting set to launch the program's fourth year of operation in Canada, and are in the process of recruiting potential Jewish leaders.

The 10-week fellowship – originally founded in 1999 at the University of Michigan – runs on more than 20 campuses in North America. It offers a $500 stipend to Jewish students who attend any college or university in the Greater Toronto Area, regardless of their denomination and level of Jewish knowledge.

The $50-a-week stipend is awarded to students for their time and effort and as compensation for not taking a part-time job.

Participants are expected to attend two-hour classes each week held at either University of Toronto, Ryerson University, York University, Seneca College, McMaster University or University of Guelph.

The sessions will feature lectures by Jewish community leaders who will provide a general understanding of the Torah and offer practical applications of leadership skills.

In addition to classes, the program also includes trips and meetings with many Jewish leaders.

"We are planning on accepting 60 Jewish leaders this term and hope to take even more as the years progress," Rabbi Dovid Zauderer, director of the fellowship at U of T and McMaster, said in a press release.

"We feel that students on campus really just lack the leadership resources necessary to develop themselves and at times feel isolated from local Jewish leaders. Maimonides is designed to fill that gap."

This year, topics include Is there a God and what difference does it make?; The Arab Israeli conflict; and Religion without Science is Blind: Understanding the Symbiotic Roles of Science and Religion.

Rabbi Mark Zelunka, the program's York director, said, "To represent the Jewish people, you have to know what the Jewish people represent."

Classes begin Sept 19 and registration is still open. Those who fail to register for the fall program can apply for the winter program.

For an online application, visit www.mfellowship.com.

For more information contact Rabbi Zauderer at dzauderer@aish.com or Rabbi Mark Zelunka at mzelunka@aish.com.

Vancouver Hillel opens doors to new site at UVic

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

It has taken five years to make it happen, but as of the start of the 2006-07 school year, Hillel Vancouver now has a presence at the University of Victoria in British Columbia.

This addition to the Hillel International family comes just a year after Hillel Vancouver successfully expanded from the University of British Columbia to Simon Fraser University.

Eyal Lichtmann, the Vancouver Hillel executive director, said that Hillel's goal is to keep the numbers rising and to provide stability and permanency for the Vancouver Jewish community.

Vancouver Hillel was promised a 78-year lease by UBC president Martha Piper as long as Hillel builds a new 10,000 square foot Hillel House in the centre of the UBC campus.

Since Hillel expanded last year to open a 1,300 square foot house on the SFU campus, 200 students there have become involved with the Jewish campus group.

Following the success of this expansion, and after five years of working towards this goal, Vancouver Hillel opened a new site on the campus of British Columbia's third largest university.

Gordon Brandt, a student leader at Hillel UBC for four years, was hired as the Hillel director for UVic.

Lichtmann estimated that 600 Jewish students currently attend UVic, and about 200 students have become involved with Hillel only a week after the doors to the rented, six-bedroom Hillel house located across the street from the campus opened.

But, he added, they are still in the process of signing up students for the year.

"Last December, when we notified students that we intend to expand to UVic in September 2006, over 150 students signed up in less than one week," Lichtmann said.

Although Vancouver Hillel receives funding from a variety of sources including National Jewish Campus Life (United Israel Appeal), Hillel International, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver as well as individual donors, Lichtmann said that Hillel is hoping to launch a $6-$10 million campaign this year.

"In the past year, Vancouver Hillel has expanded to Simon Fraser University and to UVic. These expansions have attracted an additional 500 new Hillel students in addition to UBC," he said, adding that maintaining the three Hillel houses for the next five years will be a challenge.

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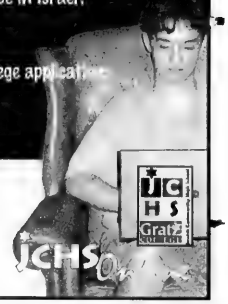

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On Campus

AEPi and Delta Pi told to Amplify Israel

By JENNA ROSMAN
CJN Intern

Members of Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) and Delta Pi from York University – a Jewish fraternity and sorority — were part of the 90 students from universities across the United States and Canada who attended the AEPI and Israel Amplified event in Louisville, Ky.

"[The event focused on] Israel advocacy and mobilizing sorority and fraternity members on campus to promote Israel advocacy and to recruit other sorority and fraternity members to advocate for Israel," said Jeff Justiz, member of AEPi at York University who attended the three-day retreat, August 13 to 15.

York University AEPi member Matt Harris, and Delta Pi members, Hailey Pearlston and Daphne Hornstein were also at the convention.

Participants were asked to brainstorm three Israel engagement programs on their campus. However, since fraternities and sororities are not recognized at York University, or at the University of Toronto, programming is very difficult, said Jeremy Braverman, president of the York chapter of AEPi.

"[Groups like] Hillel (A Jewish student group) can't officially have anything to do with us because it's York's policy. But we have off-campus club status," he said. "It means that we're a club and that anytime we want to do anything at York we have to apply and pay a rental fee."

In an email to *The CJN*, Phillip Brodsky said that AEPi groups were encouraged to co-ordinate "anything [from an] Israeli themed social, to a concert with an Israeli band, a cultural night, a self-defence class taught through the Krav Maga fighting style of the IDF. The list is endless.

"There was workshop time. We broke into groups to work together and come up with programs and ideas for what to do on campus, and at the end of it, we had to come up with three solid programs for the end of the year," said Justiz, noting that because of AEPi's limitations on campus, the group decided it would be best to organize three speaking events.

"[The event] was also a lot about us working together and sharing ideas and networking, [which was] a big point. What stands out the most is the speakers – they were that good," said Justiz.

There were more than 20 speakers at the convention, including U.S attorney Elan Carr, who went to Iraq as a JAG in the U.S. Military to help write the country's new constitution, president elect of Hillel International, Wayne Firestone, Israel's consul general in Philadelphia, Uriel Palti, and New York Congressman Eliot Engel.

"They emphasized that people call us the leaders of tomorrow, but they said that we're actually the leaders of today," said Justiz, who is also the communications chair of the Canadian Federation For Jewish Students.

Currently, AEPi is focusing on its annual recruitment program, Rush and Pledge. Braverman is also excited about the AEPi's newly implemented universal philanthropy commitment over the next five years, which has already pledged $225,000 US to Chai Lifeline – Jewish summer camps in the United States and Israel for children with terminal illnesses, Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem, and the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C.

"I think this is going to be a great year for AEPi… AEPi this year, which is the largest fraternity in Canada, is going to be even better," said Justiz.

BAGS TO ISRAEL: Susan Kendal, project co-ordinator of Tools for Tolerance at Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center, sits among more than 200 school bags that were recently shipped to Israel. The bags, which were filled with school supplies and personal hygiene items, were collected in Toronto as part of a drive to aid children from Israel's north who were displaced by the recent war with Hezbollah. The bags also contained personal notes from Canadian children to their Israeli counterparts.

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Take action and enjoy the feel-good lift it will bring

Life Coach Corner

Judy Siblin Librach

Taking action is one of the most powerful and integral parts of coaching and one of the fastest ways you can get unstuck and move from an undesirable state to a desirable one.

As we approach the start of a new Jewish year and a new school year, this is a perfect opportunity to remind ourselves that we can have a fresh, new start and can choose to take some action around a goal or a task we've been putting off, and feel an incredible weight lifting off our shoulders.

So whether it's starting that new hobby you've been wanting to explore for years, sorting out your family photographs that have been piling up all year, or doing a cleanout of the clutter in your home or office, take this beautiful new time of year to start fresh and take some action.

Laura Whitworh, Henry Kimsey House and Phil Sandahl, in their book *Co-Active Coaching*, write, "One of the things that attracts people to coaching is the emphasis on action, and it is often what draws clients to coaching. They may be competent and successful in many phases of their life, but there is one area where they can't seem to make the changes they want."

How many of us start a new exercise or weight loss program in the new year, with great enthusiasm only to give up a few weeks later because we haven't shared it publicly with anyone? This is why thousands of people do well at weight loss programs where the members all support each other, and so the action leads to sustained and effective change.

The opposite of taking action is procrastinating, and most of us are master procrastinators. As Dorothy Breininger and Debby Bitticks say in their book *Time Efficiency Makeover, Own Your Time and Your Life by Conquering Procrastination*, procrastinating is the deliberate act of excessive postponing. It is the avoidance of doing a task that needs to be accomplished. And this avoidance can lead to feelings of guilt, inadequacy, depression and self-doubt.

So how do we become unstuck so that we can have more happiness, peace of mind and control over our lives?

Well first, we have to make a regular commitment to the area we want to pursue. And as musicians and athletes know, it is only by daily practice and commitment that you can have the focus to stay on track. Also, partner someone in order to have that support on an ongoing basis.

I often suggest to people who procrastinate about writing to get the first draft done – write something, anything is better than nothing. Just the simple act of writing breaks you out of your inaction, and once the momentum is there and the ball is rolling, you won't be able to stop until it's done. This works beautifully with homework, by the way. Have your children sit down and do something, even if it's only in increments of 15 minutes at a time. Have little rewards built in, (colourful stickers are great for some children). Set deadlines, and they will feel inspired to get the work done on time.

Imagine someone you know in your life who always makes things happen, and when you are about to complete a task that you find difficult, imagine stepping into his or her shoes. What do they do to ensure they get the job done?

To motivate yourself, dwell on your successes not your failures, and use those as a springboard to move forward and take action in the area of your life you are most excited about and want to explore, or alternatively, the area you feel you most need to act on.

Enjoy that exhilarating feeling of taking action and accomplishing something you set out to do. The best cure for procrastination is action, and the only way to face and confront the task at hand is to just do it.

As Theodore Roosevelt said, "In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing and the worst thing you can do is nothing."

Judy Siblin-Librach is an Adler-trained coach. Website: www.findingyourbliss.com; e-mail: judyelle@ican.net

One-stop cancer centre opens at JGH

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The new $55.9-million Segal Cancer Centre will treat patients more quickly and efficiently in an environment that is less stressful, hospital officials say.

Described as unique in Quebec for its comprehensive approach to care and integration of research, the centre's philosophy is to follow the patient from diagnosis to cure and recovery or palliative care, at a single, modern facility.

Formally opened at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH) last week, the centre provides not only medical treatment, but also psychological and nutritional counselling, rehabilitation, cancer prevention and screening, including genetic testing, social support from volunteers and the possibility of experimental therapies in clinical trials.

The approach is a radical departure from the typical cancer journey for Quebecers, during which patients usually receive the diagnosis from one doctor at his office, then wait – possibly weeks – to see an oncologist in a hospital, and then more time for chemo or radiation therapy someplace else.

The centre is located on four of the 8½ new floors devoted to ambulatory care added to the Cummings Pavilion E on Legare Street. Two floors are for treatment and two for research, a total of almost 85,000 square feet.

The most outstanding physical features are the large picture windows everywhere, especially in the waiting and treatment areas, and the bright lighting. Nursing stations are only a few steps from where patients receive their intravenous treatments. There is no more waiting in the corridors.

In operation since February, the centre is now seeing an average of 60 to 70 out-patients a day for chemotherapy. The centre has no beds: patients requiring admission continue to stay on the 7NW ward. Radiotherapy and the MRI and PET scanners remain in a separate area from the centre because of the special isolation needed.

The centre is named for Leanor and Alvin Segal, the lead donors to the project, first announced three years ago. They contributed $20 million, the largest single gift to the JGH in its 72-year history. Two years ago, the Quebec government announced it would contribute $23.9 million. Most of the rest was raised privately.

The centre's director is Dr. Gerald Batist, chair of McGill University's oncology department and a prominent researcher, who heads a team of more than 30 physicians. The co-director is Lynne McVey, the JGH director of nursing.

The 14 nurses play a key role at the centre. Before treatment begins, each patient and his family are assigned a "nurse navigator," who guides and supports them throughout their care, co-ordinating with other members of the interdisciplinary team. These nurses may be called at any time by the patient.

The Hope and Cope support program is in the centre, and its Wellness Centre, scheduled to open next month, is a block away.

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Study takes a look at patients in continuing care

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

How dangerous is it for those needing chronic care to stay in bed all day? Is it, in fact, dangerous at all? Whose decision is it for them to stay in bed anyway – the patients' or the staff's?

These are some of the questions in a study by Mary Fox, the results of which are now being analysed.

The study is a project of the Collaborative Research Program: Rehabilitation & Long-Term Care, a joint initiative of Baycrest, Canadian Nurses Foundation, University of Toronto faculty of nursing and graduate department of rehabilitation science, Toronto Rehab, Bridgepoint Health, and Sunnybrook Health Centre.

Fox, the director of the program, said she began the study because she discovered that patients in complex continuing care facilities usually spend at least one day a week in bed. This situation is more of a concern because of the growing number of people in these residences and the crunch in both personnel and budgets.

The thing is, Fox said, there is little real proof that it is bad. "One lady told me that she had thought she would be less tired if she was up. It turned out that she was more tired."

Also, Fox said, some residents may find it embarassing if several people are needed to get them out of bed. This would be especially hard if they had been an independent, active person before becoming ill.

The study, she noted, is not only on the elderly bedridden; it deals with those from 32 to 96.

Other studies being carried out under the same auspices include community-based programs for stroke survivors and care partners, an abilities-focused program of morning care for people with dementia, the effect of confinement for people with cognitive impairment staying on a locked unit, and the measurement of the quality of sleep.

One of the group's notable projects has been the play *I Am Still Here*, a poignant production dealing with the descent into dementia and its effect on the patient, the family, staff and friends.

The idea of the whole program, explained assistant director Tammy Muskat, is to do extensive, cutting-edge research into issues surrounding rehabilitation and long-term care, and then disseminating that knowledge and experience.

"We prepare a consensus statement, and outline strategies that can be developed and coordinated in other organizations," Muskat said.

Fox added that it is important to consider that the implementation and effectiveness of any suggestion may well be different in a different context, and changes might have to be made. "The studies are not just didactic – we have ongoing dialogues," she said.

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JOHN D. LEACH, City Clerk and Returning Officer
First published: August 27, 2006

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Iranian nuclear issue also a focus of discussions

Continued from page 1

recent war in Lebanon, said, "One of the most changed aspects of leading a country such as Britain today is that stability of this region also affects the stability of my country. We live in a world in which how you fare here, how Israel does with Lebanon and Palestine, are issues that also have influence on how my country fares, and that is the same right across the globe today."

But Blair, who faced Palestinian protests when he met Abbas in Ramallah on Sunday, did not publicly call on Olmert to take any concrete steps toward meeting Palestinian demands. Privately, however, diplomatic sources said Blair emphasized the need to find ways to relieve the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and find "constructive" ways to deal with the situation. The two leaders met for about an hour before the press conference, followed by dinner and another private meeting.

Asked whether he felt that Israel's unilateral approach over the last few years is now dead, Blair said the British faced a similar situation in Northern Ireland, where "you either get an agreement or you have to operate on your own." He said that while it's obviously better to reach a deal, "the only one that will stick is an agreement where people resolve their differences through politics and not through violence."

Blair said everyone agrees that a two-state solution is an agreed-upon "end point," that the "road map" is the way to get there, and that what now needs to be done is to "find a means to get back to it."

Regarding Lebanon, Blair said that United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 is the only ceasefire that will ever be sustainable, and he said that if it's implemented "in the way it should and will be, then this will be a major strategic advance for peace in the Middle East."

The Iranian nuclear issue was also a focus of the discussions, with Blair saying that Britain remained firm that the will of the international community on this issue must be adhered to.

At times during the press conference, it seemed as if the two leaders, both politically weak and beleaguered, had formed a mutual admiration society.

Olmert, who called Britain a staunch ally of Israel, said Blair's contribution in the Mideast has been "invaluable." He praised him for "powerful" leadership, and said he valued his "support, advice and proposals."

"Tony Blair has been one of the greatest world fighters against terrorism," he said. "We hold him in the highest esteem for his determination and courage in facing terror."

Blair, for his part, praised Olmert's leadership during the recent war.

"I know from my own experience as a leader how difficult situations of conflict are," he said. Acknowledging that Israel has been through a traumatic period, he said, "I would like to pay tribute to the quite exceptional character you showed in leading your country."

On Sunday, Blair held talks with Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, as well as Defence Minister Amir Peretz and Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres. He also met the families of the abducted soldiers.

According to Peres' office, Blair said he realized it would be impossible to move diplomacy with the Palestinians forward without Shalit's release.

After meeting Abbas in Ramallah, Blair flew to Beirut, where he was met by protesters accusing him of siding with Israel during its recent war with Hezbollah. At a press conference with Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora, which was interrupted by protesters, Blair pledged to help strengthen Lebanese security forces as they deploy in the south of the country.

Also on Sunday, a week after Olmert shelved his plan to unilaterally withdraw from most of the West Bank, he told his cabinet the Palestinian issue is not going to disappear and that "creative ways" must be found to "kick-start" diplomacy. His comments came as the Arab League was expected to table a diplomatic plan of its own at the United Nations later this month, amid increasing calls for an international peace conference.

Olmert told cabinet that international conferences have historically been stacked against Israel and that the only international conference Israel would be willing to attend is one focused on fighting terror.

He said discussions are being held at various levels on how to empower moderates in Palestinian society so that progress can be made on the road map. This, he said, was the focus of his talks with Blair on Saturday, and would also be at the centre of talks Livni was to hold in Washington this week.

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Israel Briefs

Woman named top justice

Israel appointed its first female Supreme Court president. Justice Dorit Beinisch formally took over last week from Aharon Barak and begins her new duties this week. Beinisch, 64, has served on the Supreme Court for more than a decade. Before that, she was Israel's state attorney, and distinguished herself in several high-profile battles with the security services over secrecy and human-rights issues.

Firms at Polish exhibit

Sixteen Israeli defense firms inaugurated an Israel pavilion at a defence industry exhibition in Poland. The Israeli defense delegation held a special ceremony at the 14th International Defense Industry Exhibition MSPO in Kielce, the site of Europe's largest post-World War II pogrom, where 46 Jews were murdered. Polish Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski attended the opening of the Israeli pavilion, which featured intelligence and other systems used in Israel's war with Hezbollah.

Broader government soon?

A senior Israeli cabinet minister called for expanding the governing coalition. Interior Minister Roni Bar-On, a confidant of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, said the spectre of a nuclear-armed Iran warranted bringing a broad range of political factions into the government. "I would be happy to see all the Zionist parties in the government," Bar-On said in a speech at Bar-Ilan University. "A government without a strong coalition foundation will not withstand the Iranian threat."

Sinn Fein leader shunned

Israeli officials refused to meet with Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams during his recent Mideast trip because he met with Hamas. Adams was on a two-day "private visit" to the region. Israel has refused to meet with foreign visitors who also meet with Hamas, a terror group that heads the Palestinian Authority. Adams, who met with Palestinian leaders in the West Bank was invited by PA President Mahmoud Abbas.

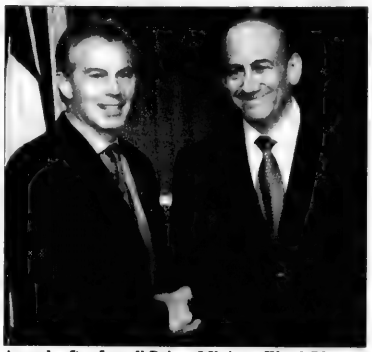
Aliyah reduction?

Israel's Finance Ministry is proposing substantial cuts to Ethiopian immigration next year. The cuts come as part of widespread belt-tightening after Israel's war this summer in Lebanon. The plan, announced as part of Israel's proposed 2007 budget, would halve the number of immigrants brought to Israel each month from Ethiopia, to 150 from the current rate of 300. If adopted, the change would represent a major blow to backers of Ethiopian aliyah, who launched a $100-million (US) campaign last year designed in part to pressure Israel's government to increase the rate of Ethiopian immigration. Israel's cabinet decided in March 2005 to increase Ethiopian aliyah to 600 people per month, but the decision was never implemented.

– JTA and Jerusalem Post

West Bank pullout off agenda

By DAN BARON
JTA



A week after Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, right, announced that disengagement from the West Bank was off the agenda, he met with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in Jerusalem. Blair came to the region to try to reinvigorate the peace process with the Palestinians.

[Isranet photo]

JERUSALEM — Ehud Olmert is reconsidering his West Bank withdrawal plan.

The Israeli prime minister announced Sunday that his proposal for selective West Bank withdrawals is "not on the agenda for now," raising hope among rightists and leftists alike.

Olmert told the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee: "What I thought several months ago would be the right thing to do on the Palestinian front has now changed.

"I must assess reality, not because I made a mistake, but because you must reassess priorities when they have changed," he said. "We have no intention of running away from the Palestinian issue. We cannot afford to do so. We must deal with the Palestinian issue, but consider other ways of doing so."

Cast as a stopgap measure in the absence of peace with the Palestinians, the "realignment plan" helped bring Olmert to power in May. But events have since undermined the idea.

There was the resurgence of fighting around the Gaza Strip, which Israel had quit last year in a bid to forestall violence. Cross-border rocket fire was stepped up, ignored or abetted by the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority government. A soldier was abducted by Gaza gunmen, among them members of Hamas.

Then there was the bloody, monthlong war against Hezbollah, a Shiite militia that many analysts believe was bolstered by Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon in 2000. That conflict, triggered by Hezbollah's kidnapping of two soldiers on the Lebanese border, ended with an Aug. 14 ceasefire. The hostages have yet to be recovered.

"The notion of trading territory for peace was successful in two instances – Egypt and Jordan. It failed in two other cases – Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority," Israel's deputy prime minister, Shimon Peres, wrote in Britain's *Guardian* newspaper.

"The initiative to withdraw unilaterally from the West Bank has lost its attraction in the eyes of the Israeli public due to the after-effects of withdrawal from the Gaza Strip," Peres added. "I cannot envisage a situation today in which the majority of Israelis will support such a withdrawal."

Many on Israel's left, including even some members of the Labor party that is the junior partner in Olmert's government, long opposed unilateralism on territorial issues, fearing that it spurred the radical elements of Palestinian society. This was echoed by some on the Israeli right, many of whom also distrusted the perceived moderation of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

"It seems that Olmert has repented," said Limor Livnat of the Likud Party, which heads the political opposition.

Just what Olmert plans to do now, with his centrepiece plan shelved, remains in doubt. The most immediate option is to adopt an economic platform, especially when it comes to areas of northern Israel battered by thousands of Hezbollah rockets.

Analysts say the war cost Israel around $5.3 billion, and there are the added hefty expenses of rehabilitating the defence establishment. Israel's military and intelligence services are widely seen as having tackled Hezbollah poorly. With wars potentially looming against Syria and a nuclear-armed Iran, Israelis want to know all steps are being taken to protect them.

With his popularity sapped and Defence Minister Amir Peretz facing challenges from within his Labor party, Olmert must also deal with the prospect of his government collapsing. That means reaching out to right-wing factions that could potentially join the coalition. These factions would be encouraged by the news that the West Bank plan is on hold, but would likely demand it be scrapped altogether.

Peres proposed that Israel turn its economic plans into an alternative peacemaking platform.

"We were prepared to enter into bilateral negotiations on the basis of the 'road map,' [peace plan] but to date Hamas has prevented the Palestinian side from following through," he wrote.

"An alternative could take the form of a partnership involving Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians, following an economic route rather than a political one."

Peres proposed that the sides build on a deal already in place to turn the border region linking the Red Sea and Jordan River, via the West Bank, into a trading zone.

"This approach has worked elsewhere; most of the important changes that have occurred around the globe since the end of the Second World War have been the outcome not of military interventions but of economic advances," he wrote, adding that expanded trade zones would attract international investment and goodwill.

"If we can privatize part of the economy, why not privatize part of peace?"

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In Europe, a year of co-operation despite security fears

By DINAH A. SPRITZER
JTA

European policies on Israel, Iran and the Palestinian territories played a central role in the life of European Jewry in 5766.

International issues, along with the continued growth of extremism in Europe's Islamic communities, were focal points for Jews, particularly in western Europe, where a spate of anti-Semitic attacks against individuals and synagogues left Jews worried about their safety.

"In western Europe, the violence is related to Islamic radicalism. In central and eastern Europe, it's the rise of nationalistic movements," said Serge Cwajgenbaum, secretary-general of the European Jewish Congress. "There was a slight decrease in anti-Semitic violent attacks, but there was no reduction of anti-Semitism."

Perhaps the most dramatic anti-Semitic incident was the February murder in Paris of Ilan Halimi, 23, by a gang who tortured him for several weeks in a suburban apartment building. The suspects reportedly told police they targeted Halimi because "all Jews are rich" – although Halimi's family is not wealthy, the kidnappers demanded an exorbitant ransom – and they put out cigarettes on Halimi's face because, they said, "he was Jewish and we don't like Jews."

Most of the suspects are Muslims of North African or black African origin.

The number of Jews contacting the Jewish Agency for Israel's Paris office to inquire about aliyah reportedly doubled after the Halimi murder. French aliyah soared to record levels, despite a drop in the overall number of anti-Semitic incidents in France in 5766. In addition, anti-American and anti-Israel sentiment fed by the 2003 invasion of Iraq intensified when Israel and Hezbollah went to war this summer.

"We are undoubtedly in the middle of a huge and growing problem of the radical Islamicization of many European countries," said Jonathan Joseph, president of the European Council of Jewish Communities. "The effect of this is increased anti-Semitism and attacks, but I believe that hides a much greater issue. Throughout many communities, groups of radical Islamists are succeeding in de-legitimizing Jewish people among governments."

These extremist Muslim groups are thus making anti-Semitism an acceptable sentiment for those already critical of Israel.

In Great Britain, where a crisis over Muslim integration was highlighted by subway bombings carried out by Islamic extremists in July 2005, concern over security is at an all-time high. Mark Gardner, spokesperson for British Jewry's Community Security Trust, estimated that anti-Jewish incidents rose 25 per cent after the Israel-Hezbollah war began in July.

European Jewish communities are not sitting idly by in the wake of anti-Semitic activities; in fact, 5766 may have been a record year for European Jewish political activism. The European Jewish Congress is ensuring that its 41 member communities keep up the pressure on their European Union representatives to combat anti-Semitism, maintain positive attitudes toward Israel and take a tough stance on Hamas and Iran's nuclear ambitions.

The congress has had its greatest success in international issues. At its annual meeting in February, president Pierre Besnainou had the rare chance to lecture Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the European commissioner for external affairs, before a packed room of Jewish leaders.

"I just saw a woman from the Hamas election list on Israeli television saying she was proud that her son killed Jews," he said. "Should we imagine that you will have discussions with such terrorists?"

The European Union eventually found a way to keep sending massive amounts of humanitarian aid to Palestinians without engaging in talks with Hamas, which won the parliamentary elections in the Palestinian Authority in January. Cwajgenbaum sees the refusal by European politicians to harshly condemn Israel during the recent conflict with Hezbollah – in contrast to the negative attitude of much of the European public and media –as a positive sign, for which he credits Israel's August 2005 withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

"Since the disengagement in Gaza, the image of Israel has changed. We have seen, in the last couple of months, tremendous interest from Israel toward Europe and Europe toward Israel," he said.

In community development, one landmark was an April meeting in Paris of the 10 largest pan-European Jewish organizations.

Not only was it the first time such a meeting has taken place, it was also the first time the groups pledged to actively work together so that their agendas would not conflict, as they have in the past.

On the national level, there were some memorable milestones, celebrations and memorials: British Jews and politicians marked the 350th anniversary in 2006 of the readmission of Jews to Britain, following their mass expulsion several centuries earlier.

The Czech Republic and Poland held several unique commemorations, and the Czech Republic unveiled a memorial to Holocaust victims, in the city of Usti Nad Labem, in October. A six-pointed star, partly submerged in the ground, pays tribute to 1,000 victims and has been hailed as one of the most moving Jewish-themed sculptures in the country.

The Prague Jewish community, which had been immersed in political upheaval for two years, became more stable after a November election for the Jewish community council brought new leadership and saw the reappointment of Rabbi Karel Sidon as Prague's chief rabbi. Rabbi Sidon was reinstalled at the Old New Synagogue, where a Chabad rabbi had been temporarily posted by the previous community chair.

In Poland, German-born Pope Benedict XVI paid his first visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau in May to memorialize its victims. His otherwise eloquent speech about suffering there was roundly criticized because he failed to mention anti-Semitism, a fact he attempted to compensate for in subsequent addresses in Rome.

Polish President Lech Kaczynski and Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski repeatedly expressed support for Jewish causes and pledged that anti-Semitism had no place in Poland. Progress continued on the government-funded Museum of the History of Polish Jews – slated to open in 2008 – and numerous initiatives on the governmental and non-governmental level promoted Polish-Jewish relations. On the religious front, Poland welcomed four new rabbis in August in time for High Holy Day celebrations in Warsaw, Krakow and Wroclaw, including the first Polish-born rabbi since the end of communism and the first liberal rabbi since before World War II.

Germany also experienced a revolution. Most of the country's 20 Reform congregations were finally welcomed into the Central Council of Jews' state branches. The change means that Reform congregations will have greater access to the millions of dollars the government gives to support Jewish life in Germany. The move is being closely watched by other Reform groups in Europe – particularly in Spain, Italy, Austria and Hungary – where the Reform are not yet seen as legitimate religious movements by Jewish authorities.

The German government also strengthened its relationship with Israel and perhaps with Jews in general when Angela Merkel became Germany's first female chancellor in November. Merkel made a deep impression on Jews in Israel, Germany and elsewhere in the Diaspora with her commitment to the Jewish state.

In a Nov. 30 speech, her first to the Parliament as chancellor, Merkel stressed her commitment to Israel and said that Iran – whose president has repeatedly called for Israel's destruction and denied the Holocaust – must co-operate with International Atomic Energy Agency inspections of its nuclear facilities.

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Notice of Special General Meeting
Canadian Magen David Adom For Israel

Take notice that the Special General Meeting of CMDAI will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2006, 6:00 p.m., at CMDAI Headquarters, 6900 Decarie Blvd., Suite 3110, Montreal, Quebec

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate for election as Directors:

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Dated at Montreal this 6th day of September, 2006
Miriam Lang, M.S.W., National President

Anti-Semitism up in Britain: study

By VANESSA BULKACZ
JTA

LONDON — Anti-Semitism is rising in Britain, partly as a result of the situation in the Middle East, according to a new study.

The Report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry Into Anti-Semitism was presented last Thursday to British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The study was chaired by Labor party lawmaker Denis MacShane and co-written by a multiparty group of 14 parlimentarians over 10 months.

MacShane said many British Jews bear the brunt of people's anger over Israeli and American policies.

British Jews welcomed the report.

"This is an important document and its recommendations demand careful study. The report bears out many of the concerns that the board has expressed for the past five years," said Henry Grunwald, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. "We look forward to working with the government and other interested parties in implementing the report's recommendations in the days ahead."

The report makes more than 30 recommendations, including calling on the British government to provide greater support for British Jews' security needs, especially with reference to places of worship and schools. It also calls for a concrete definition of anti-Semitism.

"Anti-Semitism is not one-dimensional. It is perpetrated in different ways by different groups within society, and for this reason it is hard to identify," the report said.

It describes the policing situation as "inexcusable," saying police forces aren't required to record anti-Semitic incidents as they are other hate crimes.

One of the panel members, former Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith, said the situation is worse than he had realized.

The inquiry indicates that fewer than one in 10 anti-Semitic attacks reported to authorities resulted in prosecutions, and called for the Crown Prosecution Service to investigate why the number reported is so low.

The study suggests that tensions in the Middle East have exacerbated the problem. The report points to a minority of Islamic extremists who have used the situation in the Middle East to stoke hatred against Jews.

Torontonian helps Libyan Jewish community in postwar Israel

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

TEL AVIV — When prominent Toronto Jewish community member Walter Arbib learned of the damages to Israel's northern communities during the Israeli/Hezbollah war, he jumped to help.

"I was mostly concerned about the children in the Libyan settlements of Moshav Dalton and Moshav Alma, which are right on the Lebanese border," says Arbib, a Jew of Libyan descent, and CEO of the Skylink Group.

"I wanted to do whatever I could to help. I think it's important for all Jews around the world to help Israel, not just during its times of need, but always. Even if you have to stretch yourself to help, it's something you simply have to do."

Israeli Jews of Libyan ancestry number around 100,000 in Israel. According to Arbib, the Libyan Jewish community in Toronto is very small, totalling only around 25 people.

This is one reason, he says, that his ties to the larger Israeli community are so strong. "We have to stick together," says Arbib, who has long been involved in Jewish Libyan causes through the World Organization of Libyan Jews.

With help from the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the UJA in Israel, Arbib was able to aid Israel's Libyan communities."

In a matter of weeks, he managed to get bomb-shelter kindergarten facilities on two moshavim – which each service an estimated 120 kids – painted and furnished, and set up with air conditioning, televisions, games and toys.

"I am amazed at how much faster private initiatives can move," says Arbib.

Arbib also donated a van to the communities to help them with transporting children to and from the kindergartens; subsidized a trip for 65 children from the communities to spend two weeks touring around Israel's central and southern regions, to give them a break from the chaos at home; bought school uniforms and supplies for 100 Ethiopian children in a neighbouring community in preparation for the new school year; and distributed 300 iPods to soldiers who were stationed in Lebanon.

It was these soldiers who honoured Arbib on Sept. 7, at the Center for the Heritage of Libyan Jews in Or Yehuda, a suburb of Tel Aviv. There, with Likud Knesset member Silvan Shalom and the commanding officer of the Southern District of the Israeli Police, Uri Bar-Lev, attending, the soldiers presented Arbib with a plaque to thank him for his support during the war.

"It was a very emotional, gratitude-filled event," says president of the World Jewish Congress, Moshe Ronen. Ronen attended the ceremony along with Torontonians Norman Godfrey, of the Yorkwood Building Group, and Emile Aufgang, of Aufgang Travel.

"These soldiers really went out of their way," says Arbib, who notes that their choice of venue for the ceremony was thoughtful, given his strong connections to the museum. Arbib recently donated some 100,000 shekels (about $23,000) to refurbish a wing of the museum and to create a special exhibition there about Libyan Jewry.

Walter Arbib and a young celebrant [Jenny Hazan photo]

"It was a beautiful ceremony. It was very touching," he says.

Afterward, Arbib and his entourage headed to the two moshavim in the north. "It was surprising and terrible to see the damages to the northern part of Israel," he says. They saw many buildings reduced to rubble and many fallen trees.

Under the circumstances, meeting the children at the moshavim was particularly inspiring for Arbib. "To see the kids singing and dancing really gave me a good feeling," he says. "I got to actually see with my own eyes that I really did help, and that felt very good."

That part of the day was also the most touching for Godfrey. "It was amazing to see all these kids wearing T-shirts that read 'All our hearts' and singing in chorus," says Godfrey. "I really got the sense that the whole community was so appreciative and thankful."

Says Godfrey, "This was a case where you could see how one person can affect the lives of hundreds of people."

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Chaverim

As we approach the High Holidays, it's a time for festivity and solemnity.

It is an opportunity to gather with families and ask ourselves about successes and wrong-doings, about our actions and inactions, and the aspirations we had and those we forgot about because of difficulties.

Rosh Hoshanah and Yom Kippur are days of reflection, prayer and repentance for our entire people. Let's not forget the trying circumstances, the difficult times and the loss of life in Israel. Our support for Israel will always be strong and everlasting.

May the Almighty bring us a wonderful year - a year of full challenges to constantly grow. May this year be one of health, dialogue, harmony and peace. We should be inscribed in the book of life, peace and blessings.

May our prayers - and the prayers of all peoples - for peace and for life, be answered.

From my family to yours, and to the hundreds of people who support the development of young Jewish athletes throughout Canada, I would like to extend our sincere best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Shana Tovah!

Allen Gerskup
President, Maccabi Canada

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

FINE ART AUCTION TO BENEFIT NEONATAL CARE UNITS IN TORONTO, JERUSALEM

Each year, thousands of premature babies find their first home in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Mount Sinai Hospital, a world-renowned facility recognized internationally for its success in caring for high-risk infants.

In support of this facility, more than 500 international artists, gallery owners, health-care practitioners and others are coming together for Works of Heart. Mount Sinai's first international art auction features about 100 works of art from **Tony Scherman**, **Charles Pachter**, Group of Seven member **Franz Hans Johnston**, **James Lahey**, **Micah Lexier** and other artists. Proceeds go toward the NICUs at both Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto and Shaare Zedek Medical Centre in Jerusalem.

Tickets for auction and dinner are $900 per person. Auction only, $180. Royal Ontario Museum, Tuesday, Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m. For tickets, please contact Joan Stevens at Mount Sinai, 416-586-4800, ext. 8360, or Stuart Miles at Shaare Zedek, 416-781-3584.

* * *

Film on White Rose Society: The very worthy pro-democracy organization Canadian Coalition for Democracies (CCD) is hosting a screening of the film *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days*, about the last days of the ill-fated anti-Nazi resistance movement, the White Rose Society. The screening takes place at the Cineplex Grande at Sheppard Centre, 4861 Yonge St., on Monday, Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m.

A "Friends of CCD" ticket is $75 and includes film presentation, popcorn, beverage, preferred seating and post-show reception with CCD representatives **Alastair Gordon**, **David Harris**, **Salim Mansur** and others. General admission, $35, includes film presentation, popcorn, and beverage. Bring your parking voucher for stamping to receive the special parking rate of $1. Reservations, 416-963-8998 or e-mail naresh@canadiancoalition.com.

* * *

Once A Nazi: It's been almost 10 years since Concordia professor **Adalbert Lallier** revealed that he had been a member of the Waffen SS and had witnessed the wanton murder of seven Jewish inmates at Theresienstadt.

Lallier kept mum about the incident for 52 years until New York private investigator **Steven Rambam** came to Montreal and spoke to him in 1997. Lallier's story is the subject of *Once a Nazi*, a new documentary by Montreal filmmakers **Frederic Bohbot** and **Evan Beloff**. The première screening takes places Sept. 19 at Concordia University.

After Lallier's surprise admission, Germany convicted his commanding officer, **Julius Viel**, for the murders; it was Germany's last war crimes trial. The elderly Viel died six months into his 12-year sentence.

Beloff previously produced the zany and comical documentary *Shmelvis*, which focused on a pilgrimage by a group of Jewish lads to Graceland and their search for **Elvis Presley's** Jewish roots. Shmelvis was a hit entry in the Toronto Jewish Film Festival some years ago and received a thoughtful review in the *Forward*.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Commencing Sept. 8, singer-pianist **Fern Dworkin** performs at Tremonte's Restaurant on the northeast corner of Weston Rd. and Steeles Ave. Friday and Saturday nights from 7 p.m.

• Stage Centre Productions opens its 30th season with the **Noel Coward** comedy *Present Laughter*. Adults $25. Fairview Library Theatre, 35 Fairview Mall Dr., Sept. 21 to Oct. 7. 416-299-5557, www.stagecentreproductions.com

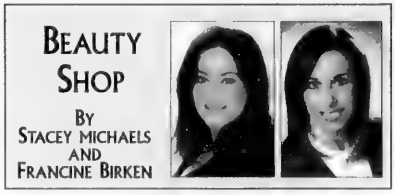
• Klezmer supergroup **Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi** perform at Hugh's Room, 2261 Dundas St., Monday, Sept. 25, 8:30 p.m. $22 in advance, $25 at the door. 416-531-6604. Also at the Colours of Music Festival in Barrie, Sept. 26, 8 p.m. 705-725-1070.

•CBC Radio 1 is broadcasting a documentary on the making of the *Bravo!* Music-video by **Ron Graner**. The program contains excerpts from several of composer **David Nowakowsky's** works, interviews with his great-grandson and the music recording session with violinist **Mark Skazinetsky,** concert-master of the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra**, cellist **David Heatherington** and Graner. It airs on the program *Outfront*, Sept. 20 at 8:43 p.m.

***

Passages: Gerald Green, who won an Emmy for his screenplay of the TV miniseries *Holocaust*, died Aug. 29 in Connecticut, age 84. The popular series aired was broadcast around the world and was credited with breaking a taboo when it aired in West Germany in the late 1970s.

Poet **George (Gyorgy) Faludy**, one of Hungary's greatest 20th-century literary figures, died Sept. 1 in Budapest, age 95. Born to a Hungarian Jewish family, Faludy left Hungary in 1938; he spent much of the '70s and '80s in Toronto, where a long-planned parkette is due to open in his honour on Oct. 3.



Correction

The Beauty Shop column in the *CJN* Fashion Supplement, Sept. 7, page 38, was co-written by Stacey Michaels and Francine Birken. Birken's name and head shot were inadvertently omitted. The column's dedication line, "In memory of Carol Wise," was also left out. *The CJN* regrets the errors.

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Pictured from left, Chaim Finkelstein's daughter Aviva Blumberg, Bob Becker and Finkelstein's wife Yadwiga.

Prewar journalism depicts Jewish life in Poland

By HINDI DIAMOND
Special to The CJN

A chance meeting at Village Shalom, a retirement community in Kansas, of Bob Becker, a volunteer teacher, and Yadviga Finkelstein, a 93-year-old student, sparked a monumental project.

Finkelstein asked Becker if he could find volunteers to translate a Yiddish book compiled by her late husband, Chaim Finkelstein, of articles from a newspaper he edited in Warsaw from 1908 to '39, just before Hitler came into power. Called *HAYNT – A Tsaytung Bay Yidn*, the book chronicles the history of the newspaper and also gives a picture of Jewish life in Poland during this period.

> ***'I feel it's a mitzvah to make this historical document available to the non-Yiddish-speaking world as well as to Jewish readers'***

Becker, who corralled 29 volunteer translators on the Internet in December 2004, from all over, including Poland, France, the Netherlands and Australia, said the task was a "labour of love." Now, CDs of the book, in English and Yiddish, are available.

"I feel it's a mitzvah to make this historical document available to the non-Yiddish-speaking world as well as to Jewish readers," Becker said.

"I never would have known that Poland was moving towards its own mini Holocaust, except for this project. Like most people, I thought it was just Germany. We need to make people aware of this."

Chaim Finkelstein's daughter, Aviva Blumberg, a psychiatrist in New York City, said, "Unfortunately, I am ignorant of Yiddish, although this ignorance is in part what saved my life during the war. My flawless Polish enabled me to 'pass,' and ultimately join my father in America in 1945. However, now I am delighted to have the opportunity to read his book in English."

Ruth Fisher Goodman, of Wilmington, Del., is one of the book's translators. "I thought that the *HAYNT* translation was an important work, and that is why I agreed to do it. Polish Jewry had a rich history," she said.

"Last May, my husband and I visited Poland and were dismayed that there is still virulent anti-Semitism there. There is virtually no trace of Jewish life in Warsaw and Krakow, the two cities we visited. In fact, I went to the shtetl that my mother grew up in and the local priest and mayor denied that Jews ever lived there.

Goodman stressed that "the world needs to know what a splendid people Polish Jewry was, and that can only be learned by reading the translations in this book of a vanished society."

Finkelstein said it was her husband's dying wish to see his book translated into English, "so that it would have a wider readership.

"At last I have seen Chaim's life's goal fulfilled."

To order CDs of *HAYNT – A Tsaytung Bay Yidn*, visit www.haynt.org.

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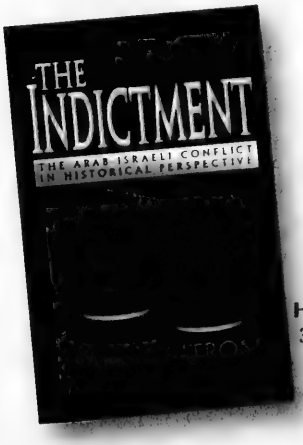

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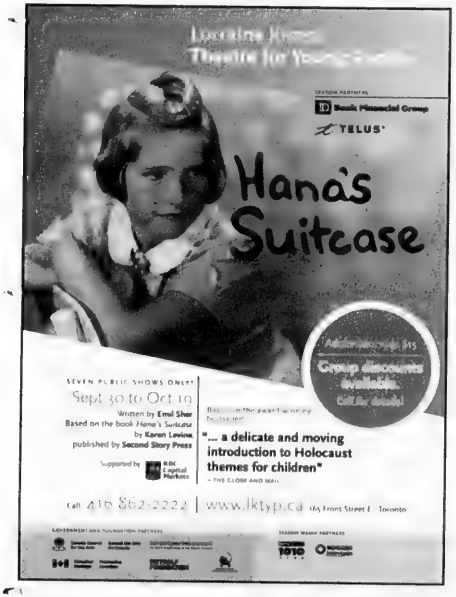

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Arts & Travel

Photo exhibit inspired by sun peeking through clouds

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Photo artist May Karp's latest project started on a damp and dreary day in Toronto.

"I yearned for colour and sunshine. And then, off in the distance, a ray of sunshine peeked through," she says.

She recalls being "awestruck" by the effect. As the city brightened, she began taking photographs. "I rushed to do as much as I could lest it disappear. Each image became separate and distinctive," she says.

Karp compares these works, grouped under the title "Urban Reflections – New York & Toronto" and showing at the Moore Gallery until the end of September, to bizarre dream imagery. "I was inspired by the work of architects Wright, Gaudi, Gehry, by artists Dali, Picasso, Mondrian and Riopelle.

"The more easily discernable architectural portions in my images offer fractured glimpses as elements of fantasy."

Karp captures some hot colours. In the works, there is a compositional playfulness of jigsaw-puzzle-like reflections creating glimpses of nature's wizardry. "I share with you nature's wizardry dances of light, unpredictable and ever changing," she says.

Karp notes her exhibit features works that are different than those in her previous shows. "This is a continuing evolution in my ongoing photographic adventure."

She says her feelings of happiness "are hugely affected by the sun or lack of it, and by colour around me."

Karp is the only photo artist among a group of painters who show at the Moore Gallery, among them Riopelle, Harold Town and David Bolduc.

She has donated works to the Toronto General Hospital, Baycrest, Mount Sinai Hospital and the Princess Margaret Hospital.

"Urban Reflections – New York & Toronto" is her fourth one-woman show at the Moore Gallery, and she has exhibited at Aventura in Florida. Her photographs can be found in corporate and private collections throughout North America and Europe.

For more information, phone 416-504-3914 or e-mail the gallery at mooregallery@bellnet.ca.

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Urban Reflections #1, New York 2005, by photo artist May Karp.

Polish filmmaker's Samson *set in the Holocaust era*

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

Several Polish films have been released on DVD recently by Morningstar Entertainment.

In the past we have looked at two of these releases – *Austeria* and *Border Street*.

Now a third film, *Samson*, has been released.

This is a 1961 black and white film directed by Academy Award and Cannes Film Festival-winner Andrzej Wajda. Wajda is considered by most film experts as Poland's finest director and a filmmaker who has always succeeded in provoking controversy.

Samson is a psychological study of a young Jewish student, Jakub Gold, who accidentally kills a schoolmate in a brawl at the polytechnical university. Gold is imprisoned and not released until the onset of World War II.

Once the Germans occupy Warsaw, Gold is sent to the Warsaw Ghetto, where he is assigned to pick up corpses and help bury the dead. He manages to escape from the ghetto, only to find himself trapped in the world of non-Jews, where discovery and arrest by the Nazis is an ever-present threat.

While hiding out on the Aryan side, Gold wishes to return to the ghetto to share in the fate of his kinsmen. He also wishes he had the strength of the biblical Samson so he could fight the Germans single-handedly.

Gold eventually does return to the ghetto, but only after the Jewish revolt has been put down and the ghetto has been destroyed.

This is a marvellous film that provides a lot of food for thought and is a brilliant example of Wajda's work.

The film is in Polish with optional English subtitles and is presented in anamorphic widescreen.

Another "Jewish" film that is now available in video stores everywhere is *Free Zone*, the latest film by Israeli director Amos Gitai.

Ordinarily, I would seek out any opportunity to see Natalie Portman on the screen. Not in this case. This must be one of the worst films I have seen in a long time. It is badly written, confusing and eventually, pointless. This is one film to avoid.

Cult film Gloomy Sunday *on DVD*

It's here! That fan favourite, *Gloomy Sunday*, has finally been released on DVD!

Gloomy Sunday has had an incredible history for a film that never received wide release. It played in one theatre in Boston for 70 weeks, and there is a theatre in New Zealand that has played this film once a week for a number of years, and still sells out each screening.

In Toronto, the Toronto Jewish Film Festival has screened the film five times and still receives requests to show it again.

So why has this film become so popular?

The story is a little soap opera-ish, but tells a wonderful story in an appealing way. The film is about Laszlo, a young Jewish man, and his non-Jewish girlfriend, Ilona. They decide to open an elegant restaurant in prewar Budapest. And as everyone knows, a classy establishment has to have a pianist to provide mood music. Eventually, the couple hires Andras, the perfect musician, and the restaurant becomes very popular.

The restaurant's popularity may have been helped by the presence of the beautiful Ilona. This young woman has a magic of her own. Every man she meets seems to fall in love with her. She needs to do nothing to encourage this; she possesses a sexual attractiveness that very few women have.

Andras is not immune to Ilona's charms and soon begins an affair with the woman, although Laszlo does not seem to mind too much. Then, a German businessman visiting Budapest begins to patronize the restaurant and he, too, falls in love with Ilona, although she rejects his advances.

Andras, inspired by his love for Ilona, composes a beautiful melody, which Laszlo arranges to have recorded. The song becomes a huge hit throughout Europe, but seems to inspire people listening to it to commit suicide.

When World War II erupts and Budapest is occupied by the Nazis, one of the top SS officers is that same German businessman, Hans, who is still in love with the lovely Ilona.

All of this sounds a little too Hollywoodish? Well, it is based on a true story. There was a song called *Gloomy Sunday* that caused people to commit suicide and some parts of the rest of the story are based on true events.

I won't give away the interesting ending, but if you haven't seen this film, it is certainly a must. It deals with many issues that deserve pondering and will certainly stimulate discussion. and if you have seen it, it is certainly worth another viewing. It is entertaining and thought provoking and everyone seems to have a different interpretation of how the film ends. — *L.A.*

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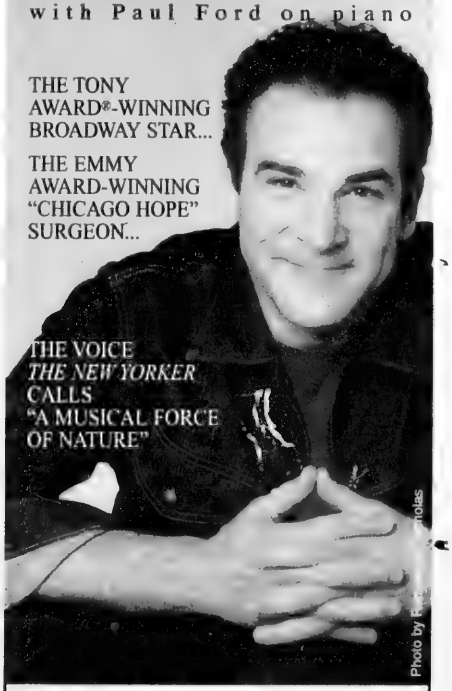
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Sweet Mud set on an 'ideologically rigid' kibbutz

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Sweet Mud is one of those blessed films where key elements fuse in a magical mixture.

Screened at the Toronto International Film Festival last week, Dror Shaul's feature-length Hebrew-language movie is set on a scruffy-looking kibbutz in southern Israel in 1974.

There, amid the pastoral backdrop of parched hills and rolling pastures, a drama of poignant proportions unfolds.

The chief protagonists are Miri (Ronit Yudkevitch), a fortysomething widow, and her precocious 12-year-old son, Dvir (Tomer Steinhof).

Miri, to put it charitably, is eccentric. When two European volunteers arrive to work on the kibbutz, she greets them in only her underwear and bra.

Miri has recently returned from a mental institution to live with Dvir, who is fast approaching his bar mitzvah age, and her older son, Eyal (Pini Tabger), who has a roving eye for nubile women.

The nature of Miri's illness remains undefined, but what is certain is that she is is most definitely not a paragon of psychological stability.

When she learns that a long-distance gentile lover plans to visit her, Miri is simply overjoyed. Stephan (Henri Garcin), the virile man in question, is a judo champion from Switzerland. She met him on the beach in Netanya.

Shaul, a master of suspense, captures Miri's anticipation of Stephan's imminent arrival with consummate skill. We ask ourselves: What kind of a person will he possibly be?

Stephan, it turns out, is considerably older than the athletic image projected of him in a heroic poster attached to Miri's wall. Nevertheless, as a subsequent scene reveals, Stephan is still strong and physically adept. He is also kind and generous, and, most importantly, Miri's kindred spirit.

Although the kibbutzniks in the communal dining room greet him rather coldly, Stephan likes the kibbutz, and is ready to settle down there with Miri and her sons. But this is not to be. Miri's bliss is irretrievably shattered when, after a violent incident, Stephan is asked to leave the kibbutz.

As she sinks into despair, Dvir, a sensitive and intuitive boy, is poised to pick up the pieces of his mother's broken life. Eyal cannot be of assistance, having been inducted into the army.

Miri's fellow kibbutzniks are empathetic to a point, but in the end they treat her like an outcast.

As Shaul portrays them, the kibbutzniks are less than appealing.

Miri's mother and father-in-law, presumably still grieving over the untimely death of their son, are aloof. The sanctimonious kibbutz secretary uses his position to elicit sexual favours, and the cowhand, an unpleasant person, has peculiar sex habits. Eyal, who always seems to be horny, is not above stealing popsicles.

The kibbutz itself is depicted as an insular, small-minded, petty and ideologically rigid place that thrives on outmoded traditions and rituals.

Tomer Steinhof and Ronit Yudkevitch have the lead roles in *Sweet Mud*.

Shaul is a skilful director, and in his hands, the film is a pleasure to watch.

The script, written by Shaul himself, is compelling. He focuses his attention on Miri and Dvir, but a coming-of-age subplot involving Dvir and a girl named Maya (Danielle Kitzis), a foreign exchange student, is also of interest.

Shaul coaxes first-rate performances from the cast.

With effortless ease, Yudkevitch plays the role of a vulnerable woman caught between dementia and euphoria.

Steinhof is extraordinary, showing sensitivity and resolution as he valiantly tries to cope with Miri's declining mental health.

Garcin displays old-world gallantry and strength of character.

The cinematography is evocative and distills the essence of a hard-scrabble land, and the musical score, at once lush and longing, fits the mood perfectly.

Soaring yet heart-breaking, *Sweet Mud* is one of the finest Israeli films in years, a stellar tribute to Israeli cinema.

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Nomination forms will be available as of January 2, 2006 in the Clerk's Department, Vaughan Civic Centre, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan (Maple), Ontario, Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Nomination Day, September 29, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

JOHN D. LEACH, City Clerk and Returning Officer
First Published December 8, 2005

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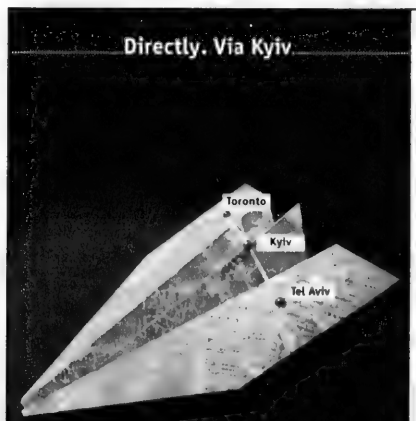

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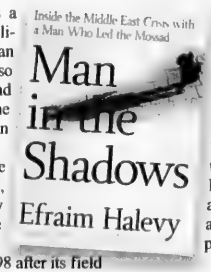
Ex-Mossad director Ephraim Halevy writes his memoirs

***Man in the Shadows* by Ephraim Halevy, St. Martin's Press.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Ephraim Halevy was an important figure in the Israeli government for many years. As a member of the Mossad – the foreign intelligence agency – from 1961 onward, he served as an analyst, case officer and deputy division chief. He also held overseas postings in Washington and Paris and was an adviser to five prime ministers from Yitzhak Rabin to Ariel Sharon.

Ephraim Halevy



The deputy director of the Mossad from 1990 to 1995, Halevy was subsequently Israel's ambassador to the European Union. Named director of the Mossad in 1998 after its field agents in Jordan bungled the assassination of Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal, Halevy retired in 2002, and now heads the Centre for Strategic and Policy Studies at the Hebrew University.

In his newly published memoir, *Man in the Shadows*, Halevy emerges from his accustomed anonymity to expound on his career as an intelligence officer. As might be expected, he does not exactly spill his guts, but his revelations are quite interesting, and presented in a lucid formal style.

On the policy level, Halevy discusses seminal developments from the 1993 peace process to the war on global terrorism. Delving into personalities, he draws pen portraits of such players as former Palestinian president Yasser Arafat, former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, now Likud leader, and former prime minister Shimon Peres, now deputy prime minister. Some of these sketches are hardly flattering.

"During all my years in the Mossad, I have seen the Middle East crisis from the inside," he writes in a generic vein. "There have been times when certain events totally took me by surprise… There have been occasions when I knew what was about to happen… It has also been my great privilege to participate in a few instances that made history…"

Early on in this generally engrossing book, he admits that the Sept. 11, 2001 Arab terrorist attacks in the United States left him "almost totally helpless" since the precise nature and scope of the threat were initially impossible to evaluate. But he rates Al Qaeda's actions as "the declaration of World War III" and acknowledges that the war against Islamic radicalism may last a generation or more.

In his judgment, Al Qaeda's agenda is to Islamicize the world. He advises readers to take its pronouncements at face value and warns that "the battle is [primarily] an internal struggle within Islam."

Israel's strategic relationship with Jordan occupies front and centre stage in Halevy's narrative because he was Rabin's personal emissary to King Hussein.

After one of his periodic talks with the Jordanian monarch in Amman, he returned to Israel with the conviction that they had worked out the parameters of a historic peace agreement. But the following day, Hamas suicide bombers wreaked havoc in Afula and Hadera, and due to the fact that Hamas had its headquarters in Amman, public opinion in Israel turned against Jordan.

Rabin wanted to take "a very tough stand" against Jordan, but Halevy talked him out of it and a major crisis was thus averted. As he puts it, "We could have easily gone to war with Jordan on false premises had my visit not taken place just at that point…"

Several months later, in Israel's ongoing negotiations with Jordan, Halevy was called upon to resolve yet another problem when a senior Israeli official objected to a problematic word in the draft treaty and would not be moved.

Writing that a maze of border, water, defence and security issues could have scuttled Israel's rapprochement with Jordan, he cites two telling examples. King Hussein demanded the return of some 380 square kilometres of territory – more than the area of the entire Gaza Strip – south of the Dead Sea, and was not keen on letting Israeli farmers in the Arava continue using wells Israel had unilaterally bored in Jordan. These obstacles, as well as others, were eventually overcome, and a peace treaty was signed in 1994.

In recognition of Halevy's contributions, Rabin asked him to be Israel's first ambassador to Jordan. But Peres, then foreign minister, objected, and Rabin offered Halevy the European Union ambassadorship.

Still smarting from this incident, Halevy uses his book to take potshots at Peres. He accuses him of forever seeking popular acclaim and throwing "caution and good counsel to the winds." He claims that Peres excluded professional diplomats from active participation in substantive discussions and hatched "secret channels" that rendered his negotiations "largely pointless and ultimately useless." In addition, he notes, Peres apparently showed contempt for and little interest in the Mossad.

Halevy was not privy to the clandestine talks that produced the Oslo accords, but he makes it clear that "the provisions of the agreement were so imprecise" that they could be likened to "a piece of Swiss cheese." In an implicit critique of Peres, Halevy says that he adopted a go-it-alone attitude during the Oslo talks and did not invite "professional input in advance of policy decisions."

As far as he is concerned, Peres and his subordinates engaged in "dreams of peace" and were loath "to confront the true facts of life and grapple with them." He adds, "This was a catastrophic way of decision making."

Arafat also comes in for sharp criticism. Prior to Oslo, Halevy claims, Arafat shunned every attempt to resolve the plight of Palestinian refugees and blocked almost every attempt to establish dialogue with Israel. But Halevy fails to mention that, under Israeli law, dealings with the Palestine Liberation Organization were illegal.

Halevy suggests that an accommodation with the Palestinians is not feasible in the foreseeable future because they insist on a full Israeli withdrawal to the 1949 armistice lines, demand the partition of Jerusalem and seek, in some form or other, the right of the return of the Palestinians.

As for Israel's acceptance of the 2003 "road map" peace plan, he dismisses it as a "grievous error."

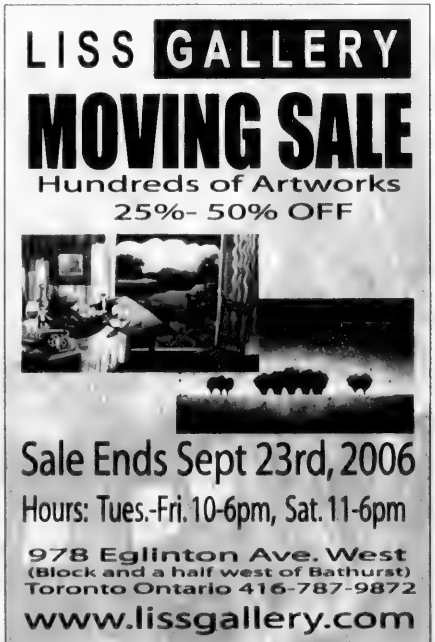
He faults moderate governments in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Qatar for not having changed the climate of "rabid incitement" and "all-out hatred of Israel" that exists in the Arab world.

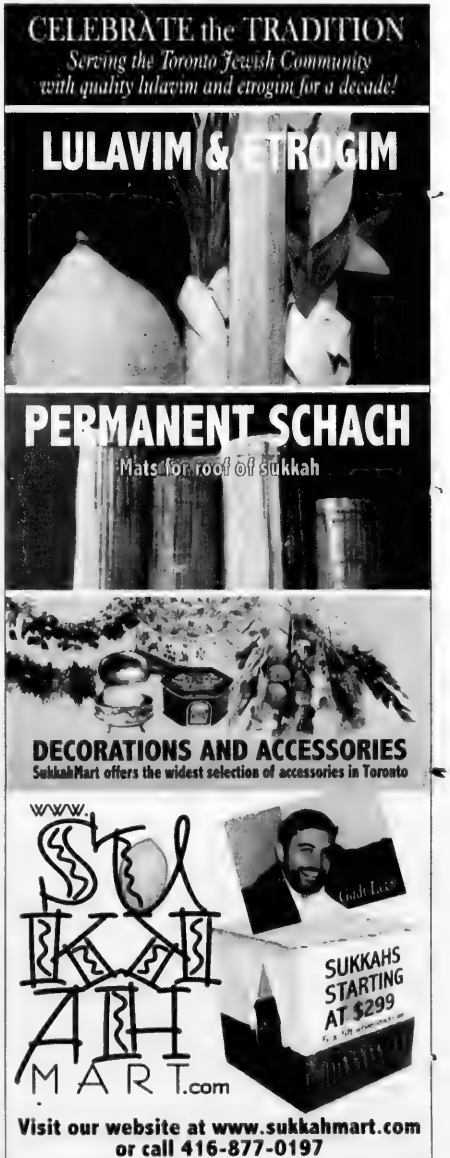
"The net result of all this has been that whereas at the… top levels of government in the Arab world there has been a steadily growing acceptance of Israel as a reality, these very same regimes have nurtured and in some cases even encouraged popular activities that have run contrary to their so-called … policies and interests."

Halevy's appraisal of Israeli prime ministers he has worked with seems reasonable. Yitzhak Shamir had little trust in his Arab interlocutors, while Rabin was obsessed by details. Netanyahu was gifted in public relations but relied on "instant solution[s]" to problems. Ehud Barak possessed a brilliant mind but was suspicious of everyone surrounding him.

Toward the close of *Man in the Shadows*, Halevy reveals that he was essentially pushed out as director of the Mossad. "My approach was not approved by the prime minister [Ariel Sharon]… Many of my meetings were now being leaked to the press. My initiatives were similarly being paraded and derided publicly…"

As Halevy archly suggests, the rough and tumble of Israeli politics is not for the faint of heart.





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25 HOUSES WANTED TO RENT
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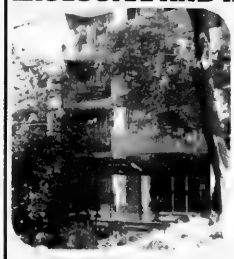

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Ram, Erlich bow out at U.S. Open

By ALLON SINAI
Jerusalem Post

FLUSHING MEADOWS, New York — Andy Ram and Yoni Erlich lost 7-6, 6-7, 6-2 to Arnaud Clement and Michael Llodra of France in the third round of the U.S. Open last week.

The seventh-seeded pair had to settle for $25,000 (US) and the knowledge that they have edged closer to booking their spot in the year-ending Masters Tournament.

The Masters features the top eight doubles pairing in the world. Ram and Erlich will need to maintain their current ranking for the next three months to appear in the tournament in China.

The Israelis had their serve broken at the start of the first set. They broke back almost immediately and tied the score at 4-4. Ram and Erlich dominated the tiebreaker to win it 7-2 and took the set 7-6.

Both teams held on to their serves in the second set and once more the winner had to be decided on a tie-breaker. The Israelis saved two set points in the breaker, but the Frenchmen wrapped up the set.

Clement and Llodra raced ahead at the start of the third set and broke Ram and Erlich twice to take a 4-0 lead. The Israelis won their next two games on serve.

However, it was too little, too late, and the Frenchmen closed out the set 6-2 and advanced to the fourth round.

In other U.S. Open action, 21st-ranked Shahar Pe'er was completely outclassed by world No. 2 Justine Henin-Hardenne in fourth-round women's singles play. Pe'er only won one game in the two sets of the match, losing in 50 minutes, 6-1, 6-0, to the Belgian.

Shahar Pe'er outclassed by world No. 2 player

Despite being soundly defeated in her final singles match, the 19-year-old Israeli will look back fondly on the last week in Flushing Meadows. Pe'er reached the last 16 of the U.S. Open for the first time in her career and will likely climb in the WTA Tour rankings to become one of the world's top 20 female tennis players.

Henin-Hardenne, who was attempting to reach her fourth straight Grand Slam final, was nearly flawless, hitting 21 winners and committing only six unforced errors.

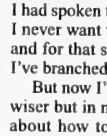
"It was a very good match for me," Henin-Hardenne said. "I did a lot of serve and volleying today and that helped me to stay aggressive." Pe'er, on the other hand, had only five winners and a massive 20 unforced errors in the two sets.

Pe'er was also in action in the women's doubles, losing with partner Marion Bartoli to the Japanese pair of Shinobu Asagoe and Akiko Morigami 6-4, 6-7(6), 6-4.

The 14th seeded Israeli-French duo served twice for the match in the second set and also had three set points in the tie-break. However, the pair squandered all their chances and eventually lost the match in three sets.

Toronto Maccabi youth athletes win 12 medals: Toronto sent 58 athletes to last month's JCC Maccabi Games in Stamford, Conn. Competing in boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball, and boys and girls baseball and swimming, the Toronto contingent earned 12 medals in all. The under-16 soccer teams each finished second, good for silver medals; the boys and girls baseball teams each won bronze medals; and in the pool, Toronto swimmers captured six silver to go with two bronze medals.

Now it's up to me



It's been about nine months since I first moved out on my own, and during that time, I've thought a lot about what makes a house a Jewish home.

I've done what I can, putting up mezuzahs, displaying special Shabbat candle holders and hanging up a beautiful Jewish blessing that my friend bought for me, but, despite my efforts, my apartment still lacks that special feeling Jewish homes always seem to emit the minute you walk in.

At first I thought it was the lack of good Jewish food in my fridge. (I've just about perfected my french fry- and hamburger-making skills, but I don't think I'm ready to try cooking anything new.) Then I thought it was the lack of yelling from Jewish mothers or the sounds of kids running around.

But then I realized that it takes more than decorations to make a house feel Jewish. It takes a lifestyle.

Growing up in Thornhill, it was impossible not to feel Jewish. Even my friends who weren't Jewish called themselves honorary Jews because of the strong and spirited community that we all lived in.

Kosher restaurants, kosher grocery stores, and an abundance of synagogues and outreach programs were scattered throughout the neighbourhood. I never realized what I had until I moved downtown and discovered grocery shopping.

I have yet to find a place south of Bloor Street that sells kosher meat, which means that every time I have to stock the fridge, I need to schlep all the way up to St. Clair Avenue. But even there, the selection isn't that great, so most of the time, I head back to my little Israel north of Steeles Avenue.

There's something to be said about living in a place as multicultural as downtown Toronto. Race and religion seem non-existent, and it functions like a peaceful melting pot instead of a jagged mosaic.

Walking downtown always reminds me of my first day in public school in Grade 4. Up until then, I had attended a Hebrew day school. I'll never forget the culture shock I felt when I sat down for my first class. The kids seemed like they were from another planet, and they appeared years older than me in maturity. I remember sitting shyly next to one boy, and when he spoke to me, all I could think was that it was the first time I had spoken to someone who was black. I never want to feel that ignorant again, and for that simple fact, I'm happy that I've branched out of my comfort zone.

But now I'm in a different place, a lot wiser but in many ways just as ignorant about how to keep Judaism alive in a neighbourhood that doesn't really support one culture more than any other.

There's a synagogue not too far from my house and a Jewish community centre on Bloor Street, but I have yet to reach out to either of them, and maybe that's part of the problem.

Growing up in a strongly Jewish area, I was always fortunate enough to have Judaism come to me. If I drove to the mall on Shabbat, the mere presence of Orthodox Jews walking on the sidewalk reminded me that it was a holy day. Now, If I walk to the shops along Queen Street on Saturday, there's no one and nothing there to remind me of that holiness.

My Jewish upbringing is no longer the responsibility of my family and community, and my understanding of the faith is no longer the job of my Hebrew school teachers.

Judaism is now completely up to me, and my home has become the ultimate test.

SWEET POTATO KUGEL

6 small sweet potatoes, peeled and grated
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2 tsp cinnamon
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About Life

Dear Ella,

My 18-year-old daughter Ashley has no respect for money. It literally burns a hole in her pocket. She works from time to time, but only in stores where she loves the merchandise so that she can take advantage of the discount given to employees. She often ends up spending more than she makes, and before I know it, she quits and is on to bigger and better stores.

Ashley is a good kid and has a nice group of friends. She is bright, attractive and a real go-getter. She could use these traits for getting a head start in life, but instead she is totally caught up with clothes, boys and partying. She uses my car all the time and often leaves the gas tank empty. I try to talk to her about school and the future, but she is so far away from caring that I don't even know where to start. Any ideas?

On the Wrong Track

Dear On the Wrong Track

Ashley seems like a teenage girl who knows what she wants and goes after it. That is a good trait to have. She has all the ingredients of a high achiever. You just have to channel that energy so she learns to use it to her best advantage.

Ashley needs to have regular responsibilities at home – things such as keeping her room clean and keeping the bathroom and kitchen tidy. It doesn't really matter what the responsibilities are, as long as they are things she can be accountable for. If she fails to perform her tasks, there must be appropriate consequences.

At 18, she can start learning how to budget. If Ashley is working, she should be contributing some of her paycheque to the household. She can spend the remainder of her paycheque on clothes. Another area that needs addressing is the car. If she's going to use it, she must help pay for gas, insurance and maintenance. Once again, she will be forced to budget.

Life is not all about immediate gratification. Ashley needs to understand that not everything is hers to have on a whim. If she wants something, she needs to set goals and work toward them. It will teach her to appreciate things that much more when she does get them.

I wish all my readers a healthy and happy New Year.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN, *email eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional*

A High Holy Day questionnaire

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Floor seats for the Toronto Raptors will cost you at least $500 a pop. High Holy Day tickets might cost you a similar amount. Which is the better value?

Last year, following Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, I conducted an informal poll among family members, friends, colleagues, etc., to find out how meaningful their holiday and shul experiences were.

The responses varied, generally based on the size and denomination of the synagogue the person attended, as well as their age. Overall, many were satisfied with the spirit and results of their yamim tovim, but an equal number felt otherwise.

Among those who felt positively, I heard such comments as, "I had prepared a month in advance for these special days and was ready to pray and commit fully to what Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur had to offer me when they arrived."

Of those who were dissatisfied, statements ranged from "I was bored with the services and had little idea what was going on" to "It's strange to walk into shul, unprepared for the intensity of the High Holy Days and expect that I can connect with the prayers and objectives of the day."

To those who were happy with their High Holy Day experiences, great! Share your insight as to why with others. To those who are less than satisfied, consider taking some time in Elul (the Hebrew month preceding the Days of Awe) to find a quiet place, gather your thoughts and take stock of your year and what you want to accomplish in 5767.

As well, think back to last year's High Holy Day experiences. Recall how you bought shul tickets and a dapper suit or outfit, and invested the time to go to shul with your loved ones and sit through hours of prayer – equivalent to the time it takes to fly to Australia.

Then ask yourself some very important questions, ones that could seriously affect this year's experience. Attribute points to your answers, with 1 being the lowest score, or "I got nothing out of my experience," and 10 being "I couldn't have asked for more."

- Did I get very much out of shul last year on the High Holy Days?
- Without familial pressure, would I go again?
- Did the services meet my expectations?
- Do I have a general idea as to what the holidays are all about, and do I understand what's going on during prayer services?
- How much did I contribute to the services?

If you scored between 40 and 50, you are preparing for, and participating in, the High Holy Days well and are likely attending the right shul. If your score is 25 to 40, you're making a decent effort, but falling a little short of your expectations. Consider whether you're doing enough reading and thinking prior to the yamim tovim. If you scored under 25, you might want to analyze your relationship to the holidays and truthfully assess whether you're attending the right synagogue and whether a change in how you participate in yom tov may be in order.

High Holy Day services can be a significant time for personal and collective growth. You invest a lot of resources in these days. If they are tedious, dry or mostly meaningless, and if they've been that way for years, adjust your objectives. You may want to find a new shul (perhaps a smaller more intimate one), or you might want to speak to your rabbi about including more English translation or allowing time during services for personal meditation and introspection.

But the biggest question is: where would you rather be at the end of this month – at a Raptors game or sitting on the shul bench with your family? You might as well be honest. Wouldn't you do the same with any other investment?

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[Israel Sun photo]

Calm amid the storm of war

Editorial

The calm in the photo of the young soldier saying his morning prayers belies the storm that raged in southern Lebanon for some 34 days this past summer.

We can only guess at the prayer on his lips. It is not the *Shema Yisrael*, the millennial watchword of Jewish faith, for his fingers are not entwined in the fringes of his tallit. Nor is it the *Amidah*, the central, thrice-repeated, daily prayer of 18 benedictions, for he is not standing.

But there can be no doubt that at some point in his silent whispers and earnest devotions, he prays for peace: peace for the Land, his people, his comrades, himself.

Devotion to God is, of course, the source of the soldier's devotion to his people, in whose defence he risked his young life.

Indeed, many young soldiers risked their lives last summer. Alas, many young soldiers fell.

They fell fighting an odious and cruel enemy whose publicly, even proudly, proclaimed purpose was to kill the Jews of Israel.

They fell defending their families, friends and countrymen.

They fell defending the simple yet elegant notion that human beings have the right to live in peace, free from attack, free from the fear of annihilation.

They fell defending the belief that all life is precious.

To the enemies of Israel, this must seem a radical concept, completely and overtly at odds with the ghoulish cult of death and martyrdom that forms the central chapter of the Hamas and Hezbollah handbook on how and why to fight the infidel Jews and their western allies.

It was a difficult summer.

So many families suffered unutterable sorrow. So much destruction scorched the earth.

Yet, once again, as we witnessed most recently at the height of the terror war launched against Israel in September 2000, the more savage the physical onslaught against Israel, the more savage, too, the

Continued on page 8

Shabbat Rosh Hashanah
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To our readers and advertisers — Shanah Tovah!

Complexities of contemporary Israel

"Surprised? Of course I was surprised," says Israeli writer Etgar Keret in his short story *Fatso*. Keret, who's in his mid-30's, has been dubbed a new generation's Amos Oz. He specializes in telling Kafka-like tales in which the line between reality and fantasy is stretched thin.

Ed Morgan, National President, Canadian Jewish Congress

But, of course, in 21st-century Israel one doesn't have to look for drama. One of Keret's stories, *Surprise Egg*, relates how victims of suicide bombings are always taken to Tel Aviv's Forensic Institute for an autopsy, as if they were a Fabergé egg inside of which waited a gem or surprise. The seemingly pointless exercise bears fruit, if it can be put that way, in the case of a woman victim who is found to have been riddled not only with the shards and shrapnel of the terrorist's bomb but also by previously undiagnosed tumours. Had she not been on the bus at the unfortunate time of the blast, she would have been dead in a week from cancer.

The question for the pathologist is whether or not to tell the dead woman's husband about his find. On one hand, it might relieve the husband from tormenting himself with fateful questions such as "if only she hadn't gone to work that day," or "if only I'd driven her." On the other hand, the news might make her tragic death even more horrible: "a death experienced twice over," says Keret, "as if someone up there wanted to make absolutely sure... What is cancer, [the pathologist] thought to himself, if not a terrorist attack from above?"

In the end, the difference both does and doesn't matter. "The woman's dead, her husband's a widower, her children are orphans, that's what matters, that's what's sad, and all the rest is nonsense," the pathologist tells himself. But then, the story closes with the loving husband sitting in his empty kitchen, contemplating the enormity of his loss. "If only she hadn't gone to work that day," he thinks, ironically repeating the very thought he was supposed to avoid by not knowing the truth. "If only I'd driven her. She'd still be alive now, sitting here in the kitchen with me."

Both observations ring true. Man's intervention brought death to the wife and grief to the husband; God's put sadness in abeyance, bringing a moment of love to them both.

Which brings us back to the initial surprise in Keret's *Fatso* story. A young man has begun to fall in love with a girl he has been dating, although strangely she is only available for lunches and afternoon matinées. He is shocked when she eventually reveals that she transforms every night into "a heavy, hairy man, with no neck, with a gold ring on his pinky."

Time, however, heals all wounds. The narrator ends up enjoying the company of both, making passionate love with the woman in the afternoon and carousing in bars, shouting at girls, and watching soccer on television all night with the man.

Are we surprised at the complexities of contemporary Israel? Can the same country one month leave tenderly cultivated greenhouses intact for its adversaries in Gaza to thrive, and the next destroy infrastructure and entire neighbourhoods so that its adversaries in Lebanon do not? Israel is a land of peaceful science and military industry, an exporter of tulips and of tanks, a place of spiritual renewal and of state power. This Rosh Hashanah, like every Rosh Hashanah, we review and rekindle our love for the country in all its many guises.

"And so it goes," Etgar Keret tells us of his character and, by inference, of the Jewish state. "Every night you fall asleep with him struggling to stay awake for the Argentinean finals, and in the morning, there she is, the beautiful, forgiving woman who you love, too, till it hurts."

Shanah Tovah.

Supporters of Israel deliver the essential message. [Carrie Devorah photo]

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Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Schulich donates $20 million (US) to Technion

Will fund school's faculty of chemistry

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Seymour Schulich believes that one of the best ways to help a country is to promote education.

Last week, the Toronto-based philanthropist finalized a $20-million (US) deal with the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology to fund the school's faculty of chemistry, which now bears his name.

The gift is one of the biggest donations, if not the biggest, ever made by a Canadian to an Israeli university, said Harold (Sonny) Gordon, chair of the Dundee Corporation and special adviser to the president of the Canadian Technion Society.

Gordon approached Schulich about a possible donation following the appearance of a *CJN* article last year regarding a $20-million donation Schulich made to to the music school at McGill University.

In the article, Schulich was quoted as saying that he had not given significantly to Israeli universities because "they are five times better endowed than the equivalent schools in Canada," but that he might change his mind if he could find a "catalytic" project in Israel.

This summer's war in Lebanon, and the barrage of rocket attacks on northern Israel – particularly in Haifa, where the Technion is located – delayed the arrangements for a month, but they were "well on the way" to being completed when the war broke out, said Gordon.

"I was born on this team," said Schulich, 66, referring to the fact that he is Jewish and wanted to fund an Israeli institution. "When you're on a team, you do one for the team."

In addition, he was impressed by the Technion's similarity to the Massachussetts Institute for Technology, a comparison that is often made. Ninety per cent of Israeli startups are led by Technion graduates, he noted. "As well as being good scientists and engineers, they're good business guys," he said.

Seymour Schulich

The voluble and forthright businessman, who is chair of Newmont Capital Ltd., the merchant banking division of one of the largest gold-mining companies in the world, admits that he "flunked out" of honours chemistry as an undergraduate at McGill University, before receiving his bachelor of science degree in 1961, and his MBA in 1965.

"It was a blessing in disguise," he said in a phone interview last week. "I'm a much better financier than I ever would have been a chemist – I can assure you of that."

Indeed, the Montreal native, whose father was a dress designer and housecoat manufacturer, was listed in the 59th spot among the 100 wealthiest Canadians, with an estimated worth of $714 million, in *Canadian Business* magazine last December.

Schulich, who left Montreal in 1977, was a co-founder of Franco-Nevada Mining Corporation, which merged with two other companies in 2002 to form Newmont

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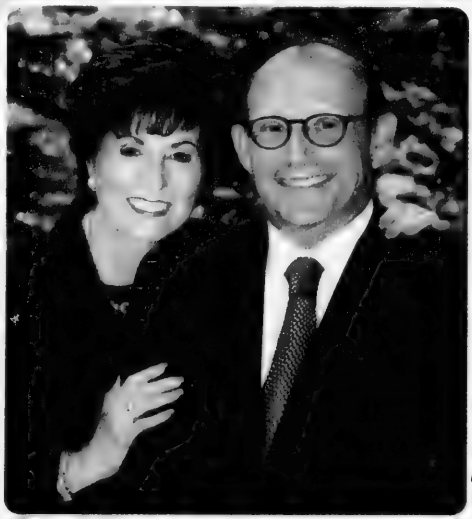

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(The second of two parts)

Joanna Mirsky Wexler is an impressive young woman. She speaks English, French, Hebrew, Spanish, German and Swahili. She is a singer, accountant and marine biologist. And she is a superb storyteller.

As the director of Camp Kadimah, (about an hour southwest of Halifax, not northeast as I carelessly wrote last week) she uses all her considerable skills, talents and judgment to define and enhance the broad educational experience for the more than 300 young campers under her overall care and responsibility for six weeks in the summer.

From the editor's desk

This past summer I caught merely a glimpse of that broad educational experience. It was exhilarating.

Of course, the 32-year-old, Montreal-born Wexler is not alone at the camp with the campers. She has a dedicated staff of some 125 people. Indeed, one of her staff is her husband, Ezra, who in addition to being the head counsellor, is an accomplished opera singer. The director is quite openly proud of her staff. "It is not uncommon for staff to be here five to six years," Wexler offered as we walked unhurriedly through the campgrounds under the golden sun of a clear Nova Scotia morning. "The reputation of our counsellors is that they care deeply about the campers," she assertively stated.

Together, the two Wexlers – Joanna and Ezra – and the considerably capable staff of Kadimah, transform for their campers the six weeks of summer camp into long-lasting, memorable markers of Jewish identity and belonging.

"It is amazing to see what kind of an impact you can have here," Wexler reflected, as we stood before one of the cabins overlooking the shore of Lake Williams.

"The fact that one person could have had such a strong impact on the the lives of so many people is really very humbling."

She was referring to the late Gershon Yuval, who had been director for only one year in 1963, but had nevertheless, left a profound imprint on the lives of the campers and staff that year and on the camp's folklore and traditions. She mentioned him because only days before, the camp had dedicated a cabin in his memory. We stood at the cabin, formerly Cabin D, so that I could see and read the inscription on the plaque that attests so visibly to Yuval's brief but significant contribution to the Jewish and Zionist ethos of the camp.

The honouring of his memory more than two decades after his service to the camp, with a crop of campers who had no direct knowledge of him, is indicative of the great emphasis that the board of the camp and its staff place on constantly reinforcing the interconnection between the purposes of the camp with its relatively long history, now reaching its 64th year.

"This is a generational camp. It is very likely that the grandparents, parents and children of the same family have all attended here," Wexler remarked. "The board [of the camp] loves this place. Each of the members has their own personal memories of their time here. As a result, they are very supportive of what we try to do."

When asked what it is that she and the staff try to do, Wexler answered succinctly, without hesitation.

"We try to help build Jewish character. We try to inspire in a Jewish way. Really, it is about making connections with the campers and ourselves. What does it mean that we are Jews and Zionists in this tiny part of the world?"

Wexler's pithy characterization of the camp's overall purpose was a remarkable paraphrasing of Kadimah's mission statement – "To build a foundation of Jewish identity and a love of Israel in generations of campers and staff..."

And her reference to "this tiny part of the world" (i.e., the Halifax region) was eloquent proof of her understanding of the deeply formative role that the camp plays in moulding and fashioning the collective – and even individual – sense of identity and character of Atlantic Jewry. (The camp's mission statement says: "A safe, caring community in which to foster knowledge, skills and leadership, for the benefit of Atlantic and Canadian Jewish children.")

On the occasion of the camp's 50th anniversary some 13 years ago, one of its former campers and staff, Michael Soberman, wrote: "In an imperfect world, Kadimah is one of the few places, where for six weeks, we can close ourselves off, spend time with those people who mean the most to us, laugh together and cry together, and campers and staff can begin the timeless task of carving out their own Jewish identity in the security of Camp Kadimah. I never dreamed I would fall so deeply in love with place."

Soberman has not been the only one to fall so deeply in love with Camp Kadimah. Over the years, there have been thousands.

It would be foolish to think that every single camper through 63 years at Kadimah has emerged positively changed and Jewishly primed for life. And it would be equally foolish as well as unfair to fail to acknowledge the far-reaching, beneficial impacts on the lives of our youth of the many other wonderful Jewish camps where we send our children. But the association with place, history and character of Camp Kadimah to Atlantic, and now burgeoning to the wider Canadian Jewry, is unique and deserving of special mention.

One veteran camper, Frank Medjuck, some three decades after his 13 years at Camp Kadimah summed up his experience by writing: "I never had friends again quite like the ones I had then."

After only a brief visit to Camp Kadimah this summer, I could understand why that was so.

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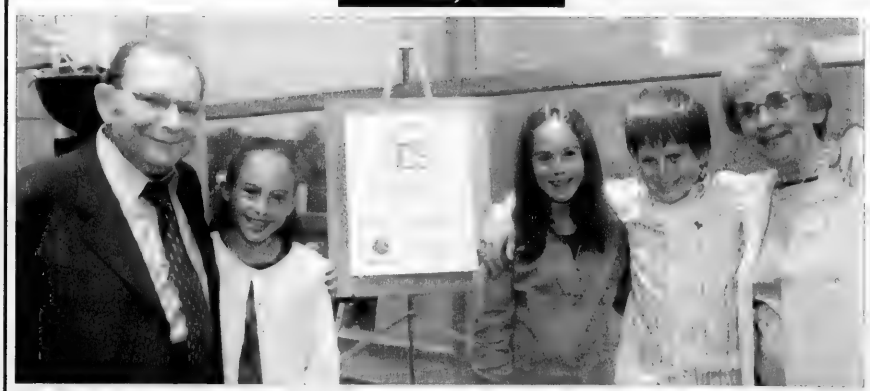

WOLFE HONOURED: Gordon Wolfe, left, is joined by his grandchildren, from left, Amanda, Samantha, Jake and wife, Linda, at the recent dedication ceremony in honour of Wolfe, who, for 22 years served as the executive director of Jewish Family & Child Service (JF&CS). Before friends, family and dignitaries, the downtown offices of JF&CS, housed in the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, were dedicated in Wolfe's name.

[Jen Arron photo]

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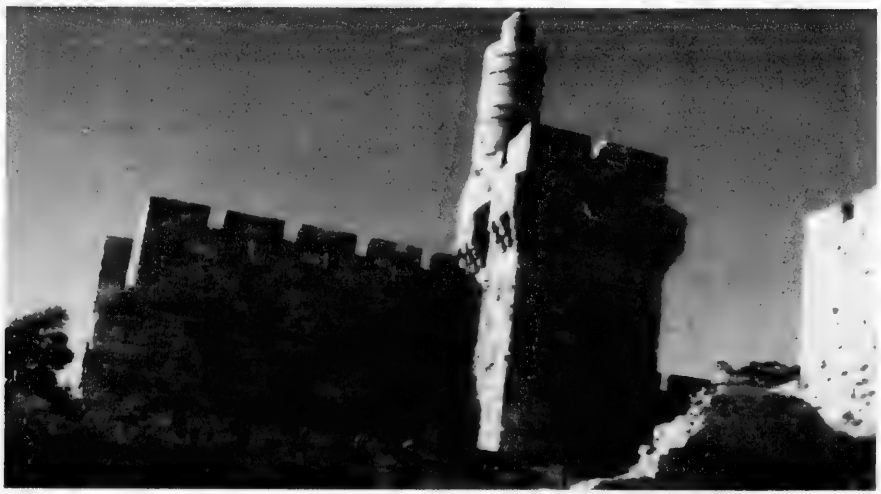

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Greater Toronto Area

Thousands gather to urge end to genocide in Darfur

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

In an effort to put more pressure on the Canadian government to commit to working to end the genocide in Darfur, thousands of Torontonians gathered to show their support at one of 57 rallies held simultaneously around the world.

The Sept. 17 rally – which was also held in cities including Berlin, Cairo, Hong Kong, Kigali, Nairobi, New York, and Paris – marked the one-year anniversary of the United Nations' Responsibility to Protect pledge that calls on the international community to protect populations from crimes against humanity if their own government is unable to do so.

Roméo Dallaire, a retired lieutenant-general and former commander of the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda who actively speaks out against the genocide in Darfur, was the keynote speaker and an organizer of the rally held at Ramsden Park in Toronto.

He said that if governments of developed nations don't send the troops needed to defuse the current situation in the war-ravaged region of Sudan, the international community will witness a humanitarian crisis on the same scale as the 1994 Rwanda genocide.

"Darfur is tasting, smelling, looking, in every way shape and form like a repetition on a similar scale of what happened in Rwanda 12 years ago. We've had 12 years of studying and debating and bringing in new concepts, great theories and doctrines like the responsibility to protect. But we have seen nothing in the developed world of building the statesmanship and the courage of the political elite to do something about it, and we are going to witness, again, with blood on our hands, the destruction of human beings who are exactly like us," Dallaire said.

The African Union, which is currently the only force in the region, is weak and will be forced out by the end of the month, he added.

Although the UN Security Council voted in August to create a UN peacekeeping force in Sudan, Resolution 1706 said troops would be deployed only with the approval of the Sudanese government. So far, the government has refused to give that consent.

Human rights groups and activists are calling for sanctions against senior Sudanese government officials who stand in the way of the deployment of troops that can bring stability to the region.

But Dallaire said the reluctance of the Sudanese government to comply with the resolution is only part of the reason that troops haven't been deployed to protect a people who have been threatened with rape, murder and starvation since the conflict began in 2003.

He said the reluctance to send UN troops to the region is the fear of casualties, and because there is no political capital in saving lives.

"There is no oil, there is no strategic value, and as such, it is very difficult for nations to argue the essentiality of going in to help and protect human beings," Dallaire said. "We just don't have the guts to go in there and commit ourselves to those human beings even if the government of that nation doesn't want us there."

Dallaire added that the monetary cost to developed nations would be minimal. "We're not asking for 15 billion bucks every month to move and save more than 2.5 million people. We're not even close to those figures," he said. "We need $79 million to keep [the African Union] force in the field from the first of October until the time that the UN forces would come in, which would be the middle of January."

In a statement released a few days before the rally, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said, "Canada is working with governments in the region, Security Council members and other international partners to urge the Government of Sudan to act responsibly and accept the UN transition, consistent with UNSC Resolution 1706."

During the rally, MC Justin Trudeau announced the presence of Liberal MP Susan Kadis, NDP MP Olivia Chow and NDP leader Jack Layton. As was the case at the Darfur rallies in Toronto, Washington, D.C., New York and other cities last April, there was a significant Jewish presence at this event.

Among the groups that organized the rally were Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan (CASTS), Canadian Jewish Congress, Hillel Toronto, STAND Canada, Project Equity and Canadian Young Judaea.

Also at the rally, which included performances from music groups, the Muhtadi Drummers and Bedouin Soundclash, was Mohamed Haroun, the president of the Darfur Association of Canada, a Sudanese refugee who was jailed and tortured for seven months in Darfur for distributing leaflets against the government militia's recruiting efforts.

Tragi Mustafa, a Darfurian refugee, a member of CASTS and founder of Save Women Sudan, an organization that aims to inform Sudanese women of their rights, also spoke passionately about the way that rape is being used by the janjaweed, the government militia, as a weapon of war.

She explained that while there are organizations that provide food for refugees, they do not provide the fuel needed to cook the food. Women and girls – some as young as eight who are forced to care for their orphaned siblings – must go into the forests to collect firewood, where they are often attacked by waiting soldiers.

"If she attacks any janjaweed or a man in uniform [who attempts to rape her], she is going to go to jail," she said adding that she is frustrated with the case of a 15-year-old girl who is sitting in prison for murder after killing a soldier who attempted to rape her.

Ben Fine, executive director of Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND) Canada, called on youth to do everything in their power to pressure the government to intervene.

"It is our responsibility to provide the political will to push our government and tell them that we demand that they uphold it. We can blame our decision-makers, and we should, but what it comes down to is our ability and our determination to mobilize ourselves to... step up," Fine said.

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We can change history

Continued from page 1

propaganda onslaught against the Jewish state in the wake of its determination to fight back and defend itself vigorously, without apology to anyone, for the right to exist as a sovereign Jewish state in the "Muslim Middle East."

Thus, we saw and heard coverage of and commentary on the war in south Lebanon that all but ignored the fact that rockets were deliberately fired at Jewish civilians every day; that Iran and Syria were the weapons-dispensing hands that controlled Hezbollah; and that Sheik Hassan Nasrallah is not merely a stocky, boyishly young-looking defender of the downtrodden Lebanese Shia, but rather a zealous, fanatic and scheming murderer of Jews.

For supporters of Israel, the distorted portrayal of the war and the inversion of the values underlying that portrayal were, as ever, disconcerting. Worse. Perhaps it was an ominous foreboding of a future in which the unceasing campaign to deligitimize the Jewish people will bring about an erosion in the support and understanding for Israel and for the justice of its cause.

Rosh Hashanah arrives, therefore, just in time tomorrow night to help us navigate through our edgy feelings of existential angst and worry.

The holiday itself contains within it a feeling of "anxiety" and vulnerability as our personal destinies hang in the balance, as our own futures are to be decided imminently through the judgment of the Heavenly Court.

And yet, against this belief of vulnerability and uncertainty, we also believe deeply that we can influence our fate through action in this world. *Tshuvah, tfillah, v'tzedakah* (repentance, prayer and good deeds) can alter the potential sting and bitterness of the Divine decree.

This belief in the power of our own action is one of the defining motifs of the Rosh Hashanah. It propels our individual, forward movement from one year to the next and sustains our belief in the possibility that goodness will always triumph.

We can change the course of our own lives.

We can change history, if we but try.

Moreover, the seeming enormity of the task at hand has never detered us. As Rabbi David Hartman of Jerusalem has implored: "Despair is not an option for the Jewish people."

We have a mission. We have a purpose.

It falls to us all, wherever we live, to help steer the course of Jewish history toward the highest aspirations of Jewish peoplehood and statehood.

There is a powerfully evocative image in the High Holy Day prayer *Unetaneh Tokef* of a vast blast of the shofar that yields, in its resonance and reverberations, only a still small voice.

So too, the vast blasts of the deadly guns of war have inevitably given way to the "still, small voice" of introspection, reflection and self-assessment.

Perhaps that is, in part, what we see in the photo on page 1?

As he sits serenely upon the metal box merely metres from a tank in the open field, the young soldier is listening for the still, small voice stirring in his heart.

We too must listen for the still, small voice stirring in our own hearts. We must not recoil from trying to influence destiny.

And when the young soldier heard his still, small voice, he undoubtedly also thanked God for having brought him safely to a new day. Just as we too will do this holiday.

Shanah tovah.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Fifty-one U.S. senators, a majority, declared themselves to be opposed to the Reagan administration's planned sale of five AWAC reconnaissance planes to Saudi Arabia. Republican Senator Robert Packwood was leading the 19 Republican and 32 Democratic senators in their effort to defeat the measure.

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We will have to agree to disagree

I recall the debates about the original Toronto eruv as to whether some of the leniencies used in its parameters were acceptable ("Toronto's Orthodox community: Is it becoming too religiously right-wing?" *CJN*, Aug. 24 and 31). This resulted in two distinct camps of Orthodox Toronto Jews – those who relied on the eruv and carried on the Sabbath and those who did not. The reconfiguration of the eruv under Rabbi Shlomo Miller's guidance so that stricter criteria are now met can only be viewed as a positive and helpful development.

Similarly, the raising of standards at the Kashruth Council of Canada is positive in that there is more universal acceptance of the council's supervision. Rabbi Gedalia Felder once told me that the Kashruth Council was founded in a virtual vacuum and unless certain leniencies were accepted at that time, it would have been almost impossible to establish kashruth in even a minimally acceptable manner for the average household. In today's environment, there are many more marketplace options available, so these leniencies are no longer necessary. There is indeed a demand that the kashrut supervision be as airtight as possible so that the observant consumer can have confidence in the food he consumes.

I have no quarrel with the so-called "centrist" Orthodox community as long as its members follow the Torah and its commandments along with the halachic norms that have been developed by our recognized rabbis over the centuries. Obviously, there are points of debate and contention, but nothing that cannot be discussed civilly over a l'chaim at a kiddush. There are issues on which we will have to agree to disagree. However, the resentments and accusations of some who may have a "chip on their shoulder" is certainly not helpful in any way and it is certainly not conductive to *ahavat Yisrael* (love of fellow Jews), which is so necessary today. We have enough enemies from without.

Samuel Meller
Toronto

* * *

The reason for surviving

Martin Kalson ("Toronto's Orthodox community," letter, Sept. 7) ignores an important factor necessary for any group's survival. While we must be concerned about basic survival, we cannot lose sight of the reason for this survival. Without a meaning to Jewishness, the very forces for basic survival are also weakened. Jewishness has to matter. The State of Israel has to have purpose. Otherwise, why fight for it?

It is within this perspective that we can understand the significance of the present issues and debates within the Orthodox community. Emotional reasons for Jewish survival wax and wane. For one generation, the feeling of Jewishness, and the feeling that Jewishness is important, was important. For subsequent generations, the feelings diminish and are not enough to fight a battle of identity. Assimilation and intermarriage are the results.

The debates and discussions within the Orthodox community reflect a Jewishness that gives purpose to Jewish identity and declares that Jewishness has significance. There may be disagreement, but one thing is certain – concern over such issues reflects a perception of Jewishness that has meaning and purpose.

In order to survive, we must always recognize the reasons for the importance of this survival. Without such purpose, even basic survival is not attainable. While we may debate the priority of these issues and the conclusions we may have to these questions, as strange as it may seem, "the issues of bugs in lettuce and the number of days of Creation" reflect a concern for this purpose.

Rabbi Benjamin Hecht
Founding Director
NISHMA

* * *

Holy Blossom rabbis

In the article "Holy Blossom to celebrate its 150th anniversary" (*CJN*, Sept. 7), the various periods in Holy Blossom Temple's historical journey ended with Rabbi Gunther Plaut. There was no mention of the last 28 years.

Since Rabbi Plaut, Holy Blossom has been fortunate to have as spiritual leaders Rabbi Harvey Field, Rabbi Dow Marmur and Rabbi John Moscowitz, our present senior rabbi. Sharing the pulpit with Rabbi Moscowitz are Rabbi Yael Splansky, Rabbi Jason Rosenberg and Rabbi Edward Goldfarb. Cantor Benjamin Maissner joined the congregation in 1979.

Rabbi Marmur came to Holy Blossom in 1983. A dedicated and brilliant rabbi/teacher, he accelerated the Plaut legacy to move the congregation to a more centrist position within Judaism. Rabbi Marmur taught that tradition and social justice must be a part of Reform Judaism and that Reform Jews must be God's partners in repairing the world.

Also, Lewis Samuel's name was spelled incorrectly in the article. Samuel was the president of the congregation for most of the years between 1862 and 1880.

Henrietta Chesnie
150th Anniversary Chair
Holy Blossom Temple

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Perspectives

5766: A turbulent year for Israel

By LESLIE SUSSER
JTA

The Jewish year 5766 was one of the most dramatic in Israel's history. It saw a sitting prime minister dismantle his ruling party and then suffer a massive stroke that left him comatose, a terrorist group that refused to recognize Israel's existence elected to the pinnacle of Palestinian power, and a war with another terrorist group in which more than 100 rockets slammed into Israeli cities and towns nearly every day for more than a month.

And that's just for starters.

Facing intense opposition within his Likud party, then-prime minister Ariel Sharon broke away from the Likud in November 2005 to form the Kadima party. The move significantly altered Israel's political landscape, placing Kadima and the Labor party at the centre of the political spectrum, with parties to the left and right seemingly marginalized.

Riding a wave of popularity, Sharon seemed certain to be re-elected by a huge margin, with a mandate to continue his policy of withdrawal from Palestinian territory following the unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank in the summer of 2005.

But it was not to be. After an initial small stroke in December, Sharon suffered a major stroke Jan. 4 and fell into a deep coma from which he has not emerged.

His deputy Ehud Olmert took over as acting prime minister, paving the way for his election to the premiership in late March, on a promise to complete the process of separating Israel and the Palestinians by enacting a massive unilateral withdrawal from almost all of the West Bank.

There also were precedent-setting elections among the Palestinians. On Jan. 25, the fundamentalist Hamas swept to power, ousting the secular Fatah party after almost 40 years of uninterrupted rule.

Israel refused to have any dealings with the Hamas government unless it recognized Israel's right to exist, accepted previous Israeli-Palestinian accords and renounced violence. Most of the international community backed the Israeli position, severed diplomatic contacts and cut off aid when Hamas refused to meet the demands.

The result was violence, with the Palestinians taking advantage of the end of the occupation in Gaza to launch daily rocket barrages at Israeli towns near the border. Violence escalated after Palestinian gunmen from Hamas and other factions killed two Israeli soldiers and kidnapped a third, Gilad Shalit, on June 25.

On the northern border, Hezbollah, a terrorist group financed and armed by Iran and Syria and with seats in the Lebanese government, had built up an enormous rocket capability after Israel's unilateral withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000. Shortly after Hamas captured Shalit, Hezbollah opened a second front with a cross-border raid July 12 that killed eight Israeli soldiers. Two others – Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev – were kidnapped and dragged back to Lebanon.

Hezbollah thought Israel's answer would be the sort of limited, pinprick responses it had carried out after other Hezbollah attacks over the past six years, but in this case the group badly miscalculated.

Israel launched airstrikes against Hezbollah targets and Lebanese infrastructure and called up ground forces for a possible land invasion. Olmert was determined to change a situation in which Hezbollah felt it could attack Israeli soldiers with impunity, confident that Israel would not take strong retaliatory action for fear of attack from the 14,000 or so rockets that Hezbollah had trained on Israeli cities and towns.

There were other strategic considerations too. Israeli military planners saw Hezbollah as the long arm of Iran, building up its rocket power to attack Israel if the Jewish state or the United States took military action to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. The Israeli war effort was aimed at restoring Israel's deterrent power, removing the Hezbollah rocket threat and creating conditions for the return of the abducted soldiers.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

The initial air strikes were highly successful: in just 39 minutes on the night of July 12, the Israeli air force destroyed most of Hezbollah's Iranian-made Zilzal long-range rockets, which were believed to be capable of hitting Tel Aviv. Over the next few days, the air force reduced Hezbollah's Beirut headquarters to rubble, destroyed weapon stores and killed dozens of elite Hezbollah fighters.

But it soon became apparent that incessant Hezbollah rocket fire from mobile launchers could only be stopped by a large-scale ground operation. This did not materialize until the last few days of the war, and as a result, Hezbollah was able to continue firing more than 100 rockets a day at Israeli civilians in the north and claim victory on the grounds that Israel had been unable to stop the Katyushas.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, which brought the fighting to an end on Aug. 14, called for an embargo on arms to be imposed on Hezbollah, the militia to be removed from southern Lebanon and for the area to be patrolled by the Lebanese army, backed by a large UN force.

Increasingly beleaguered at home, Olmert presented these postwar developments as a major change in the strategic balance. Israeli leaders also argued that Hezbollah had lost between 500 and 800 fighters and taken a far more severe beating than was generally realized.

But the mood in Israel after the war was one of anger at what was widely seen as the government's poor management of the ground war. Military analysts and former generals were highly critical of the failure to order an early large-scale attack, and reservists returning from the front complained of confused orders, a lack of confidence in their superiors and shortages of food, water and equipment.

Pressure mounted on Olmert to set up a state commission of inquiry with the power to subpoena witnesses, impound evidence and recommend the dismissal of political and military leaders. The prime minister responded by establishing three lesser committees to examine political, military and home-front shortcomings in the conduct of the war.

By year's end, Olmert had acknowledged that his grand plan for a West Bank withdrawal would have to be put on a back burner, and Hamas was trying to get Palestinian terrorist factions to agree to a temporary truce and to establish a national unity government to break the international boycott.

Overall, 5766 generally was a good year for the Israeli economy, though the war in the north led to an estimated one per cent loss in economic growth, which had been projected at more than four per cent for the second year running.

The war also generated demands on the government's purse strings – more than $1 billion for rehabilitation of northern Israel and an additional $5 billion for the defence budget.

At the same time, a poverty report in late August revealed that 1.6 million Israelis, or more than one-quarter of the population, was living below the poverty line. The fiscal challenge is to meet the military and social needs without creating inflationary pressure.

Despite hostilities, Israel's economy booming

By SIMON GRIVER
IPS

The sale of Israel's Iscar Metalworking Cos. to Warren Buffett for $4 billion (all figures US) and its software company Mercury Interactive Inc. to Hewlett-Packard (HP) for $4.5 billion has made the headlines of the world's financial press in recent months.

All the more impressive is that these high profile transactions are only the tip of a high-tech-led economy that encompasses hundreds of successful advanced technology companies and enjoyed 5.3 per cent growth in 2005 and over 6.6 per cent in the first half of 2006.

"The past year was one of the best years Israel's economy has ever known," observes Reuven Kuvent, General Manager of Dun & Bradstreet Israel, the global business information specialists. "Israel flourished by almost every economic parameter."

According to the Israeli government's Central Bureau of Statistics, exports of goods and services rose by 10.5 per cent in 2005 to $42.8 billion, and continued climbing in the first half of 2006 by an additional 6.5 per cent to almost $23 billion. The trade deficit has virtually disappeared, with imports reaching $23.2 billion in the first half of 2006. Unemployment has dropped to 8.8 per cent from 11 per cent three years ago.

The only cloud on the economic horizon was the outbreak of hostilities in Israel's northern region during July. However, since the fighting lasted for weeks rather than months, most experts did not expect the Israeli economy to be badly hit. Standard & Poor's Rating Services did not reduce Israel's credit rating following the outbreak of fighting and said "strong demand for Israel's high-tech goods and services and buoyant capital inflows have underpinned a further strengthening of the Israeli economy."

High-tech is unquestionably the motor that drives Israel's economic engine, with over 50 per cent of the country's exports falling into this category. An additional 30 per cent of overseas sales have advanced technology components. Israel is a global leader in such areas as mobile/cellular communications, Internet applications, software services and solutions, semiconductors, medical devices, electro-optics and electronic accessories for defence and homeland security equipment.

But the Israeli economy is also much more than high-tech. Iscar, which became Warren Buffett's first Israeli investment, is a mid-tech company that manufactures industrial cutting tools for metal machining. What Iscar's founder in 1952 the veteran entrepreneur Stef Wertheimer shares with today's generation of young high-tech Israeli executives, is a visionary grasp of innovation and flexibility to meet fast-changing market needs.

Nor is Israel's largest industrial manufacturer a classic high-tech firm. Teva Pharmaceuticals, which expects 2006 sales to reach $7 billion, is the world's largest producer of generic drugs, although $1.3 billion in sales derives from an ethical drug, Copaxone®, for the treatment of Multiple Sclerosis, which is the fruit of Israel's biotech industry.

If the early Zionists worried that Israel's economic development would be hampered by the lack of natural resources, then the arrival of the high-tech age of knowledge-based industries has solved that problem. With leading universities and more people with PhDs per capita than any other country, there is no shortage of knowledge in Israel. Moreover, the country's military needs and national service in the Israel Defence Forces means that many academic Israelis also have the ability to make quick, real-time decisions and meet short-term targets with flexible and innovative thinking.

Even the country's few natural resources – phosphates in the Negev and minerals in the Dead Sea – now earn Israel Chemicals $3 billion in sales per year due to improved extraction processes. Israel has also used technology to overcome the region's water shortages, with much of the country's needs now supplied by desalination and recycling of wastewater.

But the upswing in Israel's economy has not yet helped Israel's poorest and most needy. With Israel's richest 10 per cent earning an average of 13 times more than the bottom 10 per cent, only the United States has a wider gap between rich and poor in the world's developed economies.

The right question

For most of us, Hamlet's "To be or not to be" is not the question. Rather we are challenged by "how" to be. How shall we live our lives? What shall we do to make life vital and even good?

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

Especially during this holiday season, we formally ask ourselves "what can we do better?" Self-appraisal is good, but where does it lead us? As we look back, do we see our errors or our needs, our gains or our absences? Do we translate this quest for self-evaluation into a list of missing things or lost opportunities? Most importantly, do we use this opportunity to count our blessings as we admit our human failings. It's a demanding, double-sided task, yet it's quite important. As we recount our sins and promise to do better, somehow we also need to acknowledge the gifts of living.

As many of you know, I spent part of the summer with my mother, 88, and mother-in-law, 90, and got quite a lesson. In our daily activities, despite pain, disabilities and serious worries, both women showed a level of fortitude, optimism and enthusiasm that was amazing. Even after all these years of ups and downs, of loss and loneliness, they were both filled with a sense of excitement and goodness, of appreciation and acceptance of life.

I wonder if we can match that? Can our quest for improvement and progress be reconciled with our acceptance of what is?

Recently at a wedding, my husband blessed the couple with his standard, "May your love be renewed each day as God renews your lives." This time, his words signaled an immediate reaction. We take so much for granted. Life is a gift. Each moment, even with all its pains and trouble, is a benefit. Simply being alive should fill us with wonder and excitement. Incomplete, imperfect, even painful and fearsome, yet wonderful. Life is awesome!

But we as humans get more. We get love. What an amazing gift, to love and to be loved. Whether love of parents, spouse, children, family, friends and even pets, to love is to be alive and to be granted the greatest good. It marks our species and gives meaning somehow to our meager existence.

So as the season descends on us with all its powerful imagery of repentance, return and renewal, I think we need to offset it with a sense of appreciation and acceptance. Our Jewish tradition teaches a sense of wonderment and goodness, a sense of blessing and self-acceptance. Yes, we regret past omissions and commissions. Yes, we want to do better next year. But this year was not a total washout. We lived, loved and grew. That's the essence of how to be.

Jewish history around the clock

As we greet 5767, how can we comprehend the great span of time our people has lived? Let's try it on a 24-hour clock.

At midnight, Abraham and Sarah leave Ur. At 2:34 a.m., Joseph is sold into Egypt. Moses celebrates the first Passover prior to the exodus and giving of the Torah at 3:12 a.m.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Things don't go so well at first in the Promised Land: the period of the Judges lasts until 4:17, when Saul becomes the first King of Israel. At 4:29, David brings together the fractious tribes and captures Jerusalem. At 4:40, his son Solomon dedicates the first Temple in Jerusalem.

Again, turmoil from 4:58 to 7:12 a.m. Solomon's kingdom falls into two pieces, the southern ruled by the Davidic dynasty, the northern one subject to palace intrigues and foreign adventures, falling to the Assyrians. During those hours, prophets rail against the evils of idolatry. At 7:12 a.m., tragedy strikes: Jerusalem burns and its leaders are sent into exile by the waters of Babylon.

There is hope. At 7:37, exiles return to Jerusalem and set about rebuilding the city and the Second Temple. At 8:52 a.m., Alexander appears and the area falls to Hellenistic hegemony. At 9:51, the Hasmoneans lead a revolt against Antiochus and for less than an hour – till 10:32 – rule Judea until it is occupied by Rome.

At 10:42, a momentous event: Herod begins building his magnificent Temple Mount. Alas, by 11:22 it lies in smoking ruin. Enraged, the Judeans turn to a false messiah, Bar Kochba, and at 11:46 are decisively slaughtered at Betar, sending hundreds of thousands of refugees into the Roman diaspora. Some survive the debacle, and under Rabbi Judah ha-Nasi the Mishnah is redacted a little after noon at 12:19 p.m., not a moment too soon, as the fortunes of Jews in Byzantine Palestine erode and the Babylonian diaspora becomes ascendant.

By 2:68, the Babylonian Talmud is completed. At 3:03 p.m. Byzantine repression gives way to the Arab conquest, and Jews in the land receive better treatment than under the Christian emperors. From 3:56 to 5:34 the Geonim are the masters of Halachah (and we get Saadia's prayer book), and from 4:41 to 7:12, Jews in Spain enjoy a Golden Age. At 5:49 p.m., Rashi writes his luminous commentaries, while at 5:56, the Crusaders destroy Jerusalem in the process of liberating it.

At 6:36 p.m., Maimonides delivers his masterful codes. From 7:12 to 7:50 p.m. the Black Death ravishes Europe and causes even more suffering to Europe's Jewries, who begin their eastward trek to Poland/Russia.

At 8:25, the same minute Jews are finally expelled from Spain, Columbus makes a momentous discovery. At 8:55 p.m. the Ari in Safed inspires a long line of mystics. At 9:26, the Cossacks begin their terrible conquests, and at 9:31, Jews are the victims of Shabtai Zvi's mendacious promises of redemption. (An aside – at 9:28, the first Jews arrive in the Americas.)

The pace quickens. At 9:58 p.m., the'Baal Shem Tov ignites the chassidic movement. At 10:20, European Jews hear the Emancipation proclaimed. At 10:55, eastern European Jewry begins its massive migration to North America. At 11:02, the Dreyfus trial leads Theodor Herzl to inspire the first Zionist Conference and the beginnings of modern Zionism at 11:03. At 11:12, comes the Balfour Declaration.

A terrible moment: at 11:19, Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany, and from 11:22 to 11:25 in the evil Kingdom of Night, six million Jews are massacred.

At 11:26, the State of Israel is proclaimed. At 11:31, the Yemenite community is airlifted to Israel, and at 11:38, the Six Day War brings the Temple Mount and Kotel back into the Jewish state for the first time in 2,000 years – or should that be 12 hours and 16 minutes?

At 11:44, the Yom Kippur War breaks out, and at 11:51, the aliyah of Soviet Jews becomes a tidal wave. At 11:52, the Ethiopian redemption begins, and at 11:53, Yizhak Rabin dies from an assassin's bullet. At 11:56, war in Lebanon and the New Year 5767.

We've got some time left in our history and the meanings are embedded in our rituals of memory. Soon we'll be into a second day. May our children's children see its glory. In the meantime, Shanah Tovah.

A cool breeze heralds the new year

Here in Edmonton, the leaves on the trees are already changing colour. The tomatoes have turned red on the vines. The apple trees are heavy with the best crop of fruit ever. There is a nip in the night air. The school term has begun at all levels of education. The summer has come to an end.

Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton

In so many ways, a new year is beginning.

I have always felt that Rosh Hashanah falls at the right time of the year. As the long, green days of summer move into the colourful autumn season, it feels right, particularly this year, that a new year should be commencing. At Rosh Hashanah, we traditionally look back over the past year, taking stock of our lives, and look forward with optimism to a fresh start.

In the past year, various members of my family have struggled with health problems. And our family has mourned the passing of our beloved brother-in-law as well as a dear family friend.

Internationally, there is so much discord. We have seen the tragedies of war in the Middle East and the continued threat to the survival of Israel in a hostile environment. In addition to these hostilities, we have seen the vile expression of anti-Semitism espoused by the leader of Iran.

It is with sadness that we see the conflict continue in Afghanistan where our Canadian soldiers are dying. And whether it be the fight against Hezbollah, the Taliban or other nefarious organizations, the world continues to witness the spectre of international terrorism on too many fronts.

Nature itself sometimes deals an unkind blow to this earth. Over the past year, people in the north-central Gulf Coast of the United States have been trying to rebuild their lives after the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. It is hard to fathom the devastation and tremendous loss of life caused by the earthquake in Pakistan. The scourges of disease, famine, homelessness and war still plague many parts of the world and ravage the populations of large areas in the sub-Saharan nations in Africa.

And in our affluent country, people struggle with poverty and homelessness.

Personally, it has been a challenging but rewarding year. Our children have pursued their careers in classical music, Canadian diplomacy and computer technology. Like many modern parents, we watch and cheer for them – sometimes from great distances.

In addition to my professional responsibilities and the monthly responsibility of writing an article for this publication, I have continued to serve as president for the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights. That organization is dedicated to the promulgation of the various principles and values contained in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights through educational activities directed primarily at youth.

The continued success of the projects and publications of the centre have been particularly rewarding this year. The centre is sponsoring an international conference in Edmonton from Oct. 20 to 22 on the topic of "Building World Peace: The Role of Religions in Human Rights," and a sister youth conference on the topic of "Building World Peace: Some Assembly Required." (For further details on these conferences, including registration information, see: johnhumphreycentre.org. and www.building worldpeace.com.) In August 2007, the centre will also host, in Edmonton, the first United Nations Youth Assembly to be held outside of New York. These projects bring a sense of purpose, a feeling of optimism and hope to our work.

Each year will have its share of tragedy and unhappiness. But with the beginning of a new year, we all share in a spirit of anticipation and renewal.

It is time for a new year. It is time for a new beginning. It is time for a renewed commitment to tikkun olam – working as partners to repair the world.

As the sound of the shofar ushers in the new year, we all look forward to a good year, a year of peace, a year of hope, good health, friendship and love. *Ktav v'chatimah shanah tovah u'metukah*. May you be inscribed and sealed for a good and sweet new year. Shanah Tovah.

The Kirshner File

A survey of British Jews

This year marks the 350th anniversary of the readmission of Jews to Britain, known as the resettlement.

King Edward I expelled Jews from his kingdom in 1290, bringing to an abrupt and tragic end the medieval era in British Jewish history.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

For almost 400 years, individuals of Jewish ancestry visited and even lived in Britain, but only as putative Christians. As openly professing Jews, they were officially barred from setting foot on the island nation.

But in 1656, after receiving a petition from Menasseh Ben Israel, a Portuguese New Christian raised and educated in Amsterdam, Britain's republican leader, Oliver Cromwell, finally agreed to readmit Jews.

As Todd M. Endelman points out in his meticulously researched and enlightening book, *The Jews of Britain 1656 to 2000* (University of California Press), no formal order of readmission was actually ever issued by Cromwell. What happened was that the Council of State – Britain's governing body – responded favourably to a petition requesting permission for Jews to gather privately for prayer and to acquire a burial ground.

Endelman, a professor of modern Jewish history at the University of Michigan, speculates that Cromwell "must have provided [Ben Israel and his associates] with some assurances that they would not be disturbed, for in the months that followed, an avowedly Jewish community emerged."

Endelman further speculates that informal readmission had important repercussions. By removing the topic of Jewish readmission from the public agenda, Cromwell denied ammunition to the opponents of resettlement – mainly Christian merchants who feared competition from Jews and clergymen who claimed that the exercise of Judaism in a Christian state would be blasphemous– and the issue faded away, never to re-emerge.

Prior to the expulsion in 1290, Jews had resided in Britain for more than a century, having arrived from France in the wake of the Norman conquest. But having lost their financial usefulness, due to state restrictions on moneylending, Jews found themselves in a vulnerable position.

Until the resettlement, Britain was officially bereft of Jews. But in actual terms, clusters of Jewish New Christians from Portugal and Holland, primarily merchants and doctors but adventurers and drifters as well, continued living there. Among them was a New Christian named Rodriego Lopez, a physician who may have inspired William Shakespeare's Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*.

The Puritans were the first to propose the readmission of Jews, being convinced that their resettlement would hasten the coming of the millennium.

Millenarian sentiment gained ground in the first decades of the 17th century, and news of this development aroused the interest of Ben Israel, a messianist who had been in contact with Puritans in Amsterdam.

Messianic considerations do not appear to have interested Cromwell, who likely saw the commercial advantages of attracting Jewish capital to Britain and away from its chief mercantile rival, Holland.

In the wake of the restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660, Christian merchants in London attempted to impose onerous restrictions on their Jewish competitors, but to no avail. Charles II and James II protected the new Jewish community, while William of Orange encouraged the immigration of a small but steady trickle of Sephardi Jews from Holland and the Dutch and British colonies.

Tending to be merchants, commodity brokers, dealers in precious stones and jewelry, commercial clerks and physicians, a few of the Jewish newcomers were immensely wealthy. Yet, as Endelman notes, alongside them were miserably poor Jews.

Segueing to a related topic, he writes, "The most pressing religious problem facing the Sephardi community in the half-century after readmission was making the transition from New Christian to professing Jew."

The majority of Sephardim who arrived in Britain in the 17th century had lived as Catholics for much of their lives. But now, in Britain, they were free to practise Judaism. Nevertheless, some continued to live as New Christians.

Since no charter was issued or legislation passed to formalize their status, Jews were never sure about their civic rights.

In practice, they faced major disabilities, being barred from holding public office, attending universities or entering certain professions. The position of Jews in Britain during that period was, nonetheless, superior to that of Jews in other countries.

Still, Jews were seen as a distinct national group, with their own peculiar cultural habits, mental outlook, religious customs and historical memories. When the diarist Samuel Pepys visited the Bevis Mark synagogue, now one of the oldest in Europe, he observed that the worshippers were "more like brutes than people [who] know the true God."

During the century after readmission, Sephardi Jews in London were joined by Ashkenazim from Holland, Poland and the German states. By the mid-18th century, when Britain was home to about 7,000 Jews, the Ashkenazim outnumbered the Sephardim.

In London, where Jews were most concentrated, they were strongly identified with certain trades: second-hand clothes, oranges and lemons, spectacles, costume jewelry, sponges, lead pencils, inexpensive framed pictures, slippers, cakes and candies, glassware, sealing wax and belt buckles, belts, shoe buckles, watches, snuff boxes and crystal buttons.

Menasseh Ben Israel, circa 1642

Assimilation was a temptation in Jewish upper class circles, and Endelman cites the case of Samson Gideon (1699-1762), the richest Jew in the country, to prove his point. Giedon married a Protestant, baptized his newborn children and married off his daughter, Elizabeth, to a nobleman. (In this connection, Endelman points out that virtually all the descendants of Sephardim who rose to prominence in the 17th and 18th centuries are now Christians).

The mass of Jews, however, married within the faith and regarded themselves as members of a distinct people.

Christians viewed Jews, even assimilated ones, as different, with the result that anti-Semitic stereotypes were quite common. But these traditional perceptions were counter-balanced by a strong philosemitic current, Endelman observes.

At the start of the 19th century, the majority of Jews were immigrants or the children of immigrants. But over the next 75 years, poverty ceased being their defining characteristic, and on the eve of mass migration from Eastern Europe, most Jews in Victorian Britain were middle class.

The elite, consisting of some 200 families based in London, from the Rothschilds to the Sassoons, dominated the leadership of communal organizations and synagogues.

The emancipation of British Jewry occurred in piecemeal fashion from 1830 to 1871, with Parliament being the central front in that battle. The campaign was supported by Whigs, who were committed to religious freedom and civil rights; progressive Conservatives, who had broken with the mainstream party; and radicals and non-conformists, who sought to weaken the power of the Church of England.

The community was radically transformed by the influx of more than 100,000 Jewish immigrants between 1881 to 1914. This influx endowed Anglo-Jewry, yet again, with a foreign-born, lower-class caste. The bulk of the newcomers settled in London's East End, but some found their way to Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham and Glasgow.

Endelman says that anti-Semitism in the interwar interregnum from 1918 to 1939 was prevalent enough to affect almost every Jew in the country.

Occupational discrimination was common, admission to private schools and colleges could be problematic, and hotels could be off-limits to Jews.

The problem was exacerbated by serious writers such as Graham Greene, H.G. Wells, John Buchan and Agatha Christie, who populated their novels with offensive Jewish characters.

Professional anti-Semitic agitators of the ilk of Arnold Leese, Henry Hamilton Beamish and Sir Oswald Mosley tried to introduce the "Jewish question" into public discourse.

Britain's mandate in Palestine caused tensions, too.

Since World War II, anti-Semitism has waxed and waned, depending, in part, on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But according to Endelman, the demographic health of the community today is threatened as never before by assimilation, ignorance of Jewish learning and lore and indifference to ritual and worship.

Four centuries after Jews were readmitted to Britain, the community is in decline, demographically at least.

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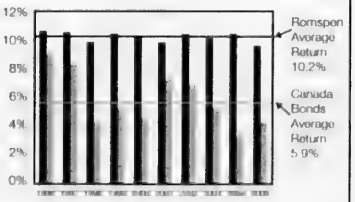

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CUPE sponsors parade float urging Israel boycott

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The 30,000 union members and activists who marched in the annual Toronto Labour Day Parade were treated to music, costumes, jugglers – and a CUPE Ontario float dedicated to the union's resolution calling for a boycott against Israel.

More than 1,000 CUPE members and their families took part in the Sept. 4 parade that began at University Avenue and Dundas Street and ended at the Canadian National Exhibition.

There were 50 or 60 floats, said CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan. Some were in support of workers' rights, others called for an end to privatization and tuition hikes, but perhaps the most controversial was his union's float, which featured a large banner by the newly formed group Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid (CAIA) that read "End Israeli Apartheid."

Float from the Labour Day parade

A press release by the coalition, which was formed in January, said the "CAIA is marching with CUPE Ontario to support the historic Resolution [50]... to move our struggle in solidarity with the Palestinian intifadah forward." The group was referring to a resolution passed in late May at CUPE Ontario's convention in Ottawa that condemned Israel's security barrier and called an "international campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel until it recognizes the Palestinian right to self-determination."

CAIA called on the community to march with CUPE Ontario in the parade "in order to send a loud and clear message in support of CUPE's historic Resolution 50 and the boycott of Israeli apartheid."

Ryan said that while there was a float put up by the CUPE council in Toronto in support of Resolution 50, he was unsure if CUPE members behind the float joined forces with CAIA.

"I don't know if it was the coalition, but there were some CUPE locals who had a float dealing with Resolution 50... As far as I know, they were joined by community members who came into the parade and marched with them," Ryan said.

"People join the Labour Day parade all the time, different groups join in support. If you're asking me if I would be surprised that different groups would support CUPE's resolution, I would say no, not at all."

He estimated that between 60 and 70 people marched in support of the resolution and added that the Jewish Women's Committee to End the Occupation were there carrying banners that read "Not in my name."

"It was a mixed group of people, not just the Resolution 50 people. There are a lot of people upset with the State of Israel and the policies towards Palestinians," Ryan said.

He said the float was not part of a demonstration, just part of the parade.

Ryan, who was mostly at the front of the parade leading a CUPE Ontario contingent that was marching with the Canadian Federation of Students against tuition hikes, said he assumed CUPE members were handing out literature in support of the resolution, but he didn't see this personally.

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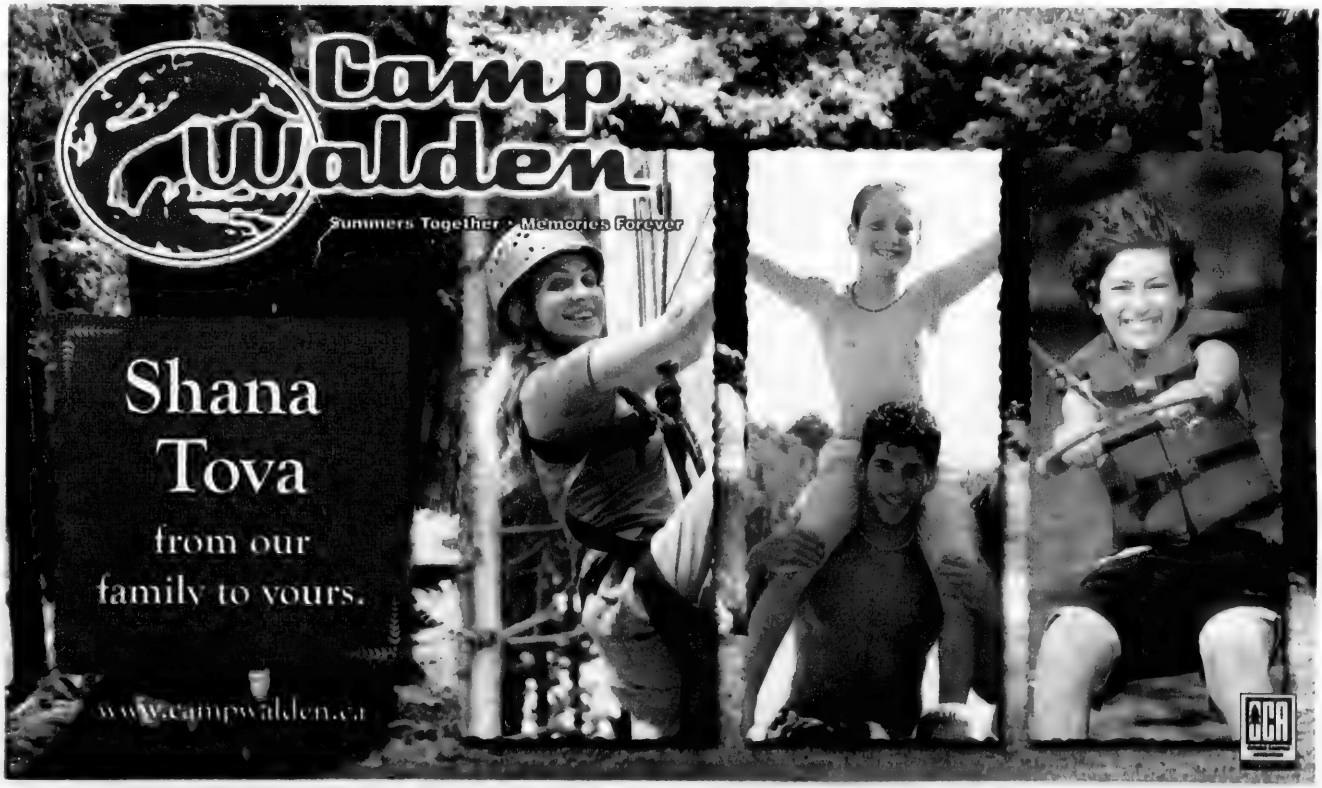

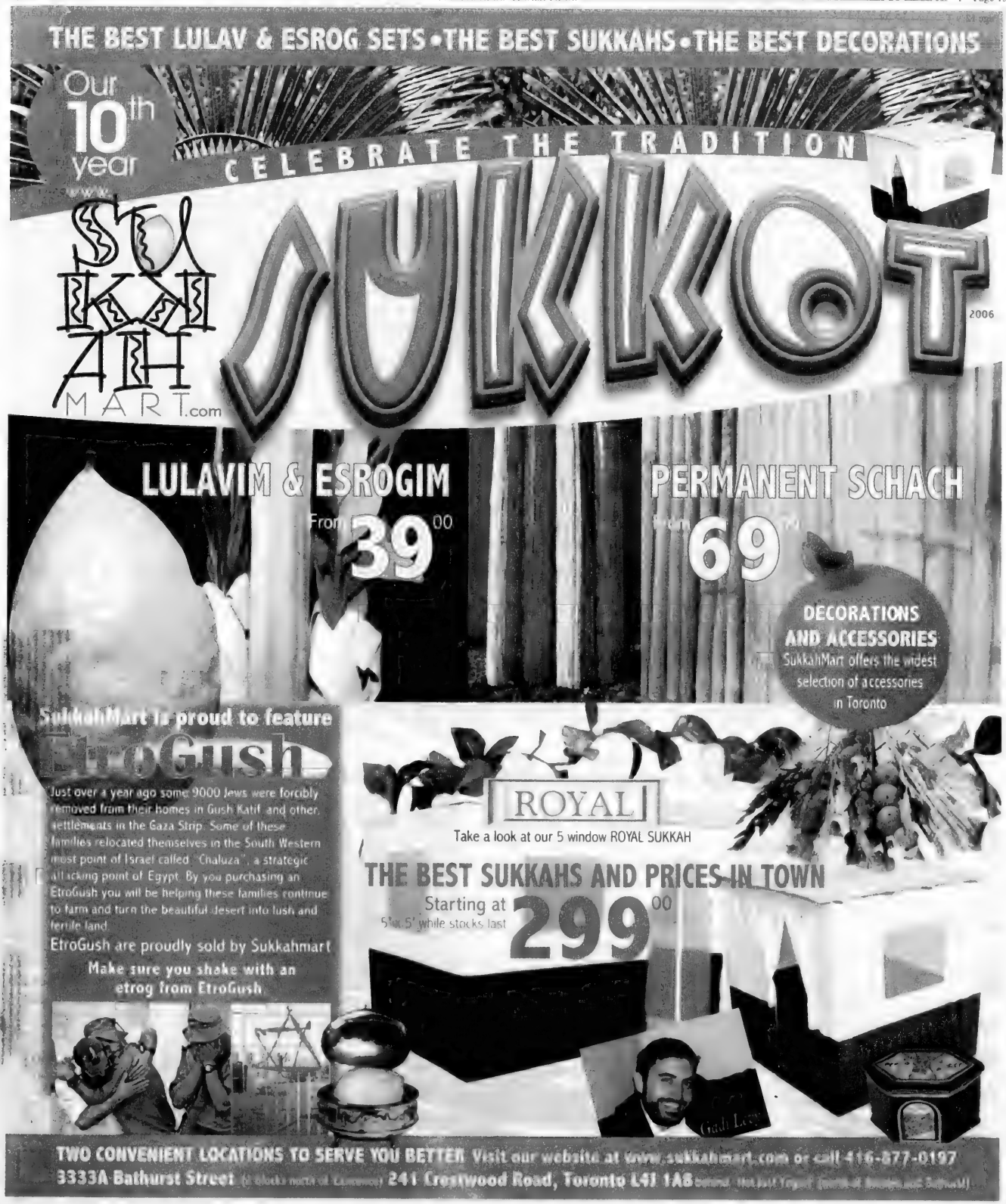
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Insurers again reject policies for travel to Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

It's back to square one for financial planner David Brown.

Almost two years ago, Brown led an effort to convince Canadian insurers to write life insurance policies for applicants who planned to travel to Israel. As the intifadah heated up, insurance companies began rejecting policies for travellers to the Jewish state.

After some lobbying and in the aftermath of U.S. legislation banning the practice as discriminatory, Canadian insurers agreed to write life insurance policies for clients who planned to visit Israel for less than eight weeks and if the policies paid out no more than $5 million.

However, Brown recently learned that a number of major Canadian insurers – including Manulife Financial, Standard Life and Canada Life – are again declining policies if the applicant plans to travel to Israel.

"The insurance companies have decided they are not writing anybody going to Israel," he said. "Because of the battle with Hezbollah, they've now closed down."

Brown, a financial advisor at Al G. Brown & Associates, a family firm in the financial services industry, learned of the change when he was turned down after applying for a policy for a client who was planning to visit Israel in December. He canvassed several other companies and was rejected each time.

Brown said the new practice does not affect pre-existing policy-holders. These people, who acquired life insurance after disclosing their intention to travel to Israel, will still be covered. Only new applicants are being turned away, he said.

Jasmine Mangalaseril, a spokesperson for Manulife, acknowledged that "our policy regarding new insurance applications for those who travel to Israel has changed because of the recent escalation of violence in the area and travel warnings issued by the Canadian government.

"Since travel risks for a country are reviewed regularly, the underwriting position will change if the risk changes," she said. "The list is kept current by world events and travel warnings issued by the Canadian government.

"We will review the current change at the end of September. Any changes will be based on Canadian government travel guidelines," she added.

As of last week, the website of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada "advises against all travel to southern Israel [where] rockets fired from the Gaza Strip have reached as far as Ashkelon and Sderot. Travel to the region surrounding the Gaza Strip is strongly discouraged."

The travel warning, which urged Canadians to leave the specified regions, goes on to say, "While a ceasefire has come into effect between Israel and Hezbollah forces, the situation in the northern region of Israel remains unstable. Therefore, Canadians should maintain a high level of personal security awareness at all times as the security situation could deteriorate rapidly without notice."

Brown said life insurance is still being written in the United States, where federal law prohibits discrimination against travellers to Israel. Canada does not have such a law. Instead, insurers were persuaded two years ago that travel to Israel was not significantly more dangerous than travel to other countries.

When he first brought his concerns to the large insurance companies, he argued there were no hard data to warrant including Israel in a group of high-risk countries that included Afghanistan, Iraq, North Korea, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Syria. Today, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada warns against visiting specified areas in Israel, as well as specified areas of Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the North Caucasus region of Russia, including Chechnya.

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Kippot do more than cover heads

By WENDY ELLIMAN
IPS

Guest Voice

You can choose from velvet, satin, suede or leather, it can be crocheted or woven, or you can custom-design it to contain your name, Mickey Mouse, SpongeBob SquarePants or your sports team logo.

Men can choose from designs advertised as "masculine without being boring," and for women, there's a choice in "beaded wire, decorated with semi-precious stones that allows you to embrace your tradition and still look very feminine."

If it's not yet clear what's under discussion, it's the once-humble kippah, the head-covering worn by Jewish men and, today, in some circles, by Jewish women, as well. For 15 centuries, the Western Jewish head covering almost always took the form of a black skullcap (exchanged for white on High Holy Days or celebrations) and its sole statement was religious piety. But with rabbis qualifying virtually anything as a "kosher" head-covering these days, the kippah has more recently come to signify a lot more than Jewish observance. Today, when it no longer takes courage to wear this instantly identifiable mark of a Jew in public, the kippah has become for many either a fashion statement or a declaration of sociological and political affiliation, or both – and nowhere more so than in Israel.

Amid the flowering of kippot into a garden of shapes, colours and sizes, the large, smooth, bowl-shaped skullcap made from black velvet, satin or cloth lives on in haredi circles, where it remains de rigueur. Even in Israel, however, a sharp eye can discern small differences that have large meanings.

Sons of the community may express teenage rebellion by wearing their skullcaps slightly smaller in size, or even wearing them crocheted from black embroidery thread rather than made from fabric – a minor bid for independence that nonetheless allows them to remain in the classicist camp.

The crocheted black kippah can, however, signify very different ideals that are favoured on the opposite side of the religious and political spectrum from the haredim. It is also worn by liberal-to-left-wing Modern Orthodox or people who identify with Young Israel, a group most easily classified by what its members aren't: they aren't haredim and they don't identify with the national religious Zionism of the settlers' movement. They have abandoned the colourful crocheted kippah, with its endless variations of design, because it's been co-opted by the national Zionists.

Israel's nationalist religious Zionist camp is typified by the colourful crocheted kippah. Where many western men once expressed flamboyance with the size and colour of their neckties, Israelis in this group often do so through their head-covering. Endless and intricate variations in colour and design are acceptable here, from geometric patterns to names spelled out, to slogans, logos and wedding or bar mitzvah souvenirs. Orange, the colour symbolizing opposition to the pullout from Gaza in 2005, shone brightly on the heads of this group last summer, with crocheting wives, girlfriends and daughters scarcely able to meet demand.

In general, the larger the kippah the more observant its wearer (although increased size can also indicate increased hair loss). There is no general agreement about the correct size of a kippah. The late American rabbi Moshe Feinstein, renowned for his halachic expertise in, stated that its minimum measure is that "which would be called a head covering." Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, spiritual leader of the Shas party in Israel, says it should be large enough to be seen from all sides. So the more observant (Merkaz HaRav) branch of the National Zionist movement, the seedbed of many of Israel's leading religious Zionist rabbis, favours a larger full-headed crocheted kippah. To confuse the issue further, however, many of the rabbis who teach at the movement's yeshivas wear the traditional large black kippa.

A different kind of head covering altogether is found among certain Sephardi communities, particularly those originating from Bukhara and the Caucasus Mountains. Here the tradition is the large, brightly woven, brocade kippah, similar in shape to that worn by North American cantors, minus the peak. In recent years, however, these large colourful caps have also found a market among religious hippies and ecstatic Jews, as well as little boys who have trouble getting smaller kippot to stay on their heads.

Shopping for children's kippot in Israel spoils you for choice. Dozens of Disney and non-Disney characters dance and prance across the smaller-sized head-coverings, digitally imaged, embroidered or painted onto the fabric, or woven into its texture. Train, boats and planes chug their way forever around the rims, and whole kippot represent anything friendly and circular – from the sun to a big smiling face to a cross-section of a watermelon.

And with women in some Jewish streams now taking their place alongside men in shul on the bimah, a whole new market for kippot is opening – as yet underdeveloped, at least in Israel, where kippot thus far have tended to remain masculine.

Perhaps the revolution that's occurred in the way religiously observant Jews cover their heads is reflected in how we refer to their head-coverings. The long-used Yiddish word "yarmulke" probably comes from the Aramaic *yiru malka*, meaning "awe of the King." It resonates with the religious piety that was once the sole statement made by Jews who covered their heads. The more commonly used term today, however, is kippah, Hebrew for "dome" – a comfortable and non-religiously charged name-tag that allows Jewish head gear to shout out social, political, ideological and fashion statements, as well.

Wendy Elliman is a writer in Jerusalem.

'The Jews were rocking!'

IDEAS ON IDENTITY

By RABBI ELYSE GOLDSTEIN

The Jewish holidays are almost here, and that means plenty of shul.

I learned so much about prayer from a weekend pulpit exchange with a local Baptist minister years ago. All Friday night his people were praising with calls of "hallelujah" and" right on." While the minister gave his sermon, his people were sitting on the edges of their seats; the fever rose, and they were shouting out all over the place.

But my people were all polite; sitting quietly, nodding in agreement every now and then, puckering their faces when they didn't agree. After a while, his people got the message that Jews don't react in synagogue, so one by one they put down their hands and also listened politely.

On Sunday, it was my turn. As I started my sermon, and the Baptist congregation started to move, I could see my own congregants start to slowly react: "Hallelujah" "amen," and "right on, rabbi!" The Jews were rocking!

What I learned that weekend about the power of prayer has never left me: the willingness to surrender and to hold out that we might be moved; that something big might enter our hearts. I learned about the ability to lose oneself in the moment, to be enveloped by others, to be merged into a greater whole. What Jew would stand up in the middle of a Shabbat service and exclaim, "Baruch HaShem! This is a wonderful service!" I think when Moses said, "Let my people go," he got the words in the wrong order. He really meant, "My people, let go!"

When I asked the minister what time the services would end, he looked at me incredulously and said, "No one has ever asked me that before. They end when we're done."

At the typical bar mitzvah service, people arrive a half hour late, look at their watches through the whole next hour, skip out during the sermon and then come back just in time for the kiddush. We shmooze, we laugh, we chitchat in the seats the whole time before, and often during services. We congregate in the back until the ushers have to prod us to sit down

Now I don't knock the importance of the social aspects of a service. Jews come together on Shabbat and holidays to be with other Jews, and there is something holy about that meeting of Jewish souls. We are a member of a minyan, a quorum; prayer is not a "singular" experience for Jews. There's an old joke in which the rabbi asks Goldberg and Schwartz why they come to services every week. "Rabbi," replies Goldberg, "I come to talk to God, of course." "Rabbi," adds Schwartz, "to tell you the truth, I come to talk to Goldberg." Prayer helps us out of our existential loneliness into a life of relationship.

After the Baptist service, congregants continued to speak spiritually. When I complimented the choir's solo singer on his beautiful voice, the young man replied, "It's a great gift from God." Prayer should humble us; ask us for just one moment to stop being the centre of our own lives and to suspend judgment on others.

The experience of prayer may be in the silences between the prayers; not in the grandiose answers we demand but in the unanswerable questions we ask. Face it: not every service will be uplifting, not every sermon great. Sometimes a service will be just a service. The greatest power of prayer may be its ability to surprise us. The Baptists taught me the gift of surprise, and for that,whenever I step into a synagogue, I am always grateful.

Jewish Life

Making our business dealings holy

Money Matters

By Rabbi Jay Kelman CA

"*Al Chet*, For the sin which we have sinned before thee with our commercial dealings, *B'masah umatan*."

Our urge for money is all powerful, and it's for this reason that there are more mitzvot relating to this particular area – more than 120 – than any other aspect of Torah. At every turn, we are liable to let profit trump piety, and thus we need the word of God to give us the strength to conduct ourselves in the most ethical of ways.

Alas, it appears that even the Divine word may not be good enough. It is often difficult to see the link between ritual observance, acceptance of the Divine authorship of the Bible, and increased meticulousness in our monetary dealings. While we have witnessed much flourishing of almost all things Jewish, it often appears that money matters have, for many, escaped detailed emphasis.

Somehow we have divided the world into secular and religious realms, and business dealings are part of the former. The *al chet* of our commercial dealings does not refer to any particular sin – any number of these are mentioned individually – but rather to the sin of neglect, a sin of omission not commission. Few, if any, Jewish schools in North America have a course devoted to Jewish business ethics. It's hard to think of any other area of Jewish law that will be of more practical benefit and necessity for living an observant Jewish life. Shabbat, kashrut and holidays, while forming the basis of our Jewish identity, are learned primarily in the home by actually living these experiences with our families. No such daily opportunity exists to observe and absorb proper behaviour in the business world.

In his book *Sins in the Marketplace*, Dr. Meir Tamari, founder of the Center of Business Ethics and Social Responsibility in Jerusalem, shows how the *al chets* have as a major theme our failings regarding monetary matters. We have sadly defined Judaism as a series of rituals and beliefs and have not placed enough emphasis on the grand ethical vision of Judaism, on its primary goal of creating a fully functioning society with its economy, social welfare system, military and all other state apparati testifying to our being a "holy nation" and a model for the world at large.

Even the religious political parties in Israel have focused primarily on issues of personal status, leaving so much of the core of Judaism unarticulated. Not only is this a distortion of the essence of Judaism, but it has also caused many non-observant Jews to view Torah as irrelevant to the building of a Jewish state in the modern world. And for this sin of "the desecration of God's name" we must say an additional *al chet*.

The Hebrew phrase used for our commercial dealings is *masah umatan*, often translated as "give and take," referring to the nature of business dealings. The literal translation of *masah* means to lift up, the *nasi* being the leader of the Jewish people. *Matan* comes from the root of giving, *matana* being a gift. Our monetary dealings must be such that they elevate our religious personality. Working is not something we do to just to earn a living, important as that may be. Rather it gives us the opportunity to sanctify the name of God throughout the day.

We elevate ourselves by being giving to others. While we tend to think of business as a profit-making venture for ourselves, the economic theory of capitalism teaches that it is by helping others meet their needs that we enrich ourselves. May the coming year be one in which our *masah umatan* brings much benefit to all.

Comments: rabbijay@torahinmotion.org.

Tashlich sites to visit

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

On the first afternoon of Rosh Hashanah, Jews gather at nearby streams or bodies of water to perform the ritual of Tashlich. Prayers are recited and sins are symbolically tossed into the depths. Some people even shake out the hems of their clothing while others toss breadcrumbs into the waters. In order to make your outing more meaningful, here are some sites to visit first. (Note: If the first day of Rosh Hashanah falls on Shabbat – as it does this year – Tashlich is postponed to Sunday.)

Tashlich means, "You will cast away," and although the current tradition dates only to the 14th century, the practice is probably based on much earlier verses from the Book of Michah. "God will return and show us mercy, and overcome our missing the mark. And You will cast into the depths of the sea all their errors…" **[http://tinyurl.com/jgpvw]**

If you don't live near the depths of the sea, you can perform your Tashlich near almost any body of water, preferably one that has fish living in it. **[http://tinyurl.com/zonga]** Why fish? The Orthodox Union site explains, "Just as fish are protected by the water in which they live, we pray to be protected by God. Also, just as fish swim freely and can suddenly be caught in a net, so, too, we can just as helplessly fall into the net of sin. And even as the eyes of fish are always open, so do we pray that God, too, will keep vigilant watch over his people." **[http://tinyurl.com/75nup]**

Such philosophic ruminations sound lovely but may be lost on very young kids. In Breadcrumbs and Magic, Amichai Lau-Lavie has written a charming memoir of what it was like when he was a six-year-old and paid his first visit to the "Holy Fish Pond." **[http://tinyurl.com/fhgxb]** Elsewhere, you can read about the trials and tribulations of a mother whose daughter was quite selective about which sins she threw away at her first Tashlich. **[http://tinyurl.com/gzmcn]**

Rabbi Hara Person and her family have made Tashlich into a time of peace and forgiveness. Members of her family write down on a piece of paper something they regret doing over the past year. They show each other what they have written, and forgive each other. Then they throw the pieces of paper into a plastic tub filled with water and watch their misdeeds dissolve. "Forgiving and being forgiven enables us as a family to put the last year behind us, to grow, and to enter renewed into the new year." **[http://tinyurl.com/n4lwb]**

Shelly Frier has a seasonal piece of advice: Take a hike! And then perform the water-related ritual. Although the tradition of Tashlich is most closely associated with Rosh Hashanah, Frier points out that it can be performed until Hoshanah Rabbah, the final day of Sukkot. "So take your family out to water. Picnic by the sea, hike to a stream, or go canoeing if the weather is right. Don't forget your siddur, and a pocket full of crumbs." **[http://tinyurl.com/nbvn3]** And for real homebodies, just send off a Virtual Tashlich e-mail postcard. **[http://tinyurl.com/jvrqk]**

Although many sites refer to breadcrumbs being tossed in the water, others explicitly prohibit that practice. Aish.com says, "It is forbidden to feed the fish on yom tov." **[http://tinyurl.com/jeyn2]** Rabbi Arthur Waskow concurs but for different reasons. Breadcrumbs "increase the organic content of our already endangered waters and thus encourage algae, etc., that use up oxygen. Indeed, one of the major aspects of Tashlich can be [to confront] our misdeeds against the earth and all its winds and waters." **[http://www.shalomctr.org/node/441]**

So to make everybody happy, let's just toss those crumbs… metaphorically. That gives me the opportunity (once again) to bring back that pun-laden, tongue-in-cheek look at the foods of Tashlich. If you feel using plain old bread lacks subtlety, nuance and religious sensitivity, then consider these alternatives for your various indiscretions: **[http://tinyurl.com/cdfq4]**

- For sins of indecision: waffles
- For pride: puff pastry
- For auto theft: caraway
- For sycophancy: brownies
- For davening off tune: flatbread

Shanah Tovah Umetukah!

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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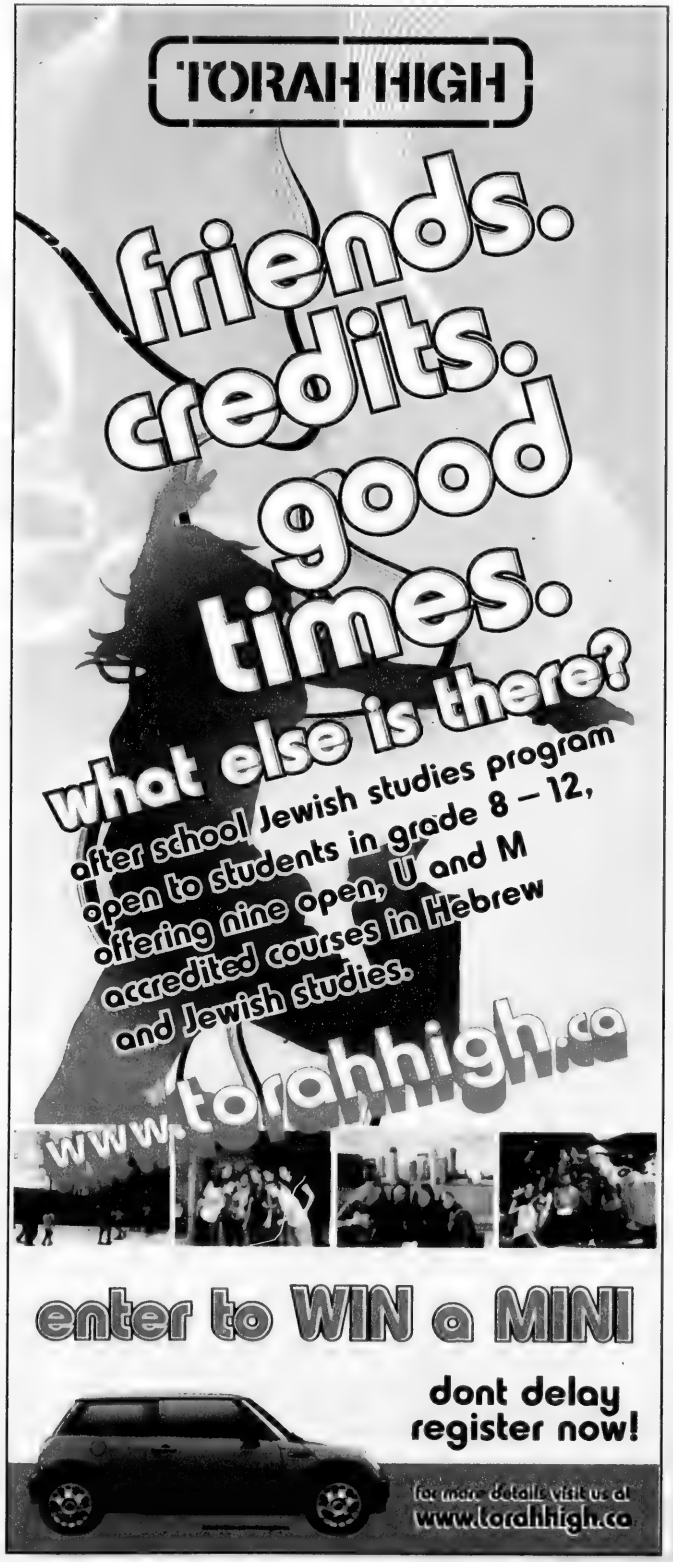

Mideast expert slams media reporting on region

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Middle East analyst Barry Rubin has nothing but disdain for the Western media's reporting on the region he has spent years studying.

"What's the point of reading their reports?" he asks rhetorically. "I feel that the more you read the media, the less you know about the Middle East. There are so many inaccuracies… A lot of the reporters have no special knowledge."

Director of the Global Research in International Affairs Center (GLORIA) and a professor at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, Rubin prefers to read Arabic-language papers. As a result, his conclusions about the winners and losers of Israel's war with Hezbollah are somewhat contrarian.

Israel, he said, did not lose the war, though it could have done better and acted quicker. But Hezbollah's crowing about defeating Israel is unsupported by the facts.

Rubin, who was in Toronto last week to address a public gathering at Beth Avraham Joseph Synagogue sponsored by Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center, pointed to four indicators of Israel's military victory.

- Israel destroyed all of Hezbollah's long-range missiles. Had Hezbollah retained any, the group would have made good on leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah's threat to bomb Tel Aviv, he said.
- Israel stopped the transport of arms and hit arms shipments soon after they left Syria.
- Israel "captured the battlefield," surrounding Hezbollah forces and at war's end were in a position to wipe them out.
- Israel inflicted heavy losses on Hezbollah, perhaps as much as 25 per cent of its fighting force. "Israel's losses were proportionately less," Rubin said.

What's more, the inflicting of casualties (part of Hezbollah's claim to have defeated Israel) has never been considered a determinant of victory. Many countries in past wars suffered much higher casualties than Israel and were still considered victors, he pointed out.

Rubin compared the conflict with Hezbollah to the 1973 Yom Kippur War, which started badly for Israel but ended with Egypt and Syrian forces routed. As in that conflict, Israeli armour suffered at the hands of anti-tank missiles, but Israeli troops adapted to the new situation and prevailed. However, unlike 1973, this war did not end in a clear-cut victory and that may hurt Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, he said.

"Could Israel have done better? Sure. There were shortcomings, particularly in the political leadership," Rubin said.

Fear of high casualties and concern over international criticism restrained Israel from launching a more extensive ground offensive, he said.

The military shortcomings are already being studied and improvements are being implemented, he added.

Rubin, co-author of *Yasir Arafat: A Political Biography*, said "the story in Lebanon was the worst reported story I've ever seen."

He slammed the western media for accepting uncritically civilian casualty numbers provided by the Lebanese government. Contrary to assertions that more than 1,400 civilians were killed in Israeli attacks, "the bottom line will be that more than 500 Hezbollah soldiers were killed and about 250 Lebanese civilians," he said. Lebanese newspapers, he added, are now reporting 800 casualties in all.

As to the general reporting on the war, he slammed the media for under-reporting stories from Israel and for being taken in by concocted events in Lebanon.

"We have never before faced such a systematic creation of false stories. I feel we'll find the whole Qana [incident] never happened."

Rubin was referring to the south Lebanese village where an alleged Israeli attack supposedly caused a building to collapse, killing scores of civilians. Originally the death toll was put at 54 and later reduced to 28. But Rubin questions even that number.

"I believe the bodies were carted in," he said, noting they appeared to have been washed and showed none of the trauma that would be expected from an explosion and building collapse. As well, he said "green helmet," the Lebanese civilian who directed rescue efforts that revealed the bodies, is in fact a mortician in Tyre.

Another poorly reported story was the gift by Hezbollah of counterfeit money to Lebanese civilians. "It's easy to give people money if you printed it yourself," he quipped, adding that the media could have easily exposed the bogus relief effort had they chosen to.

Turning to the aftermath of the war, Rubin said Arab claims of victory come from a mindset that puts a premium on extracting revenge by inflicting casualties. However, he argued, that has never been a military definition of victory.

Morale in Israel remains high while in Lebanon, polls show many are turning against Hezbollah. Approximately 78 per cent of Druze and Christians oppose the Shiite terrorist group, while 53 per cent of Sunni Muslims are against it.

That drop in support prompted Nasrallah to say he never would have precipitated the crisis had he expected Israel to respond as it did.

As to long-term prospects in the region, Rubin suggested the Arab world was replaying a failed policy that dominated their societies from the 1950s through the 1990s. That process is being advanced by four players: Iran, Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas. It began with the Syrian and Palestinian rejection of peace, was strengthened by 9/11 and was once again reinforced by the Lebanon war.

It posits the view that "all problems come from Israel and the West; we must resist; democratic reforms are a trap to weaken us; Israel and the United States are weak, so why compromise if you can win?"

He predicted this view will "dominate for years to come… They will talk big, make threats, refuse peace and keep people incited. But what can they actually do?"

Rubin suggested that "this will lead to 30 to 40 years of total failure for the Arab world."

Greater Toronto Area

Ex-terrorist now a pro-Israel advocate

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Walid Shoebat calls himself "just a simple man who wants to speak out."

A former Palestinian terrorist who once threw a bomb into an Israeli bank and almost clubbed an Israeli soldier to death, Shoebat has morphed into an improbable but ardent advocate of Israel for whom "the survival of the Jewish people" is of paramount importance.

He expressed himself in a torrent of words at the Leah Posluns Theatre on Sept. 10 before a responsive audience that responded warmly to his stories and observations.

Walid Shoebat

Describing Israel as "a victim defending itself," Shoebat said in ringing tones that the "best case in history is the case for Israel."

A Muslim convert to evangelical Christianity who found his true calling after reading the Hebrew Bible at the urging of his Mexican Catholic wife, he declared that Jews have "a divine right" to Israel and should be able to live there in peace.

Shoebat – a software engineer whose grandfather was close to the Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini – has been on an astonishing personal journey of rediscovery ever since he repented.

Having discarded his old anti-Semitic views, embraced Israel and reinvented himself as a paid professional speaker, he has been disowned as a traitor by his Palestinian family and friends.

But Shoebat, who was invited here by Aish Toronto, revelled in his new role as he told rambling and sometimes disjointed stories about his checkered past as a terrorist.

He was born in Bethlehem, the son of a prominent Palestinian and an American Christian from northern California.

As a youth, he was taught that Jews are the descendants of monkeys and pigs, that "martyrdom" in defence of the Palestinian cause is to be desired, and that the Holocaust is a myth.

"My teacher told me, 'The Holocaust never existed.'"

He also threw stones at Jews praying at the Western Wall.

After joining the PLO, he tossed a bomb at a building in Bethlehem housing the local branch of Bank Leumi. No one was hurt in the incident.

Shortly afterward, he and other Palestinians pummelled an Israeli soldier in Beit Sahur, a village near Bethlehem.

Briefly jailed by Israel, he moved to the United States upon his release from prison.

Hired as a counsellor by the Arab Student Association, Shoebat continued with his anti-Israel activities.

But after marrying his third wife (his first was Jewish and his second was a Muslim), he delved into the Hebrew Bible and discovered that everything he had been told about Jews was in fact a tissue of lies.

Now, 13 years later, Shoebat is baring his soul and making amends by delivering speeches to Jewish groups.

He offered a number of other comments and recommendations:

- The Day of Judgment for Muslims will come when Israel is surrounded and destroyed.
- Palestinian refugees do not have the right to return to their homes in what is now Israel, nor should Jews go back to their homes in the Arab world.
- The minds of Muslims must be "liberated" from anti-Semitism.
- Peace in the Middle East is impossible as long as it's impregnated with racism and anti-Semitism.
- Do not marry out of your faith.

SENIORS PARTY: The Reuben Cipin Healthy Living Community, a Baycrest seniors building at 2 Neptune Dr. with independent living, celebrated its fifth birthday recently. One party highlight was a tribute to Aubrey Dan, second from right, and Marla Dan, second from left, who established the Dan Endowment Fund three years ago at a renaming ceremony in honour of their father and father-in-law, Reuben Cipin, left. With them are Temi Rosenthal, centre, chair of the building's special events committee; and Monty Mazin, co-chair of its program committee. [Cindy Weiner photo]

A message from
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Jewish refugees from Arab countries can register online

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

A new online registration program has been launched by Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC) as part of an International Rights and Redress Campaign that will be launched in November in Jewish communities worldwide.

Stan Urman, the executive director of JJAC, which was founded in 2002, said the campaign is an attempt to bring the rights of Jewish refugees from Arab countries into the international political agenda.

"Clearly, when the world speaks of Middle Eastern refugees, they refer to Palestinians. Less known is the fact that there were more Jews displaced from Arab countries than there were Palestinians, who [both] became refugees as a result of the creation of the State of Israel," Urman said.

According to the American Sephardi Association, a partner of JJAC, discrimination against Jews increased after the creation of Israel in 1948, and Jews living in Arab countries were abused, discriminated against, persecuted and murdered, and their property was seized without compensation.

"We believe that the first injustice was the mass violation [of the rights] of Jews in Arab countries. Today, it would constitute a second injustice to allow the international community to recognize rights of one victim population, Palestinians, without also recognizing rights of another victim population of the very same conflict, Jews who were displaced from Arab countries," Urman said.

Components of the campaign include public education, the documentation of the 2,500-year history of Sephardi Jews who have settled in other countries, and to catalogue their loses, both individual and communal.

Although he is a Montreal-born Ashkenazi, Urman said he devotes his time to this cause because "it's right. It is important for the Jewish people and the State of Israel."

Stan Urman

Last May, JJAC submitted a resolution to the U.S. Congress that would call on government officials to refer to both Palestinian and Jewish refugees when talking about Middle Eastern refugees.

Urman said the resolution may not pass this session in light of the "Jewish community's efforts to ensure strong representation for the needs of the government of Israel in the aftermath of the Lebanese war.

"The timing wasn't the best, because we have to focus our efforts on the needs of Israel and this takes precedent over all resolutions."

Urman added that if it doesn't pass in this congressional session, it will be immediately reintroduced to the next one.

But JJAC's main focus now is the new campaign to register Sephardi Jews who fled Arab countries such as Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Iran, Iraq and Yemen, more than 50 years ago.

On the organization's website, www.justiceforjews.com, is a form, which is available in English, French, Hebrew, Arabic, Spanish and Italian, that asks for personal information and a catalogue of the loss of assets for those who wish to apply for compensation.

"When and if there will be negotiations on rights and compensation for Palestinian refugees, we must be prepared, when necessary, to negotiate for rights and compensation for Jewish refugees. We need the facts," Urman said.

He said that while a number of Canadian Jewish organizations, including B'nai Brith Canada and Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA), are involved in this objective, the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) is acting as the national contact point.

"We're spearheading this, and we'll be working closely with our colleagues at the Canada Israel Committee, but we will be the central address for the online registration campaign," said Bernie Farber, the executive director of CJC's Ontario region.

"It's an ongoing educational campaign because what we felt was happening here was that the narrative of those Jews who were in Arab countries is being lost. We want to revitalize it, we want to reinvigorate it, and we want to make sure that the world understands that literally tens of thousands of Jews had to leave, mostly in fear of their lives."

Farber explained that CJC will use its website to link to the JJAC website and create awareness of the campaign across the country.

He also hopes to work with Urman to prepare educational packages for both Jewish school and public schools.

"My guess is that people will embrace it because it is an exciting piece of history that a lot of people don't know about. I'm looking forward to getting this going," Farber said.

For more information, visit www.justiceforjews.com.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Sara R.Horowitz, *Director*

In a recent workshop on Hebrew poetry, I introduced students to the long history of Jewish poems centering on the *Akeda* – the binding of Isaac depicted in chapter 22 of *Bereshit,* or Genesis. We began with a poem written during the Crusades, in which the poet compared Jewish sacrifice in his time to Abraham's sacrifice on Mount Moriah.

Suddenly one student spoke up. "That's not a poem," he objected. "That's a prayer! It's in my Mahzor. It's part of what I davven on the *Yamim Nora'im.* I can't treat it like a poem!"

He was correct, I confirmed, about the place of the poem in the Mahzor. That poem was a *piyyut* – a prayer written in the form of poetry. Along with several others on the same theme, it had been incorporated into the liturgy for the High Holidays. Why? First, because it connected with the Rosh Hashanah, second day, Torah reading. Second, because the poem elaborated on central themes of the *Yamim Nora'im* - seeking Divine mercy and redemption, affirming faith. Third, because the poem resonated with emotions of the High Holidays – anxiety and hope for one's future, and a sense of collective Jewish destiny. And fourth, because the poem provided a model for relating lessons from our tradition to our contemporary situation.

After we read the poem closely, examining its language, its links with other Jewish texts, and its meaning, I asked the student whether he still was troubled by reading this prayer as a poem.

"It's funny," he replied slowly. "Now that I understand how it works as a poem, I think I know what it *means.* When I *davven,* I will have real *kavanna.*"

York students come to Jewish studies courses with a wide range of backgrounds and interests. What they find in the courses often surprises them. They come away with their understanding of Judaism and the Jewish experience deepened and enriched, often in ways they didn't anticipate.

"Students come away with their understanding of Judaism and the Jewish experience deepened and enriched, often in ways they didn't anticipate."

Our Centre has a far-reaching mandate. The Centre for Jewish Studies administers the largest university-level program in all of Canada, and one of the four largest outside of Israel. Outstanding scholars and dynamic teachers, our faculty members engage with students in ways that help define and deepen life commitments. We serve as advisors and consultants for projects and institutions important to the Jewish community at home and abroad. Through a wide range of activities on and off campus, the Centre promotes Jewish studies for Jewish and non-Jewish students, develops Jewish teacher education across Canada, and offers stimulating programs for the community. We teach about Judaism, Jewish texts, history, culture, languages and literatures. We owe our success to our faculty, our students – and to our many friends and supporters in the Jewish community.

I invite all of you to become involved in the activities at the Centre. Join us for lectures and cultural events, check out our courses, and help us to grow and develop further.

On behalf of my colleages at the Centre, I wish all of you a fruitful and sweet New Year. Shana Tova.

The Mark and Gail Appel Program in Holocaust and Antiracism Education – "Learning from the Past, Teaching for the Future" – an initiative of the Centre for Jewish Studies and The Canadian Centre for German and European Studies at York University.

The project brings together future educators from Canada, Germany and Poland to study and learn from the past in order to teach for a better future. Three-and-one-half weeks of field study took place in Germany and Poland in the summer of 2005 followed by an eleven-day follow-up symposium in Toronto in February 2006. A conference, "Mending a Broken World Lessons of the Holocaust", was open to the public on February 11-12 and featured renowned experts on the Holocaust and Holocaust education.

Gail and Mark Appel at the conference.

2nd Annual Graduate Student / Faculty Study in Israel Initiative, Summer 2006

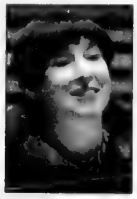
In July 2006, twenty-two Osgoode Hall Law School students traveled to Israel on the **Hebrew University-Osgoode Hall Law School Summer Exchange Program.** The program, taught by Hebrew University faculty, focused on current issues in public law, business law and international law from a comparative Israeli/Canadian perspective.

Professor Yuval Shany (rear), Hirsch Lauterpacht Chair in Public International Law and Academic Director of the Minerva Center for Human Rights at the Hebrew University surrounded by Osgoode Hall Law School students

Annual Leonard Wolinsky Lecture on Jewish Life and Education

The theme of this year's Leonard Wolinsky Lecture was "The Ten Commandments in Modern Jewish Culture". Professor Marc Brettler, the Dora Golding Professor of Biblical Studies and chair of the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University discussed "The Biblical Text and its North American Afterlife". Professor Jenna Weissman Joselit of Princeton University, focused her talk on "When Moses Came Down from the Mountain: The Ten Commandments and its Hold on the Modern Imagination". Her book, *The Wonders of America: Reinventing Jewish Culture* received the National Jewish Book Award in History.

Professor Marc Brettler (left) and Professor Jenna Weissman Joselit



Jewish Teacher Education Annual Retreat in Israel, December 2005 at the Davidson Archaeological Park at the Southern Wall excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem.

The site presents a hi-tech simulation video of life during Herod's Second Temple in the first century, which aids teachers in classroom presentations of that time period.

Left to right: Jewish Teacher Education students: Hilary Edelstein, Miriam Bessin (behind), Ariel Sniderman, Avi Sherman, Ariella Kleinberg, Matt Reingold and Avraham Gislason.

Distinguished Service Recognized

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS) presented the 2006 Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award to York University history professor Irving Abella, holder of the J. Richard Shiff Chair for the Study of Canadian Jewry, on May 30, 2006 during the closing dinner of the ACJS annual conference. Professor Abella was recognized for his scholarship and academic excellence in Canadian Jewish studies and for his important role in the development of Canadian Jewish history as a field of study. The Centre for Jewish Studies sponsored the dinner and evening reception. ACJS meetings coincided with the 75th Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences held at York.

Centre for Jewish Studies, York University
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Sara R. Horowitz, *Director;* Eric Lawee, *Associate Director,* Sydney Eisen, *Founding Director*
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Irving Abella, *History,* Michael Brown, *Humanities;* Carl Ehrlich, *Humanities,* Joseph Levy, *Nursing and Social Work,* Martin Lockshin, *Humanities/Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics,* Rachel Schlesinger, *Social Science;* Ahouva Shulman, *Hebrew,* Mark Webber, *Humanities and German.*

To have your name added to the Centre's mailing list or to become involved in Centre activities, please contact us at cjs@yorku.ca

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L.A. Starr set to shine in Toronto

Renowned arts executive to head new and improved Koffler Centre

By A.M. SEGAL
UJA Federation

When the Koffler Centre of the Arts began its search for a new executive director, it seemed natural to ask Lori Starr for advice.

After all, Starr, who is considered a visionary by many in the arts community, had previously given valuable insight to Koffler brass about programs and outreach initiatives.

So when she was asked if she could think of anyone who would be a great fit for the new role, Starr gave an obvious choice. Why not hire her?

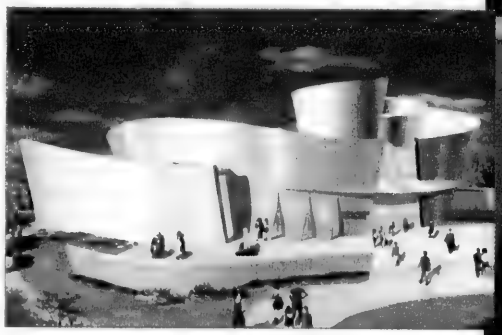
"My whole career has been about my commitment to Jewish life, to arts and to culture and wanting all of those aspects to come together in my work. It was really quite natural for me to come to Toronto," enthuses Starr, who is leaving behind distinguished positions in Los Angeles as the senior vice president of the Skirball Cultural Center and director of the Skirball Museum.

"And when I visited to interview for the position back in May – my first trip to Toronto – I fell in love with the city and all of its dynamism, vibrancy and cultural enterprises."

Starr will begin her duties as the new executive director of the Koffler Centre of the Arts on October 3.

She arrives in the midst of a major transformation of the centre, which will be housed in an entirely redeveloped campus called Central Square, an ambitious project on Bathurst Street, north of Sheppard that is part of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Tomorrow Campaign chaired by Gerald Schwartz and Lawrence Tanenbaum.

In addition to the Koffler Centre, the campus will house the new Prosserman Jewish Community Centre, the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage and the Lipa Green Building for Jewish Community Services.



A rendering of the new and revitalized Koffler Centre of the Arts

Lori Starr

"The new and revitalized Koffler Centre of the Arts on the diverse and vibrant Central Square campus will be a place for creating, teaching, learning, exploring, exhibiting, and socializing," reveals Starr, who holds a master's degree in art history.

"I am thrilled to be part of this extraordinary next step in building the role that Jewish communities can play, through culture, in creating a civil, peaceful, global society."

A consummate professional, Starr has big plans for the centre, which already has a 34-year history of serving as a bastion of cultural activities, ranging from dance, music and visual arts, to hosting schools for various artistic media.

"I would like to see Koffler become the greatest place to study visual arts, dance and music in all of Toronto, if not all of Canada," says the mother of two who is married to sculptor and draftsman Rick Oginz. "I also expect it to be a great place for gathering, a place that touches your mind, body and creative spirit."

Starr has played a pivotal role building other forums for the arts and culture throughout her 25-year career.

In her six years at Skirball, which provides a wide range of exhibitions and educational programs that explore connections between Jewish heritage and American democratic ideals, Starr helped expand its educational and creative content, bolstering the centre's reputation. Its audiences also grew significantly during her years of service.

And prior to Skirball, Starr was a stalwart at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles which houses European paintings, drawings, sculpture and European and American photographs. She enjoyed 15 years there as the director of public affairs and communications.

These past successes and experiences have engendered quite a buzz at Koffler, where expectations are running high.

"Lori's experience with major cultural institutions in the United States will add tremendously to the Koffler Centre of the Arts," says Tiana Koffler Boyman, president of the Koffler Centre of the Arts. "My expectations are that Lori will expand the diversity of programs and most importantly, increase the usership of the Koffler Centre so that the community, young and old, will benefit from arts education."

Champion of the underdog honoured for community service

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

If ever you were looking for someone who personified the word "mensch," you'd be hard-pressed to find someone who fit that description better than Toronto's own Gordy Wolfe.

The very embodiment of a community leader, Wolfe, in his 22-year role as executive director of Jewish Family & Child Service (JF&CS) - a UJA Federation partner agency - has forever raised the bar with his selfless efforts, while championing the cause of our community's most vulnerable. As the consummate volunteer, Wolfe continues today to share his vast experience and knowledge, and his huge heart, to causes both large and small.

Therefore, it was fitting that last week, in front of friends, family, and dignitaries, the downtown offices of JF&CS - housed in the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre at Bloor and Spadina - were dedicated in Gordy Wolfe's name.

The downtown offices of JF&CS will now be known as the Gordon S. Wolfe branch.

"It has been my privilege to have played a small part in the remarkable history of service to the Jewish community, to help the vulnerable and to go forth and repair the world," Wolfe said at the dedication ceremony at the Nadal JCC. "It is my hope that my name on that door will mean that JF&CS will continue its mission as the champion of those who have no champion," said Wolfe.

Gordy Wolfe

"As executive director of JF&CS for 22 years, Gordy's contributions to the quality of Jewish life in Toronto have been formidable. His impact as a leader in the Jewish community is complemented by his presence as a leader and a citizen of our city, province and country. Gordy has embodied the principle of *tikkun olam*, to heal the world," said Richard Cummings, executive director of JF&CS.

"I had the honour to work beside Gordy over the past couple of years, and it was a privilege to do so. When I look back at my term as chair of UJA Federation, a number of items will stand out including my friendship with Gordy," said UJA Federation board chair David Engel.

"Above all, to me Gordy Wolfe has always been the icon of what a true communal professional is and can be," said UJA Federation president, Ted Sokolsky. "His dedication to Jewish values and his profound contribution in guiding several generations of communal leaders to make this a great Jewish community continues to inspire everyone who has had the honour and pleasure to work with him. Gordy Wolfe has always led with a generous heart, a razor-sharp intellect and a profoundly Jewish neshama."

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Super Week volunteers dedicated to helping northern Israel rebuild

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign surpasses $50 million

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

Close to 400 concerned community volunteers committed to help northern Israel rebuild following its war with Hezbollah came together on September 10 – Super Sunday – to help raise $1.4 million towards UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2007.

Another 400 volunteers raised an additional $1.6 million during the subsequent Super Week – Monday to Thursday – for a total of $3 million.

Super Sunday and Super Week Chairs (l-r) Michael Feldman, Helen Silverstein and Richard Bennett.

Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 is UJA Federation's regular annual campaign with special emphasis on Israel's emergency needs following the war with Hezbollah.

All gift increases and new gifts will fund urgent social services for northern Israel residents. The campaign will also fund essential local needs, such as substantial assistance for the poor, the vulnerable and Jewish education.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, which was the first Federation in the world to initiate an Israel emergency campaign, has now raised more than $50 million, which includes $16 million for the urgent social service needs of northern Israel residents.

Among the essential social services to be funded by the Israel Emergency Campaign are:

- Trauma counselling
- Temporary housing for the uprooted
- Specialized care for the poor, new immigrants, the elderly and individuals with special needs
- Vocational training for the newly unemployed
- Re-equipping damaged community facilities
- A dedicated fund for victims and their families

"The $3 million is definitely a good number, a great start, but we must remember, it's only a start, there is still much work to be done, and so many other community members to contact," said Michael Feldman, chair of Super Sunday. "Super Sunday, and telethons in general are a great way for our community members to get involved in helping those in need in Israel and right here in Toronto, in a real, tangible way. As fantastic as the stalwarts are who volunteer year in and year out, we also need others to get involved."

Lieutenant Tzviel Lemberger

One visitor to Toronto who made his way to Super Sunday was particularly impressed with the efforts of the volunteers.

"Toronto is an example of how the Jewish heart is everywhere, no matter where you are," said Lieutenant Tzviel Lembrger, 23, a tactical naval officer aboard the Israel Defense Forces' (IDF) Lahav ship, which was stationed in Lebanon for over a month before and during the conflict with Hezbollah. "The people here are so warm and caring; I came here to Toronto to see this telethon and I expected to see a couple of guys making phone calls, but there were so many people – men, women and children, who are doing everything they can to help us. I can't tell you how much this means to me and all of our soldiers. The Jewish heart is huge wherever you go."

Sarah Hall

Sarah Hall, 13, who lives in Halifax, came to Toronto for the weekend for the bat mitzvah of her friend. She was staying at the home of Marcy and Leonard Abramsky who asked her if she wanted to work at the telethon, which she did.

"I really liked it," said Hall of her first telethon experience. "I was nervous at first but I was happy to spend my day helping Israel."

Ron Prosserman

Ron Prosserman, a veteran UJA Federation volunteer and community philanthropist, noted a distinct difference in the people he canvassed at Super Sunday this year, as opposed to years past.

"There's some kind of bond, a connection, that is just so special, and so unique, between Toronto's Jewish community and the people of Israel," said Prosserman. "Even people who don't have a lot to give this year are trying to make a difference and are willing to sacrifice to help Israel rebuild."

"The war in Israel has left northern Israel in a shambles," said Richard Bennett, who, with Helen Silverstein, is this year's telethon Chair. "What we're trying to do during Super Sunday and Super Week with all of our wonderful volunteers, and through our Israel Emergency Campaign, is rebuild the country physically, economically and emotionally."

"People I've spoken to are aware of what the needs are in Israel, of the urgency to help these people get their lives back on track and to restore their peace of mind," said Silverstein. "People are being very generous as Jewish Torontonians have always been when Israel is in need."

To make a campaign contribution, visit www.ujadonations.com or call the UJA Federation campaign hotline at 416.631.5705

To volunteer at a future UJA Federation telethon, please call Michelle Goltman at 416.631.5854.

Northern educators concerned about anxious students

On September 3rd, the Danziger School in Kiryat Shmona – a nothern Israeli community hit by over 1,000 Katyusha rockets during the war with Hezbollah – opened its doors to 1,300 junior and senior high school students – 80% of the city's pupils. Many of these students, traumatized by a month of war, are not the same as they were when they cheerfully started their summer vacation in July. And the school, struck by five Katyusha rockets which damaged 32 of the 48 classrooms, is far from its previous functioning as one of the north's model high schools.

"When the children returned to school, each brought into the classroom his or her own traumas from the summer and we are hopelessly unprepared to deal with this. It's hard to envisage teaching a class of 30 where all the pupils will jump with every slam of a door or wail of an ambulance siren," says Ofer Zafrani, assistant principal and a former student. According to Zafrani, a person with post traumatic stress syndrome suffers from symptoms such as insomnia, nightmares, anxiety, flashbacks, irritability and depression.

It is the possibility of these symptoms in the students that concerns northern educators.

"We are simply ill-equipped to cope with 1,300 anxiety-ridden students, and we are in desperate need of professional help for our children. With no finances for art therapy, psychodrama or any other positive enrichment activities it is difficult for us to help the children come to terms with their trauma and start the healing process."

The Danziger School in Kiryat Shmona was damaged during the recent war with Hezbollah. (Photos by Sharon Schwartzman, UJA Federations Canada)

Before the war ended, the Jewish Agency for Israel – with financial assistance from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto – moved to action to develop a comprehensive plan for rebuilding the shattered northern region. The plan includes *A New Tomorrow*, a wide-ranging program for school children to move from trauma to recovery through reintegration into the formal and informal education system.

For schools such as Danziger, *A New Tomorrow* offers afternoon enrichment programs, tutoring for children falling behind in their studies and values education. It also brings together a network of partners, including volunteers and professionals.

At the Danziger school there are hundreds of students who have embarked on their most important school year, as their matriculation exams, which students must pass for university admission, begin in January.

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Caregiver honoured by NHL Alumni Association

By KYLE GORDON
Special to The CJN

James Harris has a passion for hockey. But he never imagined that the NHL Alumni Association would be honouring him for his strength and determination in life at the fifth annual NHL Alumni Awards gala dinner on Sept. 7.

James, 78, received the Ace Bailey Award of Courage for the unwavering support and care he has shown for his wife, Fay, since she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in December 1997 at the age of 67.

The Ace Bailey Award is named in honour of former NHL player Garnet "Ace" Bailey who was killed in the Sept. 11 tragedy when his plane hit the World Trade Center. The award is presented to a patient of the Baycrest Foundation who displays courage and compassion every day of their life and who does so with dignity, class and good spirit.

Mark Gryfe, president of the Baycrest Foundation, was approached by the NHL Alumni Association to choose the award recipient. The relationship between Baycrest and the NHL Alumni developed last year through a recreational hockey tournament in support of Alzheimer's research at Baycrest.

James Harris (left) with NHL alumni Man of the Year Johnny Bower. [Doug Ball photo]

It didn't take Gryfe long to realize that James was the most deserving. "What makes James so unique and truly courageous is the fact that in 1999, while still caring for his wife at home, James, too, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's," Gryfe said at the gala dinner.

> *'What makes James so unique and truly courageous is the fact that in 1999, while still caring for his wife at home, James, too, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's'*

Caring for an Alzheimer's patient is an emotionally draining task, "but this devoted husband has never let his own condition deter him from caring for Fay," he said.

In December 2002, Fay moved to Baycrest. But James remained committed to his wife. He sold his family home so he could be closer to her, and since her admittance to Baycrest, James has visited her almost every day, Gryfe said.

"She can't talk, she can't walk, she can't do anything without help, but she's my wife," James said.

He admits that it is a difficult and unhappy situation, but he refuses to give in. "I keep going for my wife," James said.

"The award was for my wife and family. I am absolutely delighted," he added.

Julia Rosenthal, James' daughter, remembers the excitement in her father's voice when he told her about the award.

"He had trouble conveying it to me due to the Alzheimer's disease, but I could tell he was thrilled about it. He was very excited and he had a big smile on his face when he heard about the award," Rosenthal said. "I really think he deserves it."

James also expressed his excitement to Fay during a visit on Sept. 6, the day before the gala. "My mother doesn't understand anything, but he wanted to share it with her. He talks to her all the time," Rosenthal said.

For now, James' memory of the NHL Alumni dinner is vivid.

"It made me very happy, it was something I really enjoyed," said the lifelong hockey fan.

Despite suffering from Alzheimer's, James' love for hockey has not faltered. He enjoys watching his three grandsons, Clayton, 12, Jeremy, 10, and Grant, 9, play hockey.

"I really enjoy hockey, but I'm not an expert," he said.

For more information on the Baycrest hockey tournament, visit www.baycrestproam.com.

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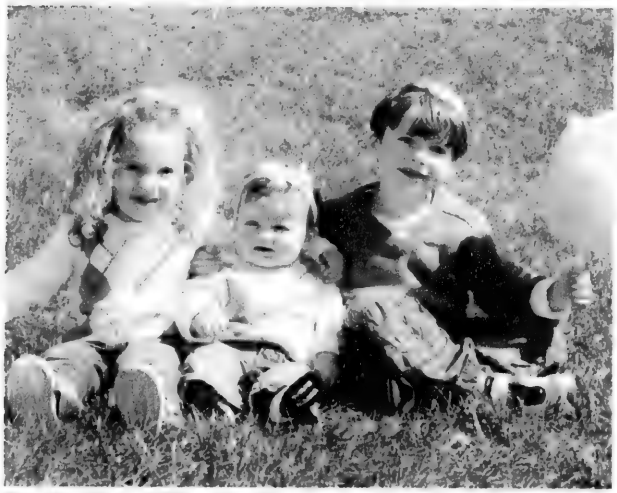

Students at Netivot HaTorah Day School, and some future Netivot students, gathered Sept. 10 for the school's annual welcome-back picnic. Pictured, from left, are siblings Danyella (nursery), Meeya (nursery '09) and Avi (senior kindergarten) Weinberger. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

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What's New deadlines: NOTE HOLIDAY DEADLINES. Monday, September 25 is the deadline for the October 5 issue, Wednesday, September 27 is the deadline for the October 12 issue and Wednesday, October 4 is the deadline for the October 19 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES

Looking for services for the High Holy Days? **Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto** has a complete list of synagogues with extra seating for non-members. For information visit www.jewishtoronto.com or call 416-635-5600.

Anshei Minsk Synagogue offers "Learning Non-Service." Get a taste of the meaning and spiritual depth of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur at free program with **Rabbi Michael Skobac** that include teachings, meditations, discussions in which all questions are welcome. Saturday, Sept. 23, Sunday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Oct.1, 7:30 p.m. and Monday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m. 10 St. Andrew. For information call 905-761-0040.

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism Rosh Hashanah services take place Saturday, Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m. Children's program and babysitting available. Yom Kippur services Sunday, Oct. 1, 8 p.m. adult service only, Monday, Oct. 2 at 11 a.m. includes children's program and babysitting. Tickets required, reserve in advance, non-members welcome. Services at the North York Memorial Hall/Central Library complex. For tickets call 416-385-3910 or info@oraynu.org.

The Winchevsky Centre hosts a secular humanistic celebration of Rosh Hashanah, Sat. Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m. and Yom Kippur services Sunday, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. Babysitting and children's holiday programs are available. Tickets for each day, adults $30, children $18, unwaged/students $22. To reserve tickets, 416-789-5502, mws@on.aibn.com, at www.winchevskycentre.org.

Monday, Sept. 25

BOOK AND FILM CLUB

Beth Tzedec Library's Contemporary Jewish Book and Film Club begins with **Ruby Newman** reviewing *Intuition* by **Allegra Goodman**. 1;30 p.m. $55 in advance for the full series of six lectures, $14 per session at the door. Dessert will be served. For information and registration call 416-781-3514, ext. 25 or email library@beth-tzedec.org.

ANNUAL GENERAL MTG

Medina Theatre Ensemble holds its annual general meeting where it will elect a new executive and present an outline of the coming programs for 2006-2007. 7-9:30 p.m. at 15 Hove St. R.S.V.P. to Roselle, 416-633-2057 or Morris, 416-785-0344.

Tuesday Sept. 26

LEARN ABOUT YOM KIPPUR

Am Shalom Synagogue, Barrie presents "What Do Archery, Weight Watchers and Roger Federer have to with Yom Kippur? Everything You Thought You Knew About Yom Kippur and Maybe More," an evening of adult learning and discussion with **Jack Kugelmass**. 7:30 p.m. Free, registration required, 705-792-3949 or email amshalom congregation@bellnet.ca.

CHUG HATANACH

Dr. Aaron Nussbaum will lead the study group in a discussion of *The Book of Jonah*, chapter 2, 3 and 4. Beth David Congregation at 8 p.m. All welcome.

Wednesday Sept. 27

JEWISH JOKERS GROUP

Jewish Jokers and Humour Group meets to enjoy laughs and trivia at the Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Dr. 416-661-2541

JWI GOLDA MEIR CHAPTER

Jewish Women International Golda Meir Chapter hold their opening meeting. **Syd Rochwerg**

Continued on page 27

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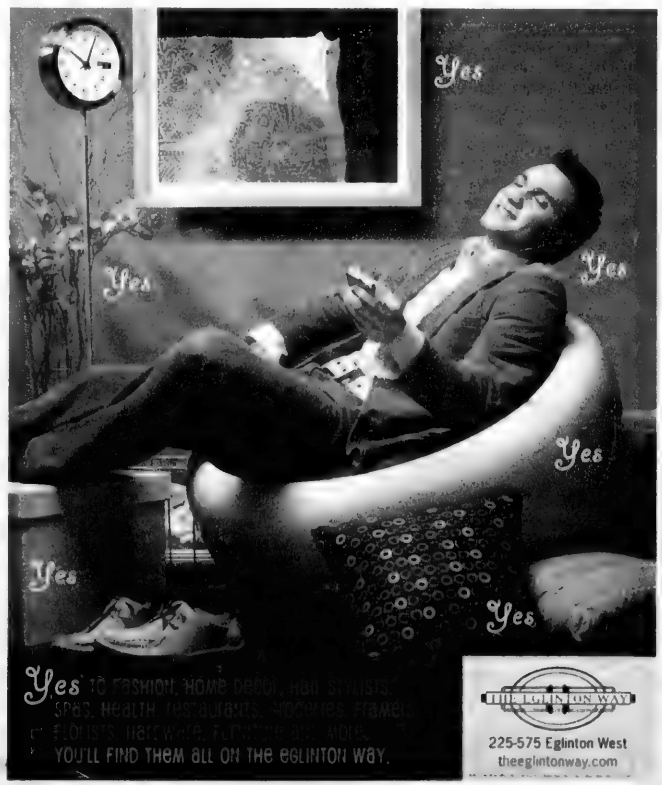

THE EGLINTON WAY
225-575 Eglinton West
theeglintonway.com

What's New

Continued from page 26

will discuss his recent trip to see the Holocaust Museum of *Paper Clips*. For info call 416-667-8279 after 5:30 p.m.

SAR-EL INFO MEETING

Find out about the Sar-El program in which civilian volunteers work on Israeli army supply/maintenance bases. 7:30 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-781-6089 or www.sarelcanada.org.

CANCER SUPPORT

Dr. Michael A. Jewett will speak on "Should We Change the Way We Manage Prostate Disease in Aging Men?" at an awareness night meeting of Man To Man and Side By Side, prostate cancer support groups. 7:30 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden. Family members, partners and friends welcome. 416-932-8820

Other News

EMBRACING ELUL

Mekorot presents "Embracing Elul: Four Thursdays in September," with **Prof. Hindy Najman** (Sept. 21) on "Tshuvah and Soul Transformation in Second Temple Judaism," and **Rabbi Michael Skobac** (Sept. 28) on "What is the Destination of Our Tshuvah Journey?" For locations and registration, 416-877-2050 or visit www.mekorot.ca.

TSHUVAH SERIES 5767

Torah Conferencing Network offers a series of lectures on tshuvah. This week, Tuesday, Sept 26, 8:45 p.m. **Rabbi Yosef Viener,** Wed. Sept. 27, 8:30 p.m. **Rabbi Mordechai Becher**, and Thurs. Sept 28, 8 p.m. **Rabbi Yissochar Frand** at Clanton Park Synagogue, 11 Lowesmoor Ave. For information drsis@rogers.com.

THE REAL ABRAHAM

Rabbi Ben Hollander, lecturer at the Hebrew University, will discuss "Will the Real Abraham Please Stand Up: The Abraham of Sodom and Gomorrah vs The Abraham of the Binding of Isaac," a two-part presentation, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 26 and 27, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation. 416-781-3511

AUDITION CALL

Medina Theatre Ensemble holds audition for a staged reading for actors 12-70 of *Sun In My Eyes* by **Jack Kuper**, Wednesday, Oct. 4 , 7-9 p.m. at Temple Sinai Congregation. The staging will take place at Temple Sinai Nov.6. R.S.V.P to **Roselle** 416-633-2057 or **Lois** 416-781-8076.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Beth Emeth Synagogue Leadership Development Institute, a certified academic program is now accepting applications. Classes begin October 5 and meet monthly on Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. For information and registration contact **Rosalie Shadlyn**, 416-633-3838.

SUKKAH IN BARRIE

Join members of the Barrie community for sukkah building and decorating followed by a potluck Shabbat dinner in Barrie on Friday afternoon Oct. 6. Dinner 7 p.m. For information and to reserve call 705-321-7700 or visit www.jewishbarrie.com.

WEEKLY SHIURIM

Torah Conferencing Network has begun their weekly classes of video conferenced classes with **Rabbi Yissocher Frand**, Thursdays, 9 p.m. **Shira Smiles**, for women only, Sundays 10 a.m. and **Rabbi Yosef Viener's** *Chumash* class, Tuesdays, 8:45 p.m. at Clanton Park Synagogue. For info, drsis@rogers.com.

TOTS PROGRAMS

Registration for Adath Israel Congregation "Special Time for Yeladim: Tot Programs" that include Mommy and Baby Yoga, SNAP!! Music and Movement has begun. For information visit www.adathisrael.com and click on 'tots' or call 416-635-5340.

NEW JWI SINGLES GROUP

National Council of Jewish Women's Shalom Branch is a group for single women, 60 and over, who meet on the last Thursday evening of each month for programs and ongoing social activities. Interested in joining call **Rose**, 416-633-5100 or e-mail her at info@ncjwc-ts.org.

SINGERS WANTED

The Choralairs of North York is looking for new members. The group meets Tuesday nights at the Earl Bales Park Community Centre at 8:15 p.m. Repertoire includes Pop, Broadway and folk songs. No auditions are required. Call **Brian** at 416-631-0029 or **Joan** at 905-841-8927.

HOSPICE TRAINING

The Circle of Care and Jewish Hospice Programs provides in-home visiting to individuals with a life threatening illness and relief for their caregivers. The Hospice Training Program requires a commitment of a weekly visit of at least two hours and completing a comprehensive and stimulating 30-hour training course. Begins October 19. For information contact **Gaye Duncan**, 416-635-2860, ext. 462.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SURVIVORS

Are you a survivor of abuse who is willing and able to speak about your experiences? Jewish Women International of Canada has initiated a speaker's bureau on the issue of abuse against women with a goal of educating men and women about the issue of abuse and its effects. Training will be provided. Call 416-630-9313.

AMPUTEE SUPPORT

Chazak V'ematz, an outreach support group to help Jewish amputees adust to life. Call **Ruth** 416-783-3717.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com.

Effective Parenting, a four-session group to help parents learn what they can do to raise a happy, motivated and well behaved child. For parents of children ages 2 to 11 years. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. beginning Sept. 27 at Lipa Green Bldg., 4600 Bathurst St. Register at ext. 215.

Couple Communication, a four-session group for couples wanting to learn communication skills to help them deal better with day-to-day issues, resolve conflicts and build a more satisfying relationship. Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. beginning Sept. 27 at Lipa Green Bldg., 4600 Bathurst St. Register at ext. 215.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer or for information on these programs call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafes: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practice speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Offered in two locations, BJCC and Bathurst and Steeles Ave.

JIAS Toronto offers programming for newcomer children and teens. For information call **Allison** at ext.28.

FOR SENIORS

The Association of Jewish Seniors' Sukkah Luncheon will take place on Thursday, Oct. 12, 11:30 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Entertainment by The Original Impressions performing Klezmer, Jewish and Broadway songs. Members $10, guest $15. Reserve by Oct. 3, call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Wed. Oct. 11; Sunday dance, Oct. 15; Mahjong, Mondays 12:30-3:30 p.m. and Tuesdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; Hebrew Conversation, Wednesdays 10 a.m.-noon; Bridge, Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; Vaughan Mills Shopping Centre Trip, Oct. 26. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem,** 905-731-7748 or **Malka,** 416-631-5574.

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55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Lunch and Learn with **Cynthia Good** on "Writing Your Memoirs," Tuesday, Sept. 26, 1 p.m. Lunch $5, non-members $7. Reserve at ext. 2267.

Book and Munch Club, Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m., bring a lunch.

Friday Afternoon at the Movies, Sept. 29, 1-3 p.m. Call ext. 2275.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Join High Holy Day Services with Kolel at the BJCC. Family service with **Ken Rabow** or traditional service with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**. Call ext. 255 for information and ticket reservations.

Fall luncheon, Tuesday, Oct. 10. Tickets $5, on sale now.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Klezmer Players Workshop with **Eric Stein**, 10-week session, Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Begins Oct. 10. $150, non-members $200. Call ext. 111.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation needs event day volunteers for a stationary bike-a-thon "Ride for Diabetes Research" during business hours at Le Parc, 8432 Leslie St. at Hwy. #7 on Wednesday, Oct. 4. Call 905-944-4638 or email splant@jdrf.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 42

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Mondrowitz, Heine	Aug. 26/06	11 Falkland Place
Kennedy, Andrew	Aug. 27/06	3303 Don Mills Rd
Arias, Cecile	Aug. 27/06	601 Clark Ave. W.
Fisher, Jonah	Aug. 27/06	Private
Kopstick, Percy	Aug. 27/06	149 Palm Dr
Yuz, Judy Rhoda	Aug. 28/06	4300 Bathurst St
Kogan, Earl	Aug. 29/06	3560 Bathurst St
Holingher, Clara	Aug. 30/06	27 Norfinch Ave
Gruber, Dora	Aug. 31/06	33 Hearthstone Cr
Weisdorf, Donna	Sept. 2/06	5 Acton Ave
Levitin, Zelman	Sept. 2/06	5935 Bathurst St
Veiss, Gabriella	Sept. 3/06	3560 Bathurst St
Vaisman, Pavel	Sept. 3/06	205 Cummer Ave
Gan, Adeline	Sept. 4/06	3600 Bathurst St
Brikker, Yevgeniya	Sept. 6/06	Private
Iakoussevitch, Svetlana	Sept. 6/06	250 12th St.
Riff, Anne	Sept. 8/06	135 Antibes Dr
Pritchard, Sidney	Sept. 9/06	4866 Bathurst St
Wisner, Helen	Sept. 9/06	Private

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Rachel Griesdorf	Sep 1/06	46 Reiner Rd
Raziel Gershater	Sep 2/06	9 Montclair Ave
Adele Rotenberg-Lampert	Sep 2/06	45 Brunswick Ave
Sam Feldman	Sep 2/06	5935 Bathurst St
Fay Wang	Sep 2/06	7460 Bathurst St
Rose Finkelstein	Sep 4/06	115 Antibes Drive
Estelle Resnick	Sep 4/06	1925 Steeles Ave E
Albina Grad	Sep 4/06	4266 Bathurst St
Jack Unger	Sep 3/06	640 Sheppard Ave E
Harry Shpilman	Sep 4/06	550 Cummer Ave
Sarah Soloman	Sep 6/06	429 Walmer Rd
Perlie Videnoff	Sep 9/06	316 Skopit Rd
Milton Goodman	Sep 8/06	4003 Bayview Ave
Pauline Perlmutar	Sep 8/06	6 Rockland Drive
Frances Goodman	Sep 9/06	155 Balmoral Ave
Louis Stemeroff	Sep 9/06	429 Walmer Rd
Jack Inhaber	Sep 7/06	221 York Hill Blvd
Miron Deca	Sep 9/06	154 St. John's Rd

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

ARTHUR ZALDIN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Oct. 1st, 10:30 a.m.

Roselawn Cemetery

Agudas Achim Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

YAMAMGUCHI, ADRIENNE

(nee Mednick) passed away September 10, 2006 after a lengthy illness. Beloved wife of Ryozo and loving mother of Jesse, Mika and Naomi. Pre-deceased by her parents, Irving and Jeanette Mednick, mourned by Pegi Mednick. Sorrowfully missed by her siblings Howard and Fern Mednick and Joanne and Wayne Myles. Donations may be made to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

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COR announces senior appointments

The Kashruth Council of Canada has made two senior appointments that it says will help it meet the growing demand for, and increasing complexity of, kosher certification services.

Rabbi Yacov Felder has been named vice-chair of the council's Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth, the board of rabbis that oversees kashrut policy and supervision. Rabbi Felder, whose late father, Rabbi Gedalia Felder, was founding chair of the Vaad, will assist current Vaad chair Rabbi Yitzchok Kerzner and will be involved in a full range of responsibilities related to kashrut policy and supervision.

Rabbi Felder also serves as spiritual leader of Shomrei Shabbos Chevra Mishnayos Congregation in Toronto.

In addition, Rabbi Sholom Hersh Adler has been named to the newly created position of executive rabbinic co-ordinator and will oversee all kosher supervision. Rabbi Adler brings more than 20 years of experience to the position, having served with many major kashrut organizations, including the Orthodox Union and B'datz. He has extensive experience in establishing and maintaining sophisticated kashrut standards, the Toronto-based Kashruth Council said in a statement.

Rabbi Felder named vice-chair of the Vaad

The council, known as COR, is comprised of two governing bodies. The first is the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth, and the second is a lay board of directors that provides organizational oversight and leadership.

"With the leadership of these two superbly qualified individuals, we will enhance COR's ability to fulfil its mandate," Rabbi Kerzner said. "We will be able to achieve superior kashrut standards and properly provide for the needs of all consumers of kosher products."

Rabbi Mordechai Levin will continue in his present job as COR's executive director.

Working with Rabbi Levin, rabbis Felder and Adler will help "formalize kashrut standards and policies," COR said.

They will also examine staffing structure and complement that will be necessary to support the organization's anticipated growth, in order to meet current and future demands.

COR said the past 10 years have seen tremendous growth in the availability of kosher products. COR now supervises more than 800 food processing plants and food providers. In addition, its COR certification appears on more than 45,000 products and services, the organization said.

"These new appointments will ensure our ability to respond to and stay ahead of this rapid growth," said Meyer Feldman, lay chairman of the Kashruth Council. "Documented market trends indicate that consumer interest in kosher products is growing, and COR is committed to supporting both consumers and providers of kosher products."

BB holds web hate forum

B'nai Brith Canada held a conference on Internet hate last week to mark the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Experts from around the world gathered in Toronto Sept. 11 for the two-day symposium, "Hate on the Internet," to examine the domestic and global dimensions of web-based hate, extremism and terrorism.

Attendees include representatives from law enforcement and government agencies, legal and legislative experts and educators from around the world.

Recent war tested Israel's national will: journalist

By KYLE GORDON
Special to The CJN

If something positive can be derived from the Israeli-Hezbollah war, it is that discussion has been raised around what it means to be Jewish both in Israel and the Diaspora, said Jonathan Rosenblum, *Jerusalem Post* columnist and director of Jewish Media Resources.

But Israel and its people can never be a "normal society," because "we are Jews in a hostile Arab world that will not let us forget that we are Jews," said Rosenblum, speaking at Congregation B'nai Torah on Sept. 10.

Jonathan Rosenblum

On June 9, 2005, then-deputy prime minister Ehud Olmert told a meeting of the left-wing American Israel Policy Forum: "We are tired of fighting, we are tired of being courageous, we are tired of winning, we are tired of defeating our enemies." Responding to that, Rosenblum told the B'nai Torah congregation, "We cannot afford to be tired.

Olmert wanted a fun society, but we cannot be fun," Rosenblum said. "We are people with a mission – it's the reason we return to that sliver of land. It's not just surviving, it is surviving with a purpose."

To survive with a purpose means remaining connected to the laws that make us Jewish. It is vital to promote and maintain national will, he said.

'We are people with a mission — it's the reason we return to that sliver of land'

The Israeli-Hezbollah war tested that national will, and "Israel showed that it was not going to be swept away."

After Hezbollah attacked Israeli towns and troops on July 12, thousands of Israeli civilians were displaced. But at no time did the civilians from the north put pressure on their government to bring the fighting to a halt, Rosenblum said.

Instead, segments of the Israeli population responded by arranging private relief organizations. "All over the place, schools were turned into dormitories. It was an overwhelming and inspiring response to the needs of the Jewish people," he said.

"The Israeli population is not about throwing in the towel," he added.

Rosenblum spoke of an Israeli soldier who flung his body onto a grenade in order to protect his troops. Just before it detonated, the soldier was heard reciting the *Shema*, an affirmation of Judaism.

"On an individual basis the soldiers fought with tremendous courage," he said.

But despite the positive elements that were derived from the war, Rosenblum was quick to point out some negatives.

Olmert said Israel would wipe out Hezbollah and destroy its ability to hit Israel with rockets. "This was not successful," Rosenblum said.

Israel's initial reliance on air strikes was a failure, and from there the country pursued ground attacks, but Hezbollah was prepared for them, he said. It knew Israeli tanks were not capable of manoeuvring through the hilly terrain of Lebanon and so its fighters were successful in killing Israeli soldiers.

After examining the decisions surrounding the war, "it is impossible to understand what military strategy Israel was pursuing," Rosenblum said.

He also criticized the decision to use air strikes to avoid losing Israeli soldiers, because it came at the expense of Israeli civilian lives.

"The role of the Israeli military is to protect civilians. But during the war we became so concerned with casualties that we turned our focus to soldiers without thinking about the long-term repercussions," he said.

"The army is for protection, not to protect. We became a country unable to make decisions beyond the immediate," he added.

However, Rosenblum believes there is still hope. "If we can learn from our failings, then we might find ourselves in a better situation in the future."

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Greater Toronto Area

91-year-old volunteers on Israeli army base

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Leo Goodman, a Thornhill retiree who returned earlier this month from a 16-day trip to Israel as a volunteer, jokes that he will be the "pin-up boy" of the international Sar-El program.

The energetic 91-year-old, whose looks and bearing belie his age, didn't take any pictures on his recent trip, but his fellow volunteers all wanted to take one of him, he said last week in an interview.

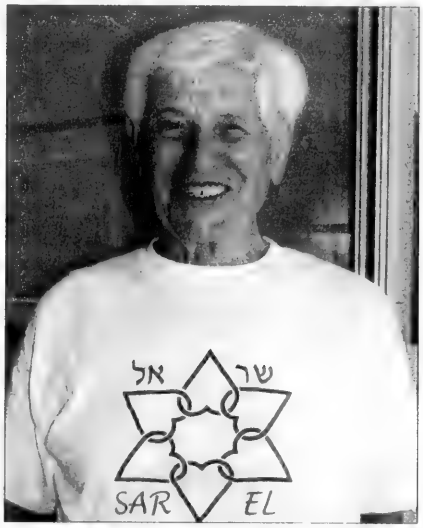
A fitness buff who keeps in shape with weights, a rowing machine and hitting a raquetball around for 30 to 40 minutes at a time – not to mention regular walks during which he often goes over the multiplication tables to occupy his mind – Goodman made time to speak to *The CJN* in between a condominium board meeting and a poker game.

The twice-widowed father of two, grandfather of four, and great-grandfather of "4.5" (one grandchild is on the way) travelled to Israel with Sar-El Canada (also known as Canadian Volunteers for Israel) after passing a medical exam. He spent most of his time on an army base near Tel Aviv sorting, counting and packing medical supplies seven hours a day.

On his weekends off, Goodman travelled to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, where he felt right at home in the open air markets, because they reminded him of his younger years in Toronto's Kensington area.

He says if he can be of help, he will, explaining not only his Sar-El stint but why he assisted another volunteer by carrying his luggage.

The trip marked Goodman's first time volunteering for Sar-El, "but not the last," he said, adding that he plans to return next year. The volunteers, he said, were "just beautiful, caring people."



Leo Goodman

Goodman – who travels "every chance I get" and was last in Israel in 1998 – applied to the program in May. He was not dissuaded by events this summer, joking that he would go and "stop the war.

"I like to have fun," he said. "I like to laugh."

Describing himself as the former "Turkey King of Canada," Goodman lived for many years in London, Ont., raising turkeys and tending to his company, Riverside Poultry, the largest of its kind in Canada, in nearby Strathroy. In London, he served as treasurer of Congregation Or Shalom for 13 years.

After Goodman sold his share of the business in the 1970s, he and his late wife Kay moved to Toronto to be closer to their children, and he became a mortgage broker. "I had to do something," he said.

He got his start in the poultry business as a chicken peddler from 1935 to 1942. He then entered the Royal Canadian Air Force, where he served as an air engine mechanic on this side of the ocean.

A Russian immigrant who came to Canada at age nine with his widowed mother and five older siblings, Goodman left high school as a teenager after a year at Central Technical School. His mother had a fruit store on Kensington Avenue, established with a $300 loan from a Jewish organization.

Delivering chicken on his bicycle, Goodman earned a nickel for every trip below St. Clair Avenue, and a dime when he travelled north of it.

"Things were tough," he said, but he "was always laughing.

"I'm one of the luckiest people in the world, and I don't know why," he said. "I enjoy life."

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Rosh Hashanah

The Jewish New Year – a holy time of year where we go to synagogue for two days of prayer and then spend time with family while enjoying many delicious foods. Shana Tova (Happy New Year!) September 23rd-24th, 2006. Yom Kippur, October 2nd, 2006.

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Hebrew U to honour full-time volunteer

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The Toronto chapter of the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University (CFHU) in Jerusalem is getting set to honour a woman who has made tremendous contributions to the Jewish community, both locally and abroad.

Barbara Bank, a philanthropist who has been a full-time volunteer for the local and international Jewish community for more than 25 years, is finally getting the recognition she deserves, said Barbara Frances, project co-ordinator for CFHU.

CFHU will present Bank, who is on the board of the organization, with a person of distinction award at a tribute fundraising dinner in her honour, planned for her colleagues and friends on Nov. 21 at Adath Israel Congregation in Toronto.

Barbara Bank

"People keep calling and saying it's about time someone recognized her work in the community... [They] say, 'I want to be involved,' because she is very understated, and people who work with her say, even though she has tremendous means, she is very humble. People like working with her and she is very passionate about what she does," Frances said.

"Barbara is a woman who has been working in the community for the past 25 years, and she gets personally involved in six to 10 projects a year and supports philanthropically another 10 to 20 projects."

Among her many commitments, Bank is the chair of National Jewish Campus Life (NJCL) of UIA Federations Canada. She is also actively involved in the Beth Sholom Synagogue in Toronto, Mount Sinai Hospital, the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

But according to Frances, Bank now has a particular interest in providing assistance to female Ethiopian immigrants in Israel.

All of the proceeds from the tribute fundraising dinner in November will go towards scholarships for the Mechina program in Israel.

Mechina is a preparatory, one-year program designed for newcomers, foreign students and high school graduates who are not eligible for registration in university.

The goals of Mechina are to help students attain the level of knowledge required for university admission, to prepare students for university-level courses by developing their cognitive and learning skills, and to teach students to speak Hebrew well enough to comprehend lectures and write term papers in Hebrew.

"So what it does is take someone like an Ethiopian woman who hasn't had a proper high school education and gets her prepared for university," Frances said, adding that the goal is to raise about $100,000 for the program.

Last year, Bank wrote an entry in the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto's *Book of Life* and painted the picture of a woman who wants other Jews to share the same passion for Jewish life that she does.

"I knew from my own experiences how easy it is to lose the connection to Jewish life. Raised with little Jewish tradition in my home and in a predominantly non-Jewish suburb of Boston, I did not have a strong affiliation with the Jewish community and nearly missed out on all the gifts that Jewish life has to offer," Bank wrote.

After attending school in Toronto and marrying a son of Holocaust survivors, she became more engaged in Jewish life and the community.

Bank said she was inspired by the work of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and began volunteering, taking trips to Israel, and eventually became the chair of the Women's Campaign and Advocacy, March of the Living and NJCL.

"I am proud of being Jewish. I am grateful that I found the Jewish community. It has been a privilege to give back, and while I know I am doing my best to contribute today, I've often wondered what will be available for tomorrow. Endowments helped me answer that question."

It is because of this undying passion for maintaining thriving Jewish communities all over the world that CFHU has decided to honour her.

"I'm totally in awe of her continuing commitment," Frances said.

Following the dinner, a lecture by *New York Times* bestselling author Deborah Tannen, which is also being held at Adath Israel and is scheduled for 8 p.m., will be open to the community.

Tannen is the author of *You Just Don't Understand, That's Not What I Meant!* and her most recent book, *You're Wearing That? Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation.*

She is also a professor of linguistics at Georgetown University and has appeared on television shows including *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Good Morning America* and *20/20*.

Proceeds from the lecture will go to Women's Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

For more information, visit www.cfhu.org, or call 416-485-8000.

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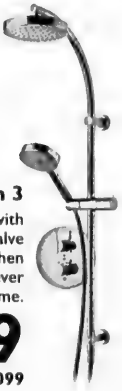

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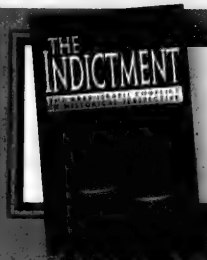

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Greater Toronto Area

Not many observant Jews live in Varna, Bulgaria

By DAVE GORDON
Special to The CJN

Feature

It might sound like the start of a clichéd joke: "two Jews walk into a casino in Bulgaria." But Gill and Marc Ginsburg would tell you such a thing exists there. The Toronto couple just came back from a year in Bulgaria, where they saw, among many fascinating things, hundreds of Israelis visit the eastern European country for its variety of "one-armed bandits."

While Marc attended the medical university in Varna, Bulgaria, the couple had a unique opportunity to see the small and little-known country and enjoy its Jewish community, which has members who seem to have come out of another century.

"There are still horse-drawn carriages here, or donkey-drawn. Here and there we see one in the city, but there are loads in the little villages. It's so funny to see a donkey-drawn carriage next to a BMW," Gill says.

Bulgaria, about 1½ times the size of Nova Scotia, borders Romania, Turkey, Greece and Serbia. Even though the language of instruction for Marc's program is English, the lingua franca of the country is Bulgarian. "We thought more people would speak English here, but that's not the case. Some of the younger generation can speak English," Gill says.

Married three years, the couple had their first child, Yosef Chaim, in Bulgaria, eight months ago. Their mere presence in Varna upped the Jewish population by more than one per cent.

There are about 200 Jews in Varna and about 1,200 in Sofia, the capital, a six-hour drive away, Gill says.

"The older generation is more traditional, and they go to the Friday services and get together on the holidays. The young generation is secular, and unfortunately intermarriage is a big problem here."

There used to be two synagogues in Varna, but now the couple says there's just a Jewish community centre, where Friday afternoon services are held in the summer, in Bulgarian.

They believe they were the only observant Jews in Varna, and kashrut often became an involved and precarious ordeal.

The Chabad rabbi in Sofia orders kosher food every couple of months from Israel, and the Ginsburgs joined in with a list of their needs, mainly meat, cheese and wine. Rabbi Yosef Salamon from Chabad there has even started shchitah (the kosher ritual slaughter of animals) – something which has not been practised in Bulgaria since before World War II. "Three kosher Bulgarian chickens arrived in Varna by bus from Sofia. Extremely fresh," Gill says.

The Jewish population mushrooms during the summer and fall. About 800 Israelis came for Rosh Hashanah services last year.

"During peak tourist season there are many Israelis who vacation in Bulgaria. It's because it's just over two hour's flight from Tel Aviv, and they come for the casinos," Marc says.

The Havana Hotel, where the Ginsburgs stayed for the High Holy Days, is "completely Israeli," with hotel signs in Hebrew.

Though frequently given to gambling when they arrive in Zlatni Pyasatsi (Golden Sands Resort), the Israeli tourists also frequent Chabad, whether just to shmooze, say *Kaddish*, or even just have a coffee.

"It was amazing having Chabad there… helping to maintain many of the traditions and fill in gaps in local Jewish education and practices in Varna as well as Plovdiv," Marc says.

"The Chabad rav and his family would drive across the country from Sofia to Varna when even one Jew in town had a concern or religious need."

For Yosi's bris, Rabbi Salamon arranged for a mohel within a day while he was visiting New York. By the next morning, Rabbi Salamon and Rabbi Lerner had met in Sofia, taken a six-hour bus ride to Varna, and both arrived at the Ginsburg's home at 6 a.m., ready for morning prayers and the bris.

Gill and Marc Ginsburg and their son, Yosi, lived in Varna, Bulgaria, while Marc attended the medical university there.

The Ginsburgs visited Jewish landmarks in Bulgaria. In the winter they drove to a mikvah at author and rabbinic scholar Rabbi Eliezer Papo's grave site.

"It was also amazing as that mikvah was also right at the bank of the Danube River, between Bulgaria and Romania. During the warmer spring and summer, the Black Sea, near the natural springs, was a great place to use as a mikvah. Even the sand there was really soft, and you could walk out really far into the sea before it got deep," Gill says.

Anti-Semitism in the country is almost non-existent. "It seems pretty safe in Varna," she says. "Traditionally Bulgaria has been really good to its Jews."

Although during World War II Bulgaria aligned itself with Germany, the country thwarted orders to send its 50,000 Jews to death camps, and church leaders were known to have stood up for their Jewish neighbours. The worst anti-Semitic problem Gill has heard of happened in Sofia just after last Shavuot, when four men assaulted the Chabad security guard.

Marc has now completed his first year of school in Varna, with plans to transfer for the second year to Sint Eustatius, one of the islands making up the Netherlands Antilles.

"We're looking forward to the adventure of moving to a new place, establishing our Jewish home, meeting new people and," Marc says, "interacting with the Chabad in the Caribbean."

Philanthropy has extended to Sunnybrook, York

Continued from page 3

Mining Corporation. In 2000, he became a member the Order of Canada for his philanthropy.

He maintained a relatively low profile until the mid-1990s, when he donated an initial $15 million to York University for the Schulich School of Business, formerly known as the faculty of administrative studies. He later donated $7 million toward the school's new building.

"I was 55 years old, one of the richest guys in the country, and no one knew who I was," he said. "I drive a 12-year-old car, I've been married 38 years, I live in a 30-year-old house.

"If I don't watch it, I'm going to be the richest guy in the graveyard," he remembers thinking.

Much of his philanthropy – which extends beyond education to other sectors, most notably his donation to the Schulich Heart Centre at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre – is based on wanting "to do some things that help kids," he said. "Society depends on the productivity of healthy kids."

The father of two and grandfather of two – "they're my true wealth," he says – is "big on scholarships." By the end of this year, he will have endowed 650 of them.

"A keynote of everything I've done is to promote accessibility" for students who otherwise might find it difficult or impossible to pursue higher education, he said.

The scholarship he received in his own student days was "probably the most important $1,600 of my life," he says now. By investing the money, he was able to fund his MBA as well as three months of travel to 13 countries, including a 2½-week stint in Israel. He visited Israel again on a family trip in 1985, and plans to return in the next year.

Schulich's Technion gift will include scholarships, visits by "renowned scholars," upgrading of infrastructure, and teaching awards.

The latter is a hallmark of his educational philanthropy, the result of his experience as a student with a number of professors who "couldn't teach."

With previous donations of $26 million and $25 million respectively for the (now eponymous) University of Western Ontario's school of medicine and dentistry and the University of Calgary's faculty of engineering, Schulich said one of the best things he did was to sit down with students, "kick the staff out of the room," and ask the students what they needed.

Currently, Schulich – who got in the habit of reading a book a week as an eight-year-old child – is writing a book aimed at sharing his life lessons with 20- to 40-year-olds. He expects it to be out next spring.

HAPPY HEBREW: Dressed as Ariot, King of the Hebrew alphabet, Rachel Shalmon leads her Grade 1 students at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School in a Hebrew class based on the Tal AM program of Hebrew language acquisition.

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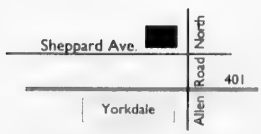

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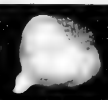

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Kolel moves to BJCC

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

After six years on Eglinton Avenue near Yonge Street, Kolel, the Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, has opened its doors at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre.

Kolel's director, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, said it has sold its Eglinton Avenue building and is now holding classes at the BJCC.

Speaking from Kolel's new home on the ground floor of the BJCC right next to Second Cup, Rabbi Goldstein said she is "tremendously excited about the opportunities that our coming together present.

"With this partnership, we will be able to add more courses and broaden our appeal, while we continue our mission of outreach work with a team of dedicated Jewish professionals whose programs positively affect hundreds of Jewish lives."

Kolel has always conducted High Holy Day services at the BJCC, she said, "and we've always felt comfortable here."

As well, she said, Gail Gould, the BJCC's assistant executive director, is a former Kolel executive director, "so there is a strong connection."

When Kolel started up in 1991, Rabbi Goldstein said, it rented space in a strip mall on Steeles Avenue. "We held classes in libraries, at Hillel, in people's boardrooms – the idea was to bring Jewish education to them."

Kolel then moved to Leo Baeck Day School, and finally to Eglinton Avenue, where it held all its classes.

"The building was great, but we began to feel it was limiting us. We weren't reaching students in the north end of the city. Little by little, the grassroots was getting lost because we were so tied to Eglinton Avenue," she said.

"Now, we're able to be everywhere. We're also holding classes at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, and the Family Resource Centre in the Promenade Mall. We can expand our programming because we have three locations."

Kolel may no longer have its own building, Rabbi Goldstein said, "but our outreach is larger. We have a central spot in the main lobby and lots of people see us. We're trying to start up a drop-in class, so people can work out in the gym and then attend a class.

"With so many people coming to the building we can expand our clientele. We can cater to young mothers, seniors, all kinds of people. We can have our finger in all the pots."

Kolel is now a department of the BJCC, she said, "but we have retained our name, our philosophy, our mission and our website.

"Our purpose is to provide the highest quality adult education which is pluralistic in nature. We are non-judgmental and there is no agenda as to what type of Jew students should be at the end."

They believe in the secular philosophy of transformational education, she says. "We think adults who take our classes are best equipped to decide how they will live out the knowledge. We have no agenda. Kolel teachers come from across the spectrum of Judaism."

BJCC executive director Sherry Kulman said Kolel has been warmly welcomed into the BJCC family. "Our partnership will further our ongoing mission to enhance Jewish life and learning."

STANDING WITH ISRAEL

AHS Unites With Israel brought more than 1,500 students from Associated Hebrew Schools together to show their solidarity with the Jewish state and to launch the school's Israel-based activities for the year. The program included Israeli songs, presentations from agencies dealing with children in Israel's north, and a drumming presentation. It culminated in the releasing of doves, representing students' prayers for peace in Israel.

[Alexander Himell photo]

Holiday Food Ideas

New ways to use apples and honey

By DAPHNA RABINOVITCH
Special to The CJN

I remember once being interviewed about Rosh Hashanah desserts. The interviewer (a friend of mine as it happened) asked, "What is there beyond apples and honey?"

To which I solemnly replied that there is no beyond apples and honey!

Luckily for us, however, those two ingredients open up a whole world of sweet possibilities. Some of the ones found below contain both ingredients, some only call for one, but whatever the case, they are reason to celebrate and to ensure a sweet new year.

ALMOND CHEESECAKE APPLE BARS

These bars are perfect for lunch during the holiday when a cake may be too much of a good thing. Be sure to toast the nuts to provide a contrasting colour.

Crust
¼ cup unsalted butter or margarine, softened
¼ cup cream cheese, softened
⅓ cup granulated sugar, divided
⅓ cup packed brown sugar, divided
1⅓ cups all purpose flour, divided
¼ tsp. salt
¼ cup coarsely chopped toasted skinned almonds, divided

Filling
½ cup cream cheese, softened
½ cup granulated sugar
1 egg
2 tsp. finely grated lemon rind
1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
2 northern spy or golden delicious apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced

Using electric beaters, beat butter with cream cheese and ¼ cup each of the granulated and brown sugars until light and fluffy. In separate bowl, combine 1¼ cups of the flour and salt. Using wooden spoon, stir flour mixture into butter mixture. Stir in ¼ cup of the almonds. Transfer ⅔ cup of this mixture to another bowl. Press remaining dough into 8-in. parchment paper-lined baking pan. Prick all over with a fork.

Bake in centre of preheated 350-degree oven for 18 to 20 minutes or until crust is golden.

Meanwhile, add remaining flour, granulated and brown sugar to the reserved flour mixture, until crumbly. Set aside.

Using electric beaters, beat cream cheese with sugar until light, scraping bowl as necessary. Beat in egg. Beat in lemon rind and juice.

Continued on page 38

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Not just an apple a day anymore

Continued from page 37

Arrange apple slices over prepared crust in single layer. Pour cream cheese mixture evenly over top. Sprinkle crumb mixture over top. Sprinkle with remaining almonds.

Bake in centre of oven for 45 to 50 minutes or until topping and almonds are a light golden colour. Makes 20 small squares.

CINNAMON APPLE SOUR CREAM COFFEE CAKE

This dairy-based cake is perfect for Rosh Hashanah, with its apple filling and ultra moist crumb topping.

Filling
¼ cup packed light brown sugar
¼ cup granulated sugar
2 tsp. cinnamon
4 apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced

Cake
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
½ cup cream cheese, softened
2½ cups granulated sugar
6 eggs
2 tsp. vanilla
3 cups all purpose flour
¼ tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 cup sour cream

In bowl, gently toss together brown and granulated sugars, cinnamon and apple slices; set aside.

Using electric beaters, beat together butter and cream cheese until well combined. Gradually add sugar; beat until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla.

In separate bowl, combine flour, baking soda and cinnamon. Using wooden spoon, stir flour mixture into butter mixture alternately with sour cream, making 3 additions of dry ingredients and 2 of sour cream.

Spread one-third of batter into well-greased 10-in. tube pan. Layer with half of apple mixture. Spread another third of batter over; top with remaining apple slices. Spread remaining batter over top.

Bake in centre of preheated oven at 325 for about 1 hour and 20 minutes or until cake tester inserted in centre comes out clean. Cool in pan on rack for 20 minutes. Invert to cool completely. Makes 16 to 20 servings.

BAKED APPLES WITH CARAMEL NUT TOPPING

As a change of pace from the usual cakes, apples or honey, why not try baked apples with a gooey, rich caramel sauce. For utmost appeal, use a combination of pecans, macadamia nuts and pecans.

1 cup apple juice
½ cup honey
2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
3 tbsp. butter or margarine
8 tart baking apples

Topping:
25 vanilla flavoured caramels
¼ cup whipping cream or non-dairy substitute
½ tsp. vanilla
pinch salt
½ cup mixed chopped toasted nuts

In small saucepan, combine apple juice, honey, lemon juice and butter; bring to boil. Reduce heat and boil gently for 10 minutes or until thickened.

Meanwhile, core apples almost to bottom, leaving base intact. Using small paring knife, cut off 1-inch-wide strip at top. Place in 11 x 7-in. rectangular baking dish.

Pour juice mixture over apples. Cover and bake in centre of preheated 375-degree oven for about 45 minutes or until tender, basting a few times. Let cool slightly.

In saucepan, melt caramels and whipping cream together, stirring often, until smooth. Stir in vanilla. Let cool slightly.

To serve, place apple on small dessert plate. Drizzle about 2 tbsp. of caramel sauce over apple; sprinkle with nuts. Makes 8 servings.

APPLE CRANBERRY STRUDEL

3 apples, peeled, cored and sliced
¼ cup granulated sugar
1 tbsp. finely grated orange rind
1 cup cranberries, fresh or frozen
¼ cup ground almonds or dried breadcrumbs
½ cup melted butter or margarine
8 sheets phyllo dough

In large bowl, gently toss together apple slices, ½ cup of sugar, orange rind and cranberries; set aside.

In separate small bowl, combine almonds and remaining ¼ cup of sugar.

Keeping remaining phyllo covered with plastic wrap and then a towel, place 1 piece of phyllo on work surface. Brush lightly with butter. Sprinkle with 2 tbsp. of almond mixture. Repeat layering 6 more times, buttering and sprinkling with almond mixture. Top with last piece of phyllo; brush with butter. Spoon filling down one long side of phyllo, leaving 2-in. at each of the three sides. Fold short sides over filling. Gently roll up strudel.

Transfer to parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Brush all over with butter. Using sharp knife but without cutting through to filling, score top of strudel into 6 or 8 equal sized pieces. (Strudel can be lightly covered with plastic wrap and refrigerated for up to 8 hours.)

Bake in centre of preheated oven at 375 for 40 to 45 minutes or until golden brown. Cool; serve warm or at room temperature, slicing where original cuts were made. Makes 8 servings.

Different cultures, similar traditions

By SUE EPSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Chinese cooking has always been one of my favourites. I studied Chinese cooking with a Chinese teacher and then taught it for many years.

I was recently reading an article written by my cyber-friend Sonia Martinez from Hawaii about the Chinese New Year. As I read Sonia's article, I could not help but notice many similarities between Chinese New Year traditions and Jewish New Year traditions.

The Chinese New Year is determined by the lunar calendar, as is the Jewish New Year. On the first night of the Chinese New Year, families traditionally eat together, as do Jewish families on Rosh Hashanah.

Many of the foods eaten are filled with symbolism. Sound familiar? A major difference is that the Chinese symbolic foods represent the wish for wealth and prosperity. The foods that Jews serve on Rosh Hashanah are used to express wishes for a sweet year, increased merits, fertility and destruction of our enemies, as well as wealth and prosperity.

Chinese tables are loaded with more food than could possibly be eaten in the hope for wealth and abundance for the year that is beginning. Many dishes are similar in both cultures. Fish is eaten by the Chinese to ensure long life and good fortune. We Jews eat fish as a symbol asking that we be fruitful and multiply like fish. Red dates bring the hope for prosperity for them. We eat dates as a symbol that our enemies be consumed. Long noodles, which represent long life, are always served on the Chinese table, but never cut or chopped. Many Jews traditionally serve noodle kugels.

Spring rolls represent wealth. Lettuce-wrapped lucky foods are especially fortuitous, since lettuce represents paper money and the Cantonese word for lettuce sounds like "rising fortune."

Continued on page 39

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The Far East can come to your table

Continued from page 38

The word for fish, *yu* sounds like *yue*, which represents abundance. A whole fish, especially a freshwater carp, whose name, *li*, also symbolizes profit, is served from head to tail, as well as a whole chicken symbolizing a great beginning and end to the New Year.

Oranges and tangerines are also served, because the Chinese words for these fruits symbolize wealth and good fortune. The Chinese word for pomelo sounds like their symbol for "to have," and thus these are also served.

Knives are considered weapons and are not to be placed on the dining table. Many Jews remove all knives from the table before reciting the *Birkat Hamazon* (Grace after meals) for the same reason.

CARP WITH TANGERINE SAUCE

Fish and tangerine, two of the ingredients considered lucky by the Chinese, are combined in one dish for an auspicious beginning. This dish, based on my friend Sonia's recipe, can be doubled or tripled and would make a delicious first course for Shabbat dinner. If you can't find black bean sauce with a proper hechsher, you can omit it from the recipe.

½ the peel of small tangerine
3 lb. whole carp, cleaned and scaled – snapper may be used instead
2 tsp. salt
4 tbsp. cornstarch
2 cups sesame oil
2½ tbsp. chopped garlic
3½ tbsp. dry white wine or sherry
1 tbsp. black bean sauce
2 tbsp. soy sauce
1 tbsp. white sugar
6 tbsp. vegetable stock or pareve chicken stock

Scrub the tangerine, then peel. Soak the peel in warm water for 20 minutes or until soft. Drain then rinse under running water. Squeeze out extra liquid. Chop the peel and set aside.

Make 3 or 4 slashes on either side of the fish and rub the fish with salt. Sprinkle the fish on both sides with cornstarch.

Heat oil in a frying pan or wok. When the oil is hot, deep-fry the fish on both sides for about 4 to 6 minutes; both sides of the fish should be browned. Remove the fish from the pan and let it drain on several layers of paper towels.

Leave only 2 tbsp. of the oil in the pan or wok. Bring oil back to a high heat, mix in the tangerine peel and garlic. Stir-fry for 30 seconds. Add sherry, bean sauce, soy sauce, sugar and stock. Mix well, then add the fish to the mixture. Cover and cook for 8 minutes. Serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

CHINESE CHICKEN WINGS

Make these once and your family will forever nag you to make them again. The longer you marinate the wings the tastier they'll be.

20 chicken wings
oil for deep frying

Marinade
1 tsp. 5-spice powder
1-2 cloves garlic, minced
1½ tsp. salt
1 tbsp. ginger, finely minced

Coating Mixture
⅓ cup flour
⅓ cup cornstarch
¼ tsp. pepper
¼ tsp. paprika
¼ tsp. 5-spice powder

Separate chicken wings into thirds and discard wing tips. Place in mixing bowl or zip-lock plastic bag. Mix marinade ingredients and pour over chicken wings. Marinate for four hours or overnight.

Mix coating mixture. Heat oil in wok or heavy skillet over high heat. Coat chicken wings in flour mixture and deep fry until golden brown. Drain on crumpled paper towels and serve hot. Makes 6 servings.

CHINESE FIVE-SPICE POWDER

This is an excellent spice to have on hand for almost any Chinese dish but difficult to find with a hechsher. If you can't buy it ready mixed, make your own. This is a good substitute.

2 tbsp. cinnamon
4 tsp. crushed aniseed
4 tsp. ground allspice
2 tsp. ground cloves
dash pepper

Mix together and store in covered jar. Makes about ½ cup.

HOISIN SAUCE

Many Chinese recipes call for Hoisin Sauce and, like Five-Spice Powder, this can be difficult to find kosher. This also is a good substitute for the real thing.

½ cup soy sauce
2 tbsp. honey
4 tsp. oil
½ tsp. garlic powder
4 tbsp. sesame paste (techinah)
2 tbsp. vinegar
½ tsp. hot pepper sauce

Mix all ingredients in food processor until smooth. Store in a covered jar in refrigerator. Makes 1 cup.

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MARKHAM

Women helping women – in and out of the kitchen

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

About 60 women chefs are coming together at Roy Thomson Hall on Sept. 26 to showcase their talents and fight breast cancer at Eat to The Beat, the annual fundraising event to support Willow Breast Cancer Support Canada.

Willow helps Canadians affected by breast cancer by providing free expert knowledge, understanding and support, and empowering them to make informed decisions about their diagnosis and treatment options.

Eat to the Beat was created by sisters Lisa and Abigail Slater in 1995 – it raised $75,000 that year– and to date, the event has raised more than $2 million.

Lisa, a self-taught chef who along with her sister grew up in the restaurant business, says they started the event because they wanted to help the organization raise money so that it could provide its "much needed services to thousands of Canadians who need them.

"We had [also] long wanted to produce a food event that showcased female chefs because, as one myself, I felt that many of these women and behind-the-scene professionals did not get the attention they deserved."

In a "horrible irony of life," says Abigail – she sits on Willow's board – her sister-in-law, an Eat to the Beat committee member, died of breast cancer three years ago. "It brought home once again the importance of our work."

Willow is unique, she says, because it focuses on peer support that is delivered by breast cancer survivors. "A person's first point of contact is with a woman who has been through it and is calming and supportive."

Abigail says Eat to the Beat is a true example of how "women can help other women in and out of the kitchen. It was astonishing to call these women and discover how many had been affected by breast cancer."

Eat to the Beat, which usually attracts about 1,000 people, features food sampling, wines and beers, entertainment and a silent auction.

Lisa offers the following recipe from the Eat to the Beat cookbook, which she edited in 2002.

BLUEBERRY CHEESE COFFEE CAKE
Submitted by Daphna Rabinovitch

Crumb topping
1 cup all purpose flour
¼ cup brown sugar
¼ cup sugar
½ tsp. cinnamon
⅓ cup unsalted butter

Cheese Filling
8 oz. cream cheese
¼ cup sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. finely grated lemon rind

Batter
⅓ cup unsalted butter, softened
2 eggs
2 tsp. vanilla
1½ cups all purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
¾ cup sugar
¼ tsp. salt
½ cup light sour cream
1½ cups wild blueberries, fresh or frozen

Crumb topping: In a small bowl, combine flour, both sugars and cinnamon. Drizzle butter evenly over top. Toss until thoroughly moistened. Set aside.

Cheese Filling: In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the cream cheese with the sugar until light and fluffy, scraping down sides of bowl.

Beat in the egg and the lemon rind just until smooth. Set aside.

Batter

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 9-in. springform pan with non-stick spray.

In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter with the sugar until well combined. Beat in eggs, one at a time, beating well and scraping after each addition. Add vanilla. Remove from the mixer.

In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

Using a wooden spoon, stir the flour into the butter mixture alternately with the sour cream in three additions, mixing thoroughly but gently.

Spread the batter evenly in the prepared pan, mounding it slightly in the centre.

Sprinkle ⅔ cup of the blueberries over top. Gently spread cream cheese filling over the blueberries. Sprinkle with remaining blueberries. Bake for about one hour and 15 minutes or until the edges are set and just beginning to come away from the sides of the pan. Let cool in pan on a wire rack for 30 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.

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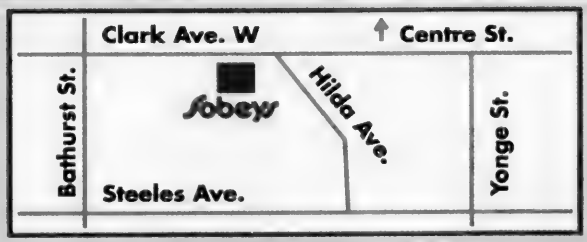

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'Jewish values go along with vegetarian values,' Rabbi says

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Being an ovolacto vegetarian is almost as important a part of her being as being Jewish, says Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, director of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning.

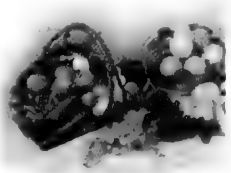
"I believe that Jewish values go along with vegetarian values," says Rabbi Goldstein who, along with her husband Baruch Sienna and their three sons, eats eggs and dairy products but no meat, and wears no leather.

"Jews wear no leather on Yom Kippur because it's hard to ask forgiveness for our sins when we stand in the skin of a slaughtered animal. We take that a step further and live it everyday."

As they have been vegetarians for 30 years, the couple's sons, ages 16, 15 and 12, have never eaten meat. "When each of our older sons had their bar mitzvah, we gave them the choice of eating kosher meat outside of our home.

"Both boys said 'no,' and I am proud of them for that. There is really no reason to eat meat. It is not for sustenance. It is for our taste buds.

"I feel distraught at the thought of a calf being raised just to be killed and land on my plate," Rabbi Goldstein says.



Their meals, during holidays and all year round are full of variety, she says.

"Our Yom Kippur pre-fast meal always starts with a vegetarian soup such as barley mushroom or lentil. Barley is a good, solid grain, and it fills you up.

"Our main course is always tofu, made in any number of ways. We bake it in teriyaki sauce or make tofu parmesan. We've taken chicken recipes and substituted the chicken with firm tofu. It works great."

A brown rice pilaf with almonds, onions and mushrooms is always a hit, she says, and they also use a lot of quinoa and wheatberries. "These foods are loaded with protein, but don't have the heaviness of meat. I haven't had a hard fast in 30 years."

Their Shabbat meals during the year always revolve around an ethnic theme, such as Italian or Japanese. "We've had sushi Shabbat and we've made Indian food. Our boys eat everything, and our oldest son always makes dessert to go along with the theme.

"By doing this, we feel connected to the Jewish community around the world, and we feel comfortable when we travel because we know about their foods."

The following is one of her family's favourite yom tov dishes.

TOFU TAGINE WITH DRIED FRUITS – ORIGINALLY CHICKEN TAGINE!

Adapted with permission from Bonnie Stern The Best of Heartsmart Cooking *(Random House 2006)*

If you can find sour dried apricots, use them instead of the sweet ones. Look for them in health food stores or Middle Eastern stores.

two blocks of firm or extra firm tofu (not the vacuum packed soft kind)
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. ground ginger
½ tsp. ground cinnamon
½ tsp. pepper
pinch saffron threads
1 tbsp. olive oil
2 onions, sliced
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 tbsp. chopped fresh ginger root
1 lb. baby carrots
½ cup dried apricots
½ cup pitted dates halved
½ cup pitted prunes
1 cup water
1 tbsp. honey
2 cups cooked chickpeas, or 1 19-oz can chickpeas, rinsed and drained
1 tbsp. lemon juice
2 tbsp. sliced almonds, toasted
2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley or cilantro

Cut tofu into ½-in. cubes. Combine salt, ground ginger, cinnamon, pepper and saffron. Rub into tofu. Heat oil in a Dutch oven on medium-high heat. Fry tofu until browned. Remove from pan.

Add onions, garlic and ginger root to pan and cook for 5 to 10 min, or until browned. Add carrots, apricots, dates, prunes, water and honey and bring to a boil.

Return tofu pieces to pan, cover and transfer to a preheated 350-degree oven. Bake for 15 minutes. Add chickpeas, cover and bake for 5 min. longer.

Stir in lemon juice. Taste and adjust seasonings if necessary. Sprinkle with almonds and parsley. Makes 6 servings.

Canadian Coalition for Democracies

The Canadian Coalition for Democracies invites you to a special presentation

"The Global Jihad and Israel"

by

Caroline Glick
Deputy Managing Editor of the Jerusalem Post

Date: **September 26, 2006**
Time: **8:00 p.m.**
Location: **Holy Blossom Temple**
1950 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Canada

Caroline Glick
Chicago-born Caroline Glick is deputy managing editor of the *Jerusalem Post*, a widely published journalist and Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Affairs with the Centre for Security Policy in Washington, D.C. Ms Glick made aliyah immediately after graduating from Columbia University. A former officer in the Israel Defence Forces, she was a core member of Israel's negotiating team with the Palestinians and later served as an assistant policy adviser to the prime minister. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Ms Glick was an embedded journalist with the U.S. Army's Third Infantry Division and was with the first unit to reach Baghdad. She was awarded a distinguished civilian service award from the U.S. Secretary of the Army for her battlefield reporting. Her weekly columns appear in English in the *Jerusalem Post* and in Hebrew in *Makor Rishon*.

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Wine adds flavour to your food

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

Cooking with wine intensifies and enhances the flavour of food. In fact, wine actually releases some hidden flavours. The alcohol does not become more concentrated as you cook, it burns off. So a fruity wine will concentrate those flavours and give a fruity flavour to the final dish. A sweet wine will provide sweetness to the final dish.

Wines labelled "cooking wine" are typically salty and include other additives that may adversely affect the taste of your chosen menu. If you choose to use a cooking wine, adjust your recipe to reflect the salt content already in the wine.

So this holiday season, don't worry about uncorking several of those bottles of wine you've been saving for special occasions, because this year, not only will their sweet or dry full-bodied flavours be savoured with family and friends, the leftovers can be put to good use with the following fun and delicious recipes.

SALMON WITH WHITE WINE MUSTARD SAUCE

¼ tsp. salt, divided
⅛ tsp. black pepper
4 (6-oz.) salmon fillets (about 1 in. thick)
1 tbsp. butter or stick margarine, divided
3 tbsp. minced shallots
2 tbsp. dry white wine
¼ cup vegetable broth
1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
¼ tsp. cornstarch
4 tsp. minced fresh tarragon

Sprinkle ⅛ tsp. salt and pepper over fish. Melt 1½ tsp. butter in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add fish, and cook 7 minutes on each side or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Remove from skillet, and keep warm.

Melt 1½ tsp. butter in skillet over medium heat. Add the shallots and sauté for 1 minute or until tender. Add wine, and cook for 30 seconds. Combine ⅛ tsp. salt, broth, Dijon mustard, and cornstarch, and stir with a whisk. Add to skillet, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, and simmer until reduced to ¼ cup (about 1 minute). Spoon the sauce over the salmon, and sprinkle the top with tarragon. Serves 4.

TUSCAN BEEF STEW

You can make the stew sweeter by sautéing onions, celery and carrot in olive oil (instead of garlic and rosemary) along with the beef.

2 lb. stew beef
salt and freshly ground pepper
¼ cup olive oil
2 garlic cloves, peeled and cut in half
1 sprig rosemary
1 cup red wine
1 lb. ripe tomatoes, skinned and chopped, or 16 oz. canned, crushed tomatoes

Cut beef into 1½-in. cubes. Season with salt and pepper. Heat olive oil in a heavy-bottomed pot over medium-high heat. Add garlic and rosemary, stir for 1 minute, then add beef. Sauté, stirring frequently, until meat is well browned, about 15 minutes. If you don't have enough room, brown it in two batches (if the pieces are too close, they'll steam, not brown). When meat is browned, pour in the wine and deglaze, scraping up bits that have stuck to the bottom of the pot. Stir until wine reduces by at least half. Add the tomatoes, season to taste, then turn the heat to low and cover the pot. Simmer, stirring every 20 minutes or so, until the meat is very tender. This should take about 3 hours. While stew is simmering, add a splash of wine or a tablespoon of water if it gets too dry. Serves 6.

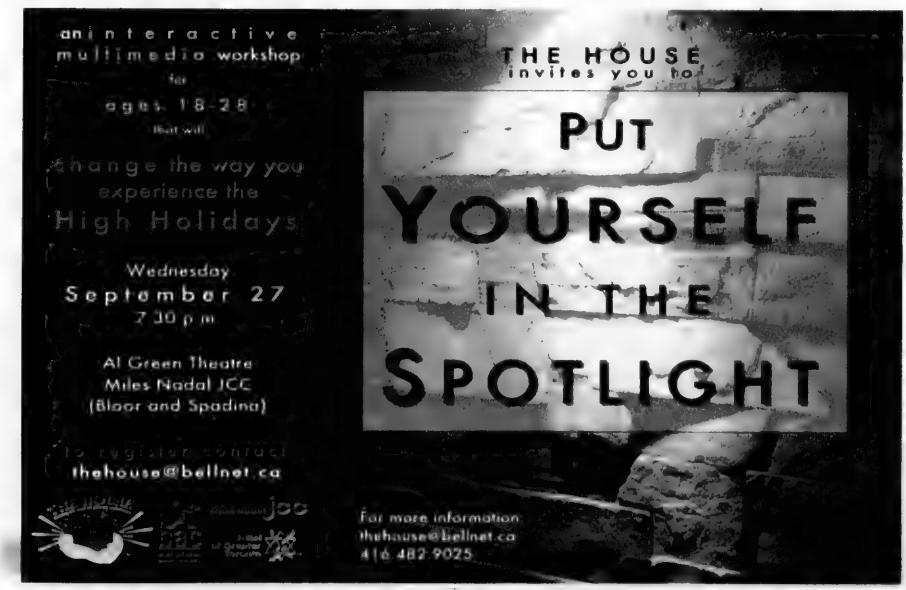
CHICKEN BRAISED WITH WINE AND TOMATOES

2 lb. chicken thighs (8 small or 4 large)
1 tbsp. cooking oil
⅔ cup chicken broth
¼ cup dry white wine or chicken broth
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tsp. snipped fresh rosemary or ¼ tsp. dried rosemary, crushed
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. black pepper
2 cups chopped Roma tomatoes (6 medium)
1 medium yellow sweet pepper, cut into ½-in.-wide strips
1 medium green sweet pepper, cut into ½-in.-wide strips
1½ cups sliced fresh mushrooms
2 tbsp.cornstarch
2 tbsp. cold water
2 cups hot cooked noodles or rice

Remove skin from chicken. In a large skillet, heat oil. Brown chicken in hot oil over medium heat about 5 minutes, turning chicken to brown evenly. Drain fat. Add broth, wine, garlic, dried rosemary (if using), salt and black pepper to chicken in skillet. Bring to boil and reduce heat. Cover and simmer about 20 minutes. Add tomatoes, sweet peppers and mushrooms to skillet. Simmer, covered, 15 minutes more or until chicken is tender and no longer pink. Transfer chicken to a serving dish, reserving vegetables and cooking liquid in skillet. Cover chicken with foil to keep warm.

In a small bowl, combine the cornstarch, water and fresh rosemary (if using), and stir into mixture in skillet. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Cook and stir for 2 minutes more. Spoon vegetables and sauce around chicken. Serve with noodles or rice. Makes 4 servings.

Modified from a *Gourmet* magazine recipe sent in by a reader



The Way Forward

Report of the Task Force on Jewish Day School Education

September 2006

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Task Force on Jewish

New Jewish education structure recommended by UJA Federation task force

Centre for Jewish Education of Toronto proposed

The UJA Federation Task Force on Jewish Day School Education is recommending creation of a new Centre for Jewish Education of Toronto, with a strategic and proactive mandate to ensure Toronto's leadership in the field of Jewish education. The centre, serving as UJA Federation's Jewish education and identity pillar, would assume the responsibilities of UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education after a transition period that would end on June 30, 2007.

Dr. Seymour Epstein

"The recommended Centre for Jewish Education of Toronto is an exciting new entity that will be an umbrella organization for the overall strategy and implementation of Jewish education policy," said Morris Perlis, who chaired the task force with Lou Greenbaum. "The Centre will, among its other tasks, aggressively support the pursuit of government funding and build greater understanding of the community's educational needs."

"Inherent in the new structure is an education pillar that emphasizes strategic thinking and planning for the future, while working with the schools to pursue the highest possible quality of education," added Greenbaum.

The task force report says the need for structural change "emerged with increasing clarity" after extensive consultations that included Jewish education experts in several cities. The report concluded that a change to the Jewish education system structure is a prerequisite for meeting the altered educational expectations of both parents and students and increasing Jewish day school enrolment.

Dr. Seymour Epstein, UJA Federation's Senior Vice President of Jewish Education and Identity calls the task force report "a bold blueprint for enhancing both the profile and the role of Jewish education in communal life."

Although the task force is recommending a new Jewish education pillar with an invigorated proactive focus, it noted that Toronto's day schools hold BJE in high regard, in terms of services provided and relationships established.

The recommendation regarding the Centre for Jewish Education of Toronto is one of 23 covering education structure, quality, marketing and tuitions.

The task force report described the call to action as "clarion" after becoming immersed in what it viewed as the "richness of the Jewish day school system" amidst a "myriad of issues and complexities which the system must now address."

Report took nearly a year

A 10 month journey of discovery. That's how the UJA Federation Task Force on Jewish Day School Education describes the time between its formation and the recent publication of its report, which makes 23 recommendations covering many essential aspects of Toronto's Jewish education system.

The task force was initiated in September 2005 to assess the strategic role of UJA Federation in enhancing and supporting Jewish day school education. Chaired by Lou Greenbaum and Morris Perlis, the task force included Jonathan Goodman as a committee member as well. UJA Federation invests nearly $12 million annually in Jewish education - about two-thirds of it on tuition subsidies for parents who cannot afford full day school fees.

During its investigation, the task force consulted with Board of Jewish Education officials, Jewish schools, representatives from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and other North American federations, in addition to outside consultants.,

Task force recommendations include maintaining at least the same level of tuition subsidies, a pilot tuition loan program, funding to launch a $100 million education endowment and a quality review process for general and Jewish studies at individual schools.

Morris Perlis

Lou Greenbaum

Members of the task force found both a rich history of Jewish education in Toronto and several causes for concern.

"School funding and family affordability need concerted attention. Quality must be at benchmark levels. Marketing requires investment spending. Governance policies, processes and structures need upgrading," notes the report.

Without significant changes to structure, funding, quality and marketing, warns the report, the future of day school education in Toronto is at risk. The report cites several risk factors, such as indifference to Jewish education, a larger number of day schools and a lower number of Jewish births.

The overall vision of the task force displays a deep dedication to Jewish education, says co-chair Morris Perlis.

"We want to assure a vibrant, thriving Jewish education system, with integrated initiatives to provide a superior educational experience, and to foster the highest level of affiliation throughout the broader community."

The task force is also seeking increased cooperation and collaboration among individual schools in the system.

However, the bottom line, stresses task force co-chair Lou Greenbaum, is the best possible use of community dollars spent on Jewish education.

"Our recommendations are aimed at ensuring that every dollar spent on day school education makes a difference," he says.

Federation adapts to change

The proposed establishment of a new Centre for Jewish Education of Toronto represents a transition consistent with Jewish community history. The centre, proposed by the UJA Federation Task Force on Jewish Day School Education, would serve as the strategic and administrative hub of Jewish education in the city.

"UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has not only been deeply involved with Jewish education for nearly 60 years, but it is also considered a world leader in Jewish education," noted the organization's current chair of the board, David Engel.

The Bureau of Jewish Education was established in 1949 and 19 years later, it was re-organized to become the Board of Jewish Education - a department of UJA Federation. Since then, successive studies have identified challenges facing Jewish education and recommended new directions in philosophy, structure and policy.

In 1975, implementation began of recommendations made by the Study Committee on Jewish Education, including tuition subsidies for families that cannot afford full fees at Jewish day schools. Today, these subsidies amount to nearly $8 million annually.

In 1996, UJA Federation's Commission on Jewish Education identified education accessibility to every member of the community as one of its six guiding principles.

"Today's task force report symbolizes the ongoing evolution of UJA Federation policy to meet current needs," said Engel. "The new Centre for Jewish Education of Toronto will enhance our leadership role in this critical area of Jewish life."

Day School Education

UJA Federation Task Force proposes new measures to deal with high education costs

A pilot loan program, a $100 million education endowment fund and vigorous pursuit of government funding for faith-based schools are just three of the recommendations proposed by the UJA Federation Task Force on Jewish Day School Education to encourage higher Jewish school enrolment. The task force also suggested that UJA Federation tuition subsidies, that currently amount to $7.8 million annually, should remain at the same level, as a minimum.

However, of all the recommendations, the task force concluded that government funding would have the greatest influence on the cost of Jewish education.

"No action will have a greater impact on the affordability of the day school system than a change in the provincial funding mechanism," said Morris Perlis, who co-chaired the task force with Lou Greenbaum.

The task force found that Jewish elementary school tuition costs in schools funded by the Board of Jewish Education have increased from an average of $7,781 in 2001 to $10,169 in 2006, with the greatest impact being borne by middle-income parents.

The report observed that Jewish schools are having trouble keeping pace with operating and capital costs because of funding and tuition assistance limitations.

To help remedy the situation, the task force is proposing a pilot program, based on a U.S. model, through which parents could borrow funds at reasonable rates from financial institutions to pay for the cost of Jewish education. Administration of the loan initiative would rest with UJA Federation's new Centre for Jewish Education of Toronto.

The report also strongly endorsed UJA Federation's intention to raise money for a $100 million endowment fund for Jewish education, noting that resources should be provided to not only launch the fund but to "grow" it as well.

Among the many other recommendations related to the cost of education is consideration of shared services among schools to generate efficiencies and cost savings.

Task force focuses on education quality

With a direct challenge for schools to become "highly competitive centres of best practice," the UJA Federation Task Force on Jewish Day School Education is recommending a quality review process for individual schools in both general and Jewish studies. The reviews, which would be conducted by a third party expert in school assessment, would take into account the specific ideologies and teaching techniques of individual schools. In addition, the task force foresees financial incentives for schools which meet or exceed certain criteria.

In developing its recommendation, the task force noted the importance of the highest possible educational quality as a key factor when parents decide on day school for their children.

The task force is seeking stronger quality accountability by schools to the community through UJA Federation's new Centre for Jewish Education of Toronto, and, points out, task force co-chair Lou Greenbaum, there are ways in which schools can help each other.

"Central to advancement of quality is the the sharing of best practices across the day school system, bringing teachers and administrators together in communities of interest and professional development," he said.

As for the centre itself, the task force is recommending extensive professional development consultation by centre personnel for school administrators, educators and boards.

Task force members also want the community to know about the value of Jewish education through more comprehensive marketing.

The task force endorsed a report by the Board of Jewish Education marketing committee calling for an education marketing specialist to be hired who would oversee marketing research and develop new marketing initiatives.

Mixed picture for day school enrolment

Enrolment at Jewish high schools is up. The number of students at elementary day schools is down and the number of schools has increased.

That's part of Toronto's Jewish education portrait uncovered by the UJA Federation Task Force on Jewish Day School Education, which recently submitted its report.

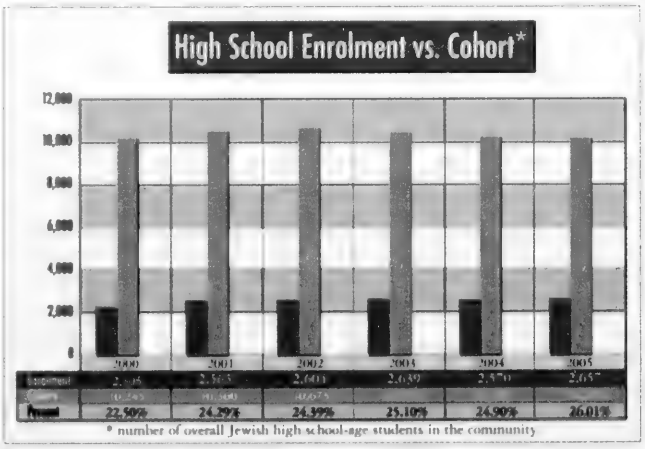
Between 2000 and 2005, enrolment at high schools affiliated with the Board of Jewish Education picked up by about 15%, while affiliated elementary school enrolment decreased by approximately nine percent from 2001-2006. However, elementary school enrolment as a percentage of the cohort (the total number of Jewish children available in that age group) remained relatively unchanged at close to 29%.

At the same time, the number of elementary schools has jumped from 13-19 - a phenomenon labelled by the task force as "boutiquing."

"This phenomenon, while beneficial to enhancing parental choice, is impacting the viability of any given school, in several cases acutely; and exacerbating the cost pressures in the overall system, said committee member Jonathan Goodman.

As for the decrease in elementary school enrolment, the task force attributes it to a host of factors, including demographic changes, the increased attractiveness of the public school system as well as other private schools; and declining Jewish affiliation.

Other trends discovered by the task force are a tendency toward reduced Jewish affiliation and "disaffection" within the Toronto Jewish community, and a continuing migration of young Jewish families to York Region, north of Steeles Avenue. "This migration will add to the complexities of the day school system," warns the report. "Schools south of Steeles Avenue may likely experience a decline in enrolment and schools in the north may encounter upward pressure on class size."



* number of overall Jewish high-school-age students in the community

Summary of Task Force on Jewish Day School Recommendations

The following is an abbreviated summary of major recommendations presented by the UJA Federation Task Force on Jewish Day School Education, grouped into four categories: structure, funding, quality, and marketing.

These recommendations and the implementation process are subject to determination by the UJA Federation Board of Directors.

Structure Recommendations

- To ensure that the goals articulated and identified in the report can be achieved by the community, structural change is the prerequisite. The Jewish Education and Identity pillar of UJA Federation will be strengthened and tentatively renamed the Centre for Jewish Education of Toronto with a proactive and strategic mandate. The Task Force recommends that the new Centre for Jewish Education become a reality by June 30, 2007.

Funding Recommendations

- Ensure that all resources possible are provided to actively and vigorously pursue government funding. It is the belief of the Task Force that no action will have a greater impact on the affordability of the day school system than a change in the provincial funding mechanism to assure equity with other provincially funded school systems.
- UJA Federation should provide funding to successfully launch and grow the $100 million Education Endowment Fund.
- Tuition subsidization funding should be at least at current levels (Approximately $7.8 million per annum).
- New proposals should be considered to relieve the financial impact of tuitions on middle-income families.
- Maintain funding for special needs education at a minimum at current levels which is $806,000 in addition to the $7.8 million for tuition subsidies.
- Introduce a test loan program with a capital base provided by an institutional third party (per the U.S. model), with UJA Federation costs being administration and marketing. While the intent of this program is to alleviate the disproportionate tuition burden being borne by middle-income families, it should be available to any family which meets the criteria.
- Undertake a study to determine the feasibility of a community middle school at the Lebovic Campus on Bathurst, north of Rutherford.
- Develop a strategy for the development of all other schools on the campus.

Quality Recommendations:

- The Task Force recommends implementation of a quality review process at the individual school level for both general and Jewish studies, conducted by a third party expert in school assessment. This quality review process should be tied to financial incentives for schools which meet or exceed certain criteria.
- It is strongly recommended that the new Centre for Jewish Education of Toronto devote new resources to enhance the day school community culture to foster a greater sense of mutuality and collaboration.

Marketing Recommendations:

- Hire the appropriate marketing professional to spearhead a market research endeavour and to formulate and implement marketing strategies including community-wide campaigns.
- Promote the gathering of in-depth market data on an ongoing basis to better determine the education-related needs of different parent segments.

For more information on the Task Force report, please e-mail taskforce@ujafed.org

On Campus

Volunteer bonds with kids in Israeli-based program

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

For Kim Edwards, spending part of her summer volunteering for Save a Child's Heart (SACH) in Israel isn't a completely selfless act.

"People have told me how I have made a difference there, but in all honesty, the children, the staff and the doctors have made a much greater impact in my life than I could have ever imagined," Edwards said.

For the past two summers, Edwards, a fourth-year psychology student at Queens University spent six weeks at a time playing, dancing, and laughing with children from all over the world who are brought to Israel through the Save a Child's Heart program.

The goal of the non-profit outreach program is to train medical personnel in less developed countries and create centres to enable doctors and nurses to provide needed treatment in their own environment. Until that goal is achieved, children with congenital heart problems are brought to Israel for surgery and other cardiac care.

SACH has an agreement with the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, a suburb of Tel Aviv, that permits the organization to use all the facilities of the hospital, provided that they are able to raise the $10,000 it costs to perform the surgery on each patient.

While the children are waiting for, and recovering from, their surgeries, volunteers and staff attend to the patients by doing what they can to make them feel comfortable.

Edwards first heard of SACH after Hillel at Queens helped raise money and awareness for the organization.

As a high school student, Edwards volunteered often for an array of organizations, such as the Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre for children who are differently abled; the ORT program, which helps recently immigrated Canadian children learn how to use a computer; and the Hospital for Sick Children. She was also a soccer coach, and in her last year of high school, she worked at Camp Trillium in Ontario, a camp for kids diagnosed with cancer.

"I was planning on going to Israel last summer anyway to volunteer with Magen David Adom and I was looking for something to take up the second half of the summer in Israel," Edwards said, adding that in the summer of 2005, she spent six weeks with MDA.

"When I found out about SACH, I thought this was something I would really enjoy... I really like getting new experiences and I love working with children who are ill. That's kind of my passion. I love the way they have a zest for life."

She explained that children over the age of three typically come without their families and being separated from them during such a difficult time takes a toll on them.

"They really need someone who is going to look out for them and give them the love they need."

As a volunteer, Edwards bunked with the patients and nurses in a house provided by SACH in Azur, a Tel Aviv suburb, which is about a 10-minute drive from the Wolfson Medical Center.

Although she has a lot of experience working with children with special needs, she said that this was no typical camp experience.

"You don't have the supplies you have at camp. You can't run to the arts and crafts room to grab a bunch of beads."

Instead, Edwards said she created memorable relationships with the children by dancing, baking cookies, making popcorn and giving out lots of hugs.

"You have to communicate with these children in different ways than you are used to because most of them don't speak English, or they speak very limited English. To have children from Iraq, Vietnam, Zanzibar, Ethiopia, where the cultures are so different, you learn to communicate with your hands."

She spoke about the special bond she formed with Salama, a four-year-old Ethiopian patient who looked like she was two.

She said she was very weak when she arrived, but after the surgery, and after getting over the initial shock of being away from her family, she warmed up to Edwards and the other volunteers.

"I fell in love with this child. I will never forget her."

Edwards, who arrived in Israel just days before the Israel-Hezbollah war began, contemplated flying home early when the violence began.

"I remember thinking at the end, at the airport, how happy I was that I stayed because I think if I went home I would have regretted it and felt like I left my children behind."

If she had left, she would not have experienced, what she called, one of the most gratifying moments as a SACH volunteer.

"I met a Palestinian child at the hospital who was four years old. I played with him a few times and his was the first surgery I was able to see," she said, explaining that the doctors allowed her to stand in the operating room to watch the procedures performed on the children she had been taking care of.

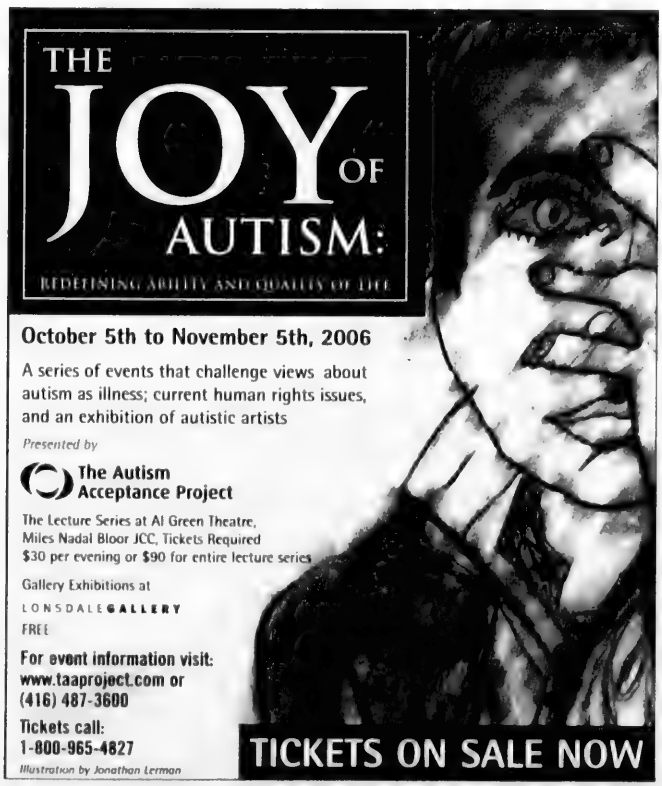
"After I came out of the surgery, his father came up to me and he thanked me because he took his son down to surgery and saw me in [medical scrubs]."

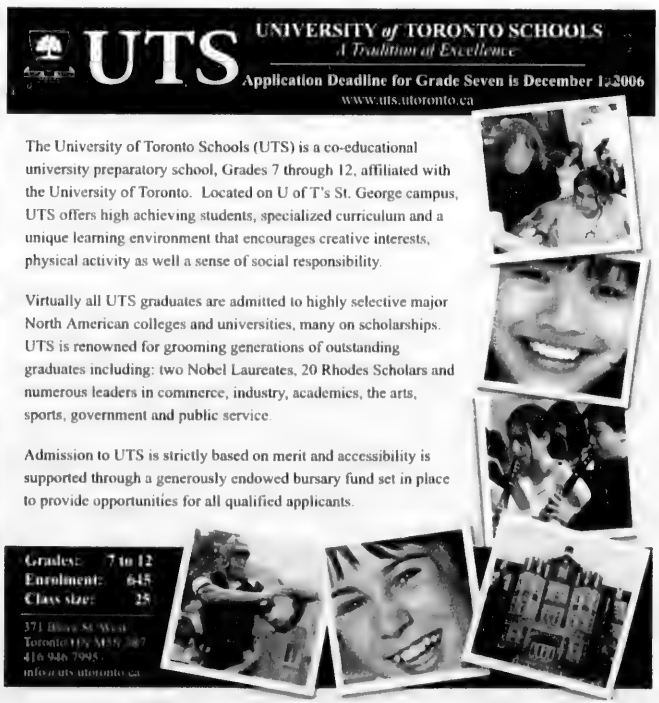
She said after trying to explain to the father who spoke very little English that she wasn't a doctor, in his broken English, he expressed to her how grateful he was to her that she was there as a friend to his son.

"That was something I will never forget because it was a big moment for me to realize the impact someone can have even just being there for a child," Edwards said.

"It is also incredible to see that even while there is a war going on, in another part of Israel, you have Palestinian children, Christian children, Jewish children from all over the world playing together."

She said now she feels like she has family all over the world and can't wait to volunteer for SACH for a third time next summer.





Philanthropist donates $500,000 to Carleton U

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Ottawa-based Jewish philanthropist Max Zelikovitz has donated $500,000 to help Carleton University develop its Jewish studies and research centre.

The donation to the Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, made earlier this month, was given in honour of his wife, Tessie, who died in 1985. The centre has been renamed the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies.

The gift, which will be matched with funds from the E. Bower Carty Endowment at Carleton, will allow the centre to sponsor courses, mini-courses, lectures and presentations for Ottawa students at Carleton and beyond, and for the rest of the Jewish community, said Aviva Freedman, the centre's director and a linguistics and applied language studies professor at Carleton.

When the research centre was established more than a year ago, Freedman said it became apparent that more than 20 people were doing active research in the area of Jewish studies, but they didn't know each other because they came from different disciplines.

Aviva Freedman, director of the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies.

She said that until Zelikovitz agreed to make this donation, the research centre didn't have the funds to make their findings available to students and the community at large.

"There is a large number of researchers who are performing active research in cross-disciplinary areas related to Jewish studies right now. Most of them teach in other areas, and their interests in Jewish studies are reflected only in their research," Freedman said.

"The centre will allow us to bring these researchers together, to give them a forum and to allow for cross-fertilization of ideas, to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to do related research, and to bring all this rich research to the attention of Carleton students and the Ottawa Jewish community."

Freedman said she also hopes to invite international scholars to Carleton, and to develop linkages with other universities. For example, she added, Carleton is already in the process of establishing research links with Israeli schools such as the University of Haifa and Tel Aviv University.

Some of the areas the centre will focus on are Jewish history, culture, literature, art, music and film; Jewish diasporic experiences, Jewish mysticism, and key historical events, such as the Holocaust.

Margo Kardish, Zelikovitz's daughter, said that her father's decision to give a substantial gift to a cause that promotes Jewish education didn't come as a surprise to her.

"He always believed very, very much [in education]. He always wanted his kids, his grandchildren, everybody to be highly educated, be doctors, lawyers, you know, like all immigrants who want their kids to be better off than they were," Kardish said on behalf of her Lithuanian-born father.

Since moving to Ottawa in 1921, Zelikovitz, who will celebrate his 97th birthday in October, built a successful career in the Ottawa area.

"He came with nothing. He peddled on the streets fruits and vegetables in those days," she said.

Zelikovitz, who is very involved with Congregation Beth Shalom in Ottawa, later worked in the wholesale business and in real estate. In 1984, he and his wife established a family charitable foundation to support local area charities.

"He came from nothing and he made his money in this community, so I feel he wanted to give back," Kardish said, speculating on why her father would choose to support the centre.

"I think he is very into education because he thinks the best way to promote understanding is through education."

Although this donation has generated a lot of attention for Zelikovitz and his family, Kardish stressed that her father is a quiet man who prefers to remain out of the media spotlight.

"He gives, but he doesn't like all the hoopla. He is a wonderful man, very good-natured, very into Judaism," Kardish said. "We're very proud of him."

Freedman said the centre is grateful to Zelikovitz and to the family for their support.

"He is giving us the fuel to allow all of this to really be put into motion with considerable momentum."

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Murray Goldkind

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Sol Goldkind

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Chakra balancing clears the path to inner peace

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Susan Shienfield is an intuitive healer specializing in guided meditation, which is used in the art of chakra balancing. In chakra balancing, cellular memory is released to allow a clearer path to inner peace.

Shienfield works out of The Briars Spa, a progressive-minded spa located in a rather conservative establishment – the Briars Resort and Conference Centre on Lake Simcoe in Jackson's Point, an hour's drive north of Toronto.

Shienfield, 53, has been married to entrepreneur Gary Shienfield for 32 years. The couple have two sons, Korey, 28, and Shaun, 26.

Twenty years ago, Shaun was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). Not wanting her child to take medication, Shienfield went on a search throughout North America for an alternative. Through her travels she discovered and learned about energy work, first using it to help her son, then to help others by running a Toronto-based private practice.

Five years ago, Jackson's Point, where she went to the cottage as a child, beckoned to her. The Shienfields sold their Toronto home and moved to the area.

Jackson's Point was a popular summer retreat for Jewish families a number of years ago, and Shienfield was drawn back there because the local synagogue is minutes away from The Briars. She says the area is known as a healing place because of its history as a sacred Indian burial ground.

Susan Shienfeld practices chakra balancing with a client. [Kathryn Kates photo]

Shienfield is the granddaughter and sister of rabbis. Her brother, Rabbi Paul Plotkin, is a Florida-based author who has written a book about healing through the Psalms called *The Lord Is My Shepherd, Why Do I Still Want?*

"We both come from the same family of spiritual healers – we've just chosen different modalities to get there, but we both strongly believe in helping others," Shienfield says.

"The Briars Spa, under the tutelage of spa manager Terry Cranswick, offered me an opportunity to showcase my healing, and it has been a win-win situation for everybody because The Briars is such an established place. It is so respected, therefore I gained the respect."

Hugh Sibbald, vice-president of The Briars, says that when the spa opened more than five years ago, it was decided that the spa should reflect "the kind of history that we have here, but yet [we] wanted it to feel very contemporary. So part of creating this was to ensure that we had therapists that were real healers.

"Susan had recently arrived in the area and contacted us. Immediately after experiencing the treatment, we realized she could be a tremendous help to our guests. People found the treatment extremely helpful. What she does in her treatment helps you help yourself – our guests find that very empowering."

Shienfield's chakra-balancing treatment consists of a two-hour session at the cost of $279. Her clientele is 90 per cent female, between the ages of 35 and 55. "I help guide people on how to meditate, find where they are holding their stress, how to release it and manage it. I teach them the tools of how to help themselves both physically and mentally, so that they can live a stress-free life," she says.

"After discussing with my clients their stress symptoms, they listen to a guided meditation, while I put my hands over energy centres to help release negative energy. By doing this, I pick up patterns in their lives that they keep repeating. Most people sabotage their own healing and, in turn, from getting what they want, whether it's in relationships or health.

"Basically the treatment is much like a computer. We are able to 'google' in people's stress symptoms and then the information comes out. This information can pertain to the client's present or from their childhood," Shienfield says.

Continued on page 50

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Fashion

Skirts are either very long or short

By FRANCINE BIRKEN
Special to The CJN

The new Chanel fall/winter ready-to-wear collection took the stage with a show in black and white, and was sometimes accented with blush rose or beige.

In the fall/winter collection are tweed suits, miniskirts and short coats. Chanel director Karl Lagerfeld says: "Today, everything is focused on the legs. The skirts must be very short or very long, never in between."

Jewelled belts and gold chains are the statement buckle. Silk blouses with pleated bib fronts or delicate "jabots" (ruffles) are matched up with these wonderful fashions.

Silk shirtdresses are worn under tweed jackets and cashmere cardigans. The dress, the buttoned leather skirt, the long striped cashmere cardigan and the cape-jacket are all important aspects of the collection.

Chanel's thigh-high boots, either in python or leather, give that sleek modern look to the final finish. Don't forget the larger handbags in black patent leather.

The collection's "little black dress" creates a new image either with a defined waist or a large cashmere sweater look.

For your mysterious evening look, wear lace or satin pajama pants with long embroidered or pin-tucked gowns. Chanel's short dancing dresses, fitted frock-coats and gowns with tulle and satin ribbon flounces are decorated with appliqué crystals, beads and rhinestones.

Legs are slimmer in this fall's jeans

By FRANCINE BIRKEN
Special to The CJN

Hershy Weinberg of Hershy Weinberg Sales in Toronto has been in the clothing business for the past 18 years. Weinberg represents international fashion lines and denim brands.

For the fall, jeans come in darker washes and slimmer leg and boot cuts. Appliqués are featured on back pockets.

Paige Premium Denim makes jeans that really fit a woman. All its jeans styles are standouts, with innovative back-pocket leather treatments. This line has taken Canada by storm and can be found on the shelves at all prominent retailers.

FireTrap is a United Kingdom-based fashion jeans-wear brand with hints of rock 'n' roll, femininity and pure trend. Firetrap has a unique feminine look with a sportswear edge.

The men's FireTrap collection consists of form-fitting denims, bold tees, fine-gauge knit polos, beautifully detailed woven tops and leading-edge outerwear.

The women's FireTrap collection consists of beautiful cottons, knits for those late nights on the town, and sheer sexy wovens for the fashion forward and confident woman.

FireTrap's accessories collection caters to both men and women, and consists of beautiful bags, belts, hats, scarves and ties. FireTrap's footwear is the new step up in fashion and style.

Frankie B. Jeans is a Los Angeles- based denim company that caters to the sexy woman. Frankie B.'s boot-cut and slim-leg fits have beautiful embroidered back pockets and hardware (i.e. metal) detailing on trends and themes of music.

Other lines that Weinberg represents are SuperDry, a European premium cotton T-shirt collection for all seasons; Triple Five Soul – a jeans wear fashion line that caters to men and women of all ages with fashion tops and jackets; and Canada Goose, the leading force in the world of extreme-weather outerwear and now fashion. Baby blue, white, army green and yellow are the prime colours for the Canada Goose bomber jacket. Whether you are exploring the Arctic or exploring the urban landscape Canada Goose has you covered!

Sweater coats are back in style

By FRANCINE BIRKEN
Special to The CJN

Bold prints, cinched waists, leggings, skinny jeans, bulky sweaters and big bows are strong for this fall season. Fabrics are cashmere, mohair, corduroy, velvet, leather and fine wools. Colours that will be seen are smoky greys, camel, taupe, chocolate browns, navy blue, red, plum and mahogany.

This season's sweaters come in oversize shapes and have a feeling of looseness and volume. The hits of fall fashion are sweater coats, which are back in style, and sweater dresses, also back in style. For an elegant look, a sweater dress could be paired with a cashmere coat.

The tulip skirt has made a comeback, yet the classic cigarette skirt that stops at the knee is still considered elegant and classic. But don't put away the miniskirt – it's still a sexy statement.

The belt is back to stay. Sashes, ribbon ties and ties with bows are the hottest new trends. Bring out your 1950s wide leather belt and wear it with a cinched skirt.

Make sure to accessorize with an oversized handbag and layered jewelry.

The exciting news is the return of the leggings.

With all of these wonderful fashions and accessories, complete your outfit with the ankle-length boot or thigh-high boot.

Take a good look through your wardrobe, add what you need and get inspired by all these beautiful fashions. Enjoy this colourful time of year.

Chakra helps manage stress

Continued from page 49

Three years ago, while ministering chakra balancing at the resort spa, she met Jim Chalmers of the Mandela Group, a Canadian book distribution company. He told her that "chakra" was a word heard a lot in his industry. Impressed by his session, he was pleased to find out that Shienfield was working on a book. He paved the way for her kit to be published out of the United States.

The kit, *The Art of Chakra Balancing*, includes a guided mediation CD, a crystal to concentrate on while meditating and healing cards. In addition, there is a companion book called *Balance for Success*. Out since last April, the kit has been distributed around the world. The first printing of 15,000 was bought up by bookstores. Some copies are still available at Chapters, Indigo, at The Briars and online through www.amazon.com or Shienfield's own website: www.balanceforsuccess.com.

Susan Shienfeld shows her client a copy of her book *Balance for Success*.

Out of her publishing success, the doors opened to lecturing, teaching and media appearances for Shienfield.

To book a chakra-balancing session with Shienfield, call The Briars toll free at 1-800-465-2376 or visit www.briars.ca.

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Happy New Year
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Fashion

Being busy is no excuse for neglecting fitness

By ELAINE COHEN
Supplements Co-ordinator

Today's busy career people spend so much time sitting in front of a computer screen that they barely have time to work out.

People are often so consumed with their to-do lists that they invariably put exercise on the back burner.

Fitness guru Alan Pearson, the author of *Fit 4 Work*, a slim, softcover pocketbook, has created exercises for people at work. Now, sedentary jobs are no excuse for poor posture or slacking off fitness routines. By practising these exercises a few times a week for 15 minutes at a desk, participants can improve posture and activate their muscular systems.

Fit 4 Work, a British guide distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books, offers easy ways to stay fit and remain alert at work. The contents include chapters on warming up, general exercise, resistance training, dynamic flex, posture, and mental and visual exercises as well as exercise programs.

In the book, Pearson is cited as a "driving force behind the renowned sports training organization SAQ International." Physiotherapist Kim Chesterfield, director of Therapeutics Ltd., in the book's foreword, writes that the majority of joint and soft-tissue injuries she treats, excluding sports injuries, are either a direct or indirect result of poor posture.

"Most bad postural habits are the result of not sitting properly for long hours at work. Our bodies are designed to move and stretch, so long hours of static, poor posture leads to muscle and joint fatigue, in addition to poor flexibility. These eventually manifest themselves as pain," she says.

In addition to exercise, Pearson advises readers to drink water at regular intervals throughout the working day. Keep a bottle of water at the desk and drink frequently. Unfortunately, coffee and tea are diuretics, so take it easy on these beverages.

To get the most help from *Fit 4 Work*, readers are instructed to do the individual exercises or follow the special daily and weekly programs outlined. Even those who find it difficult to follow directions without the guidance of a teacher will attest to the clarity of the author's explanations, which are accompanied by helpful illustrations.

The book's mental exercises are designed to help stimulate brain functions throughout the day. Practise them before work and at times of mental fatigue to boost performance.

Pearson points out that the work environment makes many demands on a person's eyesight. Workers have to assess different sizes, judge layouts and differences in colour, and often they stare at monitors for long hours without blinking. He recommends some good exercises to avoid eye strain.

Proper breathing is also important. Just before starting the exercises, breathe in, and as you breathe in, bring your tummy in gently. Breathe out, breathe in again, and holding the contraction of your tummy – not your breath – continue to breathe normally. This will improve your posture. Before lunchtime and after work, try to walk as much as possible.

Alternate toe raises are one of the exercises you can do at your desk. The aim of this exercise is to maintain ankle mobility, and it works the calf and shin muscles to promote blood flow. Working one foot at a time, raise your toes up off the floor and toward your shin to a comfortable height while keeping your heel on the floor. In case you are worried you are not doing it right, the author provides a do and don't list. Here he says, "Do maintain the upright posture, relax, control your breathing and develop a rhythm. Don't force the movement or rock in your office chair."

Exercises for hips, arms, shoulders, and knees are also included in the book.

The one thing all 40 exercises have in common is that they are done without leaving the office. True, working out at the office may not prove as exhilarating as a session at the gym, but it's free and instantly accessible.

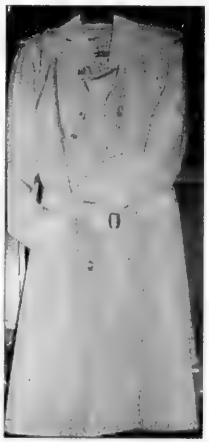
Popularity of the trench coat: influenced by military

By FRANCES GOODMAN PELLATT
Special to The CJN

Along with the proverbial little black dress for women and a dark suit for men, fashionable clothes closets should include a trench coat, which is good for all types of climates and available in sporty, funky and dressy designs.

This versatile outerwear, usually made of heavy cotton, twill or leather, often with a zip-out lining, is practical for all seasons, and especially good for our unpredictable fall and winter weather. It is considered a wardrobe essential for almost everyone.

The original design was a creation of Thomas Burberry as a raincoat for army officers in the early 1900s. It was modified during World War I to include epaulettes, straps and D-rings, and it became part of the service uniform of British officers. Soldiers who wore the long coats in the trenches (trench warfare was a form of war in which both opposing armies had static lines of fortifications dug into the ground, facing each other) began referring to it as a trench coat. By World War II, it became part of the enlisted men's and officers' gear and was adopted by many military forces around the world and worn on the battlefield in cold weather.



Man's grey, double-breasted, belted Trench Coat with epaulettes.
[Fran Goodman Pellatt photo]

The military style waterproof coat, belted and with deep pockets, was an ankle-length 10-button double-breasted garment in tan, khaki, beige or black, with cuff straps on the sleeves and epaulettes on the shoulders. The epaulettes were for holding gloves and folded service caps, and the belt with the brass D-rings was to secure grenades, side arms or swords.

The world of fashion is often influenced by uniforms and work gear, and the military trench coat soon became a popular all-weather garment worn by men and women around the world. The easy-to-wear coat continues to be the "in" thing, especially since characters in movies and on television keep the style in the forefront of fashion with movies such as *Casablanca* and *Roger Rabbit*, and television shows like *Columbo*. Seinfeld followers may remember the hysterical episode called the *Executive Trench Coat*, about a beltless style.

This season, fashionistas of both sexes will be sporting all sorts of trench coat styles, from the classic, single-breasted sash-strap look, to double-breasted ankle-length flowing coats with buckled belts, in fabrics ranging from casual cottons and corduroys to velvets, satins and leathers in a rainbow of colours and lightweight textiles that are perfect for travel across town or across the world.

Today's trench coat designs include short, sporty styles for run-around shopping, as well as funky fashions in iridescent and patterned materials and longer lengths for formal wear, some with wide swinging skirts and cinched waists.

The old-fashioned trench coat has changed with the times, but its popularity remains strong. It has become a stylish and sophisticated easy-to-wear cover up garment suitable for all types of weather, for any occasion and for males and females of all ages.

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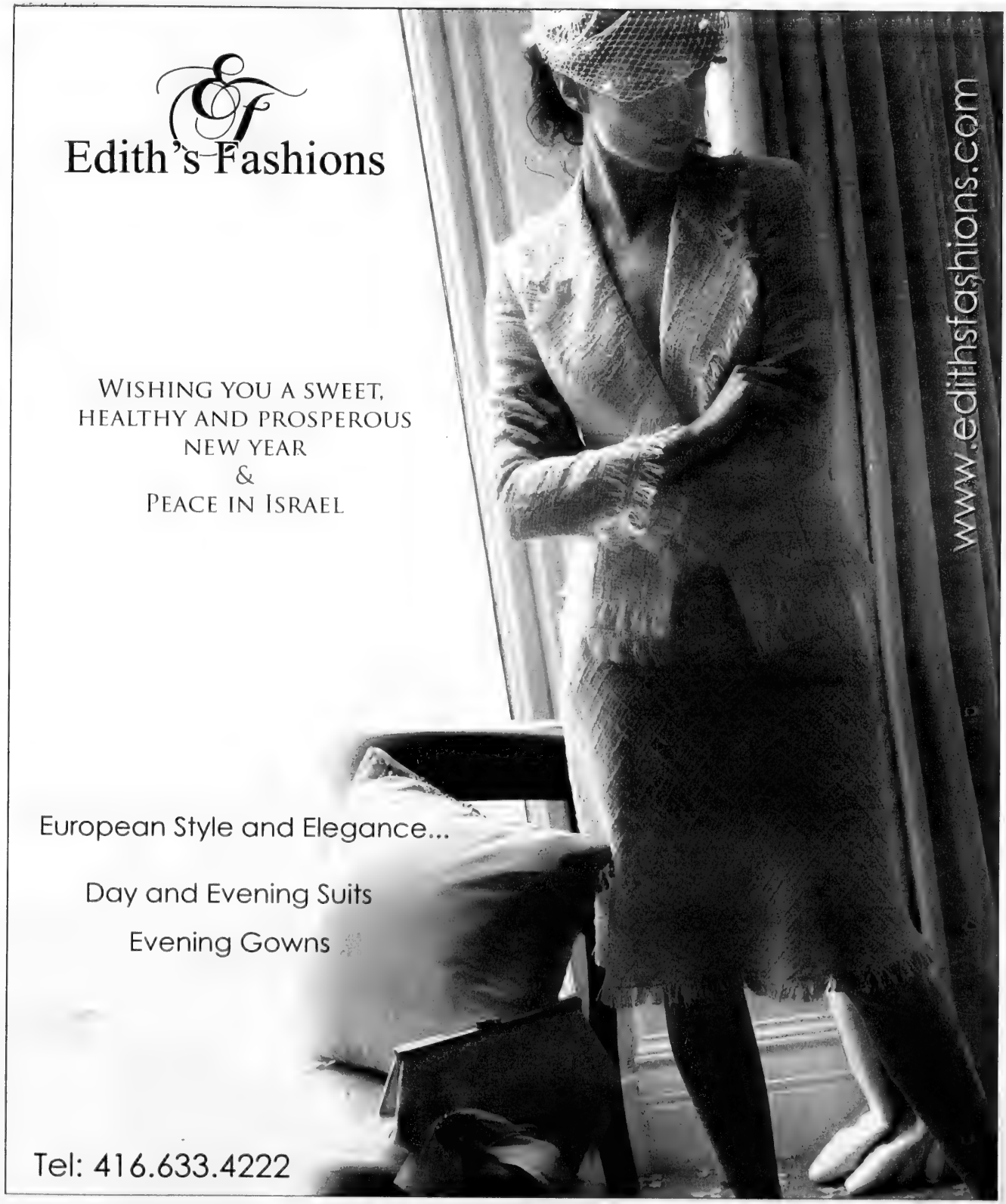
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Coast to Coast

NDP resolution slams Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A New Democratic MP is joining Israel's ambassador to Canada and the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) in slamming the NDP for passing two "emergency resolutions" at its recent convention that are highly critical of Israel.

The legislator, Winnipeg Centre MP Pat Martin, apologized for the party's stance, saying there are many in the NDP "and the left who do not subscribe to these views."

The resolutions at the centre of the controversy focus on Lebanon and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The Lebanon resolution called Israel's response to Hezbollah's kidnapping of two of its soldiers and the killing of others "drastically disproportionate."

It also called Hezbollah, a terrorist organization under Canadian law, "a recognized political party with democratically elected members in Lebanon's parliament," and it places the Shebaa Farms, an area the United Nations has determined is Syrian territory, in Lebanon. (Hezbollah used the pretext of Israeli occupation of Shebaa Farms to justify its attacks against the Jewish state.)

In addition, the resolution calls for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, urges the federal government to "restore balance to Canada's approach in the Middle East" and pushes for more humanitarian relief for Lebanon.

The resolutions, passed at the party's biennial convention in Quebec City earlier this month, "are biased and one-sided," said CIC national chair Marc Gold. "It focuses on the alleged faults of Israel and ignores entirely the circumstances under which it was forced to act and react."

Gold said the resolutions will only serve to marginalize the party. "It saddens me how a militant fringe group within the party hijacked the resolutions to focus on Israel and neglect issues of world wide concern," he said.

Israeli ambassador Alan Baker said he was shocked and disappointed "at the inherent bias" that characterized the resolutions.

"The emergency resolutions are noteworthy for their failure to mention the thousands of Katyusha rockets fired by Hezbollah whose targets were the innocent civilians of northern Israel, nor do they acknowledge Hezbollah's status as a recognized terror organization according to Canadian law," the ambassador said in a news release.

Baker further criticized the New Democrats, saying, "If the NDP is genuinely concerned about violence and the targeting of civilians, their emergency resolutions should reflect the fact that Hezbollah's aims include the destruction of the State of Israel by terrorist means, something they recently attempted to achieve."

Martin, who represents Winnipeg Centre, said he was saddened by the position taken by the party. "I feel I should apologize for both the tone and the content" of the resolutions, he said. There were "many in the NDP and the left who do not subscribe to these views... I think we missed an opportunity to restore some balance to the public perception."

Martin said emotions in the party "are running high. The issue is vulnerable to being hijacked by people strident and intransigent in their views and the aggressive zealots win the day.

"Plenty in our party do no want to be associated with such strident language on the Middle East."

Martin suggested the resolutions will erode Jewish support for the NDP. "As a party, it will be hard to convince the general Jewish public that the NDP has a balanced view," he said.

An NDP spokesperson said the motions were called "emergency resolutions" because they were submitted after an end-of-June deadline for convention resolutions. (The war with Hezbollah began in mid-July.)

And though harsh in their critique of Israel, Martin acknowledged that they could have been worse, saying the resolutions were softened versions of even more strident positions that had been considered in draft proposals.

Among the language dropped from drafts at the convention was a call for an economic boycott of "apartheid" Israel.

A composite document that incorporated elements from seven resolutions proposed by six Ontario riding associations called on the party to support the right of return for all refugees and "a halt to military aid and economic trade with Israel."

The draft document also called on the party to "campaign for an end to the rule of apartheid laws that make Palestinians and Israeli Arabs second- and third-class citizens under occupation."

Martin said "there was a legitimate effort by our foreign affairs critic Alexa McDonough to merge the resolutions and in the process delete some of the more absurdly volatile language in the resolutions... They failed in the task of trying to stay moderate and balanced, where most NDP [members] feel comfortable."

The result is a "public perception that the NDP is anti-Israel, and I feel sick about it."

With files from Janice Arnold

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Winnipeg kashrut head has 20 years experience

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — This city's new rabbinic kashrut administrator has ambitious goals: getting more companies under kashrut supervision and raising local supervisory standards.

Rabbi Mitchell Cohen said he'd like to see the Vaad Ha'ir of Winnipeg almost double the number of its accounts across Canada.

"We would like to have 200 accounts," he said. "We will be attending food trade shows as well as knocking on doors and talking to people about the benefit of having a kashrut certification."

The rabbi, who brings 20 years of experience in kashrut supervision to his new job, said he was attracted to Winnipeg by the challenge of helping a smaller Jewish community improve its kashrut standards. He took up his position Aug. 1.

Rabbi Cohen, 40, was born and raised in Chicago in an Orthodox environment. He received his smichah in 1990 from Hebrew Theological College in Chicago.

He said he began working as a junior field kashrut supervisor for the Chicago Rabbinical Council in 1986 (the CRC is the Chicago equivalent of the Vaad and is the largest kashrut agency in the U.S. Midwest).

"I worked part time for the CRC to help pay my tuition," he said. "The CRC is always looking for junior field supervisors."

During his rabbinical training, Rabbi Cohen also did an internship in a Jewish nursing home. After graduation, his first rabbinical position was director of pastoral care at a seniors home in Chicago, where his responsibilities also included supervising the kitchen and leading prayer services.

In 1995, he became executive director of rabbinical counselling for hospitals and Jewish nursing homes in the Chicago area.

Throughout his time working in nursing homes, he continued to work part time supervising kashrut for the CRC.

In 1998, Rabbi Cohen left Chicago for a pulpit at Congregation Beth Tefilah in London, Ont., which had about 85 member families. "I wanted a change after eight years of working in nursing homes," he said.

He quickly found that being a pulpit rabbi wasn't satisfying for him. "I felt a yearning to be doing kashrut work full time," he said.

In 1999, he became director of kashrut for the Vaad Ha'ir in Ottawa, where he served for five years. For the past two years, Rabbi Cohen has been a private kashrut consultant under the Toronto-based COR hechsher.

He was first interviewed by Winnipeg's Vaad three years ago. "I was the first rabbi interviewed by the Winnipeg Vaad when it started the process of finding a replacement for the now retired rabbinical kashrut supervisor [Rabbi Peretz Weizman]," he said. "The Vaad did its due diligence through an exhaustive search throughout North America in finding the right person for the community."

Rabbi Cohen praised the leadership of the Winnipeg Vaad, which administers the WK hechsher, for its "strong desire to raise local kashrut standards to the national level."

He began working with the Winnipeg Vaad in February on a consulting basis. "Eighty-five per cent of our major commercial accounts have been willing to accommodate themselves to our new standards," he says. "We are working with most of the others to get there, too. Only two or three accounts have refused to work with us."

He notes that he has established a good working relationship with both Winnipeg Lubavitch Chief Rabbi Avraham Altein and the community's Conservative rabbis.

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Winnipeg CJA campaign begins — with drama

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — For the second straight year, Winnipeg's Combined Jewish Appeal chose to kick off its annual campaign with an evening that featured theatre and music at a downtown nightclub – the kind of venue that appeals to young adults.

And this year's event, held on Sept. 7 (the Superweek telethon was Sept. 10 to 14) at the downtown club Alive in the District was a smashing success, with most of the 250 or so attendees being young adults in their 30s and early 40s,

It's a demographic group that's being targeted by the Winnipeg Jewish community's Grow Winnipeg initiative, which aims, in part, to keep young Jews in the city and encourage those who have left to return.

Before Israel's war with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon broke out in July, the CJA campaign goal for this year was $5 million, but because of war damage in northern Israel, Winnipeg has joined other Jewish communities around the world in raising additional funds for reconstruction. Thus far, the community has raised more than $2 million for its Israel Crisis Fund.

The CJA campaign kick-off featured photographer Keith Levitt's new photo exhibit about his recent journey to Ethiopia, where he photographed a group of Jewish families, then documented their aliyah to Israel and their absorption into the Jewish state.

Levitt's story, accompanied by his photos, was told by actor Robb Paterson portraying a photographer named Robert, a former Winnipegger now living in Toronto who made the same trip as the real photograher.

One scene saw Paterson as Robert talking by phone to his mother, Rose (portrayed by Debbie Maslowsky in another part of the room), who filled him in on family simchahs and his contemporaries who have moved back to Winnipeg from larger communities.

Robert tells his mother that he can't come for a bat mitzvah because he is going to Ethiopia and Israel.

Later in the evening, "Robert" delivered a monologue, as if he were addressing a CJA Young Adult Division gathering, in which he spoke in detail, supported by Levitt's photos, about his visit with the Ethiopians and their aliyah.

He described their primitive living conditions in Ethiopia, their preparations for aliyah (including a year-long study program in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital city, to prepare them for life in a modern country), their joyful reunions with family in Israel and the challenges of integrating into Israeli society.

"The kids adapt quickly," he said, "but it is very difficult for middle aged and older adults. Why do they come to Israel? It's because they want their kids to grow up in a safe Jewish environment where they will have a future. Despite the dangers of terrorism, none want to go back to Ethiopia."

He said his last stop in Israel was a school where 150 Jews from Ethiopia had just received law degrees.

Among the other dramatic vignettes was a monologue by actress Mairi Babb as a young Jewish Winnipegger with a good job offer in Calgary who explains that she chose to stay in Winnipeg after going on a community mission to Argentina, the source of 160 new Jewish immigrant families in Winnipeg over the past few years, and becoming impressed with the vitality and caring of her home community.

In her concluding remarks, event chairperson Sandra Secter noted that the evening's collection of dramatic stories were all about Jewish people overcoming obstacles to find homes and help each other. She said Levitt's photo exhibit will be on display at the Asper Jewish Community Campus for the next few months.

Divorce rates, marriage rules

Family Matters
by
John Syrtash
B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Partner, Beard Winter LLP

Q Is it true that the Divorce rate is 50%? Why do so many stay together? Have you yourself ever been divorced? If not, how did you and your wife manage to stay together?

A No. Actually, the divorce rate is only 39% among married Canadians, although people who only live together without actually marrying have a much higher rate of breakup: 70%. Also, in the United States the rate is actually about 50%.

Many attribute the American divorce rate to the moves people have to make across the country to keep their jobs or to find new ones, often leading to significant strains within their marriage. In Canada, our population is concentrated in a few major metropolitan areas, which greatly reduces the need to move in order to keep one's job or to find a new one.

It may well also be that Canada's culture lends itself more towards compromise, which is perhaps the most significant factor in keeping a couple together. People often ask if I am myself divorced, thinking that perhaps the experience will somehow make me wiser or empathetic to my clients. How so? Since when does an oncologist have to undergo chemotherapy in order to better treat his cancer patients? In any event, I am happy to report that, as you read this, my wife Rhonda and I are cruising through the Greek islands in celebration of our 25th wedding anniversary.

No, I have never been divorced. But I am no less empathetic to people who endure this horror. Quite the contrary: after 25 years of solving problems for separating couples, I can often spot quick solutions without confusing my personal battles with those of my clients. Furthermore, giving the lie to the popular stereotype of the divorce lawyer looking to score a huge settlement for his client, a conscientious family law lawyer will always seek the quickest and most amicable solution wherever possible. Even among those family law lawyers who are divorced, I know of very few who confuse personal issues with their legal practices. Twenty-five years have also taught me how to avoid becoming my own client.

In this vein, here are a few tips. If you're looking for absolute equality, sorry to disappoint you, but God gave different rules for the guys and the gals in marriage. If, like me, you've been married for a while, then none of this should be news to you. The rules are ancient and go back to Moses.

Rule #1. Marriage is not equal. *Ladies come first*. If you are smart, chivalry is how you eat, sleep and breathe. The role of husbands is to make their wives happy. Your reward, guys, is a life of bliss. When disagreements arise, *agree with her*; when she speaks, *listen* (don't just hear); *help with everything* (household and children); and *never take her for granted*.

Rule #2. There are no other Rules.

Rhonda and I, and all of us at Beard Winter, wish you and your family a good and healthy New Year.

*John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of **Beard Winter LLP**. Neither Beard Winter LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at 416-306-1733, or e-mailed at jsyrtash@beardwinter.com. You can also visit www.beardwinter.com and www.spousalsupport.com.*

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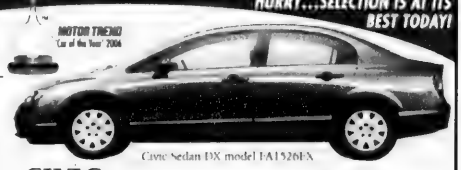

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Coast to Coast

Concordia student in critical condition

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

Dollard des Ormeaux resident Leslie Markofsky, 22, was in very critical but stable condition at Montreal General Hospital earlier this week after suffering two bullet wounds to the head during the shooting spree at Dawson College.

Rabbi Ronnie Cahana of Congregation Beth El in Town of Mount Royal, where Markofsky celebrated his bar mitzvah and where the family still attends High Holy Day services, told *The CJN* that he visited the Markofskys in the hospital and described them as a "close and beautiful family."

A family member who answered the phone at Markofsky's home last week declined to speak to *The CJN*.

He reportedly remains in a deep coma, pending a decision by doctors on whether to try to remove a second bullet from his brain (another has already been removed).

Markofsky is a Concordia University business student who graduated from Dawson last spring. He had reportedly dropped by Dawson last Wednesday to visit friends for a lunch-hour pizza party.

The other members of Markofsky's family are his parents Jeffrey and Ida, and his twin sister Lauren.

Rabbi Cahana said last Friday that he planned to visit the hospital again.

"Please ask all of Israel to pray for him," the rabbi said. "His Hebrew name is Yechiel Lazar ben Ida."

Dawson student Joshua Perl was also injured in the incident, but less seriously.

Despite being shot by gunman Kimveer Gill, Perl felt guilty last week for running away from a fellow student who had been shot in the leg after Perl had heroically tried to shield her a few moments earlier.

Perl didn't even know her full name, but he thinks her first name was Lisa.

In shielding her head with his left arm, and the rest of her partly with a table, the 18-year-old Cote St. Luc resident took a bullet in his left arm near his elbow. It went through his arm and left him bleeding profusely in Dawson's second-floor atrium cafeteria.

Perl said he and the girl appeared to be the only students left in the cafeteria who had not yet moved to the back of the large room to take cover in an area containing a pizzeria.

After he and the girl were shot, he stood up quickly and zigzagged his way to the rear.

Continued on page 58

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Coast to Coast

Second Dawson victim recounts shooting nightmare

Continued from page 57

"He stopped shooting, so I just made a dash for it," he told *The CJN* in an interview last Thursday evening in his Freud Street home. "But I still feel guilty for leaving her. I felt responsible for her."

Perl was the centre of attention for his family – father Mordechai, mother Suzanne, sister Jessica and brother Nathaniel – last Thursday after being released following an overnight stay at east-end Jean Talon Hospital, where he was also questioned by two visiting police officers.

Friends and relatives dropped by his home all day to wish him well. His left arm, from close to his shoulder down to his hand, was bandaged in white, and he said two of his fingers – the pinkie and adjacent one – were numb. He was also prescribed an antibiotic and painkillers.

As it did for all Dawson students, last Wednesday started out routinely for Perl, a social sciences student.

He had missed his first "Introduction to Business" class, his French lab had been cancelled, and he went to the college's cafeteria at around 11:30 a.m. to meet some friends.

He was sitting near the front of the room, and a bit to the left, when he heard a "bang, bang, bang" sound, "like a firecracker."

Perl initially thought it was a prank, but everyone, including him, hit the floor and started to move toward the back of the room. When Perl looked over his left shoulder, he saw the gunman, bending over a table, armed with a "huge gun." Perl estimated that he was, at most, seven metres away.

"I didn't know what the hell was going on. I thought: 'This is like the States. This is crazy.'"

Gill, he said, was swearing, shouting and both firing randomly but also at times taking haphazard aim. The room was a cacophony of students screaming, shattering glass and ricocheting bullets.

Perl said he felt like a "moving target."

According to Perl, at one point, a police officer entered the room, aimed his gun directly at Gill and ordered him to drop his weapon.

Joshua Perl

"[Gill] said: 'I'm not dropping my weapon,' and the policeman turned and left."

Perl and the girl were shot after this, and Perl said he doesn't understand why the police left.

At the hospital, when he told police about the actions of the officer, "they didn't believe it," Perl said. But he said he was confident that surveillance tapes and the investigation by the Sûreté du Québec would confirm his version of events.

After Perl made his way to the back of the room, someone gave him a belt to use as a tourniquet. Once the gunman was dead – Perl estimated that everything happened in 15 minutes from start to finish – the students ran out of the the cafeteria and exited onto de Maisonneuve Boulevard. Perl said he was quickly escorted into an ambulance. He was mostly concerned about his loss of blood, since he was feeling extremely faint.

Meanwhile, friends and family were calling him on his cellphone in the ambulance. Some people he knew saw him on television being placed in an ambulance. Perl's sister, on her way back to Dawson after going to an appointment with her mother, went home. His parents, when they finally got to Jean Talon Hospital, were relieved to see him conscious and talking.

Perl said he had qualms about returning to school this week, but his father said he would be going back.

He said he didn't think he needs counselling.

"I just want to heal up," he said. "But I don't feel safe in that school anymore. I want to meet that girl."

His father said Perl was protected by God.

"It's a miracle nothing serious happened. God's hand was there."

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Coast to Coast

'Oh my God, this is really happening!'

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

Jewish students recall fleeing Dawson shooting scene

MONTREAL — Philip Booth got his first cellphone last Wednesday evening, just hours after the fatal shooting rampage at Dawson College. His parents, who had balked at such a purchase previously, had no qualms this time.

Booth, a 17-year-old health sciences student, was seated in his H-wing English class at Dawson when he heard the sounds of shots coming from de Maisonneuve Boulevard. To Booth, though, the sounds registered more like "metal on metal" than the blunt crack of a firearm.

Reality sunk in quickly, however, when he and his classmates looked out the window, only to see a man wounded in the leg being carried to the south side of the street.

Seconds later, they saw another man collapse on the street, clutching his abdomen.

Within five minutes, "someone" came into the class and told everyone to evacuate immediately.

Booth and the others hurried out the door. They headed toward an emergency exit close to the end of the hallway and then down one flight of stairs to exit on de Maisonneuve near Wood Avenue.

Booth said he never heard any of the shots inside of the school, because his classroom was one floor up and a bit of a distance from the atrium where much of the shooting took place. Nor did he ever see the shooter, who was later identified as Kimveer Gill, a 25-year-old who had been caught up in nihilistic Goth youth culture and had posted images of himself brandishing a weapon on the vampirefreaks.com website.

As he and his classmates were evacuating, Booth shouted to people in other classrooms to get out.

At that moment, he said, reality sunk in. "I thought: 'Oh my God, this is really happening!'"

Booth scampered onto one of the last "Green line" Metro trains that ran through the heart of downtown before part of the line was shut down during the crisis, and he was back in his Monkland Avenue home in Notre Dame de Grâce 45 minutes later.

On the train, he said, people could see him visibly trembling. "They were looking at me and must have been wondering why this guy is shaking so much."

His grandparents were at home when he arrived. His grandfather, Sonny, who hadn't been aware of what was going on downtown, asked him why he was home so early.

The rest of the afternoon, Booth said, he received a "tidal wave" of phone calls from friends and family asking if he was safe.

Booth also left messages with his mother, Sheila Fishman, and father, Billy Booth, at work, as well as with others. "Everyone just wanted to make sure I was all right."

* * *

Orly Fruchter, co-president of Dawson Hillel, was nursing a bad cold in her fifth floor physics class when the shooting incident began.

Fruchter, 19, said she heard absolutely nothing from within the confines of her classroom. But after class, just as she was heading down the stairs for a meeting with her English teacher on the third floor, "a ton of students came running in," she recalled.

At the time, "I didn't even know what was happening," she said.

After being told about the shootings in the building, she joined crowds of students heading down the stairs and out the doors as police, in firm but calm command of the situation, exhorted everyone to get out and keep moving.

"Everything was very efficient," she said. "It took only seven minutes to get all the students out."

Fruchter exited Dawson on Sherbrooke Street at Wood Avenue. Once there, she saw a student who had been shot being treated. She said the students were all "rushed" to Ste. Catherine Street a safe distance away.

Like almost everyone else, Fruchter reached for her cellphone, only to find that the network was down. She wasn't able to reach her parents, Sylvia and Haim, until some 45 minutes later.

Fruchter said she was "pretty calm" throughout the ordeal and never heard actual gunshots since she was inside her class. Had she not been, she said, the acoustics of Dawson would have made the shots much more audible to her.

Fruchter said she's also been relatively calm in the aftermath of the incident, perhaps because she wasn't actually exposed to the shooter.

"I think it's probably going to hit me more when I get back" to school, she said.

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Coast to Coast

Charbonneau out of UNESCO post

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Yvon Charbonneau has been recalled as Canada's ambassador to UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) as of Sept. 22, halfway through his four-year term

The former Montreal Liberal MP's appointment to the Paris-based post by Prime Minister Paul Martin in August 2004 was controversial.

Then-Conservative foreign affairs critic Stockwell Day questioned the appointment because of the former Quebec union leader's strongly anti-Zionist views and remarks about Jews in the past.

Charbonneau, who headed the provincial teachers' federation in the 1970s and '80s, was once denounced as "an enemy of the Jewish people" by then Quebec MNA Herbert Marx. Former prime minister Brian Mulroney later said Charbonneau had spoken of certain prominent Montreal Jews in "a decidedly racist way."

Charbonneau has been critical of Israel in recent years. In a House of Commons speech in 2002, he referred to the "terror campaign waged by Israel" and accused the Sharon government of "turning Israel into a rogue state" for its retaliation against Palestinian suicide bombings.

Charbonneau reportedly commented that his firing from UNESCO, of which he was informed Aug. 31, was politically motivated.

"I was named by Mr. Martin and now there has been a change of government – I think everybody understands," he said. "If it is not politics it would be a professional fault, but there has never been a professional fault brought to my attention. On the contrary, everybody has congratulated me."

Foreign affairs department spokesperson Marie Christine Lilkoff said she could not comment on the matter, except to say that Charbonneau's was a "political appointment"and that it "may be revoked at any time by the government."

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

די ימים נוראים – דער אָנהייב פון נייַעם יאָר

פון אַלעק סילווער

מאָרגן איז ערבֿ ראש השנה. מאָרגן איז אוּונט, און אפֿשר שוין אין שפּעטן נאַכמיטאָג, וועט דער ייִדישער קאַלענדאַר אריינברענגען דאָס נייַע ייִדישע יאָר תשס"ז — 5767. עס איז טייל מאָל שווער צו אָנערקענען ווי שנעל דער זומער איז אַדורך, ווי שנעל דאָס גאַנצע יאָר איז אַדורך, אָן מיר הייבן שוין ווידער אָן מיט ראש השנה — מיט אַ שפֿאָגל ניי יאָר פֿאַרן ייִדישן פֿאָלק. לויט אונדזערע אַלטע מנהגים און טראַדיציעס וועלן ייִדן זיך פֿאַרזאַמלען אין זייערע געבעט־הייזער און מיט זייערע תפילות צום באַשאַפֿער פון דער וועלט וועלן זיי פֿון אים פֿאַרלאַנגען, אַז ער זאָל בעבן אַ גוט, געבענטשט יאָר סיי פֿאַר אַרץ ייִדישן יחיד, סיי פֿאַרן ייִדישן ציבור און סיי פֿאַר דער גאַנצער מענטשהייט בכלל.

דערבּיבער קריגן די ימים נוראים־טעג סיי אַ נאַציאָנאַל־רעליגיעזן אינהאַלט און סיי אַן אינטערנאַציאָנאַלע מאָטיווירונג. די תּפילה, אַז רשעות זאָל פֿאַרשווינדן פֿון דער וועלט און דער מענטש זאָל נעפֿינען וועגן לויט הייליקע, עטישע און גייסטיקע ווערטן ווערט אויסגעטיטשט ווי אַן אינטערנאַציאָנאַלער געבעט פֿאַר דער גאַנצער מענטשהייט. דער ייִד בעט, אַז גאָט זאָל נוצן זיין חסד און רחמים און אַנטשיידן צום גוטן דעם גורל פֿון דער וועלט און פֿון די מענטשן אין קומענדיקן יאָר.

אַבער צום ערשטן קומען די נאַציאָנאַל־רעליגיעזע תפילות, וואָס דער ייִד בעט פֿאַר זיך אַליין, פֿאַר זיין משפּחה, פֿאַר זיין פֿאָלק. ער מאַכט אַ חשבון־הנפש פֿונעם אָפּגאַנגענעם יאָר, וועגן די זינד, וואָס ער איז באַגאַנגען, וויסנדיק און נישט־וויסנדיק, און ער בעט מחילה ביים רבונו של עולם. נאָך דעם קומען אינדיווידועלע תפילות פֿאַר געזונט, פֿרנסה, נחת פֿון קינדער און נאָך אַנדערע, וואָס דער ייִד דאַרף האָבן, כדי דאָס קומענדיקע יאָר זאָל זיין אַ גליקלעך און צופֿרידן יאָר. ספֿעציעלע תפילות וועלן געוויגט ווערן פֿאַר שלום אויבער דער וועלט און בפֿרט אין אונדזער היימלאַנד מדינת ישׂראל.

חיים ליבערמאַן האָט אַמאָל געשריבן די דאָזיקע ווערטער: „ייִדישקייט איז אַן אייביקע ראַנגלערייַ, אַן אייביקער דראַמאַטישער קאַמפּ מיט זיך אַליין. און דער קאַמף פון דעם מענטש מיט זיך אַליין איז דער שווערסטער, וואָס איז דאָ אונטער דער זון. ראש השנה און יום כּיפּור זיינען בּיי ייִדן די טעג, וואָס די העכסטע מענטשלעכע דראַמע דערגרייכט אירע העכסטן פונקט, וואָס דער ייִד ווערט נערוועז צום טיפּסטן און ערלעכסטן חשבון מיט זיין אינערלעכן געפּיל אַז זיין אייגענער מחשבה. דערפֿאַר זיינען עס די דראַמאַטישע טעג, אין שיין פון קינסטלערישן שטאַנדפּונקט אַליין די שענסטע און ערלעכסטע טעג, וואָס זיינען דאָ צו גענפּינען אין קאַלענדאַר פון דער גאַנצער מענטשהייט".

מיר ייִדן האָבן אונדזערע פֿליכטן, פֿאַראַנטוואָרטקייטן לעבקייטן און שוועריקייטן, וואָס מיר טראָגן זיי אויס באהבֿה שוין לאַנגע דורות אַרן מיר פֿאַרליכטן זיך וויייטער זיי אָנצוהאַלטן. אויפֿן שוועל פֿון אַ נייַ יאָר איז יעדער פֿון אונדז באַהערשט מיט אמונה און ביטחון, וואָס גיט אונז כּוח, קראָפט אין אַלע אונדזערע ראַנגלעניש, אין די שווער־געפּרוּפטע צייַטן, אויסצוהאַלטן אַרן אירבערלעבן ביסערע געשעענישן, רדיפות און אַנטיסעמיטיזם, וואָס טרעפֿן אונדז אויפֿן ייִדישן לעבנס־וועג.

מיר וויכטשן אונדזערע לייענער אַרן די ייִדן בכל מקום שתּם אַ גוט, געבענטשט אַרן פֿרידלעך יאָר!

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IN APPRECIATION

Mr. and Mrs. Ben (Simcha Bunim ben Roiza) Meckler and family wish to express heartfelt appreciation to the entire community for their assistance and words of encouragement following Mr. Meckler's injury and continuing rehabilitation. The recovery continues to be a long process, but **Boruch Hashem**, we feel that your **Tefilos** and **Tehilim** recited with us in mind, have contributed greatly to the improvement we have seen to date. IY"H, with your continued prayers, we will experience a **Refuah Shelaima**.

Best wishes for a Kesiva Vechasima Tova.

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Olmert appoints commission on war

By DAN BARON
JTA

JERUSALEM — A month after the Lebanon war ended in a tentative truce, Israel has embarked on a public reckoning.

The cabinet on Sunday approved Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's choice for a commission of inquiry into the 34-day offensive against Hezbollah, which left many Israelis feeling that national security is worse off.

"I very much hope that the panel will complete its work in the near future, as soon as possible, and will assist the State of Israel in better preparing for the challenges that await us," Olmert said.

But Olmert's critics, including hundreds of army reservists who served in Lebanon and accuse his government and the military top brass of incompetence, cried foul.

Headed by retired Supreme Court justice Eliyahu Winograd, the panel also includes two leading jurists and former army generals. It is empowered by law to subpoena witnesses and grant them immunity from prosecution.

Yet that authority is undercut, in many Israelis' eyes, by the fact that the commission was appointed by the very people it might be expected to scrutinize – Olmert and his defence minister, Amir Peretz.

Reservists groups and public watchdogs such as the Movement for Quality Government had called for the Supreme Court to set up an independent probe that could, in theory, cause a major shakeup in Jerusalem.

The Lebanon war cost 157 Israeli lives without delivering the promised definitive victory over Hezbollah.

The Lebanese militia's backers, Syria and Iran, are perceived by many as having been bolstered by their proxy's fortitude against the Middle East's mightiest military.

The Lebanon campaign cost 157 Israeli lives

The government says a quarter of Hezbollah's gunmen were killed and half of its rockets used or destroyed in the fighting.

Many in the Jewish state liken the Lebanon campaign's disappointments to the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when Israeli forces were battered in a surprise attack by Egypt and Syria. After that conflict, an independent commission delivered recommendations that led to the resignation of then-prime minister Golda Meir, her chief of military staff, David Elazar, and another top general.

Olmert has argued that Israel could not afford an independent inquiry, as it would take too long to issue its findings and breed recrimination rather than co-operation in the effort to prepare for future threats.

But it was not clear whether the so-called Winograd Commission would be any more expeditious. Cabinet secretary Yisrael Maimon told reporters that there was "no time frame" for the panel's work.

Protesters gathered outside the Prime Minister's Office marched bearing effigies of Olmert and Peretz on a stretcher. Another group held a sign reading, "Only an ass can't tell the Winograd Commission is a whitewash."

An opposition lawmaker vowed to work for a Knesset majority to set up an independent inquiry, in which case, under law, the Winograd Commission would have to disband.

"Some of the reservists are saying, 'When it comes to investigating some of the events, we won't be co-operating with a commission that was set up by the very government that was such a failure in waging the war,'" Gilad Erdan, a senior member of the Likud party, told Israel Radio.

"The prime minister must prove that his considerations in the execution of the war were relevant, rather than partisan. This cloud of doubt must be dispersed."

Olmert angered many right-wingers during the fighting by saying that he was confident the offensive would strengthen his government's hand in carrying out planned withdrawals from the West Bank. But in the aftermath of the war, the prime minister has had to shelve his vision of unilateral territorial concessions to the Palestinians.

Many Israelis feel especially aggrieved by a final and bloody ground offensive ordered by Olmert after he had agreed, in principle, to the Aug. 14 cease-fire. Thirty-three soldiers died in those two days.

"That was a spin move. It had no substantive security-political goal, only a spin goal. It was meant to supply the missing victory picture," the former chief of staff, Moshe Ya'alon, told *Ha'aretz*.

Campaign launched to expel Iran from UN

By HILARY LEILA KRIEGER
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA) announced last week that it had enlisted Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel and internationally renowned lawyers Irwin Cotler and Alan Dershowitz in its campaign to expel Iran from the United Nations.

The JCPA will be circulating a document at the UN calling for Iran's ouster based on the UN charter, which says member states "that have persistently violated the principles contained in the present charter" can be removed.

The JCPA maintains that Iran has violated the convention against genocide by its threats to Israel and pursuit of nuclear weapons, as well as abrogated the foundational charter's requirement that member countries "refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state."

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has indicated he plans to address the UN General Assembly in the near future, even as the United States considers imposing sanctions for Iran's pursuit of a nuclear program.

"The United Nations was established in the aftermath of the Second World War by member states who were determined to never let the crimes that had just occurred ever happen again," said Dore Gold, president of the JCPA and a former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations. "The UN had a dismal record in the 1990s countering acts of genocide in Rwanda and Bosnia, and therefore we view this call for taking the genocide convention seriously as an opportunity for the UN to redress the errors of the past."

Though expelling a member nation would be highly atypical for the UN, Gold noted that there was precedent for such a step, citing the exclusion of South Africa when it was an apartheid regime.

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NEW PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL'S SUPREME COURT:

Justice Dorit Beinisch was sworn in this week as president of Isael's Supreme Court. She is the first woman to become the head of the Supreme Court in Israel. She replaces Aharon Barak, an often controversial but highly regarded jurist who retires after 28 years on the bench, seen here congratulating Beinisch as she assumes her new responsibilities.

[Israel Sun photo]

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EU: PA unity alone won't open coffers

By HERB KEINON
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — The Hamas-Fatah agreement to form a national unity government is not enough for the Europeans to begin channeling money back into the Palestinian Authority, a senior European diplomat told *the Jerusalem Post* last week, a day before the EU's foreign ministers were to meet in Brussels to discuss the issue.

The diplomat also called on Israel to unilaterally release a large number of Palestinian prisoners to "improve the overall atmosphere" and possibly strengthen the position of the moderates inside the PA.

U.S. President George W. Bush, meanwhile, joined a meeting at the White House between Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and U.S. National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley. No details of the discussion were immediately available, but the Palestinian issue was at the top of the agenda Livni took to Washington.

According to the senior European diplomat, if – as Israel has said - there was to be no linkage between releasing Palestinian prisoners and the release of Cpl. Gilad Shalit, then the prisoners could be released before Shalit was freed in an effort to dramatically change the atmosphere.

"What is needed is a bold move that would force a breakthrough in attitudes and get people to climb down from their trees," he said, adding that such a move would provide Israel with a dramatic "public relations coup."

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told the cabinet earlier this week he had intended to release prisoners before Shalit was kidnapped in June, but that the idea has since been shelved.

Regarding the PA unity government, the European official characterized it as "a gesture in the right direction. It is an acknowledgement that there is a problem, but it is not a true step. It is hot air and mirrors."

Meanwhile, PA cabinet ministers from Hamas handed in their resignations to Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, a step toward forming a unity government, a government official said.

The next step would be Haniyeh's handing in his resignation to PA President Mahmoud Abbas, who would then pick a candidate to form a new government – probably Haniyeh.

The European official said that he had not seen a written text of the proposed unity government's political program, but "there has not been one single indication that any one of the three conditions would be fulfilled, not even a commitment to stop using violence."

The three conditions he referred to were the international community's benchmarks for granting legitimacy to Hamas: renouncing terrorism, recognizing Israel's right to exist and accepting previous agreements.

He said that all the Hamas-Fatah agreement really indicated was that Hamas "is now pretty desperate to get the money flowing from European countries. Some European countries are said to have told the Palestinians that if they go to a unity government the money will start up again, but I don't think that is true."

He said he did not feel the EU would alter its current cold-shoulder policy toward the PA unless there was a "formal commitment and proof on the ground that they will stop all violence, stop brandishing weapons, stop talking about suicide bombings, stop exalting the 72 maidens waiting for the 'martyrs.'"

He also said that he did not believe the EU would accept a national unity government by itself as a breakthrough.

The official's comment came in contrast to remarks made by Hamas officials in the media to the effect that the EU had promised to end its economic sanctions once a unity government was set up. Finland, which holds the rotating presidency of the EU, issued a statement "welcoming" the announcement of the agreement on the formation of a government of national unity and calling it a "positive development." But neither that statement nor any other public EU statement said that the very formation of the unity government would break the EU's economic embargo of the PA.

In the Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, the consensus was that a national unity government would enable the Europeans to meet with PA ministers not affiliated with Hamas, a move that could lead to a European decision to restart the money flow down the road. But senior officials in the ministry said the Europeans would most likely condition the flow of money on a Hamas ceasefire.

Livni, meanwhile, started her week-long visit to the United States with talks aimed at urging that country not to help the new PA government unless it accepted the three international benchmarks.

The United States, according to diplomatic sources, saw eye to eye with Israel on this issue.

While Livni was carrying a message of the Olmert government's willingness to begin high-level talks with Abbas, she will also warn of a possible shift in the world public opinion in favor of talking to the Hamas-led PA.

Speaking to an AIPAC leadership group, Livni said the international community's three benchmarks for granting Hamas legitimacy were not negotiable.

"There is no place for any negotiation about Israel's very right to exist as a homeland for the Jewish people; this is the very basis of our presence here," she said. Regarding the war in Lebanon, she said that one of its outcomes was the realization in the international community that the Iranian threat was real. She said it was clear to the world that Hezbollah was not promoting the interests of the Lebanese, but rather the Iranian interest of opening a front with Israel and "preventing and hampering all efforts to achieve diplomatic progress."

Nathan Guttman in Washington and AP contributed to this report.

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Public opinion as instrument of Arab foreign policy

By BARRY RUBIN

Commentary

To understand what is going on now in the Middle East, and in Western perceptions of the region, it is a revelation to recall the brilliant prophesy made by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara in January 2000.

Shara was discussing Syrian strategy in negotiations with Israel which were about to reach their culmination. A few weeks later, then-president Bill Clinton met then-Syrian president Hafez Assad in Switzerland. Clinton offered Assad the return of all the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Israel. Assad turned him down. A few months after that, Assad died and Bashar Assad replaced his father and has followed a radical course (though often being falsely credited with the opposite) ever since.

Syria and the PLO did not reverse their historic policy of seeking Israel's destruction. What they did do, however, was reverse their rhetoric about that goal. In 1967, Arab states openly declared their refusal to negotiate with Israel, make peace with Israel, or accept its existence. In 1974, the PLO adopted a two-stage strategy: first, get a Palestinian state, and then use it as a base for achieving total victory.

Up to the 1993 Oslo agreement, however, the PLO only paid lip service (though, in dealing with much of the West, even the most minimal fig leaf suffices) to this plan. Arafat moved it into an operational mode, however, but it would be left to Shara to articulate it publicly with the greatest clarity.

In his January 2000 speech to the Syrian Writers' Union, Shara opened on a pessimistic note. After their defeat in the 1967 war the Arabs seemed to be "really cornered and faced with one of two choices. Either we have to accept a peace that is akin to capitulation and surrender, which can never be the peace we want, or we have to reject peace without a solid ground on which to base this rejection."

"Surrender" meant any compromise peace agreement which secured Israel's existence even if it paid for that privilege by giving up the territory captured in 1967 and accepting an independent Palestinian state. Rejecting peace without a solid basis meant just sounding extremist by preaching perpetual war on Israel.

For decades, Arab states had publicly insisted they would never make peace with Israel. After Egypt did so in the late 1970s, every regime tried to prove it was not a traitor like then-Egytian president Anwar Sadat. Then Arafat made a deal in 1994 and Jordan signed a peace treaty thereafter. The old position was not just untenable, it was recognized as a public relations' disaster.

Here is how Shara put it prophetically in 2000, a few days before Syria rejected getting its land back through the peace process:

"If we do not get our land through the peace process, we will win the world and Arab public. For Israel has continued to claim that it is always with peace and that the Arabs are against it. True, the media are directed against us and are in favour of the enemy to a large extent, but it is possible to penetrate these mighty, hostile media… Our strong, solid, and persistent position and the reaffirmation of our constants in a convincing way are bound to have an effect."

In other words, as long as the Arab side explicitly rejects peace, Israel will have the diplomatic and media advantage. What must be done is to say the Arabs were ready for peace, to repeat demands and so, "in a convincing way," persuade the international community that Israel was at fault for the conflict since it rejected these demands.

When Israel did offer almost everything the Arabs sought, new, other issues were found to explain why the Arabs said "no." Such issues include the Palestinian demand that all refugees should return to Israel (where they can sabotage it from within). Then there are always tiny, forgotten pieces of territory as with the Hezbollah claim that Israel is occupying a small piece of Lebanon (Shebaa Farms) which everyone else (including Syria) regards as Syrian territory; or the Syrian demand for Israeli land illegally occupied by Syria in 1948 which would give Damascus a claim on Israel's main water source.

There is always the pretext of prisoners being held by Israel (those who committed the last round of terrorist attacks) or quibbling over language. Has Hamas recognized Israel's right to exist? Well it has, maybe, perhaps, sort of implicitly, hinted, if you read between the lines and ignore what Hamas leaders say in Arabic to the contrary.

"A strong argument is important in the media," said Shara back in 2000. "We only want our land and rights. They are the ones who are exposed now because they want to keep the land."

And so six years after Israel offered to give up all the land it captured in 1967 it is possible to persuade the world that… Israel has not offered to do so. Immediately after Israel withdraws from all the Gaza Strip and proposed large withdrawals from the West Bank, much of the Western media and even governments was convinced that the problem is that Israel is still an occupier.

No wonder Shara concluded, "So, in either case, we will not lose."

With Arab regimes insisting they did want peace – but avoiding any irreversible step in that direction – the world's diplomats beat a path to their door. Even after Arafat and Syria rejected peace in 2000, an Arab leader merely had to say he wanted peace, with whatever subtle qualifications or differences between English-language flexibility for Western ears coupled with Arabic intransigence for the folks at home – and the onus was put on Israel for the failure to make a breakthrough.

It was the diplomatic equivalent of shampoo bottle instructions to repeat application even though rinsing one time was enough. This immediately doubled consumption of the product: a tiny linguistic amendment that made all the difference in the world.

Barry Rubin, a columnist with the Jerusalem Post, is a political analyst based in Jerusalem.

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Postwar Germany ordains first rabbis

By TOBY AXELROD
JTA

BERLIN — For the first time in the postwar era, rabbis are being ordained in Germany.

In a ceremony in Dresden, rabbis Daniel Alter, Tomas Kucera and Malcolm Matitiani received their ordination Sept. 14 from the Abraham Geiger College for the Training of Rabbis for Europe.

Many see the ordinations as part of a postwar resurgence of Judaism in Germany.

The country's Jewish population has more than quadrupled since 1990 thanks to the influx of former Soviet Jews. That led to the building of new synagogues and Jewish schools.

This fall, a new Jewish community centre will open in Munich, symbolizing what many see as a new willingness of Jews in postwar Germany to come out of hiding.

Meanwhile, the need for a seminary is urgent, with about 20 rabbis spread out over more than 80 congregations. In 1999, the Central Council of Jews in Germany lent its support to the Geiger College.

"We urgently need rabbinical leadership," Jan Muehlstein, chair of the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany, told JTA by e-mail. The new rabbis will help "close the gap created by the Shoah, a gap that is painfully evident, even more so today as we lose the last generation of rabbis who personally were connected with prewar Jewish life in Germany."

In 1836, Abraham Geiger, a founder of Reform Judaism, called for the establishment of a Jewish theological department at a German university. This inspired the founding of the Jewish Theological Seminary in Breslau in 1854 and the Higher Institute for Jewish Studies in Berlin in 1870. The Nazis shut down both institutions.

The Abraham Geiger College for the Training of Rabbis for Europe, which opened six years ago, is affiliated with the World Union for Progressive Judaism and is an institute at the University of Potsdam, just outside Berlin.

The ordination is being hosted by the central council and the Jewish community of Dresden. Guests at the New Synagogue in Dresden will include Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called the event a "day of recognition and joy" as well as "a moment of hope that these first rabbis" will be "followed by many more."

The three graduates expressed excitement.

"I am always surprised when people say I am going to be one of the first three," Kucera said in an interview earlier this summer.

The public event pales in comparison to "the new life that is coming for me," said Kucera, 36, who will serve Beth Shalom, a liberal Jewish congregation in Munich.

Kucera left his native Czech Republic in 1989 and earned a doctorate in biochemistry in Germany, followed by a research residency in Nashville. There he "saw the spectrum of Jewish life" and was drawn to it.

He entered Abraham Geiger College in 2002. Kucera's rabbinical dissertation focuses on abortion and the Jewish concept of the soul.

Science and religion go together, he says: "When I was younger, I tried to separate the two."

His greatest immediate challenge will be "just to know all the people" in his congregation, "to listen to their needs. They never had a full-time rabbi."

In the long term, he hopes to learn "how to attract people to the synagogue who somehow identify as Jews but don't come to services," and eventually even to help with matchmaking.

Matitiani, 38, left the kitchen to become a rabbi. Living in Pretoria, South Africa, he had a successful catering business, but he also was teaching bar mitzvah students and leading services at his synagogue. When the congregants needed a rabbi, they asked him to fill in.

Now he will become one of two rabbis at South Africa's largest progressive congregation, Temple Israel of Cape Town, serving some 1,000 families.

"It has been a long road, and it will be nice when I have that piece of paper, that title," he said in an interview at the college this summer. "I was always referred to as a 'student rabbi.'"

"And the congregants will also be happy," added Matitiani, who has shuttled between South Africa and Germany. "They have gone through the process with me. In a sense, I've got an extended family."

The congregation reflects "the rainbow nature of South Africa," he added. "With apartheid over, it's not illegal to cross race boundaries, so we have many conversions and marriages. It's wonderful," said Matitiani, whose dissertation deals with midrashic views on intermarriage.

Alter, 47, was born in Germany -- his parents met at a Displaced Persons camp near Nuremberg. He will move to Oldenburg, where Alter will serve some 330 members. He also will continue to serve a small congregation at Delmenhorst, with about 250 members. In both towns, he has been serving as a student rabbi.

Alter's interest in Judaism was sparked by a sermon of Rabbi Eli Seidmann, a former U.S. Army chaplain in Germany. The theme was "Keep your eye on the ball!" Alter recalled.

"The whole sermon was built on this baseball term. And I was a huge sports fan," he said. The sermon "made it clear to me what was missing from my life," said Alter, whose family was "not very religious."

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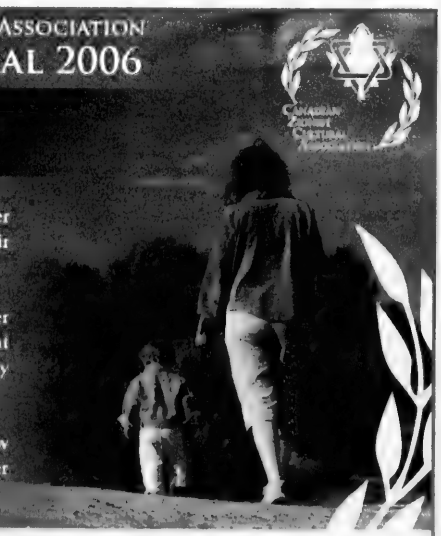

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Israel Briefs

Arab MKs praise Hezbollah

On a visit to Beirut, three Arab members of Israel's Knesset praised Hezbollah's "resistance" to Israel. The three MKs told Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora that Hezbollah had "lifted the spirit of the Arab people," the *Jerusalem Post* reported – despite the fact Hezbollah missiles killed a disproportionately high number of Israeli Arabs during this summer's war. On a prior stop in Syria, Balad Party MKs Azmi Bishara, Jamal Zahalka and Wasal Taha claimed that Israel was likely to attack Syria. Some Israeli legislators say the trio's visit is treasonous, while commentators noted it contributes to suspicions that Israeli Arabs are a fifth column. Attorney General Menachem Mazuz had opened an investigation.

Maps blamed for strike

Israeli officials said the bombing of a UN post in southern Lebanon this summer – in which four UN peacekeepers were killed, including one Canadian – was caused by faulty maps. The Israeli Air Force hit a UN outpost in a July 26 strike in Lebanon, drawing harsh criticism from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who accused Israel of deliberately targeting UN forces. An Israeli report said the strike was aimed at a Hezbollah outpost some 150 metres from the UN base but that incorrectly marked maps led to the mishap, *Ha'aretz* reported. The United Nations is reportedly conducting its own investigation.

Lebanon to sue Israel

Lebanon is planning to sue Israel over an oil spill that occurred during the Israel-Hezbollah war. Israel's Army Radio reported that the suit would be filed at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Lebanon's environment minister said Israeli airstrikes caused the spill.

Olmert spoke to Indonesia

Ehud Olmert told the heads of a U.S. Jewish group visiting Israel that he had direct contact with Indonesian leaders during Israel's Lebanon war. Olmert said Indonesian leaders contacted Israel during the war. He did not divulge details of the conversation, but Israel subsequently dropped objections to Indonesian participation in a peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon. Israel has no formal relations with the world's most populous Muslim nation, but ties have warmed in recent years, and Israel delivered aid during the 2004 tsunami.

Amnesty raps Hezbollah

Amnesty International said Hezbollah's rocket attacks on Israel were war crimes. The London-based human rights group issued a 15-page report detailing the damage caused by some 4,000 rockets fired into Israel by the Lebanese militia during the recent war. "The scale of Hezbollah's attacks on Israeli cities, towns and villages, the indiscriminate nature of the weapons used and statements from the leadership confirming their intent to target civilians make it all too clear that Hezbollah violated the laws of war," Amnesty's secretary-general, Irene Khan, wrote.

Israeli schools fail

The Israeli school system ranks among the worst in the developed world in several categories, a new study found. "Education at a Glance 2006," published by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, found that Israeli teachers earn the fourth-lowest salaries, Israeli classrooms are among the most crowded and the average number of years Israeli schoolchildren go to school is among the lowest of the 32 OECD member and partner states surveyed between 1995 and 2004.

Shalit alive, in Gaza: IDF

A senior IDF official said last week that kidnapped soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit was being kept in the Gaza Strip and was in Hamas hands. The official speculated that Shalit had transformed from an asset to a burden, both on the Palestinian people and on the Hamas leadership, and therefore the group was interested in ending the affair. The official also emphasized that Khaled Meshaal, the Damascus-based head of Hamas, has the final word on the issue.

–JTA and Jerusalem Post

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Orthopedic surgery chair launched at Sunnybrook

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Dr. Marvin Tile regarded as an international leader in the field

Dr. Marvin Tile, the recently retired head of orthopedic surgery at Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital, has been honoured by the establishment of the Dr. Marvin Tile Chair in Orthopedic Surgery.

Tile, regarded as an international leader in the field of orthopedic surgery, has held many positions at the hospital. He founded the trauma program there and was the board chair of the Sunnybrook Foundation.

Dr. Marvin Tile

The co-founder of the Tile chair is the University of Toronto, where Tile served as a faculty member for many years. Dr. Hans Kreder currently holds the chair.

The chair was endowed by former patients of Tile and with grants from the Orthopaedic and Arthritic Foundation and the Hansjorg Wyss Foundation. Interest from the fund will be used to support academic activities such as the recruitment and retention of internationally competitive clinicians, clinician researchers and scientists to foster advances in orthopedic surgery.

Tile has served as a professor in the department of surgery at the University of Toronto faculty of medicine, founding president and then president of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association, president of the International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine, and president of the AO Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the care of patients with musculoskeletal injuries based in Davos, Switzerland.

Although Tile is officially retired, he retains the positions of consultant orthopedic surgeon at Sunnybrook, professor of surgery at U of T, head of the governing council of the Sunnybrook Foundation, editor-in-chief of *AO Dialogue* in Zurich, and consultant to Ontario's Workerplace Safety and Insurance Tribunal.

Toronto-born, Tile is a graduate of the University of Toronto School of Medicine and has spent nearly his whole professional life at Sunnybrook Medical Centre. One of his proudest accomplishments is the establishment of the trauma unit at the hospital, which treats those with injuries caused by accidents. Since it opened in 1976, the unit's caseload has grown from 70 to 1,000.

Tile has helped develop similar trauma units in Israel, at Hadassah, Seroka, Rambam and Tel Hashomer hospitals. These centres help car accident victims as well as victims of terrorism.

Tile has lectured and taught in many countries, including Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Chile and Argentina.

His wife, Esther, has a large family in Israel, and they visit there often. This also gives them a chance to renew acquaintances with some of the medical researchers and clinicians who have worked with Tile at Sunnybrook.

His activities since his retirement are not entirely in the medical field. In fact, he has recently become the chair of the Holy Blossom Temple Foundation, succeeding Judy Nyman.

Tile's wife was the first of the family to become active at the synagogue. They and their four sons celebrated their life-cycle events there, and the family gradually became increasingly active at the temple.

"[Holy Blossom's Senior] Rabbi John Moscowitz started to put me on committees," Tile said, and when Nyman decided she could no longer chair the foundation, he was asked to take over.

Tile said the temple needs to raise a good deal of money, and so, together with the temple's board, he is "trying to organize the effort along effective philanthropic lines." Among his ideas are a planned giving program, "a renewal of the spirit of giving," as he put it.

Esther has been an important part of the Out of the Cold program at the temple, as well as the Mazon program.

This month marks Holy Blossom's 150th anniversary, and a wide variety of programs are planned, including the donation of a new sefer Torah next May. Celebrations will kick off with a special service in the sanctuary, followed by an outdoor festival. There will be speakers, musical and social events, historical exhibits and an anniversary concert at Roy Thomson Hall featuring the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Both Tiles will take an active part in the proceedings.

Tile said he is fascinated by the evolution of the synagogue, from a yeshiva-like institution to the centre of Jewish life.

"Some like a shtiebl," he mused. "I like it to be big – you can contribute so much."

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Thriller questions modern anti-terror methods

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Mon Colonel, a taut French political thriller launched at this year's Toronto International Film Festival, is set in Algeria 50 years ago, but it brings to mind jarring contemporary events, particularly the western counter-insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan and the related war on terrorism.

Directed with panache by Laurent Herbiet, this gritty film turns on the counter-insurgency waged by the French army in Algeria in the 1950s, but the pointed questions it raises are really about the here and now.

The film opens with a literal bang.

Raoul Duplan, a retired colonel who fought the Algerian rebels in their war of independence, is gunned down in cold blood in his home by an unknown assassin.

The killer sends the police the diary of Guy Rossi, a young, earnest lieutenant who served under Duplan and disappeared under mysterious circumstances.

The diary is an account of Rossi's wrenching experiences in Algeria, a French colony since the 1830s, and his reactions to the guerrilla war that engaged France for about a decade.

Mon Colonel, filmed on location in Algeria, swings back and forth between the present and the past.

Rossi (played by Robinson Stevenin), a 23-year-old law student with vaguely leftish views, is torn between his loyalty to France and his obeisance to the rule of law as he participates in "pacification" operations aimed at breaking the back of the rebel uprising.

When the colonel (Olivier Gourmet), a tough-as-nails, no-nonsense soldier, tries to manipulate him into providing a legal justification for his questionable methods against them, Rossi recoils in horror.

The film, which is never less than absorbing, impels a viewer to consider issues ranging from torture to civil liberties in the wider context of terrorism.

Olivier Gourmet, left, and Robinson Stevenin in *Mon Colonel*.

Reminiscent of *The Battle of Algiers* in terms of its contents, intensity and superb performances, *Mon Colonel* is an intelligent, thought-provoking film bound to trigger debate about the current Muslim insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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Arts & Travel

Israeli director of *Sweet Mud* strikes gold

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Dror Shaul, the Israeli director and scriptwriter of *Sweet Mud*, had a fine time at this year's Toronto International Film Festival.

The buzz for his gentle coming-of-age movie was encouraging and journalists sought him out.

But the best was yet to come. Last week, *Sweet Mud*, nominated for 10 Israeli Academy Awards, won in four categories: best picture, music, art and sound.

The film, which had its North American première at the festival, is scheduled to open in Israel later this year.

Set on a kibbutz in the 1970s and turning on a sensitive boy's poignant relationship with his mentally unstable mother, it is extremely close to Shaul's heart. As he put it, "It's not an entirely true story, but it is true that the film emerged from the same land in which my childhood memories are now buried."

Shaul, 35, was born and raised in Kibbutz Kissufim, which is adjacent to the Gaza Strip. "It's a really hot spot today, what with all the bombs and stuff," he said, referring to the Qassam rockets that Palestinian militants in Gaza have fired at Israeli settlements along the border since 2001.

When Shaul was a lad, Gaza was reasonably quiet and life on the kibbutz could be carefree.

"It was fantastic," he said in an interview. "There was a sense of community. There were open fields and amazing views. There was a feeling of pride in our accomplishments and, as kibbutzniks, in being 'the chosen people.'"

But there was a dark side as well.

Kibbutz ideology was based on the principles of equality and mutual assistance, and members could contribute as much as possible and receive as much as they required.

Director Dror Shaul directs two young actors in *Sweet Mud*.

Yet, as Shaul noted, the kibbutz was closed, bound by rigid rules and could be spiritually suffocating to weaker members.

Shaul's unstable and sometimes mentally ill mother was one such person, and he has yet to forgive the kibbutz for treating her unjustly.

Still, it took him years to pluck up the courage to write a screenplay. Although the script is basically faithful to the facts, Shaul took some artistic liberties.

"It's not entirely accurate in terms of sequence of events, nor does it take place in one year or on one kibbutz," he said.

But in all other respects, the film is factual.

Shaul's mother, who was originally from Tel Aviv, was certifiably unstable. "She had her ups and downs," he said. And as in *Sweet Mud*, she had a long-distance romance with a Swiss gentile.

Her husband, who died before Shaul was born, was an American from New York City, and was related to Yisrael Gallili, an influential cabinet minister and confidant of Zionist icon Golda Meir.

Shaul shot the film, with a $1.8 million (US) budget, over a 33-day period, using three different kibbutzim as locales.

"Making it was a long and exhaustive process. I wanted to make a film about the longing for warmth and emotions."

He conducted a meticulous, sometimes frustrating search for the lead actor, Tomer Steinhof, who portrays the boy and anchors the film on firm ground.

"I saw 1,800 kids before meeting Tomer. I thought he didn't have the 'look' of the character, but I fell in love with him. He could bring up emotions, and he was brilliant."

Shaul, who normally earns a living as a director of television commercials, left the kibbutz in 1990 after finishing his tour of military duty as a paratrooper. He left over a dispute concerning a job assignment. The kibbutz wanted to shift him to the orchard, but he preferred driving a cotton-picking machine.

By that juncture, he was already disillusioned with the kibbutz, which has since become a moshav.

"The idea of equality didn't work. It never really existed," said Shaul, who has since returned on brief visits. "The weak are the weak and the strong are the strong."

After leaving the kibbutz, he landed a position as a production assistant in the film industry. In 1999, he wrote and directed his first short, *Operation Grandma*, a comedy.

Shaul's first feature film, *Sima Vaknin, Witch*, was released in 2003.

Today, he is working on a new film, but would rather not talk about it at this early stage.

But after his triumph at the Israeli Oscars last week, Shaul's prospects certainly seem much brighter.

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Memoir recalls 10-year-old's experience in WWII

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

When Kitty Wintrob enrolled in a creative writing workshop with her daughter some 20 years ago, she didn't imagine she would end up writing a full-length memoir.

After receiving enthusiastic praise in the workshop for her writing, Wintrob enrolled in a second workshop, then a third. She ultimately kept taking one workshop after another for more than a decade until her memoir was finished.

For various reasons, the completed manuscript lay in a drawer for years until recently, when her husband and daughter had it published privately as a birthday surprise for her.

Titled *I'm Not Going Back*, the 132-page book tells the story of Wintrob's experiences as a 10-year-old girl in London's Jewish East End during World War II. Evacuated to a cold and loveless foster home in the countryside, she sneaks back to her mother in London and refuses to leave her side even as the German bombing intensifies.

I'm Not Going Back is not just a story for girls. It's a gripping and well-balanced tale told from the heart and written with maturity and sensitivity.

Wintrob composed most of it on a typewriter at her kitchen table, splashing each page with memorable personalities, concrete images and tactile sensations. Her writing style allows for easy visualization, which seems especially noteworthy for someone who lost her eyesight years ago through macular degeneration.

Wintrob generally gives careful thought to each day's intended composition before sitting down at the computer that she now uses instead of a typewriter. "I spend a few hours at night, thinking about what I want to write, and in the morning I more or less know," she said. "I very seldom revise."

A couple of publishers expressed interest in the memoir but asked for changes that she felt would damage the fabric of the tale. In the meantime, buoyed by the favourable reception she's received from friends, she's been writing more stories, including one that is ostensibly a sequel to the one just published.

I'm Not Going Back ends with the girl and her mother being forced by an air-raid siren to the shelter of St. Paul's tube station with hordes of other displaced residents, as bombs begin to fall. The closing sentence reads, "By the time we got to our places at St. Paul's, I knew that one thing was for sure: from now on until the end of the bombing, this platform would be our bed."

The sequel begins the following morning, after a harrowing night of bombs raining down on the city. "Everything outside was burning, and we had to walk home because there was no transportation," she recalls. "We walked right through the city of London, through the Bank, Aldgate, High Street, right down Whitechapel Road to Brick Lane, right down Brick Lane to my street, and right down my street. A lot of the houses on the street were destroyed."

Having received an indirect hit, her family home was badly damaged. "The great fire of London" is how Wintrob refers to the event, which occurred in 1941. Amidst the rubble she recalls finding two delicate figurines, a bride and bridegroom from a wedding-cake, that once stood atop her piano.

Wintrob has visited Eitz Chaim Day Schools and other schools where, with the help of an instructor or friend, her memoir was read aloud. Afterward, she answered the children's questions. The reception is always enthusiastic, so much so that Wintrob said it has inspired her back into a regular writing routine.

A school secretary in postwar London, she decided to try living in Canada for two years, during which she worked briefly for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Toronto. What ultimately persuaded her to return here was her blooming relationship with Ralph Wintrob, then a CBC newswriter in Toronto, whom she married in 1959.

Now a retired teacher, Ralph Wintrob is active in the city's arts community and often lectures on Jewish literary subjects. Their daughter Suzanne Wintrob is also involved in the literary world, being a professional writer and editor.

While *I'm Not Going Back* is not yet available commercially, it's probably only a matter of time before a smart publisher grabs the rights and gets it into print.

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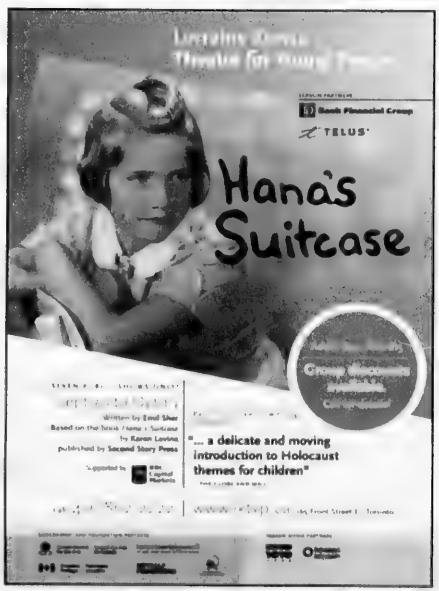

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Arts & Travel

Canadian actor starred in Russian prison drama

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

There's one awards show you likely missed this year. *The Monte Carlo Television Awards*, a prestigious Emmy-style awards show that recognizes the best in TV from all over the world, isn't shown in Canada, so here's a little recap.

In the award for best actor in a drama the nominees were Kiefer Sutherland from *24*, Matthew Fox from *Lost* and Adam Tsekhman from *Zola*. The first two names should sound familiar, but the last?

Only in Russia, where Tsekhman played an American who was wrongly imprisoned for raping a young girl, on that country's most popular TV show, would his name be familiar. To people in North America, Tsekhman is a Winnipeg-born actor who recently graduated from Columbia in New York and is currently looking for work like so many other performers. But unlike his fellow actors, Tsekhman can say he lost to Kiefer Sutherland at a major European awards show.

Adam Tsekhman

"Getting nominated was amazing, but it was really wonderful to be in that environment for five or six days," says Tsekhman on the phone from New York. "The [Monaco] royal family puts money into the festival, so [as a nominee] I got to the royal palace, I got to meet Prince Albert. It was six days of being in a dream world."

Zola, a prison drama, was not only critically acclaimed but it also sparked a major controversy that ended with two real-life inmates almost killing themselves.

"The producers were getting letters from prison guards around Russia saying their representation of them was too harsh, that they don't treat prisoners harshly, and maybe they should sit in prisons and see how it is.

"Eventually the show was moved," he says. "It was the most popular drama on TV, on every night between eight and nine, but it became an issue and the government, who owns the TV station, moved it to 11:30 at night. Prisoners weren't allowed to watch it [that late], so 17 inmates cut themselves with razors in protest." After 50 episodes the show was cancelled.

Working on Zola was challenging, says Tsekhman, whose lines were almost always in Russian. He had to balance going to school at Columbia and filming in Moscow. "Filming depended on when I was there. During those times when I came, we had to maximize our time, because they understood I had to get back to New York."

Tsekhman's life didn't always involve awards shows and regular trips to Moscow. Until he turned 23, this Wharton School of Business graduate was set to go into finance. "I liked finance, I still like it," he says, "but as I was taking classes there I was turned off by the menacing desire to get investment banking jobs that require you to sell your soul. I have friends in New York who work 90 to 100 hours a week. It's not a lifestyle that I looked forward to. As I discovered theatre, it suddenly opened up this new world to me."

His first legitimate foray into acting was pretty atypical – he joined an Orthodox theatre group whose mission was to get Orthodox kids into acting. Tsekhman, who isn't Orthodox, decided to try out anyway and landed a main role by default. "It eventually came down to the fact that the lead actor in the show needed to kiss a girl, and none of the other actors could do it because they were all *shomer negiah*, so I said I'll do it. I'm not sure why they chose that play, but they did and they had to stay faithful."

Tsekhman quickly fell in love with acting and knew it was his calling. However, after he graduated from Wharton he landed a job with an investment bank in Los Angeles and was faced with a major decision.

"Friends of mine told me I should take the job," says Tsekhman. "I'll be in L.A., and that's where the film and TV industry is. Well, I turned down the job, came back to Toronto and tried to get into the industry. I did one theatre show in Toronto at this small community theatre in the Beaches, and then I realized that I needed to train. I wasn't aware of the classics, and really, nothing about theatre, so I wanted to learn."

That's how he ended up at Columbia. The adjustment from the business world to life as an acting student wasn't easy though. "I was sort of the outsider," he says. "Most people had done theatre in undergrad and had significant experience in New York. I was the guy who asked the dumb questions in class. It was hard for me initially because I really felt sort of lost, but it was important. I pushed myself not to be afraid to ask those questions and clarify things. The most difficult was the cultural differences between theatre and business school. Within a month at theatre school, you can really see other people's vulnerability."

Now, armed with degrees in business and acting and an award nomination under his belt, Tsekhman feels ready to tackle Los Angeles. He's not naive though – he knows it's going to be tough.

"Everybody in L.A. is an actor or a producer or a writer. Everyone's in the industry. It's totally daunting, but I try not to think about it, because if you think about it, it's too scary."

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

LIEL, 17-YEAR-OLD ISRAELI SINGING SENSATION, TO GIVE CONCERT HERE

Born on a kibbutz in the Galilee, the beautiful Israeli singer **Liel** made her show-business debut at the age of 11 and won a number of talent contests. At 14, she sang at the 80th birthday party of now-Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and invited one notable attendee – former U.S. president Bill Clinton – to sing with her. Clinton obliged and the image of them singing together was carried via CNN around the world. She's also sung with **Elton John**, **Richard Gere**, **Bono** and German rockers **Scorpions**.

Now 17, Liel has a large following in Europe, where sales of her recently released CD *Unison* are especially strong. She sings in five languages, plays guitar and composes her own music. (Sample her music at the website www.Liel.net.)

Liel sang a few numbers at a UJA Federation of Greater Toronto function this summer and will return here soon to give a full concert in aid of the Israeli-based Save A Child's Heart Foundation.

Located in the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, near Tel Aviv, Save A Child's Heart arranges about 200 corrective surgeries annually for children with congenital abnormalities of the heart. The Canadian branch of the foundation was established by Ephraim Diamond, formerly of the Cadillac-Fairview Corp.

Organizers hope Liel will help raise about $80,000 for the foundation. Her concert is Nov. 11 at the Toronto Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are $100 (includes reception), $50, $40 and $25 (students with ID). Contact Ticketmaster, 416-872-1111, or www.ticketmaster.ca. To become a foundation volunteer, call Judy Sikos, 416-324-9113.

* * *

Israeli Specialist in Canadian Lit: Israeli college instructor **Danielle Schaub** began a cross-Canada promotional tour last week for her new book, *Reading Writers Reading*, which features her photographs of more than 160 Canadian authors, accompanied by brief texts about reading from the authors themselves.

Margaret Atwood

Featured scribes include **Margaret Atwood**, **Mavis Gallant**, **Nancy Huston**, **Alistair MacLeod**, **Yann Martel** and **Josef Skvorecky**. Schaub has met many of them, even befriended some, through regular attendance at the annual Eden Mills Writing Festival and other Canadian literary events.

Schaub, who teaches Canadian literature at Oranim College near Haifa, was in town Sept. 12 for a book launch at David Mirvish Books. Many themes in Canadian literature touch her deeply, she told *The CJN*, because they focus on "issues dealing with identity and belonging, community, nation, multicultural and multilingual heritage – all of these are things that we wandering Jews have in common."

At her students' request, she began photographing Canadian writers five years ago. "[They] were frustrated with the tiny book-jacket photos of the authors they were reading, and they said, 'We want to know the writers we're studying,'" she said.

Her regular e-mail correspondence with Canadian writers "helped me keep reality at bay" during the recent war with Hezbollah, as deadly missiles dropped in and around Haifa. "Even when I was going in and out of the shelter, [the writers] were asking me how I was. They were very helpful and it was very therapeutic."

Born in the Sultanate of Brunei, Schaub has lived in Venezuela, Belgium, England and other countries. Her month-long tour of Canada also takes in Vancouver, Victoria, Montreal, Halifax, Sackville, N.B., Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary.

Reading Writers Reading was published by the University of Alberta Press in collaboration with Hebrew University and Magnes Press. For a preview of Schaub's photographs, see her website, http://web.mac.com/danielleschaub/iWeb/Site/Welcome.html

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The fall series of Broadway Melody Singalongs (12 sessions) with **Allan Price** begins this week at Holy Trinity Church, Thornhill. The focus at each two-hour Monday evening session is on Broadway, movies and popular songs. "Sense of fun" required. $210 (10 per cent discount for seniors or couples.) 416-222-0895. www.broadwaymelody.ca

• **Samba Squad** celebrates the release of its CD *Batuque* with a concert and screening of a documentary film about the band. Mod Club, 722 College St. W. Sept. 20, 9:30 p.m.

• More than 40 original artworks from Canada's most renowned book illustrators are being auctioned in support of the Canadian Children's Book Centre. The event is hosted by the CBC's **Michael Enright** and features readings from **Dennis Lee**, **Karen Levine** and others. Tickets $150. Four Seasons Hotel, Regency Ballroom, 21 Avenue Rd. Tuesday, Sept. 26. Reception and viewing, 6:30 p.m. Live and silent auction, 7:15 p.m. 416-975-0010, info@bookcentre.ca. View the artwork at www.bookcentre.ca/artauction.

• Singer **David Wall** and pianist **Marilyn Lerner** perform *Kol Nidrei* and other appropriate musical selections at a secular humanistic Yom Kippur ceremony. $30-$18. Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Sunday, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. Reservations recommended. 416-789-5502, e-mail mws@on.aibn.com. website, www. winchevskycentre.org

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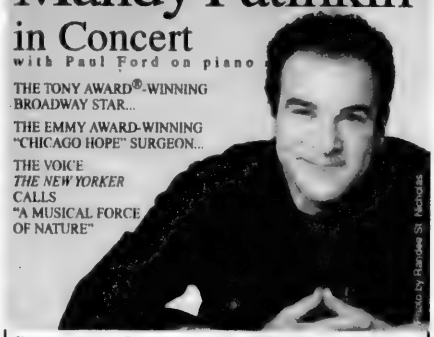
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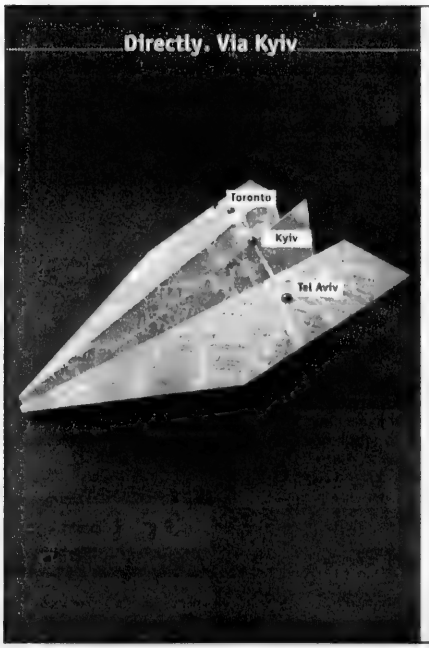

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Rhode Island boasts the oldest synagogue in continental USA

By WILF GEROFSKY
Special to The CJN

The Touro Synagogue in Rhode Island

NEWPORT, R.I. — George Washington hopefully never slept there. But he did visit the Touro Synagogue along with his secretary of state, Thomas Jefferson, on Aug. 15, 1790. While there, he received the congratulations of the congregation for his military success in the Revolutionary War and his subsequent election as the first president of the new republic.

In a handwritten letter to the congregation, he addressed "his fellow citizens of the stock of Abraham," saying his government would "give to bigotry no sanction, to persecution, no assistance." Many feel that this statement laid the groundwork for freedom of religion in the United States. Washington's letter is read aloud once each year to the congregation.

Newport, R.I., was a busy, prosperous port when Aaron Lopez settled there in 1752 at the age of 21. He emigrated from Lisbon and joined a growing community of Portuguese Jews who had come there as early as 1650, after seeking refuge in Recife, Brazil, and Curacao.

Lopez established the sperm-oil industry in the United States and built his own fleet of whaling ships and merchantmen, which sailed the Atlantic searching for whales. An early map of Newport shows Lopez's wharf in the middle of the harbour area.

In 1759, Lopez helped build the oldest existing synagogue in continental United States. It has been used as a place of Jewish worship since then. The building is a gem of colonial architecture, of Georgian design, and recent renovation has restored the interior Ionic and Corinthian columns, the five handsome brass chandeliers and the magnificent Ark to their original pristine elegance.

When we visited Newport recently, we took a tour of the building and were lucky to have the rabbi himself show a small group of us around and answer our questions about its history.

The building is set diagonally on its lot so that worshippers could face east while still facing the Ark. It continues to be used for services, and while it was originally Sephardi, the present congregation is mainly Orthodox Ashkenazi. Many bnei mitzvahs and weddings are held there. The beauty, history and tradition of this place add a very special beauty to these events.

We were shown the "seat of honour," where Washington and Jefferson sat during their visit. A Torah scroll dating back to 1495 rests in the Ark, and there is a hidden escape hatch leading to a tunnel out of the building. These early Jews still remembered the horrors of the inquisition and weren't taking any chances.

There are lots of other good reasons to visit Rhode Island. It's easily accessible via I-95, close to Cape Cod and Boston, and its capital city, Providence, is a treasure house of colonial architecture.

Newport was the summer playground of the fabulously wealthy robber barons of the late 19th century, the place where they established their great rambling stone "cottages." Many of these like The Breakers, the vacation home of the Vanderbilt family, are open to visitors, and the fact that the original furniture, draperies and kitchen utensils are still there makes a tour of at least one of these splendid mansions a must. And of course Newport is the home of a famous jazz festival and for years was the site of the America's Cup yacht race.

But even with all its other sterling attractions, its historic harbour and its fine restaurants with ocean views, the one that alone would make the trip to Newport, R.I., worthwhile is a visit to the lovely old Touro Synagogue.

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Novel explores 'trans-generational trauma' in survivors

The House on Lippincott **by Bonnie Burstow, Inanna Publications.**

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Bonnie Burstow had been thinking about writing a non-fiction book about "trans-generational trauma in Holocaust survivor families," but then decided to handle the subject as a novel instead.

"I wanted something that would appeal to a broader audience than Jews and psychologists," explains the 61-year-old psychotherapist and instructor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE).

Bonnie Burstow

Burstow's first novel, *The House on Lippincott*, presents a family story that focuses on a Holocaust-survivor couple and their three daughters in postwar Toronto.

Most of the action is set in the house in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood that gives the story its title. "The house ends up being so significant to the novel that it's almost a character in itself," Burstow said.

However, as in most survivor families, enduring nightmares and flashbacks from the Holocaust dominate the Himmelfarbs' emotional lives.

The parents' formative memories of Auschwitz affect their daughters so strongly that Miriam, the middle daughter and narrator, has vicarious flashbacks of her parents' concentration-camp experiences as if they were her own. As a grown woman, she becomes a philosophy professor who develops a stay-at-home syndrome, unable through guilt to leave her parents' abode.

By contrast, Sondra, the eldest daughter, leaves home as a teenager. She prefers an unpalatable life on the streets as a "sex-trade worker" rather than endure a home life where her own emotional needs are forever trumped by her parents' recollected horrors.

"I'm a trauma specialist, and I can tell you this is a feature common to many families of Holocaust survivors," Burstow said. "The pain of the parents is so large that there is no room for the pain of the kids."

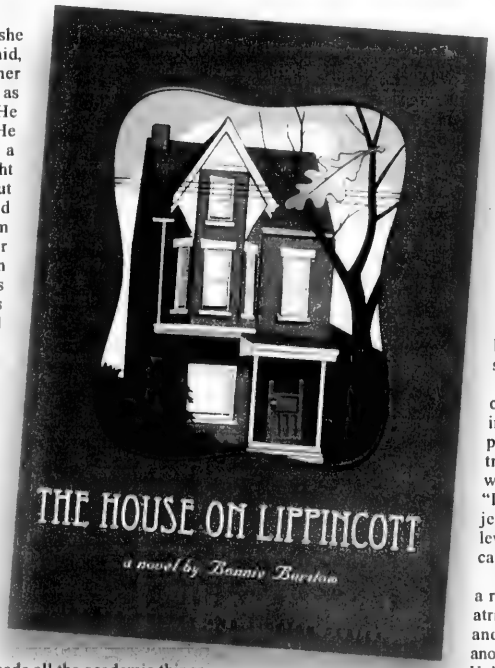
The House on Lippincott also deals with the theme of sexual abuse: it's a dark family secret that is never discussed. Burstow says she wasn't trying to equate the two evils, only to show that "the acknowledged trauma in the family has a space that the unacknowledged trauma does not have."

The two experiences "are in no way made to look the same or equal," she said. "But one of the daughters feels that she can't talk about her pain because the pain of her parents is so much greater. There's no space for it, and it's one of the reasons she leaves the family at age 15 and doesn't come back until she's in her early 50s."

A post-Holocaust novel that deals primarily with the after-effects on the next generation, *The House on Lippincott* readily presents its post-modern credentials. For one thing, the characters exist within a psychologically complex interior world that seems as private and restrictive as their family home. They are also racked with guilt and pain, and exist within a realm that seems highly cerebral and infused with a strong sense of dissonance.

Gender politics are also rife, as when the main female characters present feminist takes on biblical stories or opine that males take up too much space. "Men take up room, Miriam," mother tells daughter resignedly, as if articulating a historic injustice. "More than their share. It's always been. I'm hoping maybe your generation can do something about it. *Meydeleh*, you will push them away if they overstep, yes?"

Still, the mother "is the kind of mother that everyone dreams of having because she is so loving," Burstow said, adding that even the father becomes more sympathetic as the story progresses. "He really grows on you. He makes mistakes but he's a man who tries to do the right thing. He often doesn't, but he has ethical principles and he loves his family. I see him as a sympathetic character but one fraught with his own mistakes and haunted by his secrets and his past. He's certainly the most haunted figure in the novel."



A child of survivors who grew up in Winnipeg, Burstow is the author of *Radical Feminist Therapy*, a previous work of non-fiction. *The House on Lippincott* took her five years to write: she found the creative process "a lot of hard work" but exhilarating. "It was exciting to be able to breathe my knowledge as a psychologist into these characters. This [project] asked more of me than anything else I'd written, and made all the academic things I'd written look very easy to do."

She has already started a second novel, a multi-generational saga centred around a recipient of electro-shock treatment. "You see shades of the problems caused by psychiatry in *The House on Lippincott*, but in my new novel that's the central theme – the devastation of people's lives at the hands of the psychiatric system."

Does she like to write on subjects involving intense psychological pain? "I wouldn't be a trauma specialist otherwise," she commented. "I'm drawn to these subjects on a psychological level and also on a political level."

Burstow recently gave a reading during Psychiatric Survivor Pride Week and is scheduled to do another on Nov. 4 as part of Holocaust Education Week.

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OR VISA ❑
OR MASTERCARD ❑
OR AMERICAN EXPRESS ❑
NUMBER _____
EXPIRY DATE _____
TELEPHONE NO. _____

CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

5 HOUSES FOR SALE
10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE
15 HOUSES FOR RENT
20 HOUSES FOR SALE/RENT
24 HOUSES WANTED TO BUY
25 HOUSES WANTED TO RENT
30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE
35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT
40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/RENT
45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED
50 ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
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237 CAREERS/RECRUITMENT
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245 EMPLOYMENT WANTED
246 VOLUNTEERS
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248 DAY CARE WANTED
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255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED
257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE
258 HEALTHCARE WANTED
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270 PERSONALS
273 INTRODUCTION SERVICES
275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED
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295 PETS
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SERVICE DIRECTORY

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382 COUNSELLING
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386 DANCING
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394 EDUCATION
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396 ELECTRONICS
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416 HOME INSPECTION
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425 JEWELLERY
427 JUDAICA
430 LEASING
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438 LOCKSMITH
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465 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
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472 RETIREMENT HOMES
475 ROOFING
476 SATELLITE & EQUIPMENT
480 SECURITY SYSTEMS
481 SEWING
485 SNOW REMOVAL
490 TABLE COVERING
493 TAILORING/ALTERATIONS
495 TILING
496 TRAINING
498 TRAVEL & TOURISM
500 TUTORING
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512 WAITERING SERVICES
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520 WINDOW SERVICES
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$2,000 on successful closing. Some conditions apply. Contact David Eichorn Realty for details.

ALEXANDRA WOOD ONE OF A KIND — SPECTACULAR! Spectacular bungalow on 73 X 140 ft. lot. Over 4,000 sq. ft. on main level, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 8 baths, ideal for entertaining. Dance hall in bsmt., circular driveway, $1,918,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712 and enjoy the virtual tour at **eichornrealty.ca**

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BATHURST / COLDSTREAM
BRAND NEW custom family home. Approx. 4,000 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., 5 + 2 bdrms., 6 baths, separate entry to in-law suite, main floor library, extensive use of granite, limestone, crown mouldings, custom trim, pot lights. Fabulous location close to TTC, schools ++. $1,195,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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AVENUE / BATHURST / LAWRENCE
RARE OPPORTUNITY! Prime lot with 46 ft. frontage in high demand area surrounded by million $+ homes. Bright, spacious existing bungalow shows well. Thermopane windows, hardwood floors, sep. entry to fin. bsmt. Live in or build your dream home. **ONLY $579,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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8 COVINGTON ROAD CONDO
2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, upgraded & decorated throughout. Designer decor, w/o to tiled balcony, top quality "SHAW" laminate flooring. Shows a 10+. $319,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712

GREAT HOME RENTALS, GREAT MONTHLY RATES!
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- **BATHURST / LAWRENC** 4 bdrm. **RENTED** /2 storey home, $1,500
- **BATHURST / RANEE** 4 bdrm. bung., 2,400 sq. ft., $3,250
- **LYTTON PARK** 6 + 1 bdrm. executive home, $5,000

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FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK

BATHURST / LAWRENCE
BRAND NEW custom executive home, approx. 3,500 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., luxurious finishes, 4 + 2 bdrms., 6 baths, gleaming hrdwd. floors throughout, 10 ft. ceilings on main floor, 9-10 ft. ceilings on 2nd level. Extensive use of granite, marble, cherry & ash. Stone front, interlock driveway. **ONLY $1,129,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST MANOR — HUGE BACKSPLIT
Ideal family home, 4 + 1 bedrooms, 4 baths, sep. entry to self-contained apartment, huge family room on lower level, main floor library, 2 heating & AC zones. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $489,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / RANEE — REDUCED $ 50,000
Very spacious ranch bungalow on gorgeous 57 x 132 ft. lot, approx. 2,400 sq. ft. + finished basement with separate entry, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 4 baths. **ONLY $649,000 — ACT NOW!** Also available for rent @ $3,250 / mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / WILSON CONDO
SPACIOUS 3 BEDROOM CONDO, 2 baths, **PRICED TO SELL AT ONLY $189,900 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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#1 in Toronto - Luxury Homes Sales over $2,000,000*

PRESTIGIOUS BRIDLE PATH

$2,850,000. Remarkable ravine setting for this elegant French chateau style home. Herringbone hardwood, sunken living room w/walkout to terrace. Master w/adjoining sitting room, dressing room & lavish 5-piece ensuite. Fabulous L.L. w/ walkout to pool. Co-list with Marni Lokash* Ext 410

PRESTIGIOUS BRIDLE PATH

$6,500,000. Gated French chateau. Estate sized lot (100' x 300'). Bellagio kitchen overlooks gardens & pool. Indoor pool w/spa, media room & wine cellar. 2 bedroom apartment above 4-car garage w/ sep entrance. Guest house.

THE PRINCE ARTHUR

$2,825,000. The Prince Arthur. One of the most prestigious condo buildings in Toronto. Close to the amenities of Bloor St. and Yorkville. Approx 3,100 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, library. Floor to ceiling windows offer tremendous views.

FOREST HILL

$4,395,000. PrestigiousWarren Rd Georgian residence with 6 bdrms & 7 baths. Spacious with high ceilings. Grand Principal rooms. Exquisite gardens. Estate-sized lot (75' x 173'). Co-listed with Toby Farb* Ext. 267

UNIQUE LANDMARK ESTATE

$10,800,000. Rarely available in Forest Hill estate sized lot (150' x 170'). Impeccably restored Neo-Classic limestone residence, while retaining distinct architectural detailing. Grand principal rooms, lavish grounds, pool with 75' lap pool.

YONGE/ST.CLAIR

$2,998,000. Luxurious condo w/approx 2900 sq. ft. 2 bedrooms plus den. High ceilings, herringbone hdwd floors. Kitchen w/ walkout to covered terrace. Living room with expansive bay window offers unobstructed views of parkland & city.

*Sales Representative **Broker

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ROBERT GASNER

Wishes the entire community a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year and a year in which we will see peace in Israel and for Jews around the world.

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L'shana Tova Tikatevu

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saul m. merrick LLB., QC

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**PLEASE NOTE!* On a week before a statuatory or Jewish holiday, the deadline will be earlier. Please call for exact times.

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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

226 COLDSTREAM AVE! AT WESTGROVE!
$2,279K! Just Completed! Stunning 5+1Br, 6Bth! Fab l/g Pool On Spectacular 47x201'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

BEST VALUE IN DEER PARK $1,159,000
5 Bdrm, 5 Bths, Prime St, Centre Hall Lg LR, DR, Den, Hrdwd, Sep Entr To Fin Bsmt, Nanny Ste, 3 Car Pkng. M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

154 CHARLTON BLVD! YONGE N/FINCH!
$1,049K! Amazing 5+2Br 5Bth! Main Fam+Lib+Lau+2Pce! W/o Bsmt! Gorg'us 50x191' Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

PRIME ARMOUR HEIGHTS - JUST $899,000 SOLD
Totally Reno'd, Brand New Kit+Bth, 5Bths, Mn Flr Fam Rm + Mud Rm, Ingrnd Pool, 50 x 140. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

BATHURST/AVENUE/LAWRENCE $879,900
Fabulous Home, Stucco Exterior, Huge Family Room, 3 Bdrms, 4 Baths, 40 x 107. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

UPPER FOREST HILL VILLAGE $749,000 SOLD
Quiet St. 4 Bedrooms, 4 Baths, Main Floor Family Room, Finished Basement, Garage. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

27 CEDAR SPRINGS GROVE! $699,900!
"Bathurst Manor" Ravine Lot! Fab 4+1Br, 3Bth B/s! Mn Fam+Lau+ 3Pce! Move In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

JOHN WANLESS AREA - SIZED SEMI! $549,000 SOLD
4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Finished Basement, Gumwood + Hardwood Thru, New Kitchen. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

416 KENNETH AVENUE - YONGE S/FINCH! SOLD
$489,900! Impeccable 2Stry, 3+1Br, 2Bth! Mn Fam O/l's Gorg'us 31x135'! Walk To Subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

58 KINGSBRIDGE GARDEN CIRCLE! 4BR 3BTH! SOLD
$499,900! Wilshire/Westmount - Bedroom Available 2822' End Unit! Move Right In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

47 THURST/SHEPPARD – BUNGALOW $459,000 SOLD
Spacious 3 Bedroom Bungalow - Huge Lot, 69.37 x 102.75, 3 Bedrooms in Baement. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

CEDARVALE HOMES + GARDENS RENOVATED BUNGALOW
2+1 Bdrm, 2–4 pc Baths, Sep Entrance To Fab Finished Basement, Legal Front Pad Parking. $449,000. Marilyn Ray* 416-488-2875

NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

123 WHITNEY PL! BATHURST N/STEELES!
$458K! Reno 3+1Br, 4Bth! Nanny Ste! W/o Bsmt! Rare 46x112' Irreg Lot! See it! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

TOWNHOMES OF HOGGS HOLLOW $719,000
1790 sq.ft. Premium South Facing Courtyard unit, Loaded with Upgrades, 3 Bdrms, 3 Baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

85 SKYMARK DR $559,000 2+1 BDRM/2BTH
Luxury condo w/2 large balconies, mstr bdrm has 5pce ensuite, 24hr concierge. Approx 2,448 Sq.Ft. Pauline Mack* 416-226-1987

FOREST HILL VILLAGE – JUST $539,000
1500 sq.ft. 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 2 Car Parking, New Hardwood Floors Thru, Fabulous Views. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

NEW PRICE $387,900 YONGE/DAVISVILLE
Stunning 3 Bdrm, 2 Baths Loft, Open Style, 2 Level South/West Corner, Large Balcony, 935 sq.ft. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

10 DELISLE AVENUE! YONGE N/ST CLAIR
$3Z5K! Incredible 1Br+Den 2Bth! End Unit Garden Ste W/Private Terrace! Won't Last! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

500 GLENCAIRN AVE! SIZZLING HOT! SOLD
Total Reno 2Br, 2Bth! Desig[illegible]oor! Hrdwd, Marble, Granite++ 2Car Prkg+Locker! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

BATHURST/GLENCAIRN – CONDO $309,000
Quiet Low Rise Bldng, 2 Bdrm, 2 Baths, 2 Parking spaces, Approx. 1225 sq.ft. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

942 YONGE ST.! $229K! JUST N/BLOOR!
$229K! Fab 1+Den, 1Bth Garden Ste With High Ceilings+Locker! Hurry! Sandon Schwartzben**/Geoffrey Korn* 416 226-1987

1101 STEELES AVE WEST! 2BR 2BTH!
$229K! "Primrose" Value Packed S/W Ste W/Balcony+Panoramic Views! Fab Complex! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

ORIOLE /KILBARRY CO-OP APT $214,900 SOLD
Charming 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Eat-in Kitchen, Hardwood Floors Thru. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

JUST REDUCED! FABULOUS - APPROX. 1500 SQ.FT.
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, Corner Suite! Eat-in Kit, Huge Princ Rms Including Fam Rm, 3 W/o's, $199,000. Cheryl Sniderman* 416-488-2875

BATHURST/FINCH CONDO $199,000
1400 sq.ft. 2 Bdrm, 2 Baths, Close to TTC, Synagogues, schools, shopping. S. Merkur* & A. Hirshberg* 416-785-1500

RENTAL PROPERTIES

85 SKYMARK, CLASSIC LUXURY PH $3,500/MTH
Stairs to roof grdn, mrbl firs, 2 wshrms, 2 skylights, 2 bdrm+den, 2 frpls, sauna, Jacuzzi, 2prkg. 24 hr concierge. P. Mack* 416-226-1987

OUT OF TOWN PROPERTIES

$249,900 "REDUCED" 2+2 BDRM BUNGALOW
Minutes from McMaster University in Hamilton. Invest or Live In. Gary Pollock* 416 226-1987

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Best Wishes for A Happy, Healthy & Peaceful New Year

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FINE PROPERTIES

OLD FOREST HILL RD. - $3,150,000.
Rare opportunity to build your dream home on 1st block of Old Forest Hill. Plans available from renowned architect. For full details, call *Edith Weiss

LAWRENCE PARK -$2,250,000.
This exquisite home is a masterpiece of taste & perfection. Spectacular kitchen. Master with fireplace, balcony, his & her dressing rooms. 3rd floor guest suite. Beautifully landscaped gardens & pool. *Donna Taylor / *Carol Cotton SOLD

BATHURST / LAWRENCE -$1,990,000.
Spectacular new custom home w/luxurious upgrades. Main floor library + family room. Beautiful kitchen with walk-out to deck. 5 bdrms., Finished lower level. A real showpiece. **Richard Sherman

PRIME LOWER VILLAGE - $1,900,000.
Stunning 2.5 sty Tudor. 7 bdrms. Wonderful oak panelling. Multi fireplaces. Walk-out from library & dining rm. to patio & private garden w/fountain. Built-in garage. *Edith Weiss / *Judy Nathan

AVENUE RD/ALEXANDRA WOOD - $1,800,000.
Exquisite 5 bdrms., 5 bath residence situated in prestigious neighbourhood. Main floor family room. Walk-out to landscaped gardens and inviting pool. Beautifully finished lower level. *Carol Cotton

LOWER VILLAGE - JUST LISTED
$1,300,000. Charming 4 bedroom Tudor on quiet street. Kitchen + breakfast room. Library. Fireplaces. Garage. Steps to schools, parks, Village shops & restaurants. *Edith Weiss / *Judy Nathan

MT. PLEASANT / EGLINTON - $1,099,000.
Custom built in 2000. No expense spared. Gourmet kitchen/family rm. w/walk-out to deck. Master w/his & her baths & walk-in closets. Finished lower level. *Jackie & *Edie Winberg SOLD

AVENUE RD / LAWRENCE - $1,039,000.
Unique condo alternative. Custom built designer home (2000), with all the bells & whistles. Fin. lwr. lvl. Private rear garden oasis. Country setting in the city. Built–in gar. *Ruth Kaufman / *Lynn Mitchell

UPPER VILLAGE - $789,000.
Great value for area. Loc. on quiet street. Mn. flr. den. Open concept kit & dining rm. Lovely garden. W/o to large deck. Front English garden. Close to all amenities. *Edith Weiss / *Barbara Kaplan SOLD

YONGE / LAWRENCE - $749,000.
Beautiful 3 bdrm., 4 bath home on bright south lot. Modern eat-in kitchen w/walk-out to deck. Master ensuite w/jacuzzi. 3 skylights. Separate entrance to fin. lwr. level. 2 car parking. **Richard Sherman

BATHURST / LAWRENCE - $529,900.
Very spacious 3 bedroom bungalow with renovated kitchen. Finished lower level. Private drive. 40 x 150 ft. lot. Build new, top-up or move right in. Steps to all amenities. *Mirella Regalado SOLD

BLOOR / MT. PLEASANT - $429,900.
Immacuate, split 2 bedroom + den condo suite in the luxurious "Bellagio on Bloor". Open concept kitchen w/granite counters. Amazing view of Rosedale ravine & city. Locker. Parking. Steps to shops & restaurants. *Steven Keshen

LESLIE / CUMMER - $429,000.
Great 4 bedroom family home on south lot, backing onto park. 2 fireplaces. Private treed garden. Walk to schools, shopping, TTC & GO Train. **Richard Sherman

BAYCREST SENIORS' RESIDENCE
$275,000. Rarely available penthouse suite. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Eat-in kitchen w/pantry. High ceilings. Locker. Parking. Building features 24 hr. concierge. Party room. Fitness centre. Rooftop garden. Situated near all amenities. *Ron Chichora

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NEW LISTINGS!

363 Old Orchard Grve	Toronto	$769,000
93 Babcombe Dr.	Markham	$688,000
2 Thornlea Crt.	Markham	$1,298,888
6 Whitelaw Crt.	Markham	$1,299,000
9 Lady Slipper Crt.	Markham	$1,399,000
31 Limcombe Dr.	Markham	$2,088,000
8 Brendan Grt.	Markham	$3,999,000
85 Maques Lane	Vaughan	$649,000
7 Thornbank Rd.	Vaughan	$1,395,000
25 Donna Mae Cres.	Vaughan	$1,659,000
103 Thornridge Dr.	Vaughan	$2,990,000
29 Jenkins Dr.	Richmond Hill	$1,990,000
17 Silk Crt.	Richmond Hill	$799,000

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The Managing Partners & Sales Staff wish their clients, friends and business associates a year of peace, good health and happiness.

Larry, Darlene, Lynsey and Tarah Wronzberg

ALAN NEWTON

From my Family to your Family.
Wishing all my clients, friends and family a very Happy & Healthy New Year!
Thank you for your support throughout the year!

שנה טובה

ALAN NEWTON
REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

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Wishing all our relatives, friends and clients a very happy, safe and prosperous New Year!
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ALAN NEWTON

Best wishes for a very Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year

from

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MARK WAXMAN — ASSOC. BROKER

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Choose from 2 Luxury Units at 1 Glen Park Avenue!

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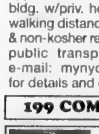

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The Canadian Jewish news

Coast to Coast

Tony Comper [CJN File photo]

BMO head slams one-sided Israel critics

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Singling out Israel for blame in the Middle East conflict, even by those of good faith, is fanning anti-Semitism, Bank of Montreal president Tony Comper says.

It may not be the intent, but the effect of condemning Israel alone is providing justification for hatred of Jews in Canada and internationally, Comper warned more than 400 business executives at a Canadian Club luncheon last week in Montreal.

In underscoring the serious threat of anti-Semitism worldwide, Comper suggested that "a second Holocaust" is possible if Iran acquires nuclear arms and attacks Israel.

As examples of the kind of anti-Israel criticism he was talking about, Comper offered the call for a boycott of Israel by the Ontario wing of the Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Toronto conference of the United Church of Canada earlier this year.

"I ascribe no motives to the people who made these decisions beyond the ones they ascribed to themselves – a legitimate disagreement with Israeli policy regarding Palestine.

"While I profoundly disagree with this one-sided take on who's to blame for what in the Middle East, and find its solutions untenable, I accept that these views can be honestly held, and can also be – let me stress this – utterly free of anti-Semitic intent.

"What I worry about though is not the intent but the effect of criticizing Israel so vehemently and disproportionately and, as tends to be the case, to the exclusion of all others. I worry that those with darker motives will treat these honestly held views as justification for hating Jews and wishing them scourged from the Earth."

The fine distinction between "Israeli policy" and "the Jews" may be understood by well-educated and well-intentioned critics, he said, but is lost on those looking for a pretext to vent their prejudices.

There are also "dishonest critics" of Israel, according to Comper, who "rewrap their hatred of Jews into a much more discreet package," such as comparing Israel to the Nazis.

Asked later by reporters about three Quebec politicians' participation in the Aug. 6 march in Montreal against Israel's military action in Lebanon, Comper said, "It disappointed me. There was no mention of Hezbollah's attacks on Israel. I wonder if it was a wise thing. I worry that the effect could be damaging."

Comper was in Montreal for the Quebec launch of Fighting Anti-Semitism Together (FAST), a coalition of non-Jewish business leaders and prominent citizens that he and his wife Elizabeth initiated last year in Toronto, where they live.

The project's centrepiece is an educational package, developed with Canadian Jewish Congress, for grades 6 to 9 designed to combat anti-Semitism within the context of bigotry and bullying. It's been distributed to more than 30 Ontario school boards reaching approximately 258,000 students.

A version adapted for Quebec, in both French and English, is being completed, and Comper hopes it will be in schools here by January. Talks are underway with the education ministry, and Comper believes "Choose Your Voice," as the package is called, fits with a new anti-racism policy the province is working on.

Beyond the educational component, FAST is intended to be a message to society from influential people that anti-Semitism "in all its forms" is unacceptable. FAST placed full-page ads in *La Presse* and the *Gazette*, coinciding with Comper's address, headlined "Why We Must Speak Out/Non-Jewish Canadian Leaders Stand Up Against Anti-Semitism in Canada."

Among the nearly 50 people endorsing FAST are Laurent Beaudoin, chair of Bombardier Inc.; André Desmarais, president of Power Corporation; Marc Tellier, president of the Yellow Pages Group; and National Bank president Réal Raymond.

Comper said he wants to recruit as many people in Quebec "with sufficient profile and clout" as he can. While financial support is expected, he said, the first requirement of FAST members is to publicly denounce anti-Semitism. He added that he doesn't think anti-Semitism is a greater problem in Quebec than the rest of Canada.

Comper said he's had no trouble getting people on board. "Two minutes into my pitch, they say sign me up. We fancy ourselves as a tolerant society. I'm not surprised by the response, but I am delighted."

He said he has received no hate mail, other than "one or two unsigned" letters, among correspondence that fills four or five volumes.

FAST was born out of his and his wife's dismay over a spate of anti-Semitic graffiti and cemetery desecrations in Toronto in 2004. They were especially concerned that Jewish children were fearful and felt that no one cared. As the ad stated, "We created FAST in honour of the right of Jewish children to live secure and unafraid, and with a solemn promise that Jews are no longer on their own in this great nation in this new century."

In his address, Comper said FAST hopes to create "a nation of non-bystanders, Canadians of all heritages who simply no longer permit the anti-Semites and their like-minded kin to spread their poison unscathed."

He said that non-Jews have a "duty" to repudiate anti-Semitic slurs whenever they encounter them, even in private conversations. "The time has passed for grimacing politely, letting the bigot 'have his opinion,' and easing away unobtrusively."

Comper deplored the widely circulated conspiracy theory that Jews were behind 9/11.

"Despite the patent falseness and naked absurdity of such a proposition, this big lie spread across the Internet like the Reichstag Fire… The bigger the lie, Hitler wrote in *Mein Kampf*, the greater the chance of it being believed. And, sadly, the lie that the Jews were behind Sept. 11 has not been an exception – almost assuredly, let us be honest, because when it comes to Jews and conspiracies, some people will truly believe just about anything. And, if history is any guide, a great many others won't really care or give it another moment's thought."

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Will Shawn Green eclipse Hank Greenberg?

By MARTIN ABRAMOWITZ
JTA

BOSTON — If Jews had pantheons, Shawn Green, the premier Jewish baseball player of the last quarter-century, would be right up there in the baseball wing, a notch below Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax.

It would be hard to overstate the significance of Greenberg and Koufax in the history of American Jewish life.

That two of the best ballplayers of their generations could be Jewish – and that they could, 30 years apart, gently but proudly assert their Jewish identity by declining to play on Yom Kippur – was incredibly important for the self-confidence of American Jews of the 1930s and 1960s.

A few years ago, Green split the difference on Yom Kippur, skipping one game scheduled on the holiday, while playing in the other.

But if the question of Green's religious observance seems less fateful to this generation, the reason lies partly in the changes in American Jewry, and partly because Green, who recently was traded from the Arizona Diamondbacks to the New York Mets, is not Hank Greenberg.

At many levels, there simply is no comparison between the two players.

Greenberg was a consistently awesome slugger and a more successful overall batter than Green. His career slugging percentage of .605 is still among the top 10 in the history of the game, while Green went into the 2006 season at a respectable .505.

Green's career batting average of about .283 is solid, but pales next to Greenberg's .313 career average.

We also need to remember that Greenberg played for only 9½ seasons, missing virtually all of 1936 with an injury and virtually all of 1941, all of 1942-1944 and half of 1945 because of military service.

Green, on the other hand, is in his 12th full season, having gone into this year with almost 1,000 more career at-bats than Greenberg. So it's no wonder that Green's cumulative statistics, as distinct from his averages, are rivalling Hank's.

Still, the fact remains that Green's cumulative stats are impressive, and if he stays healthy, he is likely to become the all-time Jewish major-league leader in home runs and base hits. He also has an outside chance of overtaking Greenberg in runs batted in.

Consider the following data, as of Sept. 15:

• Green's 316 home runs leave him 15 shy of Greenberg's 331. At his current pace – he has 13 so far this season – Green would pass Greenberg during the first half of the 2008 season.

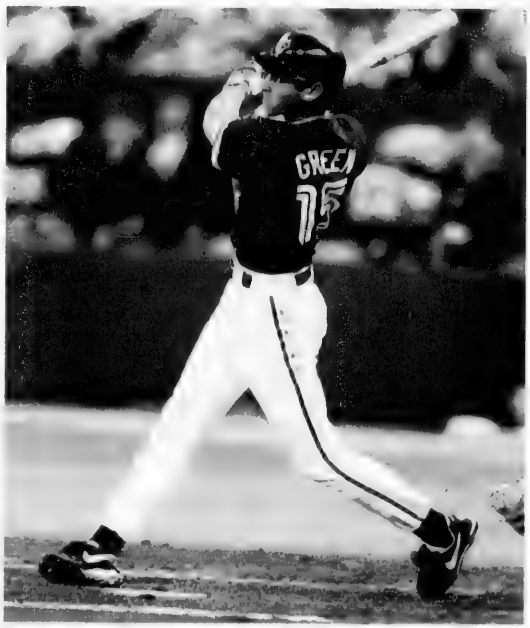
• Green's 1,861 career hits – Greenberg had 1,628 – leaves him within a three-year reach of Buddy Myer's total of 2,131. A second baseman for the Washington Senators, Myer, who also was Jewish, was a contemporary of Greenberg.

• Greenberg's total of 1,276 career RBIs would be more of a stretch for Green, who has 1,017.

Green's power numbers have been declining for the past few years, even as his batting average has remained relatively steady. Nonetheless, five more years at an average of 60 RBIs per year would take him past Greenberg at age 39.

However many productive seasons may lie ahead of Green, we can be sure of two things:

• He'll be remembered as the premier Jewish major leaguer of his time, but Green won't follow Greenberg, Koufax and Lou Boudreau to become the fourth Jewish major leaguer in the Hall of Fame.



Shawn Green as a Toronto Blue Jay *[File photo]*

• Perhaps as long as baseball records are kept, Green will be remembered as the player who had the most productive nine-inning-game performance in the history of baseball: On May 23, 2002, Green electrified the baseball world by slugging four homers, a double and a single in a game for the Los Angeles Dodgers against Milwaukee.

But will he or won't he overtake Greenberg and Myer to become the all-time Jewish career leader in homers, RBIs and hits? And will he or won't he achieve his final stats while wearing a Mets uniform?

And at this time in American Jewish life, aren't those questions at least as interesting as whether he plays on Yom Kippur?

Martin Abramowitz produces Jewish baseball cards and lectures on Jews in baseball as president of Jewish Major Leaguers Inc., on the Web at www.jewishmajorleaguers.org.

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Family drama on the High Holy Days

By MICHAEL GORDON

The Senior Side of Life

"So, Edith, what are you doing for Rosh Hashanah?" I asked the 87-year-old patient, who was accompanied by her daughter Ruth.

It was the fourth time I had seen her over nine months and she seemed comfortable with me. She had been referred because of cognitive decline, as a result of a combination of Alzheimer's disease and mini-strokes. She was receiving one of the drugs used for people with Alzheimer's disease, as well as a blood pressure drug. Her daughter thought Edith was a bit more alert and engaged since the medications were started.

Edith lived in her own apartment in the same building as her daughter, whose family included her husband and her son who was doing graduate studies at a local university. Ruth's two daughters were married and lived in the city with their families. Edith had full-time live-in help.

Ruth's sister Fran lived about 30 minutes away. She was a widow whose two children and their families lived out of town. David, their younger brother, lived in the city, but in the downtown area. He was divorced after a short marriage but had recently re-married, to Susan, whom everyone liked very much and who was very eager to be accepted into the family.

"I think I'll stay home this year," Edith replied.

"Why?" I asked.

"It's just too much *tummel*, with all the kids and the travelling."

I turned to Ruth, who explained: "Last year, we went to Fran's, and by the time we got there, mom was already tired. Halfway through the meal, she said she wanted to go home. We told her to go rest, but she insisted. That was the end of the celebration.

"David wants us to go to his apartment this year. Susan wants to show everyone that she is really part of the family and wants to host us all. He thinks it's a great idea."

Ruth said her response to him was, "After last year, I'm not sure it is such a good idea. I think that we should have the dinner at our apartment, because if mom is tired, she can go upstairs with her caregivers and we can continue with the festivities."

David was not happy and interpreted this rebuff as directed to Susan who is a lot younger than he is and is struggling with her status in the family.

This scenario, with some variation in other families, is not unusual and could turn into a family crisis. What should be the focus of the religious holiday can be lost because of personal needs and a misdirected family dynamic.

What everyone seems to be forgetting, perhaps other than Ruth, is that in their current collective family life, the focus should be on Edith, for whom the future does not hold many more years of being able to participate meaningfully in family gatherings of any kind. The medications that she is taking for her dementia will not stop the disease. It will likely progress and she will become less able to engage in holidays, family simchahs and joyful events.

A family meeting is necessary to get everyone to focus on Edith's needs, not their own. Ruth's suggestion makes the most sense. Have the Rosh Hashanah dinner at her place, and as much as possible, get Edith involved, even if it is to help in the kitchen or in setting the table. Include her in the event as much as she can tolerate, but when she gets tired, help her upstairs and everyone else can continue to mark the special day. No one should take it as a slight but rather as a way of expressing family solidarity and their love for Edith.

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1 tblsp. honey
1 tsp. dry mustard
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1 pinch ground black pepper

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Place potatoes in a single layer in prepared dish, and top with onion. In small bowl, combine remaining ingredients. Bake 35 mins. or until tender, stirring halfway through cooking time.

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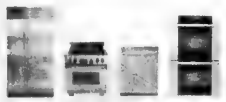

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Seymour Epstein

In a recent article in the *New York Times Magazine*, I read much more about the microbial content of the human body than I probably needed to know. Some facts:

• There are at least 10 times as many cells in a single person as there are stars in the Milky Way.

• Only about one in 10 of those cells are human. The other 90 per cent are microbes.

• Most of these microscopic organisms reside in our gut – as many as 100 trillion.

• "They are with us throughout our lives, and at the moment of our death they consume us." And we can't live without them.

• In the womb, we're microbe-free, but from the moment we enter the birth canal, we take on guests.

• By the time we're two years old, most of our guest microbes have settled in.

What does all of this have to do with Jewish education? First and foremost, it serves as a powerful illustration of *Psalm* 104, verse 24, "How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom have you made them all; the Earth is full of your creatures." The more we learn about the micro-universe of our own bodies, the more we can appreciate the wonder of God's creation.

This information about ourselves (new as it is for most of us) sheds new light on old but venerable Jewish values. Think of the mitzvah of taking in guests, hachnasat orchim, as taking on new meaning when we realize that our bodies take in many more guests than the original inhabitants. Or, what new slant can this information put on the verse in Leviticus, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself"?

Even our primal belief in one God is refined by this information, in that only God can speak as one, while we humans are too diverse biologically to think of ourselves as one organism with one voice.

All of this is to make the point that I have made in other ways at other times: Torah is everywhere if we can find the way to both read it into our lives and read our lives (in this case, our very bodies) into it.

Shanah Tovah.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

On choosing a chair

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

There is a concept in Judaism called a *makom ka'vuah*, which translates into "an established place." This refers to an established seat one would use whether in shul, at home or other places.

When I was little, my father's *makom ka'vuah* was at the head of the table and my mother's at the other end. They were two seats that my sisters and I would **never** sit in. I would hazard to guess, however, that in 29 years (my age when my father passed away), I might have sat in my parents' chairs a handful of times.

In terms of my own place at the family table, I established early on that I would sit next to my father, on his left, and this was not to be messed with. Today, I have a place at my own table. I would offer it to a guest, but you know, would prefer not to.

Many of us have an established places to sit in the shul we attend. That place is sacrosanct and fierce arguments can erupt if, God forbid, someone is found sitting in it. There is a sense that our sacred place has been trespassed and we have been uprooted and are lost.

This tradition of "ensuring one's own place" is equally as strong with "three-day-a-year shul goers" who reserve the same seat every year – the eighth bench from the end, aisle seat, plus the three places next to it.

Having one's own place to sit, even if it is in a jail lunchroom, is a widespread ritual. We even hold to this custom when it comes to our place in the afterlife. Frequently, we pray for "our place" in heaven, imagining we will sit at God's feet in a lowly chair, yet one that is ours. I have never met a person who imagines he/she will stand in heaven, or spent all their time walking about.

So, why do we insist on having a *makom ka'vuah*? Why would many of us get riled at the person who has mistakenly seated himself or herself in our place?

In the case of not taking our parents' chairs, Judaism states that it is out of respect. We are intent upon adhering to the commandment of honouring one's father and mother, by recognizing that a spot on the earth is designated for them – not only as human beings but also because they are the two people who made us.

Overall, be it in shul on Shabbat or on the High Holy Days, or on the bus, the idea of having our reserved place might be predicated on our need to attach ourselves to the earth under us, or the heavens above.

Life can be shaky and uncertain. We know that, having just gone through the fifth anniversary of 9/11 and now standing before our Creator on the High Holy Days. Making sure that a tiny spot on this globe is ours, where we can take the load off, relax, contemplate or just eat, may be an expression that life is now a little bit more certain; a touch safer; a place where we feel as though the world will not move under us – even for a moment.

At this time of year, I therefore wish you and yours a happy and healthy new year and that you find your *makon ka'vuah* in our world.

May we all be inscribed in the book of life, and pray that those who have gone before us have found a good, comfy chair next to God, to finally kick back, relax and take in the holiness of the World to Come.

Shanah Tovah!

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Greetings 5767

The Canadian Jewish news
Section B

Israeli soldiers savour the moment they united east and west Jerusalem, June 7, 1967.
Archives Israel Gaverament Press Office

A momentous time, 40 years ago

Editorial

In the traditions, history and lore of Jewish life, the number 40 carries profound weight. Indeed, it is at this time of year, in the weekly Torah portions that are a prelude to the recommencement of the annual reading cycle, that the figure essentially leaps off the parchment of the holy scrolls each Shabbat.

For it is 40 years after the exodus from Egypt. The generation of Jews that experienced first hand the miracles wrought by "the strong hand and outstretched arm of God" has mostly perished in the mountainous, harsh wilderness of Sinai.

A new, more rugged generation has been born in the desert that knows of the great Exodus only as a festival story told by the elders once a year.

Moses, the wise, hoary, though somewhat distant teacher, is recounting the events of 40 years ago with exacting and occasionally frightening detail. He implores his people, younger than he by at least one full generation, to be faithful to God, to embrace the ways of their forebears, to know their past, to build a better world and to choose the values of life, virtue and goodness at all times and for all times.

In the wide sweep of human history, 40 years is mostly a minor interlude. But in the narrower span of individual lives, it is half a lifetime, and often too, a wedge of time disconnecting personal experience and collective memory.

And that is why the wise and hoary Moses recapitulated for the next generation what was experienced by the former generation.

It is in that spirit and for the same purpose that *The CJN* has chosen to dedicate this Rosh Hashanah supplement entirely to the events of The Six Day War.

With the arrival of the new year 5767, we step 40 years away from that momentous and monumental time in Jewish and world history.

And in those 40 years, an entire generation has been born that has no first-hand, direct knowledge of the events and and the feelings that kept us, the older generation, holding our breath, fearful that a new horrific, black night was descending upon Israel and Jews worldwide.

An entire generation of Jews has grown to adulthood with a sense of Israel and recent Jewish history, our history, distorted by the unceasing hostility of hate-obsessed enemies, and worse, by the unwitting participation of often well-meaning but ignorant confederates.

An entire generation of Jews has grown to adulthood with the predominant image of Israel as "colonial occupier," an image carefully crafted and exploited over the past four decades by the unremitting barrage on television and in newspapers of scenes of stone-throwing Palestinian children squaring off against well-armed, flak-jacketed Israeli soldiers or of wailing Palestinian women confronting IDF tanks and heavy equipment.

Continued on page B3

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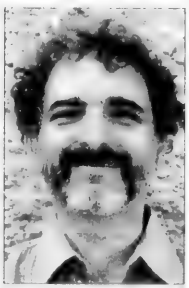

By Larry Barzelai

There was no need to question the existence and health of the State of Israel. I was born in 1950, two years after the establishment of the state. Without any direct knowledge of the events of the 1948 War of Independence, Israel seemed as if it had always been there. The population was increasing; the economy was proliferating; tourism was thriving. The best oranges were Jaffa oranges; Israeli irrigation projects were proliferating around the world; the Israeli fashion industry was in full bloom. (My father, *alav hashalom*, imported 10,000 pair of El Al pantihose to sell in his clothing store in Peterborough.)

Then, Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser asked the UN to remove its troops from its observation posts in Sinai. Egyptian and Syrian troops were seen to be massing at the border. Hordes of screaming Egyptian citizens were calling for Israel to be wiped off the map.

Suddenly Israel felt precarious. As Jews we suddenly did not feel so secure any more. We learned to appreciate Israel much more because we felt that its existence and well-being had been threatened.

Then in a flash, Israel attacked and pre-emptively destroyed the Egyptian and Syrian air force. Quickly, the Sinai and Golan were in Israeli (our) hands. How we beamed with pride when the IDF captured Hevron, Jericho and especially the old city of Jerusalem. Who can forget the one-eyed general Moshe Dayan leading his troops into battle and Rabbi Shlomo Goren blowing the shofar at the Kotel.

How we held our heads high when our non-Jewish neighbours congratulated us on Israel's great victory. Who can forget the jokes galore that proliferated after the war. "What is the definition of an Arab tank? – a vehicle with one gear forward and four in reverse" and "Why is Nasser bowing down in prayer? – He's not praying; he's listening for Israeli tanks."

Israel was almost too good to be true. It had vanquished its enemies; it had gathered in the Jewish Diaspora from all parts of the world; it was making scientific advances galore. What an astounding place with a fantastic future!

Riding on the coattails of Israel's victory, I attended the Hebrew University of Jerusalem during the academic year 1969-1970. Jewish students from all parts of the globe came to study in Israel and to share in the 'Israeli experience.' We learned Israeli songs, made Israeli friends and studied Talmud and Jewish history.

What a great time we had in the late 60s. In America, we had "sex, drugs and rock and roll." We listened to Simon and Garfunkle, Bob Dylan, the Beatles. In Israel, we listened to the songs of Naomi Shemer, revelled in the annual Israel Song Festival, and even watched the rock musical, *Hair* being performed in Hebrew. We swam in the clear waters of the Red Sea off the coast of Sharm al Sheikh, hiked up Santa Catarina in the Sinai and wandered carelessly through the alleyways of the Old City of Jerusalem.

How we held our heads high when our non-Jewish neighbours congratulated us on Israel's great victory

Amidst this general euphoria, there were some uncertainties, but we kept them at the back of our minds. Two conversations I had in Jerusalem that year stood out. The first was with an Israeli-Arab colleague at the university. He said, "You know, the Middle East is like a house with many rooms. All the rooms are occupied by Arabs who speak the same language and share the same culture. However, one of the rooms is occupied by a different people, who don't quite fit in. They are not a part of this house." I thought to myself, "He'll just have to get over his hangup."

The other conversation I had with others was concerning the future disposition of the territories. I opined "Israel can't hold on to these territories forever. It will become an occupying power and this can't bode well for the future." The general response I received was something like "Don't rain on the parade" or "This will sort itself out with time."

Was there something prescient about these conversations or were they just intellectual musings? – Who could tell at that time?

Larry Barzelai practises medicine in Vancouver.

On July 20th, a Katyusha missile fell outside a Na'amat Daycare Centre in Carmiel, Israel, causing catastrophic destruction.

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Our children must know what has been our past

Continued from page B1

The nearly ubiquitous heart-rending visual scenes have been reinforced with the imprimatur of the mountain-high record of debates, minutes and resolutions from the United Nations, thus driving home the "truth" of the images in the hearts and minds of an unknowing generation. There is no Israel other than this Israel for so many of our unknowing youth.

We have seen much of the result of this vast distortion, alas, on campuses throughout the western world, where Israel has been vilified, demonized and delegitimized. And many if not most of our Jewish youth have been unable to answer the horrible lies. Worse. Increasing numbers of our Jewish youth actually join in the calumny.

If our children are to be able to resist the effect of the lies and the distortions, we must help them. We must provide the wherewithal, the weaponry as it were, to enable them to stand up confidently and assuredly for themselves and for Israel.

Truth must be their sword and knowledge their shield.

To help forge these weapons, *The CJN* offers this supplement about the Six Day War, a watershed moment – among so many in the young life of the tiny country – merely 19 years after it was created.

Inside This Paper : Analysis of Present Events Background (Page 1)

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

"For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: For the Lord dwelleth in Zion".

AFTER 2000 YEARS CITY OF DAVID JEWISH AGAIN

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Total Victory

The supplement consists of five categories of information. Nine individuals from across the country write about what those fateful few days in May and June 1967 were like for them.

Four widely acclaimed and recognized thinkers, scholars, writers reflect on some of the wider aspects and implications of the Six Day War.

We have also recorded the personal testimonies of a soldier and two volunteers and assembled original reference material of speeches and other significant documents of the times that establish a record mostly ignored or wilfully maligned today.

And, of course, we publish a number of archival photos of that time, which we hope help emphasize the unique peril and relief of those days.

Like all generations, it is vital that the next generation knows its past, our past. And though 40 years are essentially still an immediate past, for some it might as well be ancient history. They know so little about the tumultuous events of the Six Day War that unfolded before they were born.

In our High Holy Day prayers, we beseech God that we not be cast aside in our old age. In the same spirit, let us this year also beseech our own consciences and implore of ourselves, our friends and our peers to actively embrace the younger generation with the special love that confers information, knowledge and belonging.

We must try to ensure that our children know who they are, what has been our past, and the nature of our hopes for the future we will leave to them to continue building. Recalling and teaching the events of The Six Day War is a good way in the year 5767 to extend that embrace.

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—The editor.

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Something akin to panic gripped the Jewish community

By Don Carr

What It Was Like

Ominous news from the Middle East flooded the papers, radio and television for weeks. Egypt's Nasser closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping. He then demanded that the United Nations Emergency Force leave Sinai, where it had patrolled the Israel-Egypt border since the Suez debacle in 1956, when Britain and France were "allied" with Israel to prevent the closing of the Canal.

The UN obliged too quickly. The threat to Israel was imminent. It was the topic around dinner tables, community meetings, workplaces and social gatherings. Israel was surrounded by unified Arab countries, fielding 250,000 troops, over 2,000 tanks and 700 fighter planes, poised to attack.

Underlying the fear for Israel, was the unspoken, but deeply felt fear for all Jewry, in a world that might, once again, have no haven.

From Toronto, war seemed to start in a flash. Before we knew it, the pre-emptive strike to wipe out the Egyptian air force on the ground, brought reports of massive retaliation. The onslaught was not merely from the Sinai into the Negev, but from the Golan Heights, where massed Syrian armour descended on the kibbutzim, moshavim and villages around lake Kinneret.

Something akin to panic gripped the Toronto and Canadian Jewish community.

Without today's "embedded" TV cameras, reports from Arab sources trumpeted victories over Israeli forces. They drew vivid pictures of the Jewish state being overrun from the north, the south and, suddenly, from the east. Jordan joined the fray, shelling and striking towards West Jerusalem.

A well organized Jewish community reacted.

An emergency meeting of major fundraisers was called in Montreal by Sam Bronfman, the president of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC). Spurred by resounding speeches and voiced concerns of pending disaster, representatives from across the country returned to their communities, eager to do whatever was possible.

In Toronto, it wasn't just raising money for myriad urgent needs in Israel. Jewish doctors flocked to the offices of the Federation of Zionist Organizations of Canada (FZOC) on Marlee Avenue, volunteering to help in Israeli hospitals or at the front. It looked like Mt. Sinai Hospital would be without medical practitioners. Other volunteers from every sector came forward to replace Israeli reservists who had left behind every kind of civilian workplace. A population of the very young and the old was seen to be bereft of the infrastructure to provide essential services.

With co-operation from every corner of the Jewish community, a Toronto coordinating committee was established under the recognized natural leadership of Ray D. Wolfe, chairman and CEO of The Oshawa Group Limited.

Fundraising, media relations, representation to government, blood banks, community relations, the gathering of medical supplies, blankets and clothing and a speakers' bureau fell into place under the guidance of the co-ordinating committee.

Its members read like a who's who of Toronto Jewry. As I review the names of some of its members, I sadly see a list of leaders, most of whom are no longer with us. They included Kalmen Berger, Stephen Berger, Fred Catzman, "Buckie" and Madeleine Epstein, Phil Givens, Max Goody, Syd Harris, Julius Hayman, Morris Kaufman, Ben Kayfetz, Morrie Latchman, George Liban, Lou Lockshin, Syd Midanik, Morley Pape, Rabbi Gunther Plaut, Rabbi Stuart Rosenberg, Sam Sable, Ben Schneider, Myer Sharzer, Nathan Silver, Naftali Sokol, Harry Steiner, Wayne Tanenbaum, Harry Wolfson and me. I had then been the treasurer of the UJWF (later the federation), for three years. Wayne and I were probably the "babies" of the group.

Businesses and professions were left behind, as the urgency overshadowed all else. Toronto UJA called an emergency campaign and urgent meetings of its divisions were called.

The lawyers' division met at the home of Sydney Robins. Some 200 gathered in the open design living/dining room. I stood on the upstairs balcony overlooking them all. I read excerpts from a letter from Berko Devor, formerly house

Continued on page B5

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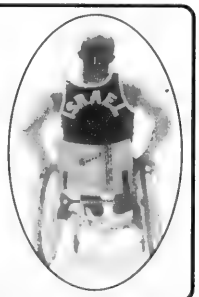

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Trepidations gave way to exhilaration and thankfulness

Continued from page B4

counsel to Revenue Properties, but by then a resident of Haifa. With unsteady hands and a breaking voice I recounted his description of the life and fears of Israelis as war drew close.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut, of Holy Blossom Temple, who had assumed the leadership of the emergency campaign, joined me on the balcony, having rushed from another similar meeting (of accountants or developers, I believe.) He added his articulate and stirring words to my appeal for immediate and public financial commitments. That night we raised more than ever before and, in company with other UJA divisions, not only set a new record, but established a new "base" for future campaigns.

The co-ordinating committee or its sub-committees met almost daily and in the evenings from June 6 until mid-July. Each member with a "portfolio" reported. Suggestions were made and the participants returned to their groups to implement quickly devised plans. Daily bulletins were distributed across the community.

Ben Schneider, executive director of UJWF, Myer Sharzer, executive-director of the Ontario region of CJC and George Liban, executive director of FZOC, led a cadre of co-operative professionals from a multitude of organizations to give support and encouragement to lay members of the community. State of Israel Bonds suspended its campaign and its workers joined the rest of the community.

There was concurrently a sense of foreboding, as well as a resolve to do everything that one could do to sustain those whom we believed were fighting, not only for their own survival, but for Jews everywhere.

As quickly as the war started, within days the trepidations gave way to a huge sense of relief, even exhilaration and thankfulness. The true nature of events became known. Still mindful of the sacrifices which had been made – and were still being made – the stunning victories of the Israel Defence Forces, the routing of the Arab armies, the capture of the whole of Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip appeared miraculous. One was reminded of Ben Gurion's statement that only those who believed in miracles were realists!

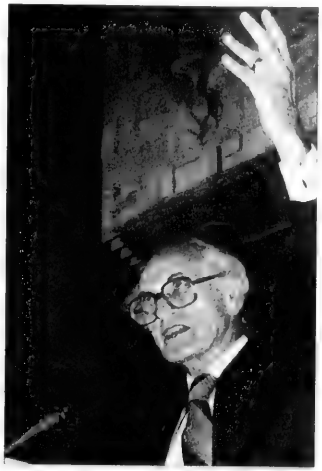
The life of the co-ordinating committee was a mere few weeks. The volunteer doctors were not needed, but some 55 to 60 other volunteers had gone on a 90 day program in Israel. Some $11 million, out of a total in excess of $23 million from Canada, had been collected and sent to Israel, with medical supplies and clothing. A community had united. The hope was expressed that the newly re-formed Joint Community Relations Committee of the FZOC, CJC and B'nai Brith would move forward cooperatively. (Unfortunately, the "partnership" later collapsed under the weight of inter-organizational politics, and continued solely in the hands of CJC).

In thanking the members of the committee, Ray Wolfe said, ... "we learned something of the mighty potential of unity, both with our people in Israel and, even more important, amongst ourselves. What was accomplished through combined effort in Israel's hour of peril set a standard which, for years to come, will inspire communities throughout the continent."

How relevant are those words to the existing crisis, almost four decades later!

Notwithstanding that the promise and euphoria of the results of the Six Day War were thwarted over the ensuing years, once again the community has received a call to be united to overcome what, this time, is now realized to be something more than an Israel/Palestinian Arab conflict. Rather, it is an advance guard on behalf of an international battle to prevent radical Islamists from overrunning the free world.

Don Carr is the president of The Canadian Jewish News.



The late Ray Wolfe, left, the founding president (1971-1990) of *The CJN*, and Rabbi Gunther Plaut were among the community leaders who lobbied on behalf of Israel.

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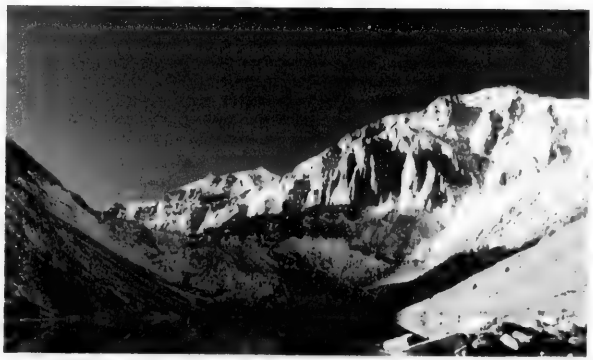

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Rabbi Shlomo Goren, who was with the paratroopers when they captured the Western Wall, summons forth the sounds of the shofar to commemorate the sanctity of the moment. [IGPO photo]

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5767

Not since biblical times had Jews stood so proud

I was in Israel a few days after the Six Day War. Burnt-out Jordanian tanks still smouldered, littering the highway between Jerusalem and the Allenby Bridge. Perhaps the best way to describe the atmosphere before and after the Six Day War is to relate the experience of going to a Tel Aviv movie theatre to see the documentary/news film of the war.

It is important to remember that the Six Day War occurred less than 20 years after the establishment of Israel, and just a short a time after the liberation of Europe and the discovery of the horrifying concentration camps. Until the establishment of a Jewish state, all Jews in some way felt the vulnerability of dependence. And in that audience of the screening I attended were Holocaust survivors.

By A. J. Diamond

What It Was Like

The film began by showing the craven retreat of the United Nations forces in the Sinai at the behest of the ranting Egyptian president Col. Gamal Nasser. The troops were meant to be a buffer to the two states to prevent war. At the first sign of belligerence, UN Secretary General U Thant promptly withdrew the UN forces. Next the film moved to the debate in the United Nations, where, in effect, no action to restrain the Egyptians was taken. Subsequently, it was revealed that all adjoining states – Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and even Jordan were persuaded to join the conspiracy to attack Israel.

Doom seemed to be closing in on the Jewish state. Israel seemed alone, with no one but itself to counter this mortal threat to its existence. Most of the film up to this point, presumably shot with hand-held cameras in the field, was appropriately grainy and dark. The film showed the Egyptian army moving into Sinai and occupying strategic Sharm el Sheikh. One could feel the audience hunkering down, silent, fearful, perhaps recalling the times when there was no one to turn to for protection.

At this point the film, with dramatic contrast, showed the Israeli Air Force taking off in formations of the Star of David. The movie theatre erupted with cheers and applause. I felt goose bumps and hot behind the eyes.

The film then proceeded to show clips shot from the camera ports of the fighter jets of the Israelis destroying, with pinpoint accuracy, the entire Egyptian Air Force caught napping on the ground, then the destruction of Egyptian tank columns in the Sinai and finally the breakneck speed with which the Israel Defence Forces swept through and occupied the whole of Sinai, the Golan Heights and the West Bank. To see Israeli soldiers, led by Gen. Moshe Dayan, making a pilgrimage to the Western Wall of the Temple Mount, inaccessible since 1948, was to bring tears to everyone's eyes.

No cavalry sent to the rescue, no superman saving the innocent from the jaws of evil, can convey the sense of euphoria, pride and gratification of that period. Perhaps not since biblical times had Jews stood so proud, vanquishing their enemies with a heroism that changed the ethos and self-esteem of Jews everywhere. Nothing can illustrate better the importance for Jews everywhere of the continuance of the existence of the State of Israel.

A.J. Diamond is a principal with Diamond and Schmitt, an office of more than 100 professionals, which is ranked internationally in the top 200 firms of architecture. The company has projects across Canada and the United States, and in seven other countries including Israel.

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A MILLENNIAL GREETING
Israeli President Zalman Shazar kisses the stones of the Western Wall, the first president of Israel to do so. [IGPO photo]

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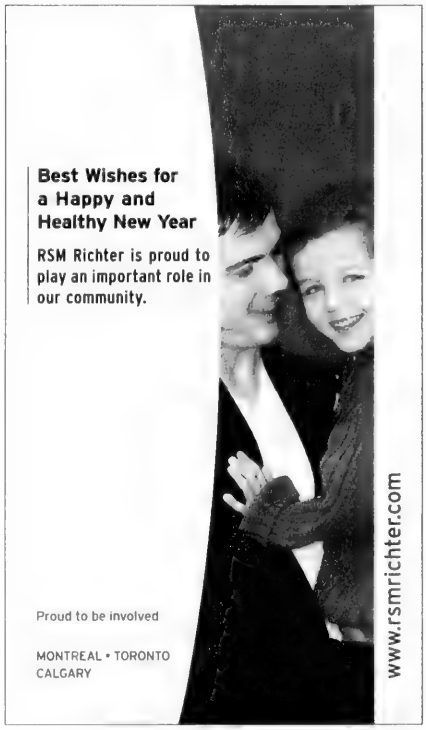


Israel was on her own, except for world Jewry

Har Ha-bayit beyadenu! The Temple Mount is in our control! With these electrifying words, thousands of years of Jewish history flashed before our eyes. The momentous victory of Israel in June 1967, following six days of intense fighting against Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the rest of the Arab world, was achieved.

By Libby Garshowitz

We can never forget the sight of victorious soldiers crying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, as they held up the blue and white flag of Israel. Who can forget the sight of Rabbi Shlomo Goren blowing the shofar, the symbol of victory and thanksgiving. Our hearts were filled with gratitude that brave Israeli soldiers had been victorious, despite tragic losses and months of suffering. As world Jewry celebrated Israel's dramatic victory over her enemies, we in Toronto continued our community's efforts to help alleviate as much as possible some of the difficulties that remained.

But let us turn to the events that preceded this war. Israel, under its first prime minister, David ben Gurion, had always wanted to make peace with her Arab neighbours, as he had stated in his speech upon the creation of the State of Israel, when he stretched forth the hand of friendship. Golda Meir, Israel's foreign minister in 1960, reiterated that wish.

But the Arabs never accepted the proffered hand of peace, stating that they would never make peace with Israel. A bellicose, belligerent Gamal Abdel Nasser, the Egyptian president, stated: "The danger of the State of Israel lies in the very existence of Israel as it is in the present and in what she represents."

Indeed, the charter of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, with Yasser Arafat at its head, called for the destruction of the State. Annihilation of the State of Israel has always been the goal of the Arab world. And they tried incessantly to achieve it. To this end, *fedayeen* undertook cross-border attacks against Israeli farmers and villages, infiltrating from Jordan, the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

Syria was shelling northern villages from the Golan Heights. Rarely was there heard a word of condemnation from the outside world, especially the United Nations. Israel-bashing, wars and battles of attrition were de rigeur from the moment of her inception. But several years later, when a non-Jewish group from Toronto was visiting the Golan Heights, one of its members stood on its hills, looked down upon the peaceful Israeli villages and said, "We can never give this back."

What It Was Like

Mere hateful words did not suffice for the arrogant, boastful Nasser. We watched, in fear and apprehension, as he threw out ineffectual UN troops from Sinai in order to move in Egyptian ones. Simultaneously, Syrian troops were lining up on the Golan Heights. Then Nasser closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, effectively blocking the port of Eilat, Israel's lifeline, a true casus belli.

We Torontonians were following every move and development during that tense month of May as Nasser and Syrian President Hafez Assad were openly and boastfully plotting Israel's destruction, with the encouragement of Iraq, which threatened to wipe Israel off the map. Very little outside help was offered to a besieged Israel. Finally, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol gave the order to pre-empt and Toronto awoke on June 5, 1967, to CBC-Radio's announcement: Israel is at war! Chilling and gripping words.

Countries such as France, which had helped Israel in the past, now refused to do so. My parents, who were in Paris at the time, on their way back from Israel, were amazed by the massive outpouring of French citizens on the streets, who were totally committed to support and victory for the people of Israel. Not the French government, however. June 1967 marked the end of cordial relations between Israel and France.

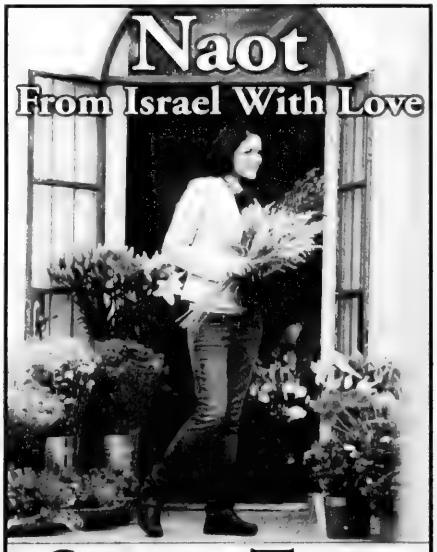
While the Soviet Union and all the Arab countries were supplying troops and arms to the belligerents, no one was helping Israel. Israel was on her own, except for world Jewry. We remember how bitter we were. Israel was fighting a war on two fronts: Egypt and Syria.

Israel destroyed most of Egypt and Syria's air power on the opening day of the war, June 5. Jordan's King Hussein was warned not to enter the war but did not heed the warning and attacked. Israel was now fighting a war on three fronts: Syria, Egypt and Jordan. The crack Jordan Legion, which had been trained by the British Gen. John Bagot Glubb Pasha, became a new source of spine-chilling fear. Jordan, too, went down to ignominious defeat.

But more than that – Israel was now, at long last, in possession of her biblical heartland, Judea and Samaria, and its capital! And on June 7, Jerusalem was united. The Mandelbaum Gate, which had marked the division of Jerusalem into east and west, was torn down. A colleague had told me that prior to 1967, the occasional daring American student studying at Hebrew University had tried to break through the gate. They were unceremoniously sent back home. That was no more. I remember shortly after how exhilarating it was to drive with a former Torontonian on the way to his lecture at Haifa University through King Hussein's former racing grounds.

In the meantime, Toronto's Jewish community did not remain crippled by fear but instantly galvanized and mobilized. Various groups formed to gather medical and drug supplies and whatever else was necessary. Medical specialists in trauma, surgery, orthopedics and other fields flew to

Continued on page B9



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Arabs' claims of honouring holy places were lies

Continued from page B8

Israel to help. Many Toronto Israelis returned to join their units at war. Scheduled gala events in the Jewish community were not cancelled but were turned into fundraisers. Everyone helped. Young families who were carefully budgeting for tuition money to send their children to Jewish day schools, or saving for vacations or camp or even new furniture, turned that money over to the rescue funds for Israel.

At the University of Toronto, Emil Fackenheim, a native of Germany and a well-known rabbi and philosopher, taught that Judaism and Jewish life must flourish after the slaughter of six million Jews during the Shoah. He believed that the existence of Israel mattered not only to Jews but to all humankind. I remember standing in the quadrangle of University College during the Six Day War, listening, with many others, to his impassioned speech about the Jewish state's existence and survival. I believe that the Six Day War became the turning point for Fackenheim's total involvement in the State of Israel's welfare and his eventual aliyah to Israel with his family.

On a more personal note, I had completed my MA and was a pre-doctoral student at the U of T. Some faculty members in our department were hesitant to open up the subject of war during those days, but the quizzical, and sometimes inimical, looks on their faces said it all. (That was not the case in 1973 when I was completing my doctorate. A state of virtual hostility then existed). In 1967, a fellow MA student, and a prominent clergyman in the Christian community, called me to wish Israel good luck and good fortune. "Beat them," he said. He did not call in 1973. We still remain good friends.

On June 11, 1967, a ceasefire was signed

Other memories surface. Ubiquitous bumper stickers appeared and helped put matters into perspective and relieve some of the tension. Most young children remember the "Israel is real" bumper sticker, wondering if Israel was spelled two ways. A profusion of political cartoons dominated the editorial pages. I remember one particularly well: an Arab seated backward on a camel, upraised sword, or gun, in his arm, shouting "charge."

As the war drew speedily and successfully to its end, exhilarated Israelis regained their sense of humour. The Soviet Union had been the Arab world's main supplier of armaments, advanced missile technology and personnel, advising the Egyptians during the June 1967 war. That increased our apprehension. But fear turned to jeers when Israelis began mocking the Soviet Union as they collected Soviet missiles and technology from the hapless Arabs: "Cut out the middlemen! Ship direct!" Black humour relieved a tense time.

As the week progressed and Israel was no longer in danger of being annihilated, Israel's, the world's and Toronto Jewry's anxiety turned to exhilaration. Today's baby boomers, many of whom were but young children at the time, vaguely recall the events as they unfolded, but they remember clearly the excitement of Israel's stunning victory, the euphoria, the bumper stickers, the gala victory rallies and the unification of Jerusalem. On June 11, 1967, a ceasefire was signed. The Israelization of North American Jewry had begun: Jews identified with the newly enlarged State of Israel, its inhabitants and its "old-new" history.

After Israel beat off the Arab armies of Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Iraq, Jerusalem, the ancient capital of the land of Israel, was unified: east Jerusalem, which had been in Jordanian hands for 19 long years, joined the western section of the city; the Kotel Maaravi, the Western Wall, once again became a site of pilgrimage; the Hebrew University campus at Har ha-Tzofim (the Mount of Olives), once again became the domain of students and faculty; the small group of university professors who had refused to leave there after 1948 could once again come and go openly, without subterfuge.

Jews learned that the Arabs' pretentious claims of honouring holy places were lies. They had destroyed Jewish tombstones on the Mount of Olives and had used them as paving stones, much as had been done in Spain hundreds of years before. Destruction of Jewish holy places was rampant.

On June 12, 1967, Israelis and world Jewry woke to a new reality but so did the Arab world. Israel was not annihilated, Israel was not pushed into the sea, and Israel and Israelis lived to see another day. The boastful Arab world had been humiliated and Israel had been victorious. The history of the ensuing years is part of that legacy.

Libby Garshowitz is professor emeritus in the department of near and Middle Eastern civilizations at the University of Toronto.

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I felt a chilling sense of foreboding

As the daughter of Yaacov Herzog, a senior Israeli diplomat and political adviser, so much of my childhood reflected personal and public experiences that were inextricably intertwined. The Six Day War was no exception.

Thus, on the one hand, as a nervous 14-year-old, I spent the three long "weeks of waiting [*hamtana*]," helping my mother stock up on supplies of non-perishables and block windows with sandbags and blackout tape. Like everyone else, I felt a chilling sense of foreboding and the unknown.

On the other hand, I regularly heard my father in phone conversations with Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and other government officials, in consultations that shaped seminal developments such as the formation of a national unity government with Herut leader Menachem Begin, the appointment of Moshe Dayan as defence minister and Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin's purported moments of weakness and doubt as final operational plans were debated.

By Shira Herzog

What It Was Like

I didn't know at the time that my father was also in constant communication with Jordan's King Hussein. As the secret emissary for the Israeli government, he urged the neighbouring monarch not to join the war by opening a third front. Israel had no issue with the Hashemite Kingdom, but King Hussein's subsequent, fateful decision to join the war on its third day led to his loss – and Israel's gain – of Jerusalem's holy sites and the West Bank, and to a transformed Middle East.

At the time, I saw and heard this all with a curious mixture of fascination and indifference. I was simultaneously gripped by the political drama, afraid of the war that was coming, and irritated at the inconvenience it caused. All in all, typical reactions of an adolescent. It took me years to unravel the meaning and import of events and discussions that I had witnessed up close.

On June 5, my father joined Prime Minister Eshkol at the War Room in Tel Aviv's Israel Defence Forces headquarters. Back in Jerusalem, I moved with my mother and siblings from our apartment to the safer ground floor of my home to the house belonging to my grandmother, Rabbanit Herzog. I sensed that war was imminent, but was sworn to secrecy.

My most vivid memory is the phone call we received on June 6 at 8:15 a.m. My father called from Tel Aviv and said tersely but with barely concealed exhilaration, "We've won the war!" Before the news had broken, just minutes after the fact, he already knew of the successful, lightning air strikes against the Egyptian and Syrian airfields. With their air power eliminated, it was clear that Israel's superiority would be uncontested in the fighting to follow, in spite of the inevitable casualty toll.

Six short days later, we returned home, only to find a piece of Jordanian shrapnel on the balcony. Jerusalem was no longer divided. The wall I had grown up with was gone. At the Western Wall on Shavuot (the first holiday after the war), I viscerally felt part of the continuum of Jewish history. Like most Israelis, I was swept up in an unprecedented wave of pride and patriotism.

In 1967, the challenges of the new reality, especially the burden of responsibility for the then two-million West Bank and Gaza Palestinians, were bubbling just below the surface. Six years later, the Yom Kippur War jolted Israel and reshaped its relations with Egypt and Syria. The decades-long debate over the future relationship with the Palestinians continues.

Shira Herzog is a native of Jerusalem and currently divides her time between Canada and Israel. She is executive vice president of the Kahanoff Foundation and a columnist on Israel affairs.

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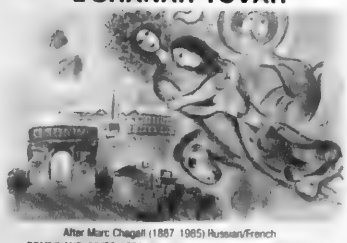

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There was now hope for the Jewish future

It is certainly challenging to look back at the Six Day War of 1967 after Israel's recent war with Hezbollah. For it was in 1967 that we realized the full potential of Israeli military capability in the face of the existential threat that we felt during the weeks prior to June 5, 1967.

Yes, the ante-bellum feeling was that Israel – and the Jewish nation – was facing the real danger of a second Holocaust. Arab leaders of the countries surrounding Israel boasted that all Jews would be pushed into the sea as they massed armies, tanks and planes on Israel's borders. There was a dreadful foreboding in those days.

By Rabbi Howard Joseph

What It Was Like

On the first day, it was clear that Israel was heading for a dominant victory over its enemies. The news inspired Jews around the world who had been gathering to pray, discuss and raise funds during the preceding weeks. Their hopes and prayers had been rewarded; their fears denied.

My wife and I headed to Israel soon after the war. We connected with friends and family and shared their experiences. We toured all the new areas under Israeli control and walked around the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem.

For the capture of Jerusalem was indeed the most inspiring event of the time. Our holiest site was again in our hands after Jews had been denied access for 19 years. The Western Wall was visited by thousands of people each day. The gathering on Tisha b'Av, the traditional day of mourning for the Jerusalem Temples, felt more like a party than a day of sadness. Something extraordinary was happening. The question was – and maybe still is – what was the meaning of all of this for Jews, Judaism, Jewish history and spiritual life.

There certainly was a sense of inspiration among Jews. Many Jews who had no interest in Israel were now concerned and identified with Israel. Jewish identity was strengthened. After the demoralization of the Holocaust, there was now hope for the Jewish future. Israel appeared to be an important factor in that future as it made its commitment to protect Jewish life from those who would destroy Jews.

Jewish students began to flock to Israel for shorter or longer periods. Levels of voluntary aliyah rose in North America. A sense of confidence had entered Jews and Jewish life.

Then there was what we can call the "messianic temptation." Was this the beginning of the long-awaited messianic age? Were the creation of the State of Israel and the return of Jerusalem to Jewish sovereignty heavenly signs and events or just to be located in human terms?

Religious Jews had been debating this question even before the state existed. Traditionally, the notion of Jewish sovereignty over Israel was purely a messianic concept. But with the advent of Zionism, religious Jews split on the question of whether or not we could have a non-messianic return to the land and a state of our own.

From the very beginning some rabbis demonized Zionism as a rebellion against God and all that is holy. Zionists were usurping God's power, pushing the "end," and leading us to disaster.

Other rabbis saw the Zionist enterprise as a profound religious awakening, of preparing the nation for the future messianic redemption. Every tree and every inch of ground cultivated would bring us closer to that dream.

Finally, a third group of rabbis supported Theodor Herzl's political vision of Zionism: the purpose of Zionism is to lift the Jews from their dire straits and give them economic and political security. Secular political Zionists did not believe in the traditional messiah. Religious Zionists shared their political and social goals of improving the lot of our people, protecting us from the virulent anti-Semitism that was growing and doing all of this in our ancient homeland.

However, this latter group has always been beset by temptation. Living in the land and watching it flourish, witnessing the return of almost six million Jews to live there – aren't these signs of redemption? Just read the prophets and you will see.

This temptation grew with the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, and especially after the miraculous victory of 1967 when we all expected a terrible disaster.

After 1967, a split arose even within the religious Zionist movement. An intense and highly vocal group moved toward the messianic temptation and somewhat silenced the others who were more cautious on this issue.

The first group was in the forefront of the religious settler movements that spread throughout the newly acquired territories. They also led the battle against disengagement from Gaza in 2005. They will probably fiercely resist any future attempts to remove Jews from ancient biblical lands.

As I look back on the Six Day War, I see it as a turning point for many different Jews in many different ways. The sense of strength, confidence and security that it gave Jews has been sometimes challenged by subsequent events, but I believe it gave my generation at least a very strong attachment and involvement with one of the great events of Jewish history: the creation of the modern State of Israel. As future generations focus on its importance, it may do the same for them.

Rabbi Howard Joseph is the spiritual leader of the Spanish & Portuguese Congregation in Montreal.

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Our most exemplary demonstration of oneness

In early July, when I was asked to reflect on what I remember about the Six Day War and what it was like for me at the time, I could not have imagined that a few days later our beloved Jewish State of Israel would find itself once again in a perilous state, much like it did in 1967.

The same thoughts and fears that ran through my mind almost 40 years ago surfaced anew. I was 23 years old when the Six Day War broke out. I was a young stay-at-home mom with two infants.

By Julia Koschitzky

What It Was Like

I had not yet experienced what Jewish communal involvement was all about, but I recall vividly how I was riveted to the television when news of the war broke out.

I also remember the third day of the war, when Jerusalem was liberated. It was not just the day that Jerusalem became one, and not just the day when Jews were able to fulfil their longing to pray once again at the Kotel, but it was also a day when Jews worldwide experienced a phenomenal upsurge of Jewish identification. If ever Jews felt truly as one nation, it was then.

It was our most exemplary demonstration of oneness. It was the kind of feeling that we experienced at the Israel solidarity rally this past July 26 when we gathered at Mel Lastman Square.

The outpouring of love, commitment and concern was palpable, and people were consumed by a deep yearning to assemble together in the spirit of "oneness" and to stand shoulder to shoulder with their brothers and sisters in Israel to tell them that they were not alone.

Elie Wiesel described it so vividly in 1967 when he noted that:

- University students flooded embassies to enlist for the fight.
- The Chassidim of Williamsburg declared days of fast and prayer.
- Youngsters from assimilated homes organized fundraising drives.
- Millionaires cast aside their business and took off for Israel.
- Community leaders went sleepless night after night because of their great efforts and profound anxiety.

Jews throughout the world felt as if their own fate was bound up with that of Israel, and they responded accordingly, Wiesel said.

It was a defining moment in our lives. It brought back memories of the darkest hours of our history, as well as its greatest triumphs.

The Six Day War that liberated Jerusalem was a catalytic event that had a powerful impact on Jewish consciousness. Jews were emotionally involved in a way they would not have thought possible a few months earlier.

I will never forget a comment made by a close friend of mine at the time who said she was not in any position to contribute money, but she would willingly donate her blood for her Israeli brethren.

In Charles Silverman's book *A Certain People*, we are reminded that large numbers of people brought their contributions to the campaign offices in person, as if mailing a cheque was too easy. By coming themselves, they seemed to feel that they were participating in a physical way.

In those days, giving money was not simply an act of charity, it was a way of enlisting in Israel's struggle for survival, of becoming a participant rather that a passive spectator.

Our own Rabbi Gunther Plaut always reminded us about the extraordinary response of our major philanthropists in Toronto who attended an emergency meeting at the Constellation Hotel. Within minutes, millions of dollars were raised. Our community came together as never before.

It seems that this same tradition is still as strong as it was back then. Over the years, we have steadfastly proven that we have been there for Israel in good times and in bad. There has never been a dramatic event in the life of Israel where the Jews of Toronto did not set the standard for every other Jewish community in the world.

On a more personal level, I recall during that time coming together with friends and engaging in deep political discussions. Before long, the evenings would turn into *kumzitses* as we began singing Naomi Shemer's *Jerusalem of Gold*. We learned the lyrics by heart and it almost became our second *Hatikvah*.

Wearing kippot also became popular overnight, and there was a clear sense that Jewish people of all ages wanted to identify with Israel in a visible way. It was almost like wearing a badge of honour that stated, "I belong to this great nation, and I am proud to be a Jew."

As I write this recollection of the Six Day War, there is a feeling of great anxiety and concern for our people and our land, without knowing the end result of the current conflict and whether we will experience the kind of euphoria that we felt in 1967. At this point, it seems very unlikely.

However, if anyone doubted the level of commitment today compared to the period following the Six-Day War, we can feel proud that hundreds of volunteers from around the world are being asked to help rehabilitate Israel's north. An international campaign is being conducted for Jews and non-Jews alike to broaden volunteer activity for Israel.

I kept putting off writing the conclusion to this article in the hope and prayer that, God willing, this war will be the one to end all future ones.

None of us get to choose the challenges in our life and the news from Israel each day is more than we can bear, but the only good news is what we see in ourselves: our passionate commitment to our homeland, our unity of purpose, our collective and individual outpouring of care, concern and sense of responsibility for one another.

It is this sense of purpose that has accompanied us throughout our history and has played a most important role in the dramatic survival of our people.

Julia Koschitzky, a longtime community activist in Toronto, is the former chair of the Keren Hayesod World Board of Trustees.

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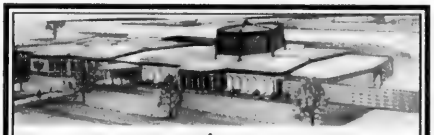

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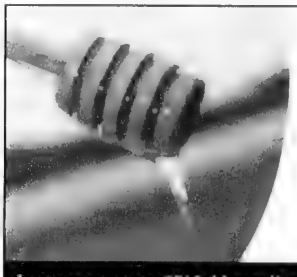

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A personal awakening to Israel

By Franklyn Medjuck

Until the Six Day War in June of 1967, I had seen Israel through songs, plays and discussions at summer camp: Jews farming desert lands, draining malaria-infested swamps, living in communal dorms and eating in mess halls. Israel was the land of our forefathers now serving as a place of refuge for our fellow Jews driven out of Arab lands and fleeing war-torn Europe.

What It Was Like

For us in Halifax, Israel was quite remote, perhaps a place of curiosity to visit some day. One friend returned in 1965 from a brief tour saying "all they gave us to eat was eggplant, I hated it."

Another person found the country "very dusty and dirty." A couple of friends went for year-long programs and to our astonishment, came back speaking a modern form of Hebrew. Their stories were of a youthful energetic country, pioneering innovations, hard work and of a new Jewish culture totally different from the experiences of our North American parents and our Old-World European teachers.

When the Six Day War started, we in Halifax received very little military news about Israel. We heard rebroadcasts of Egyptian reports boasting of invading Israel and bombing Tel Aviv, of the Syrians advancing down from the Golan Heights into the Galilee, followed by Jordan who did not want to be left out of the spoils of war. No one was coming to Israel's rescue. We watched and waited painfully.

We had forgotten that a group of half-starved Jewish refugees beat back seven invading Arab armies in 1947 to achieve Israeli independence. We had forgotten the military prowess shown by Israel in the Sinai Campaign in 1956. We prayed for miracles of biblical proportions.

We began to hear the true stories of the Israeli Air Force lightning strikes that actually ended the war in the first two days and that the Arab broadcasts had been false propaganda to serve to their own masses.

For us there were many magical moments: "The Temple Mount is Ours", Shuly Natan singing *Jerusalem of Gold*, farmers working their fields unarmed without being shot at from the Golan Heights, the opening of the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem, unrestricted access to the Western Wall.

For our Medjuck family, it was the first time we could access our grandfather's grave on the Mount of Olives where he had been buried during the War of Independence in 1948. Thereafter, the site lay behind Jordanian lines and all access was denied to Jews. Due to the destruction of the headstones, it took me personally another 10 years of research among the old plans and records of the 18 burial societies of Jerusalem to locate his particular burial plot and to erect a new memorial stone.

I was personally tested when Sheldon Schloss from Toronto called volunteers to help harvest Israeli crops. Selfishly, I postponed my volunteer work in order to complete my legal articles at a local law firm and to prepare for a master's program in London, England starting that fall semester. Those of my friends who did volunteer were forever changed, some for the good and some for the not so good. Ten months later, I found myself in Israel for Passover and then again in June for the anniversary of the Six Day War.

My personal awakening to the Israeli experience was the result of many factors: coming out of a foggy, rainy London; the agony of delaying the trip for so many months; reading every Israeli news item and broadcast, then landing in Tel Aviv to a brilliant sun-drenched land, dry, hot and filled with the aroma of orange blossoms and jasmine bouquets. It was overwhelming. Hearing Hebrew spoken publicly by all, seeing menorahs on top of buildings; it was surreal. Ancient Hebrew words took on new meanings: "*B'seder*" now meant "okay", though previously known to me as the seder for the order of the Passover meal; or "*Slichah*", now meaning "excuse me" or "sorry", as when you bump into someone, taken from our slichot prayer service where we ask God for forgiveness before Yom Kippur.

"Shabbos" became "Shabbat"; the Wailing Wall became the Kotel; Sunday became the first day of the work week, and all businesses closed early Friday in order "to allow people to get ready for Shabbat".

Daily shopping required knowing the religion of the store owner: a Muslim would be closed on Friday, his Shabbat, the Jewish owner closed on Saturday and the Christian owner closed on Sunday.

I experienced a burst of new Jewish music. Departing from the bonfire folk songs, now my Jewish music moved to: *Jerusalem of Gold*, a national anthem, and another song by Naomi Shemer, *Machar* (Tomorrow), and *Sharm Al Sheikh* (where we camped on empty beaches where now a modern city stands).....so many songs exuding a new Jewish national confidence as never before. This was followed by annual song festivals for Children's Songs, for Chassidic Songs, and for Israeli Folk Songs.

Prayers like *Shema* and *Adon Olam* transformed into modern peppy tunes with a distinctive Israeli lilt and for me, the old Hebrew liturgy came alive.

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Our general opinion was that there would be a peace treaty eventually

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The victorious Six Day War created such a burst of light and energy for our friends and family that new foods, music and living experiences gave rise to great Jewish pride and self-confidence, in contrast to the dark clouds lingering from the Holocaust and the anti-Semitic riots in Arab countries against their Jewish citizens.

We developed a passion for stories of Israeli ingenuity in agriculture, in military intelligence, in educating the masses of refugee immigrants, and in social programs to integrate so many diverse cultures. We were in awe of the magnitude of the humanitarian challenges.

I learned an Israeli form of humour, as they made fun of their government bureaucracy, and the foibles of the latest group of immigrants and the usual kibbutznik jokes.

A new perspective developed as to what Israeli life could be for my friends and me. Visiting Israel became the norm and to live in Israel became a viable alternative. We no longer viewed Israel as just a last chance safe haven for destitute refugees and misfits but as a place with promising career opportunities.

I had finished law school and a master's degree in town planning, so in 1970 I was hired by the City of Jerusalem to work in its urban planning unit as a development control officer.

Huge economic growth occurred from a population explosion and industrial investment. At the same time, we had to provide basic sewage treatment and water supply to the Arab settlements. In the old City of Jerusalem water was still carried by buckets and pails, while sewage flowed in the streets. Children playing in the streets suffered from all forms of infections. In one committee meeting, I recall the discussion concerned the supply of toilet paper to the public washrooms in the Old City. The local Arab residents would steal the toilet paper. It was decided to supply the toilet paper regardless, so they would hopefully realize that it would always be there for them.

One of my supervisors was an old distinguished Arab gentleman, with a long handlebar mustache. As we drove around the countryside, he declared his loyalties were strictly to the King of Jordan. He and our Arab housekeeper longed for the return of the king, not an Arafat from Egypt.

Our general opinion was that the war was defensive, not to conquer a people or a land, and that there would be a peace treaty eventually on the basis of land compromise. When driving through El Arish in northern Sinai, I picked up a hitchhiking Israeli soldier who asked in Hebrew if we were going "*L'Eretz*" meaning "to Israel", implying that Sinai was not part of Israel. No one intended on staying there. This came true later when Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty at Camp David and Sinai was given to Egypt.

The Six Day War enabled us to flock to Arab towns for fruits and vegetables and deals on household supplies. It was my first exposure to Arab culture, e.g. the Arab Shuk (the retail bazaar filled with spices and crafts) where bargaining was the protocol. New eating adventures, e.g. hummus, from chick peas, with pita bread, deep-fried falafel with hot spices to burn the palate, Moroccan cigars (meat-filled spring-rolls), babaganoush (eggplant), Israeli salad (finely chopped), shishlick and shakshouka.

David Elazar and Yitzhak Rabin

The Arabs welcomed us warmly. They prospered enormously from the Israeli shoppers. They did not flee as did their predecessors. In fact, they learned English and Hebrew to do business with us. I recall spending a number of afternoons walking through Jenin with my friend Bezalel (formerly from Montreal) who moved to that area in the 1950s. He hired an architect in Jenin to do an expansion to his home. I would also join him when he sold sheep milk to the local Arabs and Bedouins. As we sat in their homes and tents, a hand would protrude from behind a curtain to serve black coffee – the hidden person never emerged in our presence. The general laughter and camaraderie during all these frequent visits was heartening. We were all quite confident that a peaceful future of good neighbourly relations and mutual prosperity lay ahead.

Franklyn Medjuck practises law in Halifax.

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The memories live on!

From apprehension to concern; concern to anxiety; anxiety to deep worry; and, then, genuine fear!!!

This was the sequence of emotions in late May and early June 1967, as Egypt, Syria & Jordan began amassing troops along their borders with Israel. Was this simply a pressure tactic or was Israel, our Israel, going to once again face the military combined might of three of the most powerful Arab countries?

By Stanley Plotnick

What It Was Like

Could Israel possibly overcome such overwhelming odds? Would any country come to Israel's aid if she was attacked? How could Israel possibly survive, once again, a mass military attack in which she would be so outnumbered? What would happen to the courageous people of this tiny country that wanted nothing more than to live in peace as the homeland of the Jewish people? What would happen to Jews all over the world if Israel were defeated?

No matter how hard I tried, no matter how much confidence I had in the people of Israel, no matter how optimistic I forced myself to be, I was genuinely frightened. In fact, at times the fear became obsessive.

It seems unbelievable that today, 40 years later, these emotions return. Not because Israel seems as vulnerable, or because it is likely that Egypt or Jordan would return to war against Israel, but because there exist violent, compulsive enemies who are more committed than ever to the obliteration of Israel, and even, possibly, of the Jewish people.

They still will not allow us to have our homeland, albeit a tiny piece of land that is a fraction of even the smallest Arab country. And, because there exists a hatred of western values and democracy, Iran, Syria, fundamentalist Muslim movements and their puppet terrorist militias, believe it is most acceptably expressed through a determination to "eradicate" Israel as a prelude to eliminating all other vestiges of freedom and tolerance. And, today, as 40 years ago, Israel is battling enemies for no reason other than their compulsion that "we shall not survive." And the fears return for those who must endure the attacks, live in shelters, and lose their loved ones who once again must defend Israel for all Jews wherever we are, for whenever we might want, or need, to move to our "homeland." And I cry for each life that is lost....for each family that is traumatized, for I feel as though each is almost my child, my grandchild, my family.

> *I try to remain optimistic today, as 40 years ago, for who could have imagined the progress of the six days of war in 1967?*

But I try to remain optimistic today, as 40 years ago, for who could have imagined the progress of the six days of war in 1967? Who could have foreseen the pre-emptive military brilliance of the IDF? Who could have predicted the unrelenting courage and determination of the Israeli people? Who could have believed that we the Jewish people would not back down, would not "take it" again, and that despite the enormous cost, in six days we would prevail?

Who could have foretold that those who were determined to "drive us into the sea" would be calling for a ceasefire? Who would have envisioned that this military victory would form the foundation of a peace, albeit a cool peace, with Egypt and Jordan? Who could have dreamed that the plan for Arab destruction of Israel would lead to the fulfillment of the eternal Jewish hope for the re-unification of Jerusalem?

And who could have understood what this would mean for every Jew? At no time in modern history would Jews stand prouder, freer, or be treated more respectfully. Who would have imagined what was possible when the Arab armies began moving on the borders of Israel, and each of us was gripped with fear, approaching terror?

Those weeks are forever ingrained in my mind, heart and soul....the life-changing emotions beginning with apprehension and moving to deep fear and gradually to optimism, relief and even some excitement and pride. But who knew then that we would have to face these fearful, tearful, times, again and again.

We prayed then, as we do now, that this will be the last time; that we will be allowed to live in peace and security; that we will be able to bring science and technology and our values to all mankind, and that we, and our neighbours, can live side by side with understanding and tolerance.

But perhaps that is too optimistic....and the terror felt 40 years ago may be repeated yet again. I pray not!

Stanley Plotnick is the former president of UIA Federations Canada.

IN A STATE OF CONTEMPLATION: Yitzhak Rabin and Moshe Dayan seem calm and at ease as they contemplate the events of the war. [IGPO]

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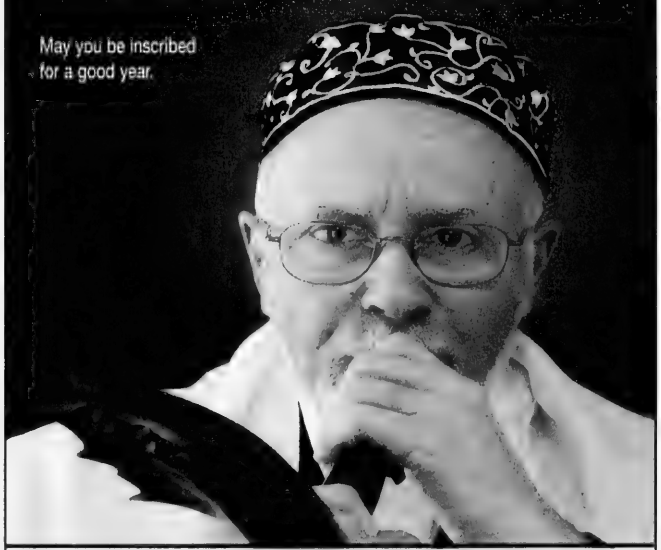

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After 40 years, it is timely to recall

"Time is the longest distance between two places." –Tennessee Williams, *The Glass Menagerie*

By Rabbi Erwin Schild

On Reflection

Last May, I noticed how time impacts on geography. I was escorting a congregational Israel tour, and we were heading out of Jerusalem. I reminded our guide to point out to my group where the Mandelbaum Gate had been when Jerusalem was a divided city. Excellent guide though he was, I had the feeling he would not show us this site, and the lack of interest on the part of my group members would have justified the omission.

It was obvious that Mandelbaum Gate had little meaning for the men and women in the bus. Evidently neither the older nor the younger ones remembered, or had never heard of, the Mandelbaum Gate. In 1970, when I led my first congregational tour to Israel, the Mandelbaum Gate and how it had disappeared was still fresh in Jewish memories. But its site still aroused curiosity this year; my fellow travellers were craning their necks to see the place through the bus windows. It was not necessary then to remind a guide to point out the spot.

The Mandelbaum Gate, like Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin, was the wormhole connecting world to anti-world. It was the passage - not really a gate but an opening – in a barbwire barricade controlled by United Nations personnel through which diplomats and international notables were able to pass between Israeli Jerusalem and the Jordanian-held part of the city.

Forty years ago, the Mandelbaum Gate disappeared. Forty years are a long time in collective and individual memory. Forty years meant generational change when the Children of Israel trekked from Egypt to the Promised Land. The desert they crossed was the stage on which the drama unfolded that swept the Mandelbaum Gate away.

After 40 years, it is timely, therefore, to recall and retell: "*Arma virumque cano*" to sing of arms and the men who were the heroes of the drama and to hear or read the reminiscences of our elders, who as spectators were gripped by the agony and the ecstasy of the Jewish world of 1967.

The Mandelbaum Gate epitomizes the State of Israel before the Six Day War. Although the boundaries of Israel, set in 1948 on the battlefields of the War of Independence, were more generous than the bizarre projection of the original United Nations partition plan, they left the country in limbo. The borders were tight; narrow like a road without shoulders. Israel's geography was precarious, tentative, incomplete.

Tourists did not linger long in its capital Jerusalem. The city felt surrounded and truncated. A wall went through its centre. The eastern exposure of the King David Hotel was indeed exposed: it overlooked a no-man's land across which the Jordanian troops loved to take shots. Mount Scopus, site of the Hebrew University and the Hadassah Hospital –pride of the pre-state Yishuv– was cut off from the city. Though held by the Israel Defence Forces, it was inaccessible, its garrison resupplied every two weeks under UN supervision. Secret meetings of Israeli leaders with the King Hussein of Jordan took place, but neither Egypt, nor Syria or Jordan, accepted the permanence of a Jewish state. Instead they abetted the activities of terrorists operating from their territories. Israel's relations to her neighbours were low-grade warfare flaring up from time to time in sharp military confrontations.

The Suez campaign of 1956, though aborted under the pressure of the United States, was followed by a period of relative stability. The boisterous threats of Arab spokesmen, especially Egyptian and Syrian, were discounted by Jews in the Diaspora as empty rhetoric to salve Arab sensibilities. We watched the fortunes of Israel with a mixture of admiration and anxiety, hope and worry. A new campus of the Hebrew University grew in west Jerusalem and a new Hadassah Hospital was opened. The ingathering of the exiles continued as Jews from north Africa and Holocaust survivors in eastern Europe made their way to the homeland.

A UN peacekeeping force, the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), was stationed in the Sinai Peninsula to keep the peace between Egypt and Israel. Contrary to international assurances, the Suez Canal remained closed to Israeli shipping. Eilat, at the head of the Gulf of Aqabah, was developed as Israel's southern marine terminal.

At Israel's northern borders the situation was less stable. Terrorists, with Syrian support, carried out raids, while Syrian artillery emplacements on the Golan Heights, overlooking the Sea of Galilee and the Hule Valley, subjected Israeli villages and kibbutzim to periodic shelling. Tractors working the land had to be armoured for protection. People were forced to sleep in underground bomb shelters.

Abba Eban, foreign minister of Israel, summed it all up in his address to the UN General Assembly on June 19, 1967: "As we look back, it becomes plain that the Arab governments regarded the 1957 arrangements merely as a breathing space enabling them to gather strength for a later assault."

The year 1967 saw an increase of Syrian harassment, although on April 7, Syria suffered an embarrassing defeat in an aerial skirmish, losing six MiG-21s to the Israeli Air Force. Egypt showed increased impatience with the presence of the UNEF in the Sinai peninsula. The level of Jewish worries about Israel's

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Our hearts went out to our brothers and sisters

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security rose with the growing tension. The scene was set.

On May 16, the Egyptian commander-in-chief requested the UNEF in the Sinai to vacate posts on the Egyptian border, which were then promptly occupied by Egyptian troops. Two days later, the Egyptian foreign minister requested all countries whose soldiers were serving in the UNEF to withdraw their contingents. India and Yugoslavia complied promptly. On May 19, Egypt notified the United Nations that their mission in Sinai and in the Gaza strip was terminated. The remaining United Nations forces meekly withdrew. The Sinai peninsula was occupied by Egyptian troops. Tanks and infantry were massing on Israel's southern border.

Then an even more flagrant challenge was announced by Egypt: the Straits of Tiran, the narrow maritime passage through which vessels bound for or from Eilat have to pass, was closed to Israeli shipping at Sharm al Sheikh as of May 23. Israel was cut off from its southern supply and trade routes.

The Israeli economy ground to a halt as the country prepared to defend itself. Diplomatic activity intensified among the powers who had promised Israel open sea lanes and security behind the shield of United Nations forces.

We Jews in Canada remembered the oath "never again"and rallied to Israel's defence. We lobbied, we protested, we cried out, we agonized. Our hearts went out to our brothers and sisters whose survival was again at stake.

In a speech to Arab trade union-ists on May 26, Gamal Abdul Nasser, the president of Egypt, revealed what everyone already knew: "Our basic objective will be to destroy Israel."

Sympathy will not be enough

On May 23, the Israeli cabinet dispatched Eban to Washington, after deciding to wait 48 hours before taking action on the closing of Tiran. The United States government, as well as Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin, warned Israel to await the outcome of more negotiations. Israel gave in, agreeing to postpone action for two weeks. And then what? To us Jews in Toronto, the situation appeared desperate.

A huge, impressive demonstration in support for Israel in New York on Sunday afternoon rallied thousands of Jewish men, women and children, along with other sympathizers. But sympathy will not be enough!

I had a vantage point from which to watch the action or inaction. Providence – or was it merely a fortuitous coincidence?– decreed that I should be in Washington from May 28 to June 1. Each year, the Rabbinical Assembly of America holds a convention in May. It was usually held at one of the renowned hotels in the Catskills, the Concord or Grossinger's, conveniently close to the large number of rabbis in the American northeast, and offering the rabbis and their wives – there were no female rabbis yet – enjoyable creature comforts while attending to the business of the Conservative rabbinate. In 1966, however, it was decided to hold the 1967 convention at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, in order to focus the attention of Congress members and other politicians and pundits on a number of current issues of concern to American rabbis.

The president of the Rabbinical Assembly, Rabbi Eli Bohnen, a Canadian expatriate, expressed in his opening address what we all felt: fate had decreed that this convention should be held in Washington at this time of Israel's great need. None of us had known that we would be meeting under a cloud of concern for the fate of Israel. The nations of the world were being tested, the rabbi said, but most of all, the Jews of America were being tested. How much are we prepared to do, he asked, for the Jews of Israel?

Rabbi Usher Kirshblum – the father of the cantor of my synagogue – suggested we capture the imagination of the country with a march on the Capitol by the entire convention, about 500 people. However, the delegates were to listen first to a report by Mr. Kenen, one of the chief lobbyists for Israel in the American capital. Today, 40 years later, I understand better what he explained to the assembled rabbis: everybody agreed that Egypt was in breach of all prior agreements, but action to help Israel was held up by the debate between those who called for unilateral action by the United States, such as sending an American ship bound for Israel through the Straits of Tiran, and their opponents who advocated to wait for multilateral measures under the umbrella of the United Nations. Clearly, Jews faced the challenge to mobilize public opinion in favour of immediate material support for Israel.

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FIGHTING IN AND FOR JERUSALEM: IDF soldiers make their way into the Old City of Jerusalem and along its many stone alleyways into the Jewish Quarter where Jews were forbidden to live after the Jordanian army expelled them in 1948. [IGPO]

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5767

Every Jew was desperate for news

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Needless to say, the crisis in the Middle East overshadowed the entire convention. Nothing else seemed to be of significance. New developments heightened the tension. On Tuesday, May 30, the Kingdom of Jordan joined a five-year military alliance with Egypt and placed its own forces under Egyptian command. Syria had already entered a pact with Egypt. President Nasser gloated: "The armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are poised on the borders of Israel... while standing behind us are the armies of Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait, Sudan and the whole Arab nation. This act will astound the world."

Fear crept into our bones. We worried about Israel's narrow waist – 17 miles only separated forces now under Egyptian command from Israel's coastline near Netanya.

On the same day, Radio Cairo came up with a gruesome analysis. "In the light of the blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba, two possibilities are open to Israel, each one soaked in blood: either she will die from strangulation of the Arab military and economic blockade, or she will die in a hail of bullets of the Arab forces surrounding her."

Before Iraq, too, joins the military alliance, its president makes a prediction: "My sons, this day is the day of battle and revenge for your brothers who fell in 1948. It is the day of the removal of the shame. With the help of God, we will meet together in Tel Aviv and Haifa."

The convention highlight was a public rally on Tuesday afternoon in conjunction with the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington. The Shoreham Hotel ballroom was filled to overflowing.

My sermon on the following Shabbat, June 3, was mainly a report on the convention and the rally. Vice-president Hubert Humphrey, whose appearance at the convention had been scheduled many months in advance, spoke with great forthrightness as he assured the assembly that the United States would stand behind its commitments. He appreciated Israel's restraint. "Every effort –underscore every– will be made to find a peaceful settlement, but not at the expense of Israel's security."

Senator Eugene McCarthy, one of the most powerful political figures of the time, stated that while an Egyptian attack would have to be met by Israel, access to the Gulf of Aqaba was not Israel's but America's problem. Israel's access to the oceans was not only a legal but also a moral commitment. "There is no significant division... in the Congress or in the Senate... with reference to our ultimate obligation and responsibility."

The senator tried sincerely to instil confidence in the hearts of his rapt listeners, and I tried to convey the same message to my congregation. But mainly I tried, as did practically all religious and secular leaders of our community, to rouse our community to mobilize. An emergency fund had been set up to support the 2½ million Israelis who were facing 40 million hostile Arabs. Three hundred young Jewish people from Philadelphia had left a week before for Israel to help out. "Are there sacrifices we are not prepared to make to save 2½ million Jews from destruction?" I asked rhetorically. "Our young people have marched and sat-in for others; now let us protest for ourselves!"

Another day or two went by. Around us, we sensed a terrifying silence. Was this going to be another abandonment of the Jews? There had been words of support, but not enough and no action. Several prominent U.S. clergymen had released a "Declaration of Conscience" in the *New York Times*. But there was no outburst of public solidarity with Israel. How will little Israel defend itself against superior odds? Her enemies on every side had tightened the noose. Their objective was clear: 19 years before they had been unable to snuff out the life of nascent Israel. Now they were going to destroy her. The world seemed to be watching in paralyzed silence for Israel's execution. No action; merely futile diplomatic maneuvering. All that our efforts had produced were words, expressions of sympathy. I almost choked on my anger.

Then it was Monday, June 5. I was in my car, I remember. Switch on the radio; time for the news. Every Jew was desperate for the news. What's happening? Death or life?

An electrifying news item. Could we believe it? Israeli warplanes, in a daring but successful raid, had destroyed the entire Egyptian Air Force parked on the tarmac of the military airbase near Cairo, attacking while the Egyptian pilots were eating lunch. Could it be true? Confirmation was quick to come. Yes, in a daring pre-emptive strike, Israel had won undisputed mastery of the air. The skies over Israel, Sinai and Egypt were ours

"Why is your clothing so red,/ Your garments like his who treads grapes?/ I trod a vintage alone;/ Of the peoples no man was with me./ I trod them down in my anger,/ Trampled them in my rage./ Their life-blood bespattered my garments/ And all my clothing was stained.../ I looked, but there was none to help;/ I stared, but there was none to aid –/ So my own arm wrought the triumph,/ And my own rage was my aid." (Isaiah 63:2 ff.)

The next few days were a blur of good news of victories. Rapid moves on the battlefields. The rout of Egyptian army, their smashed tanks littering the sands, their soldiers running away. Israeli forces advanced across the Sinai, teaching us distant spectators a new geography: Mitla Pass, Santa Katarina and strategic Sharm al Sheikh, where mobile Israeli forces dismantled the Egyptian artillery pieces controlling the narrow straits of Tiran, lifting the blockade of the vitally important Gulf of Aqaba.

A desperate Nasser implored Jordan's King Hussein to move on to west Jerusalem to

Continued on page B25

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DEFERENCE AND RESPECT

Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin stands aside to enable Moshe Dayan to touch the Western Wall. [IGPO]

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Israel could count on only one ally: the Jewish people

Continued from page B23

relieve the pressure on Egypt. Bitter battles with Jordanian forces ensued. Many brave Israeli soldiers fell at Ammunition Hill, a fortified Jordanian position that the Israel Defence Forces has to capture in order to wrest the old city from the Jordanians.

The war had started on Monday, June 5. When I addressed a rally for the Israel Emergency Fund at Adath Israel synagogue on Thursday evening, June 8, east Jerusalem and the Western Wall were already "ours."

We were rejoicing in a phenomenal victory of the few over the many. I emphasized a fact that remains as important today as it was 40 years ago: the existential inequality of the struggle that had been forced on Israel. Israel's defeat would have meant its destruction. The Arabs, even in abject defeat, were reassured by the support of the Soviet Union and the oil-rich Arab states, which lost no time to call for an urgent ceasefire that was also the policy objective of the United States.

Along with paying tribute to Israel's heroic armed forces, I pointed to the loneliness of Israel, its psychological isolation. It can count on one ally only: the Jewish people. In the lead-up to the war, most of the world powers had stood by, as they had when Hitler had threatened and proceeded to carry out the annihilation of European Jewry. Israel received only verbal comfort and the counsel to be patient while the UNEF was evicted, Arab armies mobilized and Eilat was blockaded.

Continued on page B26

CHECKING THE STATE OF READINESS
Prime Minister Levi Eshkol met with the troops during the days before the war. [IGPO]

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Diaspora Jews felt new pride

Continued from page B25

I spoke bitterly of the pious hypocrisy of France and Britain who had just announced that they had cut off delivery of military supplies to Israel for the sake of peace.

When six million Jews went to their death, we could do nothing, I said. Would we not have made any sacrifice to save them if we had been able? Now we are able to alleviate the devastating human and material losses that the war inflicted on Israel.

The war was not yet over. The Syrian army was still on the Golan Heights, their guns spewing death and destruction on northern Israel. In a brilliant move, the Israeli forces accomplished what seemed impossible: the conquest of the Golan mountains and the slopes of Mount Lebanon overlooking the Sea of Galilee, the northern rift valley. Six days had gone by when a United Nations ceasefire was accepted.

We felt that the United Nations had really lost any vestige of moral authority. Unable to restrain Egypt, Jordan and Syria, it now turned its pressure on victorious Israel. I remember feeling mostly contempt when listening to UN Secretary General U Thant's reports to the Security Council, quibbling whether or not an Israeli column had been observed moving into Kuneitra, a Syrian stronghold, before or after the ceasefire deadline.

An interesting footnote to the liberation and unification of Jerusalem was written by the Vatican in Rome. Pope Paul VI appealed to Israel to protect the holy places in the city. I voiced my indignation in my sermon on the Shabbat, which coincided with the end of the fighting. Why had the Vatican not appealed to Jordan against the exclusion of Jewish visitors to the Jewish holy places in Jerusalem? Why concern for the safety of religious sites when Jews were taking over their protection and accessibility? And were the Egyptian and Syrian threats of an impending bloodbath in Israel not just as worthy of papal concern as the misplaced worry for the city's sanctuaries?

Diaspora Jews felt new pride in Israel's prowess on the field of battle. The war had been an incredible dramatic reversal. *Time* magazine devoted a major cover article to an admiring analysis of Israel's conduct of the Six Day War.

The war had far-reaching political, psychological and theological dimensions. We still live with the political consequences of Israel's astounding victory that gave it control over the Sinai peninsula, the Gaza strip and the entire West Bank of the Jordan. I admit that I was disappointed with what I considered Israel's failure to promptly take political advantage of the dramatically changed political reality. Listening to the eloquent speeches of Eban and other political leaders in the wake of the war, and observing first-hand on a tour of the West Bank areas not only the wrecks of Jordanian tanks flanking the road to Jericho but especially the evident subservient acceptance of Israel's dominance by the local Arab population, I had expected Israel to arrive speedily at a permanent settlement with its defeated foes.

While my competence as political analyst is admittedly questionable, I could not and did not evade my responsibilities as a rabbi to find a religious dimension in the miraculous reversal of Israel's fortune. The festival of Shavuot, celebrating the Revelation in the wilderness of Sinai, occurred a mere four days after the end of the war. In the interval, access from Jewish Jerusalem to the Old City and its Jewish holy places, notably the Kotel, the Western Wall, had been secured. Citizens and visitors, for the first time since Israel's independence, were able to enter the city and celebrate the festival in the Holy City.

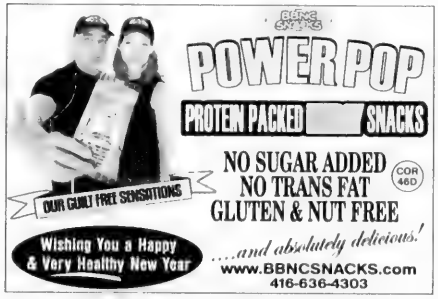
Clearly, the unexpectedly swift victory over its enemies confirmed again that you cannot decipher Jewish history without perceiving the workings of a supernatural element. The events of the Six Day War were of biblical proportions and could have been described in a biblical style: God smiting the transmissions of the enemy tanks so that they could not move. To the religious observer, the strong hand of God was unmistakable in the great victory, though it was achieved by Israel's brilliance and valour.

Even the Soviet representatives' vituperations and invective directed at Israel at the United Nations made sense only if Israel was not just an ordinary little country of 2½ million people. Israel is God's stake in human history, I said in my Shavuot sermon.

I spoke of two consequences of our "near-death" experience.

I predicted an enhanced feeling of Jewish unity, a closer bond between the Jews of Israel and of the Diaspora, the Golah. I also foresaw a Jewish withdrawal into ourselves, a turning inward. I predicted a resurgence of Jewish piety. On Shavuot, the festival commemorating an ancient commitment made by our ancestors, I looked forward to a renewed commitment to Jewish ideals and the Jewish religious way of life,

Continued on page B27



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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5767

The Six Day War brought permanent changes

Continued from page B26

a protest against a treacherous world to whom we had given so much of our spiritual energy and resources. The moment called for an act of simple self-assertion, of our will to live.

In 1968, Rabbi Solomon Sharfman, chairman of the Commission on International Affairs of the Synagogue Council of America, looked back at the Jewish response to the events of May and June 1967. He wrote the following: "Jews everywhere reacted to [the events of May and June 1967] with a depth of feeling as though their own lives and fortunes hung in the balance, and many discovered in themselves for the first time an attachment to the Land of Israel which they had not known existed."

The icy silence that surrounded Jews at the time of their greatest need before Israel's spectacular success could not but direct Jews to their own inner resources. True, there were individual Christian voices expressing support and sympathy for Israel, but there was no groundswell of Christian support and succor to hearten Jews in the terrible crisis.

For religious Zionists – and I consider myself as one –the Six Day Victory was part of a progressive redemption of the people Israel, of G'ulah. Rabbi Shubert Spero, a leading Orthodox rabbi of the time, maintained that the Six Day War related to Israel's War of Independence 19 years earlier in the same way as the biblical parting of the Red Sea related to the Exodus. It brought a sense of closure. We now experienced a feeling of completeness: Jerusalem united, possession of the Temple Mount, Israel enlarged to the fullness of the biblical boundaries. What happened and how it happened indicated the presence of the hand of God. It was God who brought Israel from the threat of immediate and total annihilation to triumph and salvation, Rabbi Spero explained.

It had always been my belief that the State of Israel belongs to our redemptive history. Only non-Zionists – if such still existed after June 1967– and religious literalists would continue to disagree.

The Six Day War experience triggered a Jewish renaissance. We were more proud of being Jewish than before. The world tried to compensate for its shameful silence by acclaiming things Jewish in popular culture, in music, literature and academic curricula. Jewish was "in."

Synagogues of all trends flourished and new ones were founded. Jewish day schools proliferated, not only in the Conservative and Orthodox community but also in the Reform community and in the more secular streams. Even Jews who found it difficult to regard a secular Jewish state as related to the traditional concept of redemption may have been subliminally affected. Was not the spectacular development of Chabad and its intensifying expectation of the immediate coming of the Mashiach facilitated and furthered by messianic associations of Israel's miraculous victory? In any case, our own Jewish community of Canada entered an era of growing self-confidence. The spirit of the State of Israel, its self-reliance, its glorious triumph rolled off the secret shame of the Holocaust. The image of the Jew going to his doom without resisting faded before the brighter image of the Israeli paratrooper.

Across the distance of 40 years, we hopefully realize how many of the changes wrought by the Six Day War remain with us and may be permanently embedded in Jewish self-awareness. Many values created or confirmed in the crucible of crisis and victory are the legacy inherited by the younger generation. Among them are certainly our firm bonds with the Jewish state and the unshakable will to proudly live as Jews.

Rabbi Erwin Schild is the rabbi emeritus of the Adath Israel Congregation in Toronto.

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

Israelis were so elated after the war that they found many different ways to convey their feelings of thankfulness and gratitude to the chief of staff. [IGPO]

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JERUSALEM OF GOLD

By Naomi Shemer

and in later life

As clear as wine, the wind is flying
Among the dreamy pines
As evening light is slowly dying
And a lonely bell still chimes,
So many songs, so many stories
The stony hills recall ...
Around her heart my city carries
A lonely ancient wall.
Yerushalaim all of gold
Yerushalaim, bronze and light
Within my heart I shall treasure
Your song and sight.
Alas, the dry wells and fountains,
Forgotten market-day
The sound of horn from Temple's mountain
No longer calls to pray,
The rocky caves at night are haunted
By sounds of long ago
When we were going to the Jordan
By way of Jericho.
Yerushalaim all of gold
Yerushalaim, bronze and light
Within my heart I shall treasure
Your song and sight.

But when I come to count your praises
And sing Hallel to you
With pretty rhymes I dare not crown you
As other poets do,
Upon my lips is always burning
Your name, so dear, so old:
If I forget Yerushalaim
Of bronze and light and gold ...
Yerushalaim all of gold
Yerushalaim, bronze and light
Within my heart I shall treasure
Your song and sight.
Back to the wells and to the fountains
Within the ancient walls
The sound of horn from Temple's mountain
Again so loudly calls,
From rocky caves, this very morning
A thousand suns will glow
And we shall go down to the Jordan
By way of Jericho.
Yerushalaim all of gold
Yerushalaim, bronze and light
Within my heart I shall treasure
Your song and sight.

Lyrics as published by the Israeli Ministry of Education

L'Shanah Tova 5767

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in 1967

Yerushalayim Shel Zahav

By Naomi Shemer

and in later life

Avir harim zalul kayayin
Ve-rei'ah oranim
Nissa be-ru'ah ha'arbayim
Im kol pa'amonim
U-ve-tardemat ilan va-even
Shvuyah ba-halomah
Ha-ir asher badad yoshevet
U-ve-libbah homah
Yerushalayim shel zahav
Ve-shel nehoshet ve-shel or
Ha-lo le-khol shirayikh
Ani kinnor.

Eikhah yavshu borot ha-mayim
Kikkar ha-shuk reikah
Ve-ein poked et Har ha-Bayit
Ba-ir ha-attikah
U-va-me'arot asher ba-selah
Meyallelot ruhot
Ve-ein yored el Yam ha-Melah
Be-derekh Yeriho
Yerushalayim shel zahav
Ve-shel nehoshet ve-shel or
Ha-lo le-khol shirayikh
Ani kinnor.

Akh be-vo'i ha-yom la-shir lakh
Ve-lakh likshor ketarim
Katonti mi-ze'ir bana'ikh
U-me-aharon ha-meshorerim
Ki shemekh zorev et ha-sefatayim
Ke-neshikat saraf
Im eshkakhekh Yerushalayim
Asher kullah zahav
Yerushalayim shel zahav
Ve-shel nehoshet ve-shel or
Ha-lo le-khol shirayikh
Ani kinnor.
Hazarnu el borot ha-mayim
La-shuk ve-la-kikkar
Shofar kore be-Har ha-Bayit
Ba-ir ha-attikah
U-va-me'arot asher ba-selah
Alfey shemashot zorhot
Nashuv nered el Yam ha-Melah
Be-derekh Yeriho
Yerushalayim shel zahav
Ve-shel nehoshet ve-shel or
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The 'Good' Old Days – The Better New Days

By Rabbi Reuven Bulka

On Reflection

As I write this, we are, once again, in the aftermath of a bitter war. I think this is the 10th since 1948. Is there a precedent for a country going to battle so often, yet able to achieve so enormously over the same time?

By "achieve," I am not referring to military success. I am referring to decades of unprecedented excellence in the most difficult circumstance of being under the constant threat of enemies hell bent on Israel's being annihilated. Israel is, incredibly, a high tech superpower, and an international leader in busting through medical frontiers. All this has unfolded even as our best and brightest have given their lives in defence of Israel, and at the very least have dedicated their most productive years to military service.

We remember the wars. How can we forget? The War of Independence, The Suez War, The Yom Kippur War, the War of Attrition, all stand out. But none stand out more than the Six Day War. And those of us who are "old" enough to have been around at that time will remember it for our entire lives.

Who cannot remember the momentous events leading up to the Six Day War, the anxiety over Israel's future, and the euphoria over Israel's future?

Who cannot remember? Those who were not around then, or were too young to appreciate this critical moment in Jewish history. In other words, if you are less than 50 years old, the Six Day War is just part of Israel's history. But if you are more than 50, or into your 60s, as I am, then the Six Day War is living history.

There is great anxiety now for Israel, but a different type of anxiety. In 1967, it was anxiety about the immediate fate of Israel. With the armies amassed against it, Israel was in clear and present danger of being wiped off the face of the earth.

President Nasser of Egypt, to his credit, did not equivocate. He was very explicit. He stated that the Arabs' goal was "the full restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people. In other words, we aim at the destruction of the State of Israel. The immediate aim: perfection of Arab military might. The national aim: the eradication of Israel."

Remember the Nasser understanding of what "restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people" means. For him, it was unambiguous, and he had no hesitation in spelling it out, graphically and without fudging.

I have little doubt that some who employ this phrase today have the same understanding as Nasser, though they may not be as open and honest about it. But we ignore this interpretation at our own peril. Certainly, there was great peril then, in 1967.

In the period leading up to the war, there were escalating provocations, including almost as many fedayeen terrorist raids into Israel in the first four months of 1967 (37) as in the entire previous year (41).

Who can forget the attacks on Israeli kibbutzim from the Golan Heights, with many communities living in dread of being shelled by Syria. It is no surprise that a terror group aided and abetted by Syria is doing the exact same thing to Northern Israel in our time.

Toward the end of May 1967, on May 22 at night, Nasser closed the Straits of Tiran to all Israeli shipping and to all ships that were bound for Eilat. This was a clear violation of the Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone, which had been adopted by the UN Conference of the Law of the Sea on April 27, 1958. This action by Nasser cut off Israel's only supply route to Asia and stopped the delivery of oil from Israel's main supplier of oil, none other than, believe it or not – Iran. Diplomatic efforts to re-open the straights were going nowhere.

This action was unquestionably a call to war, as Nasser said very clearly, in following the blockade with a challenge to Israel to make war.

Things started to move more rapidly into war mode. Jordan signed a defence pact with Egypt on May 30. King Hussein placed his army, on both sides of the Jordan River, under Egyptian command. Remember that by doing this he was only the third party in the ring. Syria had already formed a military alliance with Egypt in 1966.

As if this was not enough to send shivers of worry down the Jewish spine, on June 4 Iraq joined this military alliance. The president of Iraq joined with the following offensive rationale: "The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified. This is our opportunity to wipe out the ignominy which has been with us since 1948. Our goal is clear – to wipe Israel off the map."

As rhetoric, it is scary enough. And we ignore these threats, then and now, at great risk to our existence. When the rhetoric is backed up with 465,000 troops, close to 3,000 tanks, and over 800 aircraft, it is not surprising that the Jewish community was living in great fear for the future.

I had not yet come to Ottawa. I first arrived in September 1967. But one of the first things I heard was about the emotional meeting of the community, which gathered to show support for Israel and to raise an incredible amount of money to help the beleaguered state.

Continued on page B32

BEFORE THE FINAL PUSH: Colonel Mordechai (Motta) Gur, seated bareheaded on the left, commander of the paratroop forces that won back the Temple Mount, surrounded by his staff on the Mount of Olives, overlooks the Old City of Jerusalem before its capture. [IGPO photo]

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I recall vividly how Israel begged Jordan to stay out

Continued from page B30

It was also as a result of this great threat to Israel that theological literature coming just after the war devoted much attention to the question of whether Judaism could survive the destruction of Israel, or did Israel's disappearance signal the end of Judaism. This is how real the danger actually was, and how much it had penetrated our collective psyche.

At the time, the numbers were not in Israel's favour. Israel had 50,000 troops, and another 200,000 plus mobilized reservists, and about 200 combat aircraft (actually, 197).

So, the stage was set, and it was a scary stage. Israel had to contend with a belligerent Egypt bent on war, an equally belligerent Syria, the prospect of Jordan joining the war; and Lebanon, Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait, Sudan, indeed the whole Arab nation, in Nasser's words, ready to obliterate Israel.

Perhaps the major worry was Egypt's air force, 450 strong, and relatively new. The TU-16 Badger bombers were of particular concern, as they were capable of inflicting heavy damage, in military and civilian centres.

Early on June 5, 1967, Israel sent out all but 12 of its combat aircraft in a mass attack on Egypt's airfields. They succeeded beyond their wildest dreams, taking out 300 aircraft and 100 combat pilots, and, through tarmac-shredding penetration bombs, rendering the rest of Egypt's air force all but useless for the duration of the war. Most war historians consider this to have been the turning point in the war. With total air superiority, Israel was in a great position.

We later learned that part of Israel's success was due to advanced training in rapid refitting of aircraft returning from sorties, allowing for up to four sorties a day from the same plane, as opposed to the one to two sorties by the enemy. The effect of this was so overwhelming that the Arabs claimed Israel was aided by foreign air forces. It is true that we were being aided, but not by foreign forces.

On the ground, Israel used brilliant and innovative tactics to outmaneuver the Egyptian force in the Sinai which included about 100,000 troops and over 900 tanks. By June 8, the Sinai was captured.

On the Syrian front, Israel managed to destroy two-thirds of Syria's air force during the evening of June 5. At great risk, since they were facing an army of about 75,000 well supported by artillery and armour, Israel captured the Golan Heights by June 10.

I remember then the thrill of hearing that Israel had effectively warded off the threat to its existence with the precision pre-emptive air strikes. But all this was secondary to the happenings in Jerusalem. I recall quite vividly how Israel begged Jordan to stay out of the way. Israel promised not to attack Jordan unless attacked first. Jordan did not immediately join the fray, even though it had just signed a defence pact with Egypt and had placed its army under Egyptian command.

The Western Wall as it appeared before June 5, 1967.

Egypt managed to convince Jordan that it was actually winning the war, so Jordan should join the victory celebration. But it was a blatant, and for Jordan, a costly lie. Jordan attacked Israel, and Israel responded, destroying the meager Jordanian Air Force and strategically outthinking the potent Jordanian army with its 300 modern tanks.

In Jerusalem, Israel counter-attacked on June 6, and by June 7, Mordechai Gur's paratroopers entered the old city via the Lion's Gate, capturing the Western Wall and the Temple Mount. Who can forget the excitement of that moment, of Uzi Narkiss, Moshe Dayan, and Yitzhak Rabin marching through to these holy places, and of the then Chief Rabbi, Rav Shlomo Goren, sounding the memorable shofar blast. What a moment in Jewish history, a moment that put such a redemptive perspective on our 2,000 year exile.

Continued on page B33

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5767

Do we really comprehend this sea change in Jewish life?

Continued from page B32

By the end of the war, on June 11, the people who made their money selling maps must have lost a fortune. Israel had captured the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank of the Jordan River, and the Golan Heights. And, it had recaptured its glory from the travails of its history.

A week earlier, the mood across the Jewish world was an overdose of worry and anxiety. A week later, the worry and anxiety had literally exploded into an incredible euphoria, a euphoria reserved for the unexpected, for the miraculous deliverance from doom..

In the aftermath of the war, Israel's National Unity government voted unanimously to return the Sinai to Egypt and the Golan Heights to Syria, in return for nothing more, or less, than peace treaties with these two countries. Of course, a return to the status quo of Syrian shelling of Israeli border towns and a continuation of the blockade of the Straights of Tiran was unacceptable, but that would have been a non-issue if peace could have ensued.

This was not a war that Israel wanted, but the decisive victory stands out as the most memorable moment since the re-establishment of the State of Israel. There were heavy losses, in proportion twice as many as the United States lost in eight years of war in Vietnam (777 dead, 2,586 wounded), which make any celebration after a war muted at best. Besides, we can never be happy at being forced to kill others. And we never are.

This may sound odd, but to me one of the most sacred places in Jerusalem is Ammunition Hill. It was there that the critical battle for Jerusalem reached its critical stage, where heroic young Israeli soldiers, fully cognizant of the background to the fight, fought valiantly to take the hill, and thereby control Jerusalem. The stories of soldiers riddled with bullets climbing up to the top to destroy Jordanian bunker positions are legendary. The losses were severe, but the heroism inspirational.

Much has changed since those unforgettable days. With Jerusalem once again united, we have a new celebrative day in our calendar, Yom Yerushalayim, which I consider the antidote to the fast of Asarah B'Tevet, the 10th of Tevet, which commemorates the day when Jerusalem was cut off from Israel in the period leading up to the destruction of the Holy Sanctuary (*Beit Hamikdash*).

They never gave up hope for the future

It is still frustrating, if not maddening, that aside from Israel itself, only Micronesia recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel (Costa Rica and El Salvador recently decided to move their embassies to Tel Aviv.) Our history is turbulent, and even after the re-establishment of Jerusalem as effectively a redress of history, the turbulence continues. When will it end?

Conventional wisdom has it that the safest place to be during a hurricane is right in the eye of the hurricane. I have never tried it, so I can not vouch for it. But I wonder what is the safest place to be in the unfolding of history? In its eye? In the eye, we probably will miss the real power of the historical momentum. In hurricanes, that is good; in history, not so good.

Watching it from a distance, we may have a better perspective, but not necessarily a full perspective. I include myself with those who were around when Jerusalem was re-united, who were excited when it happened, who appreciate what happened to this very day...but I suspect not as fully as I should appreciate it.

Do we really comprehend this sea change in Jewish life, that we, in our lifetime, are able to live out the dreams that our ancestors prayed for, but not in their wildest imagination thought it could happen in the dark days of their travail, when to survive was the main object of their concern. Yes, they never gave up hope for the future, but that future is us.

How do we show our appreciation to our ancestors for never giving up? How do we avoid the complacency of taking all this for granted? For openers, I think we all have a sacred obligation, no matter what the level of our religious affirmation, to make Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day), celebrating the re-unification of Jerusalem, a special day in our calendar.

We need not get bogged down in the debate over whether or not to recite Hallel, the unique praise and thanks to God, on this day. Suffice it to say that there are a full range of views on this, from no Hallel, to Hallel without the before-and-after blessings, to Hallel with all the blessings.

There is room to accommodate all these views, but no room to accommodate complacency, or the refusal to recognize the special nature of this day and to instead treat it like any other day. There are so many controversy-free ways of making this a special day. We can recite the psalms that make reference to and extol Jerusalem. We can gather our children around a festive meal, with items like *Yerushalmi Kugel*, and tell them the story of how we were blessed to have Jerusalem re-unified in our time.

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Prayers for peace at the Kotel. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Jerusalem is once again the epicentre of Jewish life

Continued from page B33

We can gather the videos of that great historical moment, and show them to our families. And we can, and should, bring to our table people who were around at that time, who remember what it was like when the Western Wall was not accessible to Jews, who can share what this truly means.

It was our historical sensitivity that was at work whenever we prayed for the return to Jerusalem. That sensitivity needs to continue, in our praying that the Jerusalem to which we returned remains intact. We dare not behave in a way that makes us unworthy of our redemptive history. Such lackadaisicality, such callousness, would distort who we are and renounce the very values that made the return possible.

Jerusalem is once again the epicentre of Jewish life. And how it has flourished since 1967. And how it has become, under Israel's governance, a place where all religions can visit their venerated places.

The yearning for the Jerusalem of old has given way to the melodic Jerusalem of Gold. These are the true Golden years of Jewish history, if only we live by the gold standard of remembrance and appreciation.

Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka is the spiritual leader of Congregation Machzikei Hadas in Ottawa.

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5767

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Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin, right, appears to be making sure he is in the correct location. He looks at the street sign pointing the way to the Western Wall and to Jewish history in the making. With him are Moshe Dayan, centre, and General Uzi Narkiss. [IGPO photo]

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TO THE WALL: On Wednesday, the 28th day of Iyar, June 7, 1967, the paratroopers stormed the walls of Jerusalem. The chief rabbi of the Israel Defence Forces, General Shlomo Goren, clutching a Torah scroll in his arms, was with them. [IGPO photo]

HARDENED SOLDIERS AND A MOMENT OF SONG: Some of the paratroopers who captured the Western Wall commemorate the emotional moment with song and feelings of gladness. [IGPO photo]

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Personal recollections of a heroic time

On Reflection

By Michael Brown

For me, 1966-'67 was the kind of year students dream of: full of adventure, exotic travel, serious learning, the company of good friends, and even paid employment (not so lucrative but very interesting).

It began with a job as a counsellor with the Ramah Seminar in Israel, sharing with bright, eager North American high-schoolers the Israel I had come to love and feel at home in during earlier summers and then a year-long stint as an English teacher in a rural high school and high-school yeshiva.

Following the Seminar came a madcap drive from Copenhagen to Jerusalem with Ed Feld, a good friend and a classmate at the Jewish Theological Seminary: we spent Rosh Hashanah in Munich; Yom Kippur in Aix-en-Provence, France; Sukkot in Trieste, Italy; Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah in Istanbul. We had chosen those destinations because they had functioning Jewish communities, no certain thing in post-Holocaust Europe.

From Istanbul, we headed across the Anatolian Peninsula, pausing for a night in Ankara to visit a friend who was a rabbi-chaplain at a U.S. base there. The last stop in Turkey was a sleepy town named Antakia, which, to our surprise, turned out to be ancient Antioch, the capital of Antiochus IV. That Antioch was now a dusty village seemed a just fate for the arrogant villain of the Chanukah story. That it was the launching pad for our journey into "enemy" territory seemed portentous.

The crossing into Syria was uneventful. Our visas were in order; the luggage wasn't searched, so our tallitot, tfillin and siddurim went undetected. We had assumed the customs inspectors wouldn't know what they were in any case. First stop: Aleppo. A walkabout passed peacefully, except for a few stones thrown at us by a group of children; we gave chase, just to demonstrate our fearlessness – or foolishness. We had been told to avoid the Jewish quarter there and in Damascus, since a visit was likely to endanger the residents as well as us, and since we were not altogether reckless, we obeyed.

The next day we headed toward Damascus with a scheduled stop at the column in the desert atop which St. Simeon Stylites had sat meditating for 40 years. I am always curious about exotic religious practices that encourage disengagement from the world. The site convinced me that Simeon had not taken the easy path in turning away from tikkun olam, from engagement with life and its problems, but his life still seemed to be a cop-out.

On the road to Damascus, we encountered a real-life near-disaster. We were travelling on the only four-lane highway in Syria. I was overtaking an oil tanker, when the tanker driver decided to make a left turn from the right-hand lane, across the median. Slamming on the brakes would have caused us to roll over, and our car couldn't go any faster. The tanker ripped the side off the car, but thankfully left its inhabitants unharmed.

Local practice was that a judge was sent to the site of an accident to determine fault, and one soon appeared. Two years of *A*'s in classical Arabic at university and knowing the Hebrew cognate enabled me to figure out that the word *sayara* meant vehicle, but I understood nothing else of any relevance. Between us, Ed and I knew English, French, German, Hebrew and Yiddish. We determined that the judge knew no European languages, and we decided not to test his Yiddish or Hebrew.

Relief and salvation came from a different source. Nearby was an Armenian school, and one of the students, who hoped some day to join his brother in the United States, volunteered to translate. It happened to be "be nice to western tourists season." The truck driver was convicted and ordered to pay the costs of repairing the car. We continued by bus to Palmyra – Tadmor in Hebrew – the site of a famous Roman ruin and an infamous prison where Israeli prisoners were held and tortured; Damascus, where we saw the Dura-Europos Synagogue, which had been dismantled and reconstructed in the national museum, and Beirut.

A week later, the car was almost as good as new, and we headed for Jerusalem by way of Baalbek, a stupendous ancient ruin now a seat of Hezbollah terrorists; the cedars of Lebanon; Amman; Petra, the subject of a stirring Israeli song then banned from the airwaves, because some thrill seekers had been killed trying to get there; and the Old City. In Jerusalem,

Continued on page B39

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I have never forgotten the morgue at the old Shaarei Tzedek Hospital

Continued from page B38

we learned why the western Temple wall is known as the "Wailing Wall." A helpful guide told us that once Jews worshipped there, but now they could only cry in memory of "the good old days." We entered the promised land through the Mandelbaum Gate, although the wary Israeli guards required some convincing that, while we might be foolhardy, we were harmless. We arrived just in time for the first day of classes.

During the months that followed, I gave quite a few lectures about that trip. Israelis could not then visit any of the places we had been and showed keen interest in our pictures and tales of derring-do. We had entered the "forbidden city" and emerged unscathed. No one imagined that little more than half a year later, our eager listeners would have their own, more dramatic tales of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, to say nothing of Ramallah, Sinai, and the Golan, stories of historical and political significance, of real bravery and loss, of personal and national deliverance.

When not giving travel talks, I learned a lot that year at Hebrew University and at Neve Schechter from several exceptional teachers. Ernst Akiba Simon, an educator who could make classical texts, especially Gemara, speak to the present in a way that I had not encountered before and only seldom since, stands out in my memory. And I had my first taste of professional scholarship, as the research assistant of Moshe Davis, the first American to earn a doctorate at the Hebrew University and the founding father of America-Holy Land Studies and of the university's Institute of Contemporary Jewry. I had been Davis' student in New York, and in later years I would be his colleague, team teaching with him a graduate seminar at Hebrew U.

Fast forward to May 1967. As war clouds gathered, my mother was, to put it delicately, very unhappy at my refusal to return home. Ed and I had planned another trip for the return journey, this time through eastern Europe. We cancelled, knowing that Israeli friends would not understand if we abandoned ship, but also because we wanted to help in any way we could. There were few encouraging signs. An Arab acquaintance at Hebrew U told a friend of mine: "I hope you know how to swim."

War clouds gathered in May, 1967

As the month progressed, the call-up took younger people from their jobs; "unessential" sectors of the economy were coming to a standstill. At a time when children needed to be occupied and kept calm, schools were short of teachers; other public services were barely functioning.

Since I was the one with the most extensive Israeli experience among the foreign students in Neve Schechter – the Israeli students, who included Zvulun Or-Lev, then Blitzstein, had all been called up – I got the job of co-ordinating the volunteers' activities. I received a list of jobs to fill ranging from teacher to garbage truck driver. The one student who said he could drive a heavy truck got garbage detail. In fact, he learned on the job, but garbage trucks can take a lot of punishment. Most of the others were assigned to schools in and around Jerusalem. They also learned on the job and discovered that teachers can take a lot of punishment. I took the last job, in a Beit Shemesh religious high school, since I had a car and could get there.

When the shooting started, regular life came to a halt. None of us North Americans had had any experience of war. But no one panicked. It was probably for the best that parents couldn't get through to any of us. Cellphones were years in the future, and the regular trans-Atlantic phone service was spotty in the best of times. We now got new assignments.

Since I had a car, my task for a couple of days was picking up the bodies of those who had died a natural death. The chevrah kadishah had all it could do to handle casualties from the battle for Jerusalem. I have never forgotten or quite recovered from my visits to the morgue at the old Shaarei Tzedek Hospital: a room piled with the bodies of soldiers, many of them younger than I, still in their uniforms, one or two with family names I recognized from the university.

Another day I was assigned to the nearby Valley of the Cross. At the start of the war, an artillery unit had been stationed there. They had advanced, leaving behind shells, some of them live. Since the valley was a popular children's play space, it was essential to clear away the shells before any kids could hurt themselves. A retired army officer directed us.

We had not been long at work, when an agitated man drove up in a truck to haul away the shells we had collected. "What are we doing?" he shouted. "Just up the hill there, we are holding Arab PoWs on the tennis courts of the Hebrew University. They get food and water and are treated decently. And they? What do they do? I just saw on Syrian television two of our downed flyers being lynched in a main square of Damascus," a place I had visited myself just a few months earlier. "They understand only one language," the man shouted. "We need to treat them as they treat us."

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The meaning of a Jewish state

Continued from page B39

For a minute or two there was silence. Then the officer fixed his eyes on the driver. "We are fighting this war," he said softly, "in order not to be like them. If we act as they do, then we have lost, even if we have won."

For me, that was the defining moment of the war, perhaps of all my experiences in Israel. And it was as good a statement of the meaning of a Jewish state as I could imagine. It explained why, in the weeks before the war, commanders assigned as required reading for soldiers in the trenches S. Yizhar's cautionary story from the War of Independence, *The Captive*, about the inevitably brutalizing effects of war on all participants, the good guys as well as the bad guys. And it put into context the ruins of Antioch, Baalbek and Palmyra and the diminished congregations of Europe that we had visited some months earlier. More than anything, it put into context the bodies at Shaarei Tzedek, including that of a fellow student from Neve Schechter, Moshe Abitbol, a lively, gentle, extraordinarily friendly Israeli, whose family in Be'er Sheva were so proud of their first university student.

If this were fiction, the story would end here. But it is not fiction, and sadly, the story does not end here. Israel won a stunning victory in 1967, but it turned out not to be the war to end wars. And the vision of that officer in the Valley of the Cross, whose name I never learned, continues to be sorely tested.

At this time of renewal, the beginning of a new year, we hope and pray, not only for the continuing fulfilment of that exalted ideal but also for its fulfilment in a time of peace and security for Israel, her neighbours and all the world.

Michael Brown is professor emeritus and the former director of the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University. He has just returned from a semester of teaching at the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies and the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at Hebrew University.

IDF soldiers improvised a monument in memory of their comrades who fell in the battle for Jerusalem. *[IGPO photo]*

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Israel did not want this war

By David J. Bercuson

On Reflection

At 7:45 am, Monday, June, 5, 1967, Egyptian air-force fighter pilots were in their mess halls at airbases near El Arish in the northern Sinai, at Ismailia, in the Suez Canal Zone, and around Cairo.

They were eating breakfast as their sleek Soviet-built jets sat parked in the morning sunshine along runways and in concrete revetments. Another day of routine air patrol in the skies over the Sinai Peninsula was about to begin. But as the Egyptian pilots ate, an on-rushing tide of Israeli fighter jets swept toward them from over the Mediterranean. Just before 8:00 a.m., the Israelis struck.

First, they blasted huge holes in the concrete runways using specially designed bombs. Then they quickly reduced the Egyptian planes to rubble. They also blew up fuel depots, destroyed hangars and gutted Egyptian anti-aircraft defences. That first air attack was followed within the hour by two other air assaults that struck at Syria and Jordan. By mid-morning, the Arab air forces had ceased to exist.

The Israeli attack was a pre-emptive strike aimed at destroying Arab air power and gaining air superiority for the ground war that was about to begin. In that war, Israeli armoured forces quickly captured the Gaza Strip from Egypt, then drove the Egyptian army across the Suez Canal and out of the Sinai.

When Jordan's King Hussein chose – against Israeli pleas – to join the battle, with his army beginning to shell western Jerusalem and central Israel, Israel pushed the Jordanians out of the West Bank and Jerusalem and across the Jordan River. When Syria decided to continue the fighting by shelling northern Israel even after the Egyptian and Jordanian defeat, the Israelis scaled the Golan Heights, captured them and drove the Syrian army toward Damascus. It was all over in six short days.

Although Israel initiated the Six Day War with its air attacks on June 5, 1967, the war was a war Israel did not want, and did its best to avoid. The immediate cause of the crisis was increasing tension between Syria and Israel, culminating in a large air battle on April 7, 1967.

For several years before that air battle, Syria had intensified its efforts to kill Israelis and disrupt life in northern Israel. Syria gave free rein to Palestinian terrorists to slip over their demarcation line with Israel – a line that ran across the foot of the Golan Heights – to attack Israeli villages and farming communities. They tried to disrupt with heavy shellfire the construction of the National Water Carrier, a major water pipeline inside Israel that carried fresh water from the Sea of Galilee to the Negev Desert in the south. The Syrians set the farms of northern Israel ablaze from artillery positions on the Golan Heights; their artillery spotters on the heights were close enough to the Israeli farms to see the children playing and the laundry hanging on the lines.

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Israeli paratroopers waiting to board their transports en route to the Negev. [IGPO photo]

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Nasser sent 100,000 troops right up to the Israeli border

Continued from page B41

On April 7, Israeli jets rose to retaliate against the latest round of Syrian shelling; the Syrians sent their jets to meet them. The Israelis shot six Syrian fighters out of the sky, then peeled off to break the sound barrier over Damascus. The enraged Syrians responded by giving Palestinian terrorists the green light to intensify attacks on Israel; an unprecedented 14 attacks were carried out from April 7 to May 11.

Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, seen by many Israelis as a hesitant and indecisive leader, went on Israeli radio twice in mid-May to warn Syria about possible Israeli retaliation, but he sounded weak and fearful. Eshkol's broadcast may well have been taken as a sign by the Arabs and their Soviet backers that Israel's government was losing its nerve. On the very day of Eshkol's second broadcast, the Soviet Union announced that its satellites had detected a massive buildup of Israeli forces along the northern border with Syria. It was a lie, but it brought the Middle East closer to war.

The Israel-Egypt border had been patrolled by UN forces since the end of the 1956 Sinai/Suez war. Now, with Syria being goaded by the Soviet Union, Syria and other Arab nations demanded to know how long Egyptian president Gamal Abdul Nasser was going to hide behind the United Nation's skirts. Or would he expel the United Nations and send his military to the border with Israel to help the Syrians in the event of an Israeli attack in the north?

On May 16, Nasser gave his answer. He ordered the United Nations to remove its peacekeeping force (which included a large Canadian contingent). The United Nations quickly complied. Nasser then sent more than 100,000 soldiers, with thousands of tanks and artillery pieces right up to the Israeli borders, closed the Strait of Tiran to Israeli shipping and began to threaten a war of annihilation against Israel.

On May 30, Jordan's King Hussein flew to Cairo to sign a military alliance with Egypt and Syria. Hussein was reluctant to join a war against Israel, but he was simply unable to resist the pressure both from within Jordan and from Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries. Israel was now isolated, facing a three-front war.

By the end of May 1967, the first serious threat to Israel's existence since Israel's War of Independence (1947-49) had materialized almost from out of nowhere. The combined ground and air forces of Egypt, Syria and Jordan dwarfed the Israeli military. In 1967, Israel was a mere 10 kilometres wide at its narrowest point along the sea opposite Tulkarm and Qalqilya. From the heights near those towns, Jordanian gunners could watch the surf pounding along the Mediterranean shore and monitor traffic along the main highway from Tel Aviv to Haifa. In the northern Gaza strip, Egyptian armour was parked less than 40 kilometres from the southwestern suburbs of Tel Aviv. Egyptian fighters and bombers sat on airstrips five minutes by air from Israel's major cities. The most forward Syrian positions were a 20-minute drive from Haifa.

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An Egyptian armoured column waits in the Sinai

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5767

Faced with terrible choices

Continued from page B42

Israel's friends in the world – she had precious few even then – cautioned Israel against taking "hasty" action. They debated endlessly in the UN Security Council over what to do while the Arabs stood to their guns and put the last finishing touches on their attack plans. The Israelis were faced with terrible choices: to sit and wait behind indefensible borders for the first massive blow; to trust that the Arabs were bluffing and would not attack; to accept the new military status quo wherein heavily armed Arab troops stood literally on Israel's borders and Israel's sea lines of communication to Africa and Asia via Eilat were permanently cut; to beg the international community to come to its aid; to fight for its life.

On May 16, Israel began to mobilize and the nation in arms came alive. Truck drivers and bus drivers, accountants and farmers, lawyers and mechanics, disappeared from their places of work to don uniforms and show up at airbases, tank parks, and army garrisons around Israel's borders. By May 30, the mobilization was complete; the Israel Defence Forces had quadrupled in size in a mere two weeks. It was ready for war.

When the first Arab-Israeli war had ended in early January 1949, Israel had been left with indefensible borders. Pre-1967 Israel had no defence-in-depth, and no room to manoeuvre in the event of an attack. It simply could not wait for an enemy attack because if it did, it would be fighting to defend Israel within the very small area of the nation itself – in the Sharon valley, in the Galilee, in the Negev, in the very streets of western Jerusalem and the rolling plains around Ben-Gurion Airport. That left one option; any war would have to be fought outside Israel's boundaries and in most conceivable circumstances, this dictated striking first.

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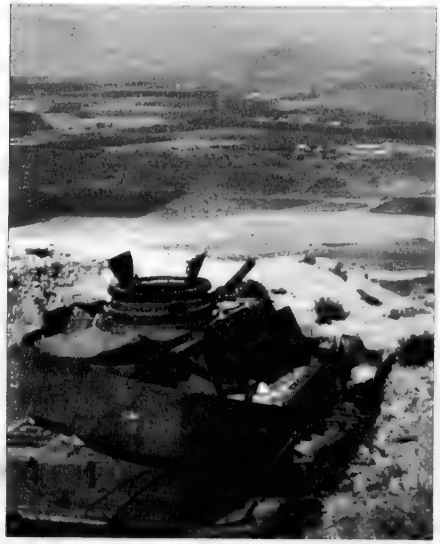

A Syrian tank overlooks the Huleh Valley in the northern Galilee. [IGPO photo]

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The Israelis won because they were very highly motivated

Continued from page B43

There was another factor that left Israel with little choice but to attack. Vastly outnumbered by its Arab enemies, Israel had developed a mobilization system heavily dependent on its reserves. The Israel military, then and now, consists of a professional full-time core augmented by conscripts who do three years of service (two for females) and by reservists. Reservists are soldiers who have completed their conscript service but who are obliged to return to their bases for a month or so of refresher training and service each year until they are in their early 50s. They normally make up at least two-thirds of Israel's deployable military, but they are also the core of the nation's workforce. Israel cannot stay at a highly mobilized state for long without crippling its economy and society. Thus on June 5, 1967, Israel attacked and won a major victory that changed the balance of power in the Middle East and left Israel in possession of the Golan Heights, the West Bank, all of Jerusalem and the Sinai Peninsula.

Why was Israel able to score that major victory? Israel did not win the Six Day War because of superior weapons. With the exception of a few squadrons of deltawing, French-built Mirage fighters that were brand-new and completely up-to-date, everything else the Israelis flew, drove or fired were hand-me-downs. Some of their main equipment even included updated weapons from World War II. The Egyptians and the Syrians, by contrast, had the latest Soviet-built aircraft, armour and artillery.

The Israelis won because they were far better trained, more daring, more innovative in battle and – most important – very highly motivated. They were fighting to protect their homes and literally to prevent a second Holocaust. In World War II, the Jews of Europe had been hapless and mostly friendless victims of Nazi murder, but in 1967 the Jews of Israel were well armed and determined to thwart the murderous plans of their would-be killers. The Arab armies had better equipment but were poorly trained and led and lacked motivation. Sometimes they stood and fought well. The Jordanian army was especially effective in defending positions near Mount Scopus and took a heavy toll of Israeli lives. But for the most part the Syrian and Egyptian troops broke quickly when they were in danger of being outflanked. Especially in the Sinai, Egyptian soldiers were killed from the air in large numbers or died of thirst or starvation in the vast reaches of the Sinai.

The Israeli victory in 1967 changed the political geography of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The State of Israel more than doubled in size; the new ceasefire lines seemed far more defensible than its 1949 borders. But the victory also brought troubles. The IDF concluded that since Israel could now defend-in-depth far from its population centres, it need no longer resort to pre-emptive strikes. Israel paid dearly for that state of mind in the opening days of the Yom Kippur War in October 1973.

In addition, more than a million Palestinian Arabs lived in Gaza, the West Bank, occupied Syria and east Jerusalem. The Palestinian population of the newly occupied territories included both those who had lived there since before Israel won its independence and those refugees who had been living in semi-permanent refugee camps since 1949. Thus was the basis laid for the occupation that Israel has shouldered from then until now.

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Israeli troops advancing in the Sinai are strafed by Egyptian MIG 17 fighters. [IGPO]

Israeli tank crews prepare for action in the Negev Desert.

[IGPO photo]

Jewish state still struggles for its security

Continued from page B44

When the war ended, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 242, which called for an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the establishment of secure and recognized boundaries for all countries in the region in return for an Israeli withdrawal "from territories" occupied in the war. Israel accepted Resolution 242 and declared that it was prepared to implement it in full. However, the Arab answer was given at Khartoum, Sudan, in the fall of 1967 – there would be no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with Israel and no peace with Israel. Partly in response to the Khartoum Conference and partly for reasons of domestic politics, Israel began to establish settlements in the occupied territories.

The struggle for Israeli security continued with the 1973 October/Ramadan/Yom Kippur war, the ongoing war between Israel and the Palestinians, two full-blown Israeli wars in Lebanon, two Palestinian intifadahs or uprisings, and a Palestinian terror campaign utilizing suicide bombings that was launched against Israel in the early 1990s. The second Lebanon war of July and August 2006 was only the latest of these ongoing campaigns.

The Middle East is a very complicated place. Israel has not always followed the wisest policies. No state has a perfect record in diplomacy, human rights or fighting wars while limiting damage to non-combatants. Thus it is sometimes forgotten, even by Israel's friends, that all of these wars still have the same single cause: Israel's enemies will not accept a non-Muslim state in the middle of the Arab world and everything else is window dressing. Unless that changes one day, Israel's struggle for basic security will continue.

David Bercuson is the director of the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary

D's . . .

Gloria & Morris Dadoun

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel

Leslie & Anna Dan

Wish their relatives & friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year

E's . . .

Lily Elsner & Bob Ritter
Michelle, Alan, Zachary & Taylor, David, Brooke, Shawna & Mike, & Stacey
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy, healthy New Year.

F's . . .

Chaim & Eda Feinstadt

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Philip & Cyla Fiksel
Nathan, Miriam, Jamie & Stacie Birnbaum
wish their relatives & friends a happy and healthy New Year

Sylvia & Edward Fisch & Family

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

Phyllis & Irving Feldman
Jonas & Brandon

Wish all their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

We wish all our relatives & friends
a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year

The Finkelsteins
Henry, Molly & Matthew
David, Rachel, Jonah & Abby

Jerry & Helen Fishman
Mark & Doreen, Aimee, Haley,
Stacey & Shane Fishman
Gary & Sheryl, Robbie, Raquel
& Alexander Rubinoff
Marcy & Ryan
Wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year.

שנה טובה
Bernard & Connie Fox
***and* Charise**
Felicia & Warren Spiegelman,
Samantha *and* Spencer
wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy Shana Tova

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Betsy & Lou Fruitman
Pamela, Howie, Jeffrey & Jason Gould
Lisa, Dan, Amanda & Joshua Belzowski
Marla, Ronald, Jarod & Phoebe Struminger

G's . . .

Edna, Joseph,
Ariel, Shayne and Kira
Gelbard
Wish their relatives & friends
a happy and healthy New Year

Al & Julia Gelfant & Family
Susan Fine & Family
wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel
Daniella & Ari Gold
Jordan, Alexandra & Aidan

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gladstone
and Neil
Dr. & Mrs. Terry Davis
and family
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year

Aron & Ala Gerhard
and Family
Wish their relatives, friends and neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel.
Max & Guta Glicksman
19 Misty Crescent

Nina & David Glincman
and Gregory Grabarnik
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year.

Sam & Gitta Ganz
Children & Grandchildren
wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Morris & Rose Glick
Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Six Day War vet has mixed feelings about `67 conflict

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Nearly four decades on, Meir Dahan, a 61-year-old veteran of the Six Day War, still has mixed feelings about the conflict.

"Happiness filled with sadness," Dahan said, succinctly summing it up.

Dahan, who fought on three fronts as a paratrooper, is glad that he was a participant in Israel's greatest military victory.

Personal Testimony

Yet the memory of comrades who never returned from the battlefield remains a source of enduring pain.

"I was very happy with the result of the war," he explained, "but I'm sad about all those guys we lost."

A stocky man of medium height who exudes strength and gentleness, Dahan and his first wife lived in the port of Ashdod in the summer of 1967.

A sergeant in the reserves, he was mobilized during the intense political crisis that preceded the outbreak of the war.

Dahan's oldest brother, Avi, who lives in Phoenix, Ariz., today, was called up by the navy. His second oldest brother, Jacob, now a resident of Toronto, served in an artillery battery.

Dahan was never in doubt that Egypt's brinkmanship, and the war hysteria boiling up in the rest of the Arab world, would trigger a conflict.

"We knew that war was inevitable. What we didn't know was when it would start," said Dahan, who counted down the days to the war in a camp adjacent to the Gaza Strip.

A building contractor in civilian life, he was sure that Israel would emerge victorious.

"I knew we would win. I had confidence in my unit and in my friends."

And he was buoyed by photographs he had seen of retreating Egyptian troops during the 1956 Sinai Campaign. So he was certain that the outcome of the war would be in Israel's favour.

Yet Dahan was neither cocky nor arrogant. He remembers thinking that he might be killed or return as an invalid.

When shooting broke out on June 5, 1967, Dahan found himself in a jeep racing into Gaza, which had been occupied by Egypt since the 1948 War of Independence and had been a base for Palestinian *fedayeen*.

Meir Dahan in 1967, on the eve of the Six Day War

"An air strike cleared the way for us," he said.

Dahan's force captured Khan Yunis and Rafah before reaching El Arish, the biggest town in the Sinai Peninsula.

It was his first time under fire. The closest he had previously come to combat was when he took part in an intelligence-gathering mission in the Sinai in 1964.

Continued on page B47

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5767

Fighting was difficult and hazardous

Continued from page B46

Having accomplished its goals in a couple of days, Dahan's unit was dispatched to the Arab sector of Jerusalem, where fierce battles had already broken out after Jordanian shelling.

The house-to-house fighting was difficult and hazardous. "They shot at me," he said, referring to the Arab Legion, "and I shot back."

The price of capturing old Jerusalem was high. More than two-thirds of his fellow soldiers were killed.

He had a brush with death when a grenade blew up far enough away to not have seriously injured him, but close enough to have bloodied him.

"Luckily, I didn't even need medical attention."

'I thought our problems with the Arabs were over'

As the war wound down, Dahan was transferred to the Golan Heights, which Syria had militarized. "We chased the Syrians. They ran away."

But even here, on a front that had been virtually pacified, Israel had to contend with casualties.

As an Israeli soldier in Dahan's unit offered water to a thirsty Syrian, he was killed when the prisoner of war suddenly whipped out a gun and shot him.

Several days after the war ended, Dahan was demobilized and sent back home.

"I thought our problems with the Arabs were over," he said. "We had peace and quiet for a while, but it didn't last."

Shortly after the war, the Palestinians launched the first of a multitude of terrorist attacks; Egypt fired on Israeli soldiers hunkered down along the Suez Canal; and the Palestine Liberation Organization, headed by Yasser Arafat, created a new front in Jordan.

In the years following the Six Day War, Dahan – a Sephardi Jew of Moroccan origin who was raised in Jerusalem and whose parents immigrated to Israel in 1948 performed his annual reserve duty near Jericho.

During the 1973 Yom Kippur War, he fought in the Sinai, where two of his friends were taken captive and subsequently murdered by the Egyptians.

Dahan immigrated to Canada in 1980, but his two sisters, Shoshana and Chana, as well as his 38-year-old daughter, Advah (Debby), live in Israel.

His parents, Michael (Mahlouf) and Rachel, are deceased.

In 1986, he married his second wife, Marilyn, a native of Montreal. The Dahans have a son, Jordan, and five other children from previous marriages.

As he looks back at the Six Day War, which now seems distant to him, Dahan, who is right-of-centre politically, has only one regret.

"I wish we had never kept Gaza. We didn't need it. It was like a cancer."

Dahan, who has been back to Israel on regular visits since his departure, doubts whether Israel will taste the fruits of peace in his lifetime.

As he glumly put it, "Israel will have to fight for its existence."

Regina and Charles Goldfinger and Family

Best wishes to our children grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Mr. & Mrs. Israel Goldgrub and Family

Gert Goldberg
children Jill, John & Granddaughter Sydney
64 Carscadden Drive
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Irving & Paula Goldhar

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

HaShem, may it be Your will to Bless all the Jewish people with a Just and Lasting Peace.

Lillian Granek

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to relatives and friends and the people of Israel
Fay Goldlist
Marlene & Sam Hait
Barry & Randee Goldlist
Rochelle & Seymour Frydrych
Children, Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Moishe Gruda

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren and our great-grandchildren Jordan & Jenna Ashley and relatives for a happy, healthy New Year

Jack & Ruth Gutholc

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Beatrice, Hymie & Alyssa Guttman

H's . . .

Sylvia and Barry Hennick
Eleanor, Jeff, Ryan and Joshua Stainsby
Karen, Eric and Jackson Machtinger

Wish their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

ADAM & ZELDA HARRIS and Family

Wish their relatives and friends a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, family and friends for a happy and healthy New Year.

Joel & Bluma Hoffman

I's . . .

Kelly, Daniel, Shane, Hanna & Harry Isakow

Wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

J's . . .

Isaac & Basia Jesin & Family

wish all our friends & extended families a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.

Wolfe & Miriam Justein

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

K's . . .

Mara & Eugene Katz
Linda, Leon, Michael, Aaron & Daniel Katz

Wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Ruth Kerbel and daughter Donna

The Kalifer Family

Bernyce & Marv, Ron & Nancy Kalifer, Ellen & Gerry Fialkov, Debbie & Wayne Steinberg & all their children would like to send there best wishes for a happy & healthy New Year

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year
Murray & Susie Klein
David & Lisa, Robbie & Dana
Jamie & Joelle

Nancy & Howard Kleinberg children and grandchildren

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

BEST WISHES FOR A YEAR OF PEACE AND SERENITY, HEALTH AND HAPPINESS, TO MY CHILDREN, MACHATONIM, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

Jean Kichler

Regina Kozlowski & Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes to our friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year

שנת שלום

Izzy Kirshenbaum & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Israel Koplowitz

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends & relatives for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year

Marilyn Kostman
Elayne & Roberto Slimak
Sasha, Jonathan & Noah
Arny, Jesse & Tyler Kostman

Best wishes for a year of Peace and Serenity, Health & Happiness to all our friends.

Mrs. Rose Krieser and Family

Wish their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Volunteers recall sense of need to help

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

Personal Testimony

At the time, Rikee Madoff was Rikee Gutherz, an 18-year-old who had just finished her first year at Sir George Williams University, as Concordia University in Montreal was then known. Dr. Frank Guttman, only 36, had just completed training as a resident at the Jewish General Hospital.

In June 1967, during the Six Day War, each of them, although they had different backgrounds and upbringing, found themselves in Israel.

They were drawn there by an overriding urge to do something to help, after Egypt and other neighbouring nations had provoked Israel into a war in which the world would come to see the Jewish state – all too briefly, perhaps – as the David instead of the Goliath.

In six short days, less than a week, and barely enough time for nations engaged in war to even exchange first volleys, Israel had emerged not only victorious and relatively unscathed – it did suffer a bitter loss of some 700 Israeli soldiers – but once again in control of Judaism's most cherished site, the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The Jewish world exulted in relief and jubilation at the unqualified, euphoric victory.

Continued on page B49

JERUSALEM ATTACKED: Jordanian forces shell western Jerusalem in the early days of the war. [IGPO photo]

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5767

'I felt so connected to the land'

Continued from page B48

But only one week earlier, this was not the case, as Israel and the Diaspora, in dread that the Jewish state faced imminent and complete catastrophe, called for support. The response was unprecedented.

* * *

The most vivid recollection of the Six Day War period in Rikee Gutherz-Madoff's mind was of blades of grass. Sitting alone in a kibbutz field near the Lebanese border, Gutherz was planting blades of grass, one at a time, methodically, with love and care.

"I felt I was doing the most important thing on the world," she remembered about that late spring of 1967.

"I felt so connected to the land, it was unbelievable," she said in an interview. "I was the happiest person in the world."

Gutherz, before leaving for her first trip to Israel, would never have predicted that response within herself, one so close to her very being.

She had departed for Israel through Europe out of a sense that "my country needed me," but her ardency and passion for the Jewish state did not emerge until she was actually there.

Gutherz was the product of an upbringing in which Israel, Zionism and Jewishness were a part of her family's life, but not in any dominating sense. Growing up with her older siblings, brother Phil and sister Faige, five decades ago, mostly around the area of the Young Israel Synagogue, at one time the heart of the Jewish community during its decades-long westward migration in Montreal, Gutherz attended public school and, after classes, the Yiddish, ideologically secular Avrum Reisen afternoon school.

Continued on page B50

Rikee Gutherz-Madoff stands with her uncle Chaim Lev Tov, at the Kfar Hess moshav in 1967.

L'Shana Tova לשנה טובה
To all our family and friends
for a happy & healthy New Year
Gordon & Marilyn Kroft, Kory, Dustin & Daniel

L's . . .

Natalie & Manny Langer
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Merilyn & Marvin Lean
Jordi, Kayla and Billy
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Morris & Fay Lewkowicz and Family

Fela Lichtblau and Family
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year

Vicki & Syd Lanys
Michael & Zachary Lanys
Sheryl, Sheldon, Lindsay and Sean Cheskes
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.
Marilyn, Bruce, Erin, Michael & Brian Lubelsky

Robert & Regina,
Jodi and Brian Lee
Alisse & Brian Goldenberg
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Shelly & Marilyn Little
Adam, Jeremy, Amy & Sari
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

M's . . .

David Mendlowicz
Simon Mendlowicz, Wendy Lebskin & Jenna
Itzik Ravuna, Lisa Mendlowicz, Jordan & Danielle
Wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Carl & Sylvia Mahler
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel
Honey & Milton Mandel and Family

Shana Tova – לשנה טובה
Cy & Reta Mann and Freda
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Edie & Jackie Marcus
Melanie & Jay
Lauren, Adam & Dylan
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

Ida Melnik
children & grandchildren

Wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

In loving memory of our beloved Harry ז"ל

Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Marcus

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Sam and Lori Merson

Wish their children, grandchildren, family and friends a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.

Dr. & Mrs. Seymour Moskovitz and Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

JOE & HELEN MORGAN AND FAMILY

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

N's . . .

Bernard & Edie Nayman

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

O's . . .

Mark & Barbara Obar
Children & Grandchildren

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Orlan

P's . . .

Feige & Shmiel Pancer

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year

Isaac & Sylvia Peck
Ryan, Judith, Ella & Jesse
Jared & Sarah
Samantha & Thomas

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Rose & Harry Perlstein

Wish their friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Leib and Fanny Pillersdorf and Family

83 Collinson Boulevard
Toronto, Ontario

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family and friends a happy, healthy New Year

Isaac and Minny Peters

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5767

1967 made clear the meaning of Israel

Continued from page B49

Gutherz's parents, Sonia and Joseph, had managed to evade the Holocaust and had come to Canada from Poland. Dozens of other family members from both sides were consumed in the ovens.

That fact, now, is an ever-present element and legacy in Gutherz's life and has made a permanent imprint on her sensibility. But during her childhood, she recalled, as far as Israel and Jewishness were concerned, they were not part of her life in any fervent sense.

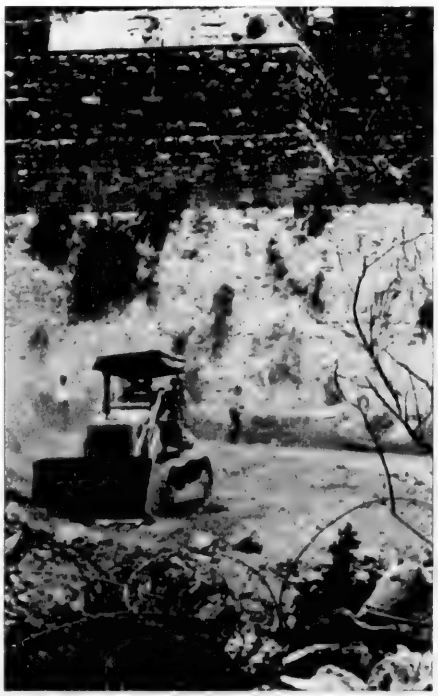
"Growing up in my parents' home," she said, "we had many, many tchachkes from Israel: matchboxes, lighters, metal plates with Hebrew letters, painting of Safed. They were sent to us or brought back by people who visited Israel.

"I remember my father used to read the *Forward*, the Yiddish paper, and my mother singing in her choir about "the promised land."

Gutherz also had cousins living in an Israeli moshav, Kfar Hess, between Netanya and Tel Aviv.

So Jewishness and Israel were a definite part of her life. But only in June of '67 did it become clear to Gutherz, almost viscerally, just how much.

Continued on page B51



DIVIDED NO MORE: Municipal workers clear the rubble of war against the background of the Tower of David and remove the barbed wire that had separated western Jerusalem from the Old City. [IGPO photo]

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5767

Israeli soldiers were singing in the streets

Continued from page B50

"I don't know exactly what it was," she recalled. "I just felt my country needed me. I had to go help my country. I felt drawn to do whatever I could."

Gutherz ended up travelling to Israel – as things turned out, within a day or two of the war's completion with an organized Habonim group that filled a bus. She recalled being excited on the plane, not anxious or filled with trepidation. "I had absolutely no fear."

Gutherz and half her group were brought to a 90-member kibbutz called Malkiyah just a stone's throw from the Lebanese border, where Canadian volunteers were assigned duties left behind by those who were out doing the fighting at the front.

"I knew very little Hebrew," she recalled.

The soldiers returned to the kibbutz about a month later. Gutherz stayed in the kibbutz during that month, picking peaches, remembering vividly how the "fuzz" irritated the skin. Gutherz also cleaned chickens, worked in the laundry room, helped irrigate sapling trees and planted those blades of grass, an act that nourished and nurtured her soul as almost no other had up to that time.

She also travelled to Jerusalem, where she saw Israel Defence Forces soldiers "singing in the streets" in elation over Israel's victory. "The most beautiful thing I ever experienced," she said. "It was a very special time to be there."

While at the kibbutz, Gutherz and others in her group were also brought to the Kuneitra border area of Syria, where she saw first-hand the true impact of war. "The first thing you smelled was the stench of death," she said. "You never forget it."

One of her most memorable recollections was visiting her now-deceased uncle Chaim Gutherz (his Israeli family name became Lev-Tov) at Kfar Hess moshav, where cousins of hers still live today.

Continued on page B52

THANKING THE TROOPS: Prime Minister Levi Eshkol visits with soldiers to personally convey his thanks to them. [IGPO]

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Moniek & Genia Prusznowski

Manny & Ruthie Putter

Best wishes to our children, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

R's . . .

Ralph & Karen Rabinowicz and Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

David & Shanea Rakowski and Family

Wish their relatives & friends a peaceful, Happy and Healthy New Year.

Genia & Henry Rakowski

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Willie & Bertha Rosengarten & Family

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Adele & Jan Rolin

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

THE ROSENS
Hannah, John and Eric

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Lily & Mike Rosenberg, Marilyn, Robert, Daniel & Sarah Jacobs, Pauline, Jon & Ben Elias Vanessa & Lee Krelstein

wish their relatives & friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Myer Rosenberg

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, my great grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Mike & Sally Rosen

31 Denmark Crescent

Wish all their relatives, friends and clients a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Paul & Phyllis Rosengarten

Best wishes to our children grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Mel & Sharon Rubinstein

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year

Pinchos & Luba Rywiec

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

S's . . .

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel

Eva & Albert Stal and Family

Rosita & David Salomon

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Rachelle & Jessica Salamon
Lisa, Rob & Benjamin Switzman
Mindy & Mike Caplan
Wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

David Scheer & Naomi Weinfeld and their children

Adolf and Alice Schmid
Monique Irwin
Amanda Irwin Ratner
Jordana Irwin Joseph
Wish their family and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sandy & Ida Shessel
Lindsay & Maury
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Nathan & Helen Shiff
Martin, Michelle, Mitchell, Jaimie & Jeremy Shiff
Jeffrey, Aviva, David, Tatum & Melissa Shiff
Adam, Barbara, Matthew & Carly Altberg
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy & healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Lois, Jordan and Miriam Smiley
of Richmond, B.C.

Nachum & Lea Shore
23 Fanshawe Dr., Richmond Hill

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Laury & Evy Snow

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

David & Luba Smuschkowitz and Family

Wish all their relatives, friends a year of peace, good health and happiness

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year to all our relatives, clients & friends

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Snow
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Snow & family
Karyn, Ashleigh, Carly & Jason Schwartz
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Cohen & family

Samuel J. Sable & family
1 Ava Road
Wish their relatives, friends and neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Dvora Szmeiser
Leora & Ray Keshen,
Shelley & David Star
and Children
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Sam, Janice, Dale and Jordan Stern

Wish their relatives and friends a year of peace, good health and happiness.

Dr. Frank Guttman, pictured circa 1967, ministered to the injured at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem during the Six Day War.

'I knew I had to go to Israel'

Continued from page B51

But overall, the impact of her first trip to Israel during that fateful June of 1967 was great indeed.

"I used to see pictures of Israel and imagine what it would be like," Gutherz said. "This trip was a major catharsis in my life. I had discovered my land."

Gutherz returned in 1972, but then again not until 1999.

In 1967, "people kept asking me to stay. I was tempted, but was too insecure."

* * *

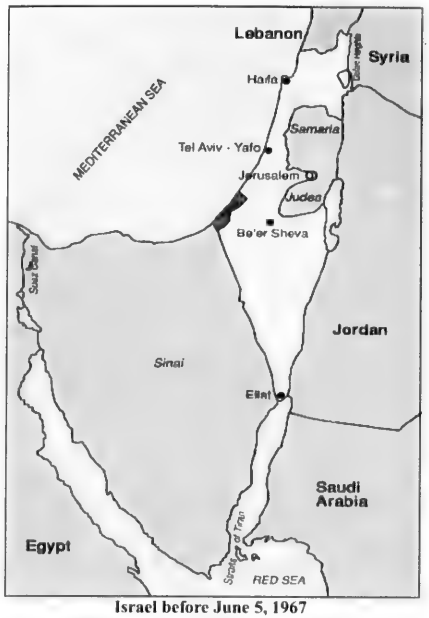
For Dr. Frank Guttman, going to Israel within a day or two after the outbreak of hostilities on June 5, 1967, was, in a sense, a decision he never had to make, since he would never have had it any other way.

Already practising both as a pediatrician and as a general surgeon at the Jewish General and St. Justine's hospitals, Guttman, a committed Zionist from his youth, never considered not volunteering.

"I knew I had to go. [Egyptian president Gamal Abdel] Nasser had been threatening Israel since May. I told my wife [Herta, also a physician] that as a surgeon, I had to go. I knew Israel and had worked there before."

That decision by Guttman, now 75, was very much in keeping with the values that had been instilled in him since his childhood, he related in an interview.

Continued on page B53



Israel before June 5, 1967
[Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

'We strongly identified as Jews'

Continued from page B52

Guttman grew up with his siblings in Outremont's "Jewish village," part of a very Zionistic family (his father, Joseph, was founder of Progress Band Clothes, an institution in the garment industry for generations).

As early as 1949, at age 18, Guttman had already visited the fledgling Jewish state with a Zionist youth group and spent a whole year on two kibbutzim. Over a lifetime now, he's probably been to Israel close to two dozen times.

"We strongly identified as Jews growing up," he recalled. Although he attended non-Jewish schools during the day, Guttman attended Adath Israel synagogue every Shabbat and its afternoon school, but as a teen he became disenchanted with the religious aspect of Judaism. "I could not conceive of a God who would permit such evil as the Shoah."

Because of the quota system at McGill University, which was still in force during the 1950s, Guttman studied medicine at the University of Geneva, where he met his wife, who eventually became head of the Allan Memorial Institute Department of Psychiatry of Royal Victoria Hospital.

Guttman began to train at the Jewish General Hospital and then went to the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem in 1961-62 for his residency training. Eventually, Guttman would become the first Jewish full professor in the general surgery department at McGill University's medical school.

On June 6, 1967, Guttman, after notifying the Israeli Consulate of his intention to treat the injured in Israel, boarded the first flight out of Montreal and arrived at Lod Airport via Belgium.

"I had some anxiety, I suppose," Guttman recalled. "At that point, we didn't really know the extent of the war."

Continued on page B54

Rob & Hedy Steen
Samantha, Ben and Jeremy

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Jack, Lola, Rose-Mary Sylman
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Gary, Louise & Josh
Uli, Tamara, Odeyah, Daniel, Eliya
& Elisha Erez Friedman

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours here and in Israel a happy and healthy New Year.

Dina and Willie Tenenbaum

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Mrs. Rose Tenenbaum

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

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Joel & Sharon Waisglass, Jordanna, Calli & Nicole

Wish their relatives & friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year

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wish our children, grandchildren relatives and friends, a Happy, Healthy New Year & peace for the people in Israel.

John & Marcia Wenus Dustin, Shelby and Brittany

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Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

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Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy & healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

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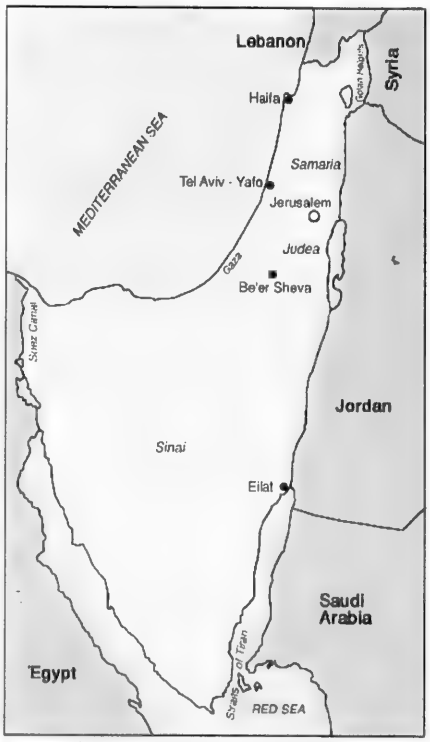


Ceasefire lines after the Six Day War
[Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

Treated a ward of wounded Jordanian soldiers

Continued from page B53

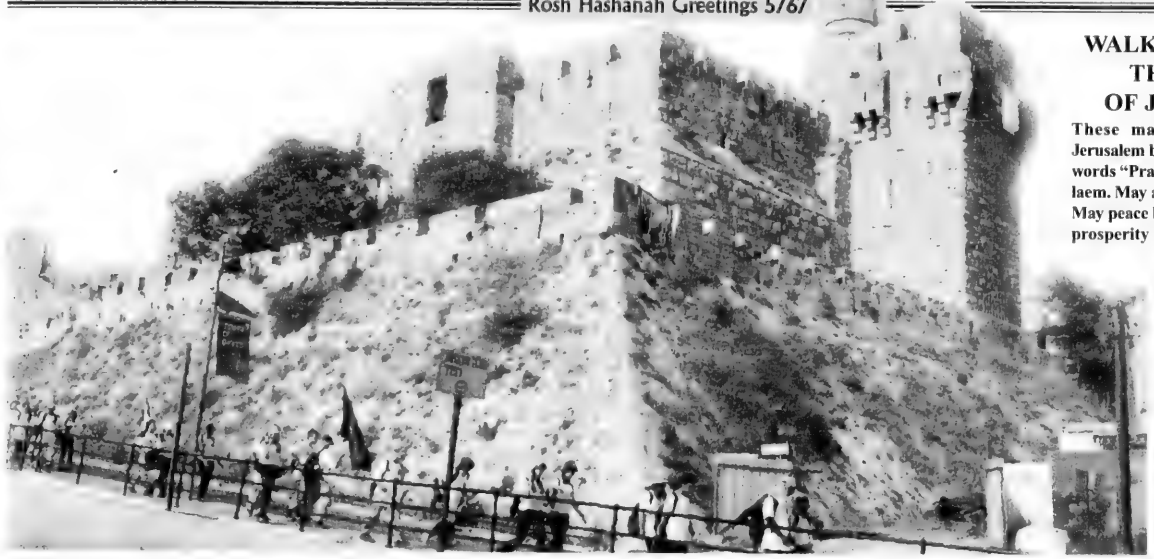
Two tattered and yellowed newspaper clippings about Guttman from that time, which appeared in the *Gazette* and the now-defunct *Montreal Star*, portray his undertaking as almost heroic, and Israel as fighting for its existence.

As the newspapers wrote – and as Guttman told *The CJN* he spent only about three weeks in Israel in all, at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, replacing the younger doctors who were called away to serve on the war front. Guttman himself was among almost 150 doctors from all over the world who came to Israel during that period to help out.

Guttman was put in charge of a ward of Jordanian soldiers who had been wounded and captured. The *Star* reported that Guttman's "confidence in Israeli doctors was amply justified" at Hadassah Hospital.

"In Dr. Guttman's view," the newspaper said, "the Israeli members of the medical profession had risen to the call of national duty as rapidly as the Israeli armed forces had."

Continued on page B55



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These marchers for peace in Jerusalem bring to life the prophet's words "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May all who love you prosper. May peace be within your walls and prosperity within your palaces."

'Israel has a lot to be proud of'

Continued from page B54

The story in the *Gazette* tells of an incident in which Guttman tried to convince one of the Jordanians that he needed one of his legs amputated. The distrusting Jordanian refused, then accepted when an Arab-Israeli physician intervened, only to refuse again just as he was about to go under the knife.

Guttman also spent time during his trip visiting the Western Wall and recalled, admittedly naively in retrospect, that he considered the results of the war a "wonderful opportunity to make peace" with Israel's Arab neighbours and the Palestinians.

In the view of Guttman, however, who was later to become the national co-president of Canadian Friends of Peace Now for 23 years (until 2002, when he was succeeded by Stephen Scheinberg), Israel's "hubris" after it obtained control over what became known as the "occupied territories" affected its judgment.

"It lessened their ability to see a solution," Guttman said.

Guttman said he viewed the upcoming 40th anniversary of the Six Day War "with mixed feelings."

Regrettably, he said, the anniversary, while a testament to the courage shown by Israeli soldiers and to the prowess of the Jewish state in winning a decisive and deserved victory, it is also a "sad reminder" of what could have been but has not yet happened.

"Israel has a lot to be proud of," Guttman said, "as a viable and democratic state, but there are also deficiencies."

Ted, Annette, Madison & Eden Wine

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Shana Tova

To our friends & relatives for a happy & healthy New Year

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Randy, Debbie, Jordan, Ashley, Dustin & Melissa
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Sidney Wolbrom

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Y's . . .

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

The Yermus Family

Z's . . .

Wishing all our family, friends, grandchildren and great-grandchildren a happy and healthy New Year

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5767

Our basic objective will be to destroy Israel

Excerpts from a speech by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser to Arab trade unionists on May 26, 1967.

On the Record

You, the Arab workers' federations, represent the biggest force in the Arab world. We can achieve much by Arab action, which is a main part of our battle.

We must develop and build our countries to face the challenge of our enemies. The Arab world now is very different from what it was 10 days ago. Israel is also different from what it was 10 days ago. Despair has never found its way into Arab hearts and never will. The Arabs insist on their rights and are determined to regain the rights of the Palestinian people. The Arabs must accomplish this set intention and this aim. The first elements of this aim appeared in the test of Syria and Egypt in facing the Israeli threat. I believe that this test was a major starting point and basis from which to achieve complete cohesion in the Arab world. What we see today in the masses of the Arab people everywhere is their desire to fight. The Arab people want to regain the rights of the people of Palestine.

Gamal Abdel Nasser

For several years, many people have raised doubts about our intentions toward Palestine. But talk is easy and action is difficult, very difficult. We emerged wounded from the 1956 battle. Britain, Israel and France attacked us then. We sustained heavy losses in 1956. Later, union was achieved. The 1961 secession occurred when we had only just got completely together and had barely begun to stand firmly on our feet.

Later, the Yemeni revolution broke out. We considered it our duty to rescue our brothers, simply because of the principles and ideals which we advocated and still advocate.

We were waiting for the day when we would be fully prepared and confident of being able to adopt strong measures if we were to enter the battle with Israel. I say nothing aimlessly. One day two years ago, I stood up to say that we had no plan to liberate Palestine and that revolutionary action was our only course to liberate Palestine. I spoke at the summit conferences. The summit conferences were meant to prepare the Arab states to defend themselves.

Recently, we felt we are strong enough that if we were to enter a battle with Israel, with God's help, we could triumph. On this basis, we decided to take actual steps.

A great deal has been said in the past about the UN Emergency Force [UNEF, in the Sinai Peninsula]. Many people blamed us for UNEF's presence. We were not strong enough. Should we have listened to them, or rather built and trained our army while UNEF still existed? I said once that we could tell UNEF to leave within half an hour. Once we were fully prepared we could ask UNEF to leave. And this is what actually happened.

The same thing happened with regard to Sharm el-Sheikh. We were attacked on this score by some Arabs. Taking Sharm el-Sheikh [and blockading Israeli shipping by closing the Straits of Tiran] meant confrontation with Israel. Taking such action also meant that we were ready to enter a general war with Israel. It was not a separate operation. Therefore, we had to take this fact into consideration when moving to Sharm el-Sheikh. The present operation was mounted on this basis.

Actually I was authorized by the [Arab Socialist Union's] Supreme Executive Committee to implement this plan at the right time. The right time came when Syria was threatened with aggression. We sent reconnaissance aircraft over Israel. Not a single brigade was stationed opposite us on the Israeli side of the border. All Israeli brigades were confronting Syria. All but four brigades have now moved south to confront Egypt. Those four are still on the border with Syria. We are confident that once we have entered the battle we will triumph, God willing.

With regard to military plans, there is complete co-ordination of military action between us and Syria. We will operate as one army fighting a single battle for the sake of a common objective – the objective of the Arab nation.

The problem today is not just Israel, but also those behind it. If Israel embarks on an aggression against Syria or Egypt, the battle against Israel will be a general one and not confined to one spot on the Syrian or Egyptian borders. The battle will be a general one and our basic objective will be to destroy Israel. I probably could not have said such things five or even three years ago. If I had said such things and had been unable to carry them out my words would have been empty and worthless.

Continued on page B57

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Why all this uproar because of the closure of the Gulf of Aqaba?

Continued from page B56

Today, some eleven years after 1956, I say such things because I am confident. I know what we have here in Egypt and what Syria has. I also know that other states, Iraq, for instance, has sent its troops to Syria; Algeria will send troops; Kuwait also will send troops. They will send armoured and infantry units. This is Arab power. This is the true resurrection of the Arab nation, which at one time was probably in despair.

Today people must know the reality of the Arab world. What is Israel? Israel today is the United States. The United States is the chief defender of Israel. As for Britain, I consider it America's lackey. Britain does not have an independent policy. Wilson always follows Johnson's steps and says what he wants him to say. All Western countries take Israel's view.

The Gulf of Aqaba was a closed waterway prior to 1956. We used to search British, U.S., French and all other ships. After the tripartite aggression – and we all know the tripartite plot—we left the area to UNEF, which came here under a UN resolution to make possible the withdrawal of Britain, France and Israel. The Israelis say they opened the maritime route. I say they told lies and believed their own lies. We withdrew because the British and the French attacked us. This battle was never between us and Israel alone.

I have recently been with the armed forces. All the armed forces are ready for a battle face to face between the Arabs and Israel. Those behind Israel are also welcome.

We must know and learn a big lesson today. We must actually see that, in its hypocrisy and in its talks with the Arabs, the United States sides with Israel 100 per cent and is partial in favour of Israel. Why is Britain biased toward Israel? The West is on Israel's side. General de Gaulle's personality caused him to remain impartial on this question and not to toe the U.S. or the British line. France,, therefore, did not take sides with Israel.

The Soviet Union's attitude was great and splendid. It supported the Arabs and the Arab nation. It went to the extent of stating that, together with the Arabs and the Arab nation, it would resist any interference or aggression.

Today every Arab knows foes and friends. If we do not learn who our enemies and our friends are, Israel will always be able to benefit from this behaviour. It is clear that the United States is an enemy of the Arabs because it is completely biased in favour of Israel. It is also clear that Britain is an enemy of the Arabs because she, too, is completely biased in favour of Israel. On this basis we must treat our enemies and those who side with our enemies as actual enemies. We can accord them such treatment. In fact, we are not states without status. We are states of status occupying an important place in the world. Our states have thousands of years of civilization behind them – 7,000 years of civilization. Indeed, we can do much; we can expose the hypocrisy the hypocrisy of our enemies if they try to persuade us that they wish to serve our interest. The United States seeks to serve only Israel's interests. Britain also seeks to serve only Israel's interests.

The question is not one of international law. Why all this uproar because of the closure of the Gulf of Aqaba? When [then-Israeli prime minister Levi] Eshkol and [then-Israeli chief of staff Yitzhak] Rabin threatened Syria, nobody spoke about peace or threats to peace. They actually hate the progressive regime in Syria. The United States, Britain and reaction which is the friend of the United States and Britain - do not favour the national progressive regime in Syria. Israel, of course, shares their feelings. Israel is an ally of the United States and Britain. When Israel threatened Syria, they kept quiet and accepted what it said. But when we exercise one of our legitimate rights, as we always do, they turn the world upside down and speak about threats to peace and about a crisis in the Middle East. They fabricate these matters and threaten us with war.

We shall not relinquish our rights. We shall not concede our right in the Gulf of Aqaba. Today, the people of Egypt, the Syrian army and the Egyptian army comprise one front. We want the entire front surrounding Israel to become one front. We want this. Naturally there are obstacles at present. Of course, [then-Jordanian prime minister] Wasfi al-Tal is a spy for the Americans and the British. We cannot co-operate with these spies in any form, because the battle is one of destiny and the spies have no place in this battle.

We want the front to become one united front around Israel. We will not relinquish the rights of the people of Palestine, as I have said before. I was told at the time that I might have to wait seventy years. During the Crusaders' occupation, the Arabs waited 70 years before a suitable opportunity arose and they drove away the Crusaders. Some people commented that Abdel Nasser said we should shelve the Palestinian question for 70 years, but I say that as a people with an ancient civilization, as an Arab people, we are determined that the Palestine question will not be liquidated or forgotten. The whole question, then, is the proper time to achieve our aims. We are preparing ourselves constantly.

You are the hope of the Arab nation and its vanguard. As workers, you are actually building the Arab nation. The quicker we build, the quicker we will be able to achieve our aim.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our patients, family and friends a year of good health and happiness. And may we see peace in Israel and around the world.

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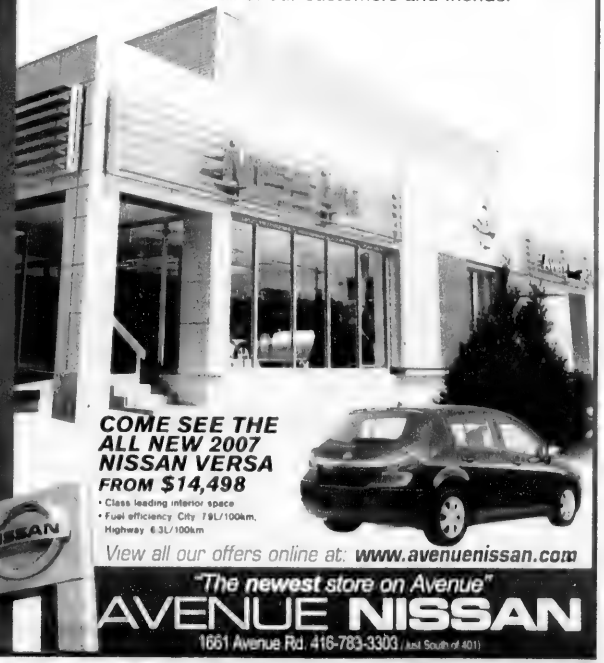

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Peril for Israel wherever it looked

The following is the statement made to the United Nations Security Council by Israeli foreign minister Abba Eban on June 6, 1967.

On the Record

I thank you, Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity to address the council. I have just come from Jerusalem to tell the Security Council that Israel, by its independent effort and sacrifice, has passed from serious danger to successful resistance.

Two days ago, Israel's condition caused much concern across the humane and friendly world. Israel had reached a sombre hour. Let me try to evoke the point at which our fortunes stood.

An army, greater than any force ever assembled in history in Sinai, had massed against Israel's southern frontier. Egypt had dismissed the United Nations forces which symbolized the international interest in the maintenance of peace in our region. [Egyptian President Gamal Abdel] Nasser had provocatively brought five infantry divisions and two armoured divisions up to our very gates – 80,000 men and 900 tanks were poised to move.

A special striking force, comprising an armoured division with at least 200 tanks, was concentrated against Eilat at the Negev's southern tip. Here was a clear design to cut the southern Negev off from the main body of our state. For Egypt had openly proclaimed that Eilat did not form part of Israel and had predicted that Israel itself would soon expire. The proclamation was empty; the prediction now lies in ruin. While the main brunt of the hostile threat was focused on the southern front, an alarming plan of encirclement was underway. With Egypt's initiative and guidance, Israel was already being strangled in its maritime approaches to the whole eastern half of the world. For 16 years, Israel had been illicitly denied passage in the Suez Canal, despite the Security Council's decision of Sept. 1, 1951 [Resolution 95 (1951)]. And now the creative enterprise of 10 patient years, which had opened an international route across the Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba, had been suddenly and arbitrarily choked. Israel was and is breathing only with a single lung.

Jordan had been intimidated, against its better interest, into joining a defence pact. It is not a defence pact at all: it is an aggressive pact, of which I saw the consequences with my own eyes yesterday in the shells falling upon institutions of health and culture in the City of Jerusalem. Every house and street in Jerusalem now came into the range of fire as a result of Jordan's adherence to this pact; so also did the crowded and pathetically narrow coastal strip in which so much of Israel's life and population is concentrated.

Abba Eban addresses the Security Council

Iraqi troops reinforced Jordanian units in areas immediately facing vital and vulnerable Israel communication centres. Expeditionary forces from Algeria and Kuwait had reached Egyptian territory. Nearly all the Egyptian forces that had been attempting the conquest of Yemen had been transferred to the coming assault upon Israel. Syrian units, including artillery, overlooked the Israeli villages in the Jordan Valley. Terrorist troops came regularly into our territory to kill, plunder and set off explosions. The most recent occasion was five days ago.

In short, there was peril for Israel wherever it looked. Its manpower had been hastily mobilized. Its economy and commerce were beating with feeble pulses. Its streets were dark and empty. There was an apocalyptic air of approaching peril. And Israel faced this danger alone.

We were buoyed up by an unforgettable surge of public sympathy across the world. The friendly governments expressed the rather ominous hope that Israel would manage to live, but the dominant theme of our condition was danger and solitude.

Now there could be no doubt about what was intended for us. With my very ears, I heard President Nasser's speech on May 26.

He said: "We intend to open a general assault against Israel. This will be total war. Our basic aim will be to destroy Israel."

On June 2, the Egyptian commander in Sinai, Gen. Abd Al-Mahsan Mortagi, published his Order of the Day, calling on his troops to wage a war of destruction against Israel. Here, then, was a systematic, overt, proclaimed design at politicide, the murder of a state. The policy, the arms, the men had all been brought together, and the state thus threatened with collective assault was itself the last sanctuary of a people which had seen six million of its sons exterminated by a more powerful dictator two decades before.

The question then widely asked in Israel and across the world was whether we had not already gone beyond the utmost point of danger. Was there any precedent in world history, for example, for a nation passively to suffer the blockade of its only southern port, involving nearly all its vital fuel, when such acts of war, legally and internationally, have always invited resistance? This was a most unusual patience. It existed because we had acceded to the suggestion of some of the maritime states that we give them scope to concert their efforts in order to find an international solution which would ensure the maintenance of free passage in the Gulf of Aqaba for ships of all nations and of all flags.

Continued on page B59

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Egypt was overtly bent on destruction

Continued from page B58

As we pursued this avenue of international solution, we wished the world to have no doubt about our readiness to exhaust every prospect, however fragile, of a diplomatic solution – and some of the prospects that were suggested were very fragile indeed.

But as time went on, there was no doubt that our margin of general security was becoming smaller and smaller. Thus, on the morning of June 5, when Egyptian forces engaged us by air and land, bombarding the villages of Kissufim, Nahal-Oz and Ein Hashlosha, we knew that our limit of safety had been reached, and perhaps passed. In accordance with its inherent right of self-defence as formulated in Article 51 of the United Nations charter, Israel responded defensively in full strength. Never in the history of nations has armed force been used in a more righteous or compelling cause.

Even when engaged with Egyptian forces, we still hoped to contain the conflict. Egypt was overtly bent on our destruction, but we still hoped that others would not join the aggression. Prime Minister [Levi] Eshkol, who for weeks had carried the heavy burden of calculation and decision, published and conveyed a message to other neighbouring states proclaiming: "We shall not attack any country unless it opens war on us. Even now, when the mortars speak, we have not given up our quest for peace. We strive to repel all menace of terrorism and any danger of aggression to ensure our security and our legitimate rights."

In accordance with this same policy of attempting to contain the conflict, yesterday I invited Gen. [Odd] Bull, the chief of staff of the Truce Supervision Organization, to inform the heads of the Jordanian state that Israel had no desire to expand the conflict beyond the unfortunate dimensions that it had already assumed and that if Israel were not attacked on the Jordan side, it would not attack and would act only in self-defence. It reached my ears that this message had been duly and faithfully conveyed and received. Nevertheless, Jordan decided to join the Egyptian posture against Israel and opened artillery attacks across the whole long frontier, including Jerusalem. Those attacks are still in progress.

To the appeal of Prime Minister Eshkol to avoid any further extension of the conflict, Syria answered at 12:25 yesterday morning by bombing Megiddo from the air and bombing Degania at 12:40 with artillery fire, and kibbutz Ein Hammifrats and Kurdani with long-range guns. But Jordan embarked on a much more total assault by artillery and aircraft along the entire front, with special emphasis on Jerusalem, to whose dangerous and noble ordeal yesterday I come to bear personal witness.

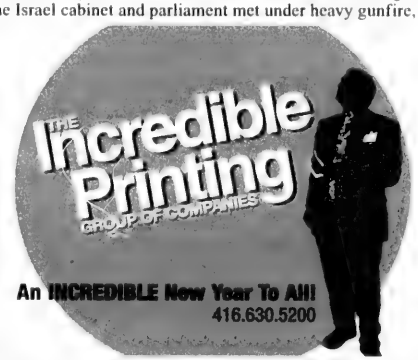
King Hussein of Jordan and Egyptian President Nasser sign a defence pact.

There has been bombing of houses; there has been a hit on the great new National Museum of Art; there has been a hit on the university and on Shaare Zedek, the first hospital ever to have been established outside the ancient walls. Is this not an act of vandalism that deserves the condemnation of all mankind? And in the Knesset building, whose construction had been movingly celebrated by the entire democratic world 10 months ago, the Israel cabinet and parliament met under heavy gunfire, whose echoes mingled at the end of our meeting with *Hatikvah*, the anthem of hope.

Thus throughout the day and night of June 5, Jordan which we had expressly invited to abstain from needless slaughter became, to our surprise, and still remains, the most intense of all the belligerents; and death and injury, as so often in history, stalk Jerusalem's streets.

When the approaching Egyptian aircraft appeared on our radar screens, soon to be followed by artillery attacks on our villages near the Gaza Strip, I instructed Mr. [Gideon] Rafael, [the Israeli representative to the United Nations], to inform the Security Council, in accordance with the provisions of Article 51 of the charter. I know that that involved arousing you, Mr. President, at a most uncongenial hour of the night, but we felt that the Security Council should be most urgently seized.

Continued on page B60



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UNEF rendered distinguished service

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I should, however, be less than frank if I were to conceal the fact that the government and people of Israel have been disconcerted by some aspects of the United Nations' role in this conflict. The sudden withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force was not accompanied, as it should have been, by due international consultations on the consequences of that withdrawal. Moreover, Israeli interests were affected; they were not adequately explored. No attempt was made, little time given, to help Israel to surmount grave prejudice to its vital interests consequent on that withdrawal. After all, a new confrontation of forces suddenly arose. It suddenly had to be met, and at Sharm al-Sheikh, at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba, the Strait of Tiran, legality walked out and blockade walked in. The peace of the world trembled. And thus the United Nations had somehow been put into a position of leaving Sinai safe for belligerency.

It is not, I think, a question of sovereignty that is here involved. The United Nations has a right to ask that, when it assumes a function, the termination of that function shall not take place in conditions that would lead to anti-charter situations. I do not raise this point in order to linger upon that which is past, but because of Israel's general attitude to the peacekeeping functions of this organization. And I confess that my own attitude and those of my colleagues and of my fellow citizens to the peacekeeping functions of the United Nations have been traumatically affected by this experience.

The United Nations Emergency Force rendered distinguished service. Nothing became it less than the manner of its departure. All gratitude and appreciation are owed to the individuals who sustained its action. And if in the course of the recent combats, United Nations personnel have fallen dead or wounded – as they have – then I join my voice in an expression of the most sincere regret.

The problem of the future role of a United Nations presence in conflicts such as these is being much debated. But we must ask ourselves a question that has arisen as a result of this experience. People in our country and in many countries ask: what is the use of a United Nations presence if it is in effect an umbrella which is taken away as soon as it begins to rain? Surely, then, future arrangements for peacekeeping must depend more on the agreement and the implementation of the parties themselves than on machinery which is totally at the mercy of the host country, so totally at its mercy as to be the instrument of its policies, whatever those policies may be.

We have lived through three dramatic weeks

We have lived through three dramatic weeks. Those weeks, I think, have brought into clear view the main elements of tension and also the chief promise of relaxed tension in the future.

The first link in the chain was the series of sabotage acts emanating from Syria. In October of 1966, the Security Council was already seized of this problem, and a majority of its member states found it possible and necessary to draw attention to the Syrian government's responsibility for altering that situation. Scarcely a day passed without a mine, a bomb, a hand grenade or a mortar exploding on Israel's soil, sometimes with lethal or crippling effects, always with an unsettling psychological influence. In general, 14 or 15 such incidents would accumulate before a response was considered necessary, and this ceaseless accumulation of terrorist sabotage incidents in the name of what was called "popular war," together with responses which in the long run sometimes became inevitable, were for a long period the main focus of tension in the Middle East.

But then there came a graver source of tension in mid-May, when abnormal troop concentrations were observed in the Sinai Peninsula. For the 10 years of relative stability beginning with March 1957 and ending with May 1967, the Sinai Desert had been free of Egyptian troops. In other words, a natural geographic barrier, a largely uninhabited space, separated the main forces of the two sides. It is true that in terms of sovereignty and law, any state has a right to put its armies in any part of its territory that it chooses. This, however, is not a legal question: it is a political and a security question.

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Blockading Straits of Tiran a wanton act of malice

Continued from page B60

Experience in many parts of the world, not least in our own, demonstrates that massive armies in close proximity to each other, against a background of a doctrine of belligerency and accompanying threats by one army to annihilate the other, constitute an inflammatory situation.

We were puzzled in Israel by the relative lack of preoccupation on the part of friendly governments and international agencies with this intense concentration, which found its reflection in precautionary concentrations on our side. My government proposed, I think at least two weeks ago, the concept of a parallel and reciprocal reduction of forces on both sides of the frontier. We elicited no response, and certainly no action.

To these grave sources of tension – the sabotage and terrorist movement, emanating mostly from Syria, and the heavy troop concentrations accompanied by dire, apocalyptic threats in Sinai – there was added in the third week of May the most electric shock of all, namely the closure of the international waterway consisting of the Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba. It is not difficult, I think, to understand why this incident had a more drastic impact than any other. In 1957, the maritime nations, within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly, correctly enunciated the doctrine of free and innocent passage through the strait.

Now, when that doctrine was proclaimed – and incidentally, not challenged by the Egyptian representative at that time – it was little more than an abstract principle for the maritime world. For Israel, it was a great but still unfulfilled prospect; it was not yet a reality. But during the 10 years in which we and the other states of the maritime community have relied upon that doctrine and upon established usage, the principle has become a reality consecrated by hundreds of sailings under dozens of flags and the establishment of a whole complex of commerce and industry and communication. A new dimension has been added to the map of the world's communications, and on that dimension we have constructed Israel's bridge towards the friendly states of Asia and Africa, a network of relationships which is the chief pride of Israel in the second decade of its independence.

Israel waited

All this, then, had grown up as an effective usage under the United Nations flag. Does Mr. Nasser really think that he can come upon the scene in 10 minutes and cancel the established legal usage and interests of 10 years?

There was in this wanton act a quality of malice. For surely the closing of the Strait of Tiran gave no benefit whatever to Egypt except the perverse joy of inflicting injury on others. It was an anarchic act, because it showed a total disregard for the law of nations, the application of which in this specific case had not been challenged for 10 years. And it was, in the literal sense, an act of arrogance, because there are other nations in Asia and East Africa, that trade with the Port of Eilat, as they have every right to do, through the Strait of Tiran and across the Gulf of Aqaba.

Other sovereign states from Japan to Ethiopia, from Thailand to Uganda, from Cambodia to Madagascar, have a sovereign right to decide for themselves whether they wish or do not wish to trade with Israel. These countries are not colonies of Cairo. They can trade with Israel or not trade with Israel as they wish, and President Nasser is not the policeman of other African and Asian states.

Here then was a wanton intervention in the sovereign rights of other states in the eastern half of the world to decide for themselves whether or not they wish to establish trade relations with either or both of the two ports at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba. When we examine, then, the implications of this act, we have no cause to wonder that the international shock was great. There was another reason too for that shock. Blockades have traditionally been regarded, in the pre-charter parlance, as acts of war. To blockade, after all, is to attempt strangulation; and sovereign states are entitled not to have their trade strangled. To understand how the State of Israel felt, one has merely to look around this table and imagine, for example, a foreign power forcibly closing New York or Montreal, Boston or Marseille, Toulon or Copenhagen, Rio or Tokyo or Bombay harbour. How would your governments react? What would you do? How long would you wait?

But Israel waited because of its confidence that the other maritime powers and countries interested in this new trading pattern would concert their influence in order to re-establish a legal situation and to liquidate this blockade. We concerted action with them, not because Israel's national interest was here abdicated. There will not be, there cannot be, an Israel without Eilat. We cannot be expected to return to a dwarfed stature, with our face to the Mediterranean alone. In law and in history, peace and blockades have never coexisted. How could it be expected that the blockade of Eilat and a relaxation of tension in the Middle East could ever be brought into harmony?

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After 3,000 years, accept Israel

Continued from page B61

These then were the three main elements in the tension: the sabotage movement; the blockade of the port; and, perhaps more imminent than anything else, this vast and purposeful encirclement movement, against the background of an authorized presidential statement announcing that the objective of the encirclement was to bring about the destruction and the annihilation of a sovereign state.

These acts taken together – the blockade, the dismissal of the United Nations Emergency Force, and the heavy concentration in Sinai – effectively disrupted the status quo which had ensured a relative stability on the Egyptian-Israel frontier for 10 years. I do not use the words "relative stability" lightly, for, in fact, while those elements in the Egyptian-Israel relationship existed there was not one single incident of violence between Egypt and Israel for 10 years. But suddenly this status quo, this pattern of mutually accepted stability, was smashed to smithereens.

It is now the task of the governments concerned to elaborate the new conditions of their coexistence. I think that much of this work should be done directly by these governments themselves. Surely, after what has happened we must have better assurance than before, for Israel and for the Middle East, of peaceful coexistence. The question is whether there is any reason to believe that such a new era may yet come to pass. If I am a little sanguine on this point, it is because of a conviction that men and nations do behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives. Surely the other alternatives of war and belligerency have now been exhausted. And what has anybody gained from that? But in order that the new system of inter-state relationships may flourish in the Middle East, it is important that certain principles be applied above and beyond the ceasefire to which the Security Council has given its unanimous support.

Let me then say here that Israel welcomes the appeal for the ceasefire as formulated in this resolution. But I must point out that the implementation depends on the absolute and sincere acceptance and co-operation of the other parties, which, in our view, are responsible for the present situation. And in conveying this resolution to my colleagues, I must at this moment point out that these other governments have not used the opportunity yet to clarify their intentions.

I have said that the situation to be constructed after the ceasefire must depend on certain principles. The first of these principles surely must be the acceptance of Israel's statehood and the total elimination of the fiction of its non-existence. It would seem to me that after 3,000 years, the time has arrived to accept Israel's nationhood as a fact, for here is the only state in the international community which has the same territory, speaks the same language and upholds the same faith as it did 3,000 years ago.

And if, as everybody knows to be the fact, the universal conscience was in the last week or two most violently shaken at the prospect of danger to Israel, it was not only because there seemed to be a danger to a state, but also, I think, because the state was Israel, with all that this ancient name evokes, teaches, symbolizes and inspires. How grotesque would be an international community which found room for 122 sovereign units and which did not acknowledge the sovereignty of that people which had given nationhood its deepest significance and its most enduring grace.

Eban and U.S. President Lyndon Johnson during the days preceding the war.

No wonder, then, that when danger threatened, we could hear a roar of indignation sweep across the world, that men in progressive movements and members of the scientific and humanistic cultures joined together in sounding an alarm bell about an issue that vitally affected the human conscience. And no wonder, correspondingly, that a deep and universal sense of satisfaction and relief has accompanied the news of Israel's gallant and successful resistance.

But the central point remains the need to secure an authentic intellectual recognition by our neighbours of Israel's deep roots in the Middle Eastern reality. There is an intellectual tragedy in the failure of Arab leaders to come to grips, however reluctantly, with the depth and authenticity of Israel's roots in the life, the history, the spiritual experience and the culture of the Middle East.

This, then, is the first axiom. A much more conscious and uninhibited acceptance of Israel's statehood is an axiom requiring no demonstration, for there will never be a Middle East without an independent and sovereign State of Israel in its midst.

The second principle must be that of the peaceful settlement of disputes. The resolution thus adopted falls within the concept of the peaceful settlement of disputes. I have already said that much could be done if the governments of the area would embark much more on direct contacts. They must find their way to each other. After all, when there is conflict between them, they come together face to face. Why should they not come together face to face to solve the conflict? And perhaps on some occasions it would not be a bad idea to have the solution before, and therefore instead of, the conflict.

When the council discusses what is to happen after the ceasefire, we hear many formulas: back to 1956, back to 1948 – I understand our neighbours would wish to turn the clock back to 1947. The fact is, however, that most clocks move forward and not backward, and this, I think, should be the case with the clock of Middle Eastern peace – not backward to belligerency, but forward to peace.

The point was well made this evening by the representative of Argentina, who said the ceasefire should be followed immediately by the most intensive efforts to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. In a similar sense, the representative of Canada warned us against merely reproducing the old positions of conflict, without attempting to settle the underlying issues of Arab-Israel coexistence. After all, many things in recent days have been mixed up with each other. Few things are what they were. And in order to create harmonious combinations of relationships, it is inevitable that the states should come together in negotiation.

Another factor in the harmony that we would like to see in the Middle East relates to external powers. From these, and especially from the greatest amongst them, the small states of the Middle East – and most of them are small – ask for a rigorous support, not for individual states, but for specific principles; not to be for one state against other states, but to be for peace against war, for free commerce against belligerency, for the pacific settlement of disputes against violent irredentist threats; in other words, to exercise an even-handed support for the integrity and independence of states and for the rights of states under the Charter of the United Nations and other sources of international law.

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These are still grave times

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There are not two categories of states. The United Arab Republic, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon – not one of these has a single ounce or milligram of statehood which does not adhere in equal measures to Israel itself.

It is important that states outside our region apply a balanced attitude, that they do not exploit temporary tensions and divergencies in the issues of global conflict, that they do not seek to win gains by inflaming fleeting passions, and that they strive to make a balanced distribution of their friendship amongst the states of the Middle East.

Now whether all the speeches of all the great powers this evening meet this criterion, everybody, of course, can judge for himself. I do not propose to answer in detail all the observations of the representative of the Soviet Union. I had the advantage of hearing the same things in identical language a few days ago from his colleague, the Soviet ambassador in Israel. I must confess that I was no more convinced this evening than I was the day before yesterday about the validity of this most vehement and one-sided denunciation.

But surely world opinion, before whose tribunal this debate unrolls, can solve this question by posing certain problems to itself. Who was it that attempted to destroy a neighbouring state in 1948, Israel or its neighbours? Who now closes an international waterway to the port of a neighbouring state, Israel or the United Arab Republic? Does Israel refuse to negotiate a peace settlement with the Arab states, or do they refuse to do so with it? Who disrupted the 1957 pattern of stability, Israel or Egypt? Did troops of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Kuwait and Algeria surround Israel in this menacing confrontation, or has any distinguished representative seen some vast Israel colossus surrounding the area between Morocco and Kuwait?

I raise these points of elementary logic. Of course, a great power can take refuge in its power from the exigencies of logic. All of us in our youth presumably recounted La Fontaine's fable, *La raison du plus fort est toujours la meilleure*. But here, after all, there is nobody who is more or less strong than others; we sit here around the table on the concept of sovereign equality. But I think we have an equal duty to bring substantive proof for any denunciation that we make, each of the other.

I would say in conclusion that these are, of course, still grave times. And yet they may perhaps have a fortunate issue. This could be the case if those who, for some reason, decided so violently, three weeks ago, to disrupt the status quo, would ask themselves what the results and benefits have been. As he looks around him at the arena of battle, at the wreckage of planes and tanks, at the collapse of intoxicated hopes, might not an Egyptian ruler ponder whether anything was achieved by that disruption? What has it brought but strife, conflict with other powerful interests, and the stern criticism of progressive men throughout the world?

I think that Israel has in recent days proved its steadfastness and vigour. It is now willing to demonstrate its instinct for peace. Let us build a new system of relationships from the wreckage of the old. Let us discern across the darkness the vision of a better and a brighter dawn.

AFTER 2,000 YEARS, JEWISH SOLDIERS RETURN: Generals Uzi Narkiss, left, the commander in charge of Jerusalem area forces, Moshe Dayan, the minister of defense during the war, and Yitzhak Rabin, the chief of staff, march toward the Western Wall. [IGPO photo]

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A passionate faith in the justice of their cause

Address by then-Israel Defence Forces chief of staff Yitzhak Rabin on his acceptance of an honorary doctorate from Hebrew University on Mount Scopus, June 28, 1967.

On the Record

Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. President of the Hebrew University, Mr. Rector of the Hebrew University, members of the board of governors, ladies and gentlemen:

I am filled with reverence as I stand here before the teachers of our generation in this ancient, magnificent place overlooking our eternal capital and the sacred sites of our nation's earliest history.

You have chosen to do me the great honor of conferring upon me the degree of doctor of philosophy, along with a number of distinguished persons who are doubtless worthy of this honour. May I be allowed to speak the thoughts that are in my heart?

I consider myself to be here solely as the representative of the whole Israel Defence Forces: of the thousands of officers and tens of thousands of soldiers who brought the victory of the Six Day War to the State of Israel.

It may well be asked why the university should have been moved to bestow upon me the degree of honorary doctor of philosophy, upon a soldier in recognition of his war services. What have soldiers to do with the academic world, which stands for the life of civilization and culture? What have those who are professionally occupied with violence to do with spiritual values? The answer, I think, is that in this honour which you have conferred through me upon my fellow soldiers you chose to express your appreciation of the special character of the Israel Defence Forces, which is itself an expression of the distinctiveness of the Jewish People as a whole.

The world has recognized that the Israeli army is different from most other armies. Though its first task, that of maintaining security, is indeed military, it also assumes numerous tasks directed to the ends of peace. These are not destructive, but constructive and are undertaken with the object of strengthening the nation's cultural and moral resources. Our work in the field of education is well known: it received national recognition in 1966 when the army won the Israel Prize for Education. Nahal, which already combines military duties with work on the land, also provides teachers for border villages, thus contributing to the social development. These are only a few examples of the special services of the Israel Defence Forces in this sphere.

Today, however, the university is conferring on us an honorary degree not for these things, but in recognition of the army's moral and spiritual force as shown precisely in active combat. For we are all here in this place only by virtue that has astounded the world.

War is intrinsically harsh and cruel, and blood and tears are its companions. But the war we have just fought also brought forth marvellous examples of a rare courage and heroism, and the most moving expressions of brotherhood, comradeship and even spiritual greatness. Anyone who has not seen a tank crew continue its attack even though its commander has been killed and its tank almost destroyed, who has not watched sappers risking their lives to extricate wounded comrades from a minefield, who has not witnessed the concern for a pilot who has fallen in enemy territory and the unremitting efforts made by the whole air force to rescue him, cannot know the meaning of devotion among comrades.

The nation was exalted and many wept when they heard of the capture of the Old City. Our Sabra youth, and certainly our soldiers, have no taste for sentimentality and shrink from any public show of emotion. In this instance, however, the strain of battle and the anxiety which proceeded it joined with the sense of deliverance, the sense of standing at the very heart of Jewish history, to break the shell of hardness and diffidence, stirring up springs of feelings and spiritual discovery. The paratroopers who conquered the Wall leaned on its stones and wept. It was an act which in its symbolic meaning can have few parallels in the history of nations. We in the army are not in the habit of speaking in high-flown language, but the revelation at that hour at the Temple Mount, a profound truth manifesting itself as if by lightning, overpowered customary constraints.

Yitzhak Rabin at Hebrew University June 28, 1967

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The war they were fighting was a just one

Continued from page B64

There is more to tell. The elation of victory had seized the whole nation. Yet among the soldiers themselves a curious phenomenon is to be observed. They cannot rejoice wholeheartedly. Their triumph is marred by grief and shock, and there are some who cannot rejoice at all. The men in the front lines saw with their own eyes not only the glory of victory, but also its cost, their comrades fallen beside them soaked in blood. And I know that the terrible price the enemy paid has also deeply moved many of our men. Is it because their teaching, not their experience, has ever habituated the Jewish people to exalt in conquest and victory that they receive them with such mixed feelings?

The heroism displayed in the Six Day War generally went far beyond that of the single, daring assault in which a man hurls himself forward almost without reflection. In many places there were long and desperate battles: in Rafah, in El-Arish, in Um-Kal Um-Kataf, in Jerusalem and on the Golan Heights. In these places, and in many others, our soldiers showed a heroism of the spirit and a courage of endurance which inspired feelings of wonder and exaltation in those who witnessed them. We speak a great deal of the few against the many. In this war, perhaps for the first time, since the Arab invasions in the spring of 1948 and the battles of Negba and Degania, units of the Israel Defence Forces in every sector stood few against many.

Relatively small units entered long, deep networks of fortifications, surrounded by hundreds and thousands of enemy troops, through which they had to cut and cleave their way for many long hours. They pressed on, even when the exhilarating momentum of the first charge had passed, and all that was left to sustain them was their belief in our strength, in the absence of any alternative, and in the end for which the war was being fought, and the compelling need to summon up every resource of spiritual strength to continue to fight to the end. Thus our armoured forces broke through on all fronts, our paratroopers fought their way into Rafah and Jerusalem, our sappers cleaned minefields under enemy fire. The units which penetrated the enemy lines after hours of battle struggled on, refusing to stop, while their comrades fell to the right and to the left of them. These units were carried forward, not by arms or the techniques of war, but by the power of moral and spiritual values.

We have always insisted on having the best of our young people for the Israel Defence Forces. When we said "Ha-tovim la-tayis" ("the best for the Air Force") and this became a standard for the whole army, we were not referring only to technical skills and abilities. What we meant was that if our air force was to be capable of defeating the forces of four enemy countries in a few short hours, it could do so only if it were sustained by moral and human values. Our airmen who struck the enemies' planes with such accuracy that no one understands how it was done, and the world seeks to explain it technologically by reference to secret weapons; our armoured troops who stood their ground and overcame the enemy even when their equipment was inferior to his; our soldiers in all the several branches of the army who withstood our enemies everywhere despite the superiority of their numbers and fortifications: what they all showed was not only coolness and courage in battle, but a passionate faith in the justice of their cause, the certain knowledge that only their personal, individual resistance against the greatest of dangers could save their country and their families, and that the alternative to victory was annihilation.

Israeli armoured columns advance across the Sinai Peninsula. [IGPO photo]

In every sector, our commanders of all ranks proved themselves superior to those of the enemy. Their resourcefulness, their intelligence, their power of improvisation, their concern for their troops, and above all, their practice in leading their men into battle, these are not matters of technique or equipment. There is no intelligible explanation except one – their profound conviction that the war they were fighting was a just one.

All these things have their origin in the spirit and end in the spirit. Our soldiers prevailed not by the strength of their weapons but by their sense of mission, by their consciousness of the justice of their cause, by a deep love of their country, and by their understanding of the heavy task laid upon them: to ensure the existence of our people in their homeland, and to affirm, even at the cost of their lives, the right of the Jewish People to live its life in its own state – free, independent and in peace.

The army which I had the privilege of commanding through this war came from the people and returns to the people: a people which rises above itself in time of crisis and prevails over all enemies in the hour of trial by its moral and spiritual strength.

As representative of the Israel Defence Army and in the name of each and every one of its soldiers, I accept your appreciation with pride.

L'Shana Tova

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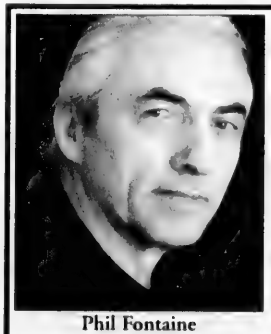

Phil Fontaine
National Chief

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations and AFN Regional Chiefs, I send our best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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Ottawa, Ont. K1R 5B4
Ph: 613.241.6789 Fax: 613.241.5808

ACCESS FOR ALL TO THE HOLY PLACES

An old man in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem.

[Isranet photo]

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לשנה טובה

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5767

Protection of Holy Places

From 1948 to 1967, while the government of Jordan conrolled the Old City and east Jerusalem, all of the Jewish holy places, including synagogues and cemeteries, were desecrated. To ensure the physical protection of the places and shrines that fell under Israeli authority at the end of the Six Day War, the Knesset enacted the following legislation on June 27, 1967.

On The Record

Protection of Holy Places Law

1. The Holy Places shall be protected from desecration and any other violation and from anything likely to violate the freedom of access of the members of the different religions to the places sacred to them or their feelings with regard to those places.

An Israeli policeman stands watch over and protects the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City of Jerusalem. [RNS/Reuters photo]

2. (a) Whosoever desecrates or otherwise violates a Holy Place shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of seven years.
(b) Whosoever does anything likely to violate the freedom of access of the members of the different religions to the places sacred to them or their feelings with regard to those places shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of five years.

3. This law shall add to, and not derogate from, any other law.

4. The minister of religious affairs is charged with the implementation of this law, and he may, after consultation with, or upon the proposal of, representatives of the religions concerned and with the consent of the minister of justice make regulations as to any matter relating to such implementation.

5. This law shall come into force on the date of its adoption by the Knesset.

Levi Eshkol
Prime Minister

Zerach Warhaftig
Minister of Religious Affairs

Shneur Zalman Shazar
President of the State

Bernie Green
CANDIDATE
COUNCILLOR - VAUGHAN
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Councillor Joe Mihevc
and family
"Chag Sameach to all my friends in the Jewish Community"
Ward 21 - St. Paul's West
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Fx: 416-392-7466
E-mail: councillor_mihevc@toronto.ca

Deputy Mayor Michael
& Sue Feldman
wishes all his constituents in Ward 10, York Centre and all residents in the City of Toronto a Healthy & Happy New Year

לשנה טובה תכתבו
Best Wishes for a
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Hon. Carolyn Bennett,
PC, MP, MD
1650 Yonge Street, Toronto
Tel: 416-952-3990
Fax: 416-952-3995
E-mail: bennec@parl.gc.ca
www.carolynbennettmp.ca

Heather and I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year

HON.
JIM PETERSON
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
WILLOWDALE

5799 Yonge Street,
Suite 806,
416-223-2858

The Hon.
Joe
VOLPE
P.C., M.P.
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May your New Year be filled with health, happiness and peace.

Wishing you a New Year filled with new hope, new joy and new beginnings.

Ken Dryden
M.P., YORK CENTRE

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE
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416-638-3700

No peace, no recognition, no negotiations

On The Record

A little more than a week after the conclusion of the Six Day War, on June 19, 1967, the government of Israel offered to return the Golan Heights to Syria, the Sinai to Egypt and most of the West Bank to Jordan in return for the signing of peace treaties that would include the normalization of relations

Two months later, on Aug. 29, the collective response to Israel's offer came in the form of a summit conference attended by eight Arab heads of state in Khartoum, Sudan.

The Arab states utterly rejected Israel's offer in what subsequently became known as the "three noes of Khartoum," namely, "no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it."

The Khartoum response was a turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

As historian and commentator Ami Isseroff has written, "The Khartoum resolutions weakened conciliatory voices in the Israeli government, and legitimized those voice who were calling for annexation of the conquered territories and Jewish settlement in them. They argued that in any case, it was clear that the Arabs would not make peace in the near future, and that the settlements would establish 'facts on the ground' and would pressure Arab governments and Palestinians to make peace.

"Consequently, on Sept. 24, the unity government led by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol announced plans for the re-establishment of a Jewish community in the Old City of Jerusalem (exiled in 1948 by the Jordanian Legion), the Etzion Bloc (kibbutzim on the Bethlehem-Hebron road wiped out by Palestinians in the war of 1948) and kibbutzim in the northern sector of the Golan Heights.

"Plans were also unveiled for new neighbourhoods around Jerusalem, near the old buildings of Hebrew University and near the Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus.

"This phase of the settlement plan was well within the Israeli consensus. Jerusalem was always considered a part of Israel, and Israelis were bitter at the destruction of the Jewish community of the Old City, which had existed for over 400 years. The Etzion bloc and other areas around Jerusalem were considered to be part of the 'corridor' and necessary to protect Jerusalem from a repeat of the 1948 Arab blockade."

The famous three noes were contained in Article 3 of the Khartoum Declaration. The following is the full text of the declaration:

1. The conference has affirmed the unity of Arab ranks, the unity of joint action and the need for coordination and for the elimination of all differences. The kings, presidents and representatives of the other Arab heads of state at the conference have affirmed their countries' stand by and implementation of the Arab Solidarity Charter, which was signed at the third Arab summit conference in Casablanca.

2. The conference has agreed on the need to consolidate all efforts to eliminate the effects of the aggression on the basis that the occupied lands are Arab lands and that the burden of regaining these lands falls on all the Arab states.

3. The Arab heads of state have agreed to unite their political efforts at the international and diplomatic level to eliminate the effects of the aggression and to ensure the withdrawal of the aggressive Israeli forces from the Arab lands which have been occupied since the aggression of June 5. This will be done within the framework of the main principles by which the Arab states abide, namely, no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it, and insistence on the rights of the Palestinian people in their own country.

4. The conference of Arab Ministers of Finance, Economy and Oil recommended that suspension of oil pumping be used as a weapon in the battle. However, after thoroughly studying the matter, the summit conference has come to the conclusion that the oil pumping can itself be used as a positive weapon, since oil is an Arab resource which can be used to strengthen the economy of the Arab states directly affected by the aggression, so that these states will be able to stand firm in the battle. The conference has, therefore, decided to resume the pumping of oil, since oil is a positive Arab resource that can be used in the service of Arab goals. It can contribute to the efforts to enable those Arab States which were exposed to the aggression and thereby lost economic resources to stand firm and eliminate the effects of the aggression. The oil-producing states have, in fact, participated in the efforts to enable the states affected by the aggression to stand firm in the face of any economic pressure.

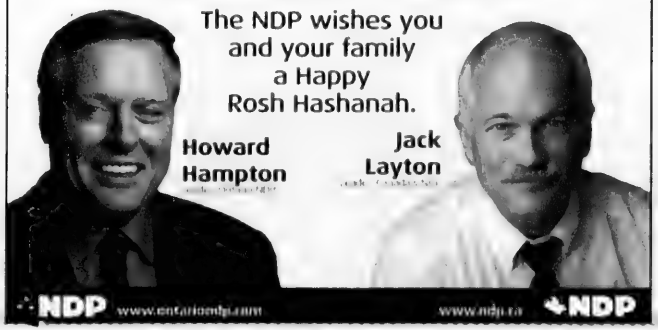
5. The participants in the conference have approved the plan proposed by Kuwait to set up an Arab economic and social development fund on the basis of the recommendation of the Baghdad conference of Arab Ministers of Finance, Economy and Oil.

6. The participants have agreed on the need to adopt the necessary measures to strengthen military preparation to face all eventualities.

7. The conference has decided to expedite the elimination of foreign bases in the Arab States.

L'Shanah Tovah

The NDP wishes you and your family a Happy Rosh Hashanah.



The Mayor and Members of Council of the Town of Markham wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

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MARKHAM

Protection of Holy Places

Following the Six Day War of June 1967, the situation in the Middle East was discussed by the United Nations General Assembly, which referred the issue to the Security Council. After lengthy discussion, a final draft for a Security Council resolution was presented by the British Ambassador, Lord Caradon, on Nov. 22, 1967. It was adopted unanimously on the same day.

On The Record

This resolution, numbered 242, established provisions and principles that, it was hoped, would lead to a solution of the conflict. Resolution 242 was to become the cornerstone of Middle East diplomatic efforts in the coming decades.

Lord Caradon, Britain's ambassador to the UN, who presented Resolution 242.

The Security Council,

Expressing its continuing concern with the grave situation in the Middle East,

Emphasizing the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every state in the area can live in security,

Emphasizing further that all member states in their acceptance of the Charter of the United Nations have undertaken a commitment to act in accordance with Article 2 of the charter,

1. Affirms that the fulfilment of charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include the application of both the following principles:

(i) Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict;

(ii) Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force;

2. Affirms further the necessity:

(a) For guaranteeing freedom of navigation through international waterways in the area;

(b) For achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem;

(c) For guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every state in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones;

3. Requests the secretary general to designate a special representative to proceed to the Middle East to establish and maintain contacts with the states concerned in order to promote agreement and assist efforts to achieve a peaceful and accepted settlement in accordance with the provisions and principles in this resolution;

4. Requests the secretary general to report to the Security Council on the progress of the efforts of the special representative as soon as possible.

Adopted unanimously at the 1382nd meeting (of the Security Council).

Shana Tova
Health, Happiness & Peace in the New Year

Councillor Jane Pitfield
Ward 26 - Don Valley West

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Tel: 416.392.0215 Fax: 416.392.7427
Email: councillor_pitfield@toronto.ca

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year

Hon. John Godfrey, M.P.
Don Valley West

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Website: www.johngodfrey.on.ca

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www.khalidusman.com

Shanah Tovah
Wishing you all the best in the new year.

Erin Shapero
Councillor, Ward 2
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Town of Markham
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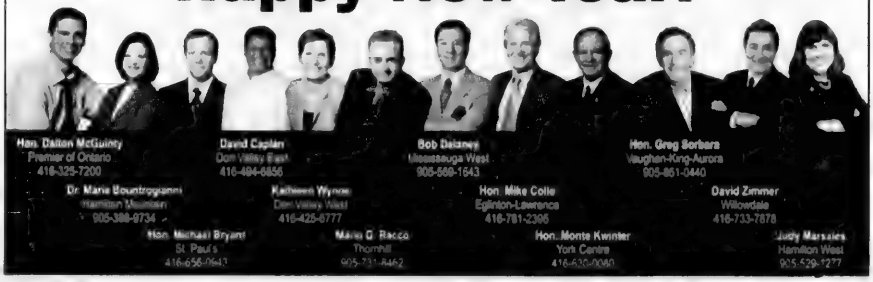
Members of the **Ontario Liberal Caucus**
wish the readers of the **Canadian Jewish News** a

Happy New Year!



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to all of the residents of Ward 24 – Willowdale, the City of Toronto and surrounding communities

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SUSAN KADIS
M.P., Thornhill
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The Honourable
Maurizio Bevilacqua, M.P.
Vaughan

Wishing everyone in the community a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

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The Mayor and Members of Council of the Town of Richmond Hill
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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5767

The Quest for Jewish identity

Yaacov Herzog was a rare, uniquely skilled and talented individual. A rabbi, scholar and diplomat, he served many positions for the government and the people of Israel, including ambassador to Canada.

This address was delivered on Nov. 24, 1969, in Jerusalem at the President of Israel's Circle for the Study of the Diaspora.

By YAACOV HERZOG

Yaacov Herzog, left, with the late Ray Wolfe in 1971

It seems to me that the Six Day War, the reunification of Jerusalem and everything connected with these events have transformed the Jew's conception of himself to take into account the background of the new image of the State of Israel with a united and liberated Jerusalem at its centre.

On The Record

The question is not the image of the State of Israel as it appears to the Jew, but how the Jew sees himself. I think that fundamental changes have taken place among the Jews in the world. First of all, they now have an understanding of the return to Zion as a spiritual concept, something they did not have before. Secondly, they have an understanding of the concept of the Jewish people as a people that dwells alone, and of Jewish history in the context of the history of mankind. Thirdly, I believe that, for the first time in 150 years, they have entered an era marked by the quest for their own identity, in contrast to the flight from Judaism that was characteristic of the previous period.

All this is something new in the Jewish soul, with far-reaching implications for the future. The crises in Christendom, in the affluent world, in the communist bloc, in humanism, in the socialist movement have combined to create a cultural vacuum within which the Jew feels even more isolated than in years gone by.

On the one hand, there is the powerful lodestone of resurgent and victorious Israel, which has succeeded in overcoming the appalling perils of the period before the Six Day War and has established herself as a permanent factor in the Middle East, inspiring the Jew with a sense of his own identity. On the other hand, the counter-forces – the world of assimilation and spiritual extinction, the world that tends to obliterate Jewish identity is itself immersed in a painful crisis of the quest for its own identity.

Thus, when the Jew looks around him, he sees those trends in the civilization of mankind in which – so he tries to persuade himself – he could, of his own free will, find self-oblivion through assimilation and spiritual extinction overwhelmed by a volcanic eruption throughout the world, as humanity seeks itself.

These crises affect us daily and it is not difficult to enumerate them, but I would add one paradoxical factor. It was generally accepted in the past century that, as national frameworks were shattered and some kind of cosmopolitanism spread over the entire civilization of mankind, it would be easier for the Jew to be swallowed up and forgotten. The Jews in the affluent countries have made every effort to recover their equilibrium after the Holocaust, to explain it away in logical terms as the consequence of economic crises, social ferments, the affront to the self-respect of the German people after World War I and their quest for self-identity.

Continued on page B71

Shana Tova
Wishing the community A Healthy, Happy New Year
PETER MICHAEL PAVLOVIC
Candidate - Councillor, Markham – Ward 2
www.peterpavlovic.ca
647-290-2300

I extend my warmest wishes to you for a year filled with health, happiness and prosperity.

Shana Tova

Linda D. Jackson & Family
Local and Regional Councillor

York Region
Vaughan

A new chapter has been opened in history

Continued from page B70

And yet, despite all these explanations, Jews in those countries cannot escape a sense of uneasiness, a kind of insecurity. This is an extraordinary development, which has become more and more obvious during the past four years. Previously, it was believed that anti-Semitism could no longer exist in a civilized human society, that the stronger civilization became, the more secure would be the position of the Jew. And now, suddenly, this confidence has been undermined, and the developments I have enumerated are closing in upon the Jew and pressing him to seek his own identity.

Thus, against the background of the status of independent Israel in the Middle East and the reunification of Jerusalem, with all its profound religious and historic significance for the Jewish soul, the world crisis of civilization and anti-Semitic manifestations – although many still hesitate to call them by that name – are keenly felt by the Jew. There are even some thinkers in the western world who compare the position of the Jews in the United States and western Europe with that of German Jewry in the 1920s. That seems to me to be a highly exaggerated view. But the very fact that Jews who do not hold the prophetic concept of Israel, of the dialogue between Jews and gentiles, that Jews with a universalist concept of world civilization, can admit such a possibility – and opinions to this effect have been published recently – shows how far the uneasiness has reached, if only in the subconscious of the Jew in the western world.

All this applies to the majority of Jews, those who have some kind of bond – religious, historic or even undefined – with Judaism. But I find in my contacts with what I might call "assimilated Jewry" – which comprises millions in the western world, especially in the universities and among the intellectuals – that even they have not succeeded in escaping that inner, spiritual shock that has struck Jewry as a whole.

This group may be divided into two sections. The one, which is seeking a way back, has joined in the quest for Jewish identity, though in its own way; the other – perhaps resenting the demand for identity – has found its place, in may quarters, at the head of the anarchistic "protest" movements.

Jews of the latter type are influenced by propaganda hostile to Israel. They want to suppress their spiritual shock, and so they go to extremes in the direction of cosmopolitanism. They seem to be trying to justify themselves by extravagant criticism of Israel without any objective basis.

Criticism is legitimate in a world of freedom of thought, and it is our duty to criticize ourselves, but they are going too far. The shock among these Jews is so profound that a man like George Steiner of Cambridge, who regards Israel as an imperialist monster, a nation that conquers and oppresses another nation, is nevertheless able to declare that if Israel's survival were in danger, he would be prepared to come and risk his life in her defence. This is a most extraordinary paradox; it is inconceivable that such a Jew could have spoken in these terms before 1967.

As we have seen, this shock is expressed mainly in the quest for identity. It gives rise to the idea of the return to Zion as a spiritual concept; it is expressed in the almost complete acceptance of the moral authority of the State of Israel; it is expressed in aliyah. On this last there are still various difficulties, but no one now objects to aliyah. Even among those who insist on the independence of the Diaspora or on the existence of a separate Diaspora stream in Jewish history, it is now permissible to talk about aliyah, or even to decide on aliyah.

Finally, it is also expressed in a readiness to strike deeper roots in Jewish education and expand the Jewish educational system in Diaspora countries. If what has been done in this sphere is still inadequate, that is largely our fault. But above all, there is the recognition of the validity of the return to Zion and the supremacy and centrality of Israel in the Jewish consciousness of our generation.

At the Conference of Leaders of Jewish Organizations, which met in Jerusalem at the beginning of the year, at the invitation of the late prime minister Levi Eshkol, we heard a leader of Reform Jewry in the United States get up and proclaim: "We are in exile!" This was a revolutionary admission, the outcome of deep heart-searching, profound spiritual crisis, constant quest and perplexity, the effort to adapt historic concepts of to the 20th century.

This is also true of the attempts of the better elements in the new left to wrestle with the problem of the Land of Israel and the bond between the land and the Jewish people for over 2,000 years as a historical concept, to view the claim of a Jewish right to the land against the 20th-century concept of self-determination.

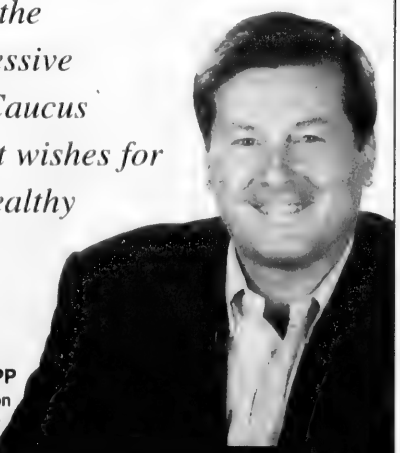
Jews are no longer so shaken by the criticism levelled against us abroad as they were before 1967. Instinctively, as it were, they make common cause with us against this propaganda. They do not come to us and complain: "What are you doing in the occupied areas? The whole world is shocked. You are blackening our name in the eyes of the world." Perhaps they feel this, but they suppress their criticism. And this is not because of their admiration for us, but because they feel that they share with us a common fate; they feel that without us their lives would be meaningless.

These are fundamental changes that have taken place within the Jewish people. How this intellectual quest, this new spiritual direction, will find concrete expression against the background of world changes, it is difficult to foresee. But, as history has shown, developments of this kind have an impetus of their own, and they are not necessarily halted by changes in one direction or the other in this world of perpetual motion.

There is not the slightest doubt, it seems to me, that a cycle of 150 years of Jewish history – marked by self-deprecation and assimilation – which includes the Zionist aspiration "to be like all the nations" – has come to an end. The entire picture has been altered, a new chapter has been opened, and the Jewish people – and I believe this is the supreme manifestation of the change – is prepared to march forward with us into the unknown and, despite all its growing perils, into the future.

SHANA TOVA

John Tory and the Ontario Progressive Conservative Caucus extend warmest wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!



JOHN TORY, MPP
Leader of the Official Opposition
and Ontario's PC Party

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City of Vaughan
The City Above Toronto

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Shana Tova!

The Mayor and Members of Vaughan City Council wish our Jewish Community joy, prosperity, health and happiness in the coming year.

Front (from L): Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio, Regional Councillor Mario F. Ferri, Mayor Michael Di Biase, and Regional Councillor Linda D. Jackson.

Back (from L): Ward 5 Councillor Alan Shefman, Ward 4 Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco, Ward 3 Councillor Bernie DiVona, Ward 2 Councillor Tony Carella, and Ward 1 Councillor Peter Meffe.

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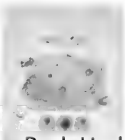

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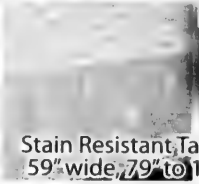

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This Week

National

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Canadian couple give new olim Rosh Hashanah to remember

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

SAFED, Israel — When the Tzahal Absorption Center in Safed suffered a direct hit from a Katyusha rocket fired by Hezbollah on July 13 – one of a barrage of rockets to fall near the centre – about 400 new immigrants from Ethiopia had already been moved to bomb shelters across Israel's north.

Some were separated from their children for the first time, opting to let them go to southern cities for safety. Prior to their arrival in Safed, most of the new immigrants had spent five to seven years in Jewish Agency-run refugee camps, waiting for their flight to Israel. For most, the Tzahal Absorption Center – the largest of three in Safed, built for families of seven members or more – became their first home in Israel just weeks before the outbreak of the war in Lebanon.

Continued on page 42

Jay and Amy Papernick in Safed with a group of newly arrived youngsters from Ethiopia.
[Lauren Hazan photo]

Herzl's children reburied in Israel

By DINA KRAFT
JTA

JERUSALEM — More than a century ago, Theodor Herzl, the father of modern Zionism, sat down to write his will. His heart was growing weaker and he feared his end might be near.

He stipulated his desire to be buried in the Jewish state – once it was established – alongside his children.

On Sept. 20, two coffins draped in Israeli flags containing the remains of Pauline and Hans Herzl were carried into the national cemetery named for their father and buried in the reddish brown earth of Jerusalem.

Herzl with his children, Pauline, right, Hans, and Margarethe, c.1900.
[Encyclopedia Judaica]

"Today, by bringing the bones of Pauline and Hans, we are completing the mission and completing a historic circle," Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said, speaking just a few feet away from the fresh graves, which were covered in sand and marked by small white plastic signs.

The two died within a day of each other in September 1930. Pauline after a long period of homelessness and possible addiction to morphine, and Hans by his own hand. Distraught over his sister's death, he shot himself in the head.

They were buried in a shared grave in Bordeaux, France. Their reburial in Israel ends a bizarre and dark chapter in Zionist history.

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Shabbat Shuvah: Ha'azinu
Candlelighting: 6:44
Havdalah: 7:49
Greater Toronto Area

Jewish groups picket Iranian president at UN — please see page 39

The News in Brief

CANADA

New Interfaith Group

EDMONTON — Muslims, Christians and Jews launched a local interfaith group Sept. 17 at Edmonton City Hall. The Phoenix Multi-Faith Society aims to "strengthen the bonds of harmony among Jews, Muslims and Christians," said the city's Catholic archbishop, Thomas Collins, who started the group with Jewish lawyer Sol Rolinger; ex-Tory MLA Larry Shaben, a Muslim; and police chief Mike Boyd.

Student Can Sue York

TORONTO — A student who was banned for three years from York University for his role in two anti-Israel protests can sue the school and its president for "public misfeasance" after the Supreme Court refused to hear York's appeal of a court decision not to bar that portion of his suit against the school. York's president, Lorna Marsden, suspended Daniel Freeman-Maloy, 22, last year for his part in campus protests in October 2005 and March 2004 against Israel's treatment of Palestinians, citing flagrant disruption of university life and unauthorized use of a bullhorn as reasons, the *Globe and Mail* reported. An Ontario court rescinded his suspension, and he sued York for libel, misfeasance and breach of academic freedom. York argues that its president isn't a public office-holders and thus can't be sued for misfeasance, and that a suit could limit academic freedom.

Reward Increased

NORTH BAY, Ont. — The reward for finding a Jewish boater who is presumed to have drowned on Lake Nipissing has been raised to $10,000. Hatzoloh, a volunteer-based emergency medical service in Toronto, had offered $3,000 to anyone who finds the body of its co-founder, Eli Horowitz, 30, of Toronto. The paramedic didn't return from a fishing trip Aug. 21 with his father-in-law, Heine Mondrowitz. The pair were in the North Bay area with their families. Their rented boat was found empty, and Mondrowitz's body washed up later on an island. The search for Horowitz intensified last week after a boater saw a body in the water near the island.

Bikers Raise $35,000

TORONTO — A Jewish motorcycle club raised $35,000 for a Tennessee school that collected millions of paper clips in memory of the Holocaust. Sandra Roberts, the Whitwell Middle School's principal, appeared Sept. 13 with Toronto's Sid Rochwerg, founder of the Yidden on Wheels biker club, at an event at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham. In 1998, Whitwell students decided to collect six million paper clips to help them understand the magnitude of the Shoah. They began receiving paper clips from all over the world as word spread about the project, which attracted media attention and was the subject of a documentary. In May, Rochwerg, a child of survivors, led a group of 70 Toronto riders to the school.

Jewish Leaders Meet Security Minister

MONTREAL — Jewish leaders met with Quebec Public Security Minister Jacques Dupuis earlier this month to discuss security concerns after the Sept. 2 firebombing of a Jewish school, the second such attack in just over two years.

The Sept. 14 meeting came just before the High Holy Days. The Jewish group consisted of FEDERATION CJA vice-president Marc Gold and chief operating officer Bram Freedman, along with Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region, president Jeffrey Boro and director Joachim Normand.

"We were very pleased with Minister Dupuis' understanding of this important issue and his assurances that the security concerns of the community are being taken very seriously by the government and the police authorities. As well, we expressed to the minister that we are very pleased with the co-operation and understanding that we have received from the Montreal Police Force in investigating this latest attack on a Jewish institution," Boro said, referring to the firebombing of Toldos Yakov Yosef, a chassidic boys school.

WORLD

YU Gets $100 Million

NEW YORK — Ronald Stanton is hoping his $100-million (US) gift to Yeshiva University – announced earlier this month and believed to be the largest ever to a Jewish educational institution – will spur other Jewish philanthropists to give major donations to Jewish causes in general, and YU in particular. "There are plenty of people who could do it, but most substantial philanthropy goes to non-Jewish causes," said Stanton, 78, a New Yorker who made his fortune in petrochemicals and fertilizers.

Killings Are 'Fictions'

NEW YORK — Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir said Jewish groups are lying about violence in Sudan's Darfur region to raise money for Israel. Speaking Sept. 19 to the UN General Assembly, he said reports of deaths and refugees in Darfur are "fictions" and that those "who mobilized the people, invariably, are Jewish organizations." Jewish groups have been actively trying to end the killing of Darfurians by government-allied Arab militias.

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Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Siblings reunited after 65 years

Simon Glasberg and Hilda Glasberg Shlick reunited after 65 years.

By LISA ALCALAY KLUG
Special to The CJN.

Sometimes, it truly is never too late. Holocaust survivor Simon Glasberg, 81, of Ottawa thought his sister had died during World War II. And Hilda Glasberg Shlick, 75, of Ashdod, Israel, thought her entire immediate family except for one sister had been lost to the Nazis.

But last week, although six decades have passed and the two have been separated by great distances, the brother and sister were reunited in Jerusalem.

A thankful Glasberg, overcome with emotion, couldn't stop kissing his sister. "I waited 65 years to give her a kiss… I'm so happy that I found the sister I love," he told reporters at a tear-filled reunion at Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial.

Although they were separated in 1941, Glasberg immediately recognized his sister Hilda.

"Nobody could believe it. She's alive," he said. "Of course I cried. The whole world cried."

A blend of technology and ingenuity led to the reunion of the two siblings. All her life, Schlick had believed her parents, four brothers and one sister had been murdered by the Nazis.

"For 65 years, I lived thinking I had no family besides one sister," said Schlick, who was as emotional as her brother.

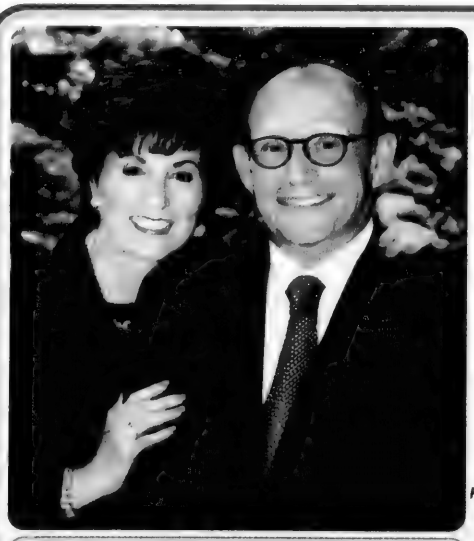
The pair, who conversed mainly in Yiddish, were reunited thanks to the efforts of two of Shlick's grandchildren, Benny and David Shlick, who explored Yad Vashem's online Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names.

The archive, which contains some three million names of Holocaust victims, is at YadVashem.org. It has been visited by 10 million people since it was established two years ago. Biographical data submitted by families was originally recorded on paper and kept in large black binders that now line the walls of the Hall of Names as a silent memorial to those who perished during the Holocaust. Those files have been digitized in the database and are searchable online. Additional submissions can be made via the Internet.

This summer, after learning that their grandmother's maiden name was Glasberg, Benny and David went to the Yad Vashem website, where they found a page of testimony filed by another Glasberg sibling who survived the Holocaust, Karol Weiner. In his testimony, submitted shortly before he died in 1999, Weiner – whose last name was changed during the war for reasons the remaining family members can't explain – erroneously said that Shlick was no longer living.

David Shlick then continued the search: he explored the website of the Montreal Burial Society and online forums of survivors of Chernowitz, Romania, and eventually reached Karol Weiner's son, Eric.

Continued on page 31



Proceeds from the 2006 JNF Toronto Negev Dinner will be directed primarily to the 4,000 square meter ***Edward and Fran Sonshine Beit Eshel Historical Site Restoration*** - an active, dynamic centre for heritage and environment education, focusing on leisure time activities.

Ed and Fran Sonshine are confident that the funds raised will exceed what is required to complete their Beit Eshel project, and have agreed to direct any additional funds to a second initiative, ***Operation Security Blanket*** – to provide alternative activities for children affected by the war; ***Project Replant, Rebuild and Restore*** – replant burned trees in the north; cultivate decimated farmland; fire-fighting upgrading; emergency response equipment and vehicles to supplement current capacity; and to rebuild recreational and tourist areas of Northern Israel.

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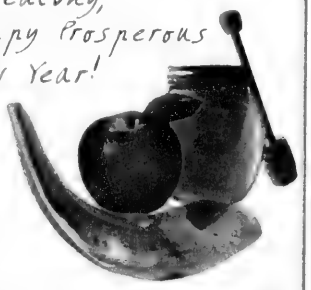

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Lessons from the U.K.

In last week's *CJN*, my colleague Sheldon Kirshner wrote about *The Jews of Britain 1656 to 2000* by Todd M. Endelman.

The book was published this year to coincide with the 350th anniversary of the resettlement of Jews in Britain. Oliver Cromwell acceded to a request by Menasseh Ben Israel, on behalf of some of the formerly Portuguese Jews who were then living in Holland, for permission to immigrate to Britain.

Jews had been expelled from Britain in 1290 by King Edward I. And Cromwell, for his own reasons, not least of which was that he saw an opportunity to invigorate the English economy, responded favourably to Ben Israel's plea.

Endelman's account stops at the year 2000 but he does warn, as Kirshner noted, that the future of the Jewish community there is an uncertain one.

It is perhaps worthwhile that we continue Endelman's effort and sketch, even if only in thumbnail format, the condition of British Jewry since the year 2000.

Two Sundays ago, an estimated 25,000 people filled Trafalgar Square in London to celebrate Simcha on the Square, the culminating event in the year-long celebration of the 350-year anniversary. By all accounts, the occasion was festive and joyful, without incident or disruption. Security was low key.

Though low key in Trafalgar Square two weeks ago, security is very much a matter of high priority for our co-religionists in England.

As reported in *The CJN* recently, a 14-member, all-party parliamentary committee submitted a 58-page report to Prime Minister Tony Blair that warned of a rising tide of hatred against Jews.

The inquiry was chaired by Labour MP, former Foreign Office minister, Dennis MacShane and lasted some 10 months. It made 30 recommendations, all of which the government promised to study with a view to their implementation.

"After a year listening to evidence," MacShane told the *Jewish Chronicle* of London (*JC*), "we have come to the conclusions that there is a serious level of anti-Semitism in the U.K. We were particularly shocked by the number of physical attacks, which are an affront to any modern society. And we cannot accept that there should be a need for a group of British citizens to spend large amounts of money just to defend themselves."

The organized Jewish community, through the offices of the Community Security Trust, spent five million pounds last year in meeting the security needs of the many Jewish institutions. Unfortunately, the need for heightened security is starkly real. As noted in the *JC*, the report identified a "widespread change in mood and tone when Jews are discussed, whether in print or broadcast, at universities or in public or social settings."

The members of the commission expressed the fear that anti-Jewish remarks and attitudes "were gaining respectability and that there [was] a danger that this trend [was becoming] more and more mainstream." The report concluded that radical Muslims, the far left and parts of the media, were responsible for the increase in the anti-Jewish sentiments.

The worsening condition of the Jews of the United Kingdom was reported upon by Jewish People Policy Planning Institute (JPPPI) based in Jerusalem in its *Annual Assessment 2004 -2005*.

The JPPPI noted one of the significant "external" factors that affect the situation of the Jews of the United Kingdom. "The number of British Muslims has swelled and now accounts for 1.6 million, according to the recent census. Muslim influence in the media, on government and on politicians is growing rapidly and, in the opinion of some local leaders, alarmingly. Politically, Muslims are the fastest growing sector in the Labour party as well as in the smaller Liberal Democrat Party."

Compared to the 1.6 million Muslims, there are today, alas, fewer than 300,000 Jews in the United Kingdom, the same number, approximately, that lived there in 1914. In the mid-1950s, there were nearly half a million Jews in the United Kingdom. It therefore is bitterly true to conclude that Jews in the United Kingdom are a declining community.

The causes of the downward demographic spiral are not unknown to the Jews of the West. They are a result of, primarily, the combined effect of intermarriage, low birth rates and an aging population. There is also the added factor of emigration (primarily to Israel) fuelled by the sense of individual anxiety by what the 14 members of Parliament described as a "serious level of anti-Semitism in the U.K."

Canada is not the United Kingdom. The political, social and cultural reality of Canada is not that of the United Kingdom. Moreover, Canadian Jewry is one of three Diaspora communities that are actually growing in size.

But there are lessons for us to learn from the situation of the Jews of the United Kingdom.

Correction

In the paper last week, accompanying his stirring reminiscence of *What The Six Day War Was Like* for him, Stanley Plotnick was identified as the former president of UIA Canada. Of course, that depiction was incorrect. Plotnick is still very much the current president of UIA Canada. I apologize for and regret any embarrassment the error may have caused, especially to myself. – ***MBD***

See]N

ANTI-WAR BECOMES ANTI-ISRAEL

Many of the demonstrators, ostensibly at an anti-war rally recently in Piccadily in central London, showed their anti-Israel sentiments.

[RNS/Reuters photo]

Commerce group urges investment in Israel

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Business people, politicians and philanthropists gathered last week to urge Canadian Jews to invest in Israel's growing economy and give a boost to the newly formed Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce, whose predecessor fell apart four years ago.

More than 160 people attended a reception, panel discussion and video presentation held at the Global Group Centre in Toronto to learn about investment and trade opportunities between Israel and Canada.

Israel's consul general in Toronto, Ya'acov Brosh, as well as Israel's trade commissioner to Toronto Ephraim Shoham, interim president of the Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce David Rubin, and Global Upholstery chairman Saul Feldberg were just some of the people who urged the audience to become involved in the business group and invest in Israel.

Brosh said that while Canada is a good friend and ally to Israel, the two countries are still far from reaching the potential of bilateral trade between them.

"We should use the good experience Israel has with other countries and apply [that to Canada]. Israel has raised over $50 billion US in venture capital money over the past decade," Brosh said.

After showing a video with testimony from leaders of companies such as Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard that have profited from investing in Israel, Shoham noted that the United States has a closer economic relationship with Israel.

"Israeli companies do not dare put too much effort on the Canadian market, [but focus] mostly on the U.S. market. Israel exports yearly $12 billion of products to the U.S. and only half a billion dollars to Canada. This is not proportionate," Shoham said.

However, Shoham added that Canada exports $320 million of products, including software, diamonds and chemicals, to Israel and that over the past 2 1/2 years, Israeli exports to Canada have increased by 55 per cent – a rate of increase higher than Israel has achieved with any other country over the same period.

According to the Government of Israel Economic Mission to Canada, Israel's economy is vibrant and booming, and has the potential to benefit Canadian businesses that are willing to invest in it.

The economic mission reported that foreign investment figures for the first six months of 2006 amounted to $11.9 billion (US), which is already 20 per cent more than all of 2005, and that as of June of this year, the Israeli government had a budget surplus of more than $1 billion (US).

The organization also reported that the recent Israel-Hezbollah war had short-term effects on the economy, but "being a high-tech and export-oriented economy, Israel's economic development and growth depends mainly on the developments in the global economy. Therefore, the impact of a temporary local security crisis on the Israel economy is rather limited."

Some of the objectives of the Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce include creating and developing business ties between Israeli and Canadian companies, organizing business delegations and conferences for companies in both countries, and networking with key business and political leaders.

In an interview with *The CJN*, Gabriel Regev, Israel's deputy trade commissioner in Toronto, who helped organize last week's event, expressed frustration with Canadian Jews, who he said don't understand the importance of having this kind of organized body.

"The chamber of commerce is more than just trade and commerce. It is a showcase of Israel," he said.

Regev said that the original chamber of commerce disbanded about four years ago because there wasn't enough interest from the Jewish community.

He said that for years, Eli Rubenstein, of Canadel Inc., one of Canada's biggest real estate firms, which has been investing in Israel since the 1980s, financed the group out of his own pocket.

"There is a limit to what one individual can do. In the middle of 2002, [the group] ran out of money and there wasn't enough will, energy and interest to really create something there," Regev said. "I think it is important that this is being recreated. The complacency here, of the Jewish community is frightening. They think they are sitting here so safe and sound, but they are not."

Regev said that despite the fact Canadian Arabs don't have the history of political and economic influence that Canadian Jews have, Arabs have still managed to create a council – by modelling it after the structure of the Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce – that is better organized and more stable.

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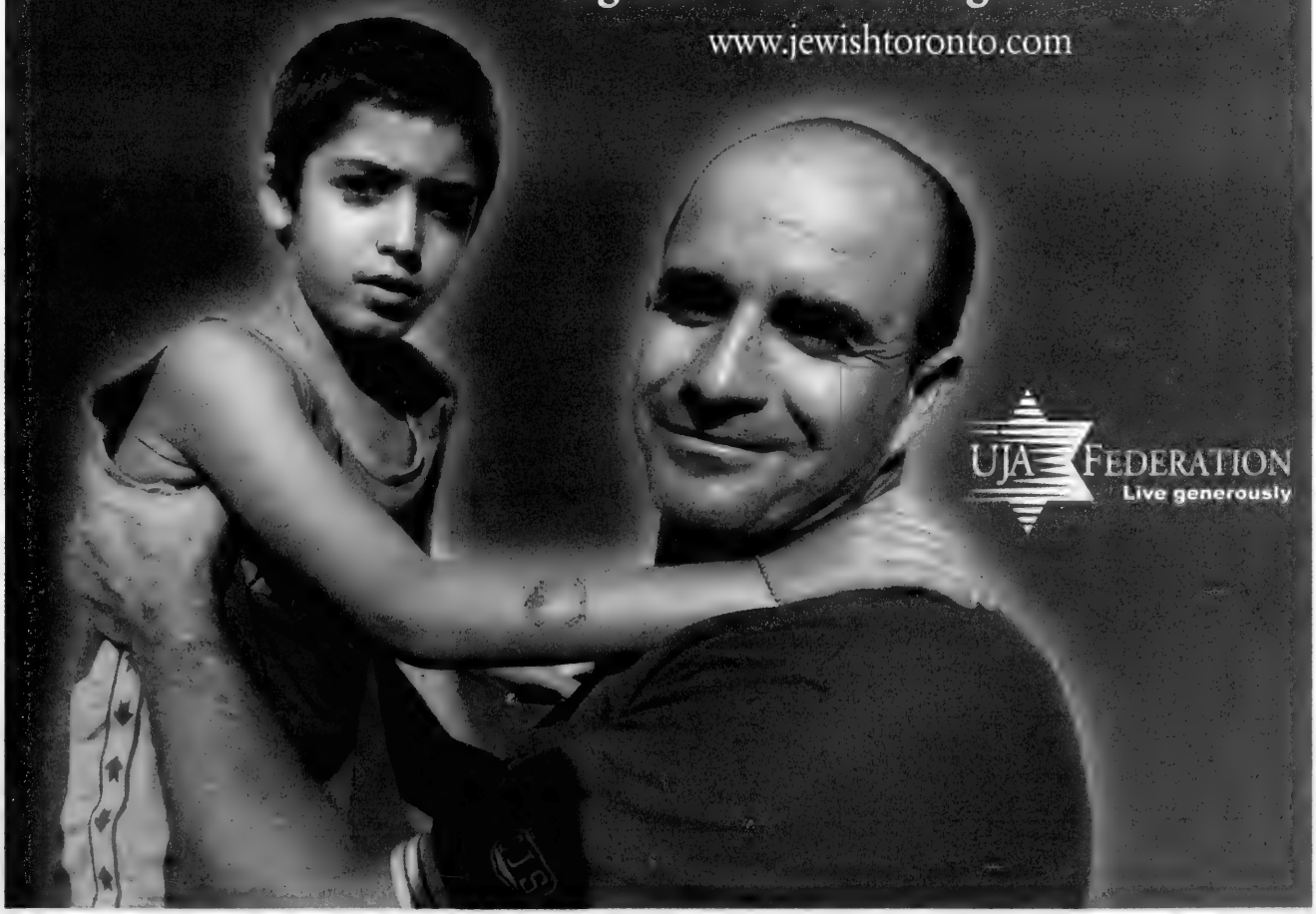

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Whither the UN?

Last week was a very bad one for the United Nations. (Indeed, have there been any good ones for the disgraced and discredited organization these past few decades?) The institution was mocked by various leaders from the sanctuary of the very rostrum of the General Assembly and by others from the sanctuary of their respective imperious terrains.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the world's most vocal proponent of both Holocaust denial and genocide, was welcomed into the General Assembly, and he told the large gathering that "[A]ll our nuclear activities are transparent, peaceful and under the watchful eyes" of inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency. The fact that those same inspectors have frequently reported that Iran has repeatedly violated its commitments under international law and has frequently lied about its nuclear activities did not prevent Ahmadinejad from lying once again.

In his address to the General Assembly, the president of Venezuela and an Ahmadinejad ally, Hugo Chavez, called U.S. president George W. Bush "the devil himself." Then, in an odious and silly manner beneath the childishness of the lowest vaudevillian, Chavez said Bush had left the smell of sulfur hanging in the chamber from his appearance the previous day. But most surreal and saddest of all perhaps, was the appearance of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. He accused human rights groups of exaggerating the crisis in Darfur. At a news conference he suggested UN peacekeepers were protecting Israel and accused Jews worldwide of spreading propaganda against his government. The hundreds of thousands already slaughtered in Darfur were less than an inconvenient detail to him. They were of no concern.

In Lebanon, Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah finally emerged from his hiding place last Friday to announce that "the resistance today has more than 20,000 rockets. We will not accept [disarming the resistance under this government]." With that openly triumphalist announcement, Nasrallah publicly ridiculed the United Nations, and especially its secretary general Kofi Annan, by brazenly flouting the entire rubric of Resolution 1701, Annan's instrument for ending the fighting between Hezbollah and Israel.

And then there was the secretary general himself who, in a pitiful presentation, implied that Israel's attempts to defend itself were morally equivalent to its enemies' attempts to destroy it, effectively lending credence to the Arab world's obsessive, distorted grievances against the Jewish state. "As long as the Security Council is unable to end... the now nearly 40-year-old occupation, by bringing both sides to accept and implement its resolutions... respect for the United Nations will continue to decline," Annan said.

With this embarrassing admission, the secretary general showed why the UN is but a withering, brittle vine on which there is now no hope for the growth of world peace. The shame of it all is mostly his, but the larger, profound pity of it all is ours. Woe to us.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Soviet foreign minister Andrei Gromyko told his Israeli counterpart Yitzchak Shamir that the USSR had reduced Jewish emigration because Jews were going to the United States rather than Israel. Their meeting at the United Nations was the first between Soviet and Israeli foreign ministers since 1974. Meanwhile, North American Jewry announced a campaign for Soviet Jews.

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Hopes for united community

In 1959, Toronto was a city in which rabbis and lay people of all denominations could and did work together in harmony.

But the article "Toronto's Orthodox community: Is it becoming too religiously right-wing?" (*CJN*, Aug. 24 and 31) and the many letters you received indicate that there has been a drastic change. Even within the Orthodox community, there is division and conflict.

Since the demise of my good friend and colleague Rabbi Gedalia Felder, there has been no outstanding rabbinic authority who can command the respect of his peers and laymen in the community at large.

I hope the articles and letters will serve to remind our rabbinic and lay leadership that one of the most important mitzvot and values in Judaism is *ahavat Yisrael*.

The articles and letters have indicated that there are many in the Orthodox community who are being coerced and fear to participate in legitimate educational programs that are not approved by right-wing leaders.

It is a sorry state of affairs when Jewish people of different religious denominations refuse to speak to one another or to sit at the same table and discuss matters of local and worldwide concern. I hope and trust that these articles will be a wake-up call and that the Toronto Jewish community can become again a united Jewish community.

Rabbi Joseph Kelman
Toronto

* * *

End loyalty to a party line

Philip Davidovits states that certain rabbis who do not espouse the views of Rabbi Shlomo Miller are "nowhere near as learned" as he, and writes that "maybe from a straight halachic [standpoint], there is no... position to take [other than that of Rabbi Miller's] ("Toronto's Orthodox community," letter, *CJN*, Sept. 7).

The hundreds of learned rabbis who belong to the Mizrachi, centrist Orthodox or modern Orthodox camps in Toronto and elsewhere will not write in their own defence. No rabbi worthy of the title would have the arrogance to vaunt his own learning, or to claim to be "as learned" as another, no matter how learned they might be. It is, therefore, up to their students to rise and defend their honour.

Davidovits' claims are part of a growing tendency to judge a rabbi's Torah knowledge according to his views on communal policy. Thus Orthodox publishers exclude Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik from a series of books on Torah scholars in America, despite his acknowledged mastery of Torah and piety, because Rabbi Soloveitchik's views on Zionism and secular education are not to their liking. And thus editors of haredi newspapers in Israel sideline the pronouncements of Rabbi Aharon Leib Steinman, head of one of Israel's largest yeshivot, because his views on army service are not popular among the haredi public.

It is time to end the growing tendency to see loyalty to a party line as the litmus test of Torah scholarship, and to return to the policies of the communal rabbis of the last generation, of whom Rabbi Gedalia Felder of Toronto and Rabbi Pinchas Hirschprung of Montreal were prime examples. Rabbi Hirschprung actively encouraged studying the teachings of Rabbi Soloveitchik, on the one hand, and encouraged studying Chabad, on the other. Torah scholars of previous generations recognized that truth in Torah knowledge was not the property of a single camp. We ought to do likewise.

Shawn Z. Aster
Montreal

Greetings from the prime minister

It is with great pleasure that I extend warm greetings to the members of Canada's Jewish community on the occasion of Rosh Hashanah, the Yamim Noraim and Yom Kippur.

As you mark the beginning of the High Holy Days with the blowing of the shofar, you are honouring those traditions with which the Jewish community in Canada has enriched our great country. Rosh Hashanah is a time of celebration, surrounded by friends, family and sweet foods, but it is also a time for serious reflection, atonement and prayer for a good year and inscription into the Book of Life. As you approach Yom Kippur, it is my hope that you will be looking forward to the coming year with hope, joy and thanksgiving.

On behalf of my wife Laureen and children Benjamin and Rachel, please accept our best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

L'Shanah Tovah!

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., MP
Prime Minister of Canada

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Avinu Malkeinu
An extraordinary textual and musical design

By CANTOR DEBORAH RUTH STAIMAN

There was a drought during the second century CE. Rabbi Eliezer stepped down before the Ark and recited the 24 benedictions for fast days, but his prayers were not answered. Rabbi Akiva stepped down after him and exclaimed, "Our Father, our King, we have no King except You. Our Father, our King, for your sake have mercy on us." The rain fell. (Taanis 25b)

What began as only one line became one of the most important prayers of forgiveness in our liturgy for the High Holy Days: *Avinu Malkeinu*.

Some of the verses we still say are attributed to Rabbi Akiva. Other verses, with the same opening formula, were added from time to time in response to various persecutions or hardships that the Jewish people endured. This inspired the inclusion of several verses that ask God to inscribe us in the various "books" of good life, salvation, sustenance, merit, forgiveness and pardon. Since it was easy for different verses to become attached to the poem, more than one final version found its way into the many Machzorim (High Holy Day prayer books) around the world.

When I stand before the open ark singing *Avinu Malkeinu*, I feel, as may many of you, an intensity and urgency that is unmatched during the High Holy Day period. As I thought about why this was, several factors came to mind, making the reasons for the emotional impact of this prayer clearer. Perhaps you will identify.

First, unlike *Kol Nidrei*, which is said only once and on what might be considered the half-way point of the High Holy Day period, *Avinu Malkeinu* is included in the body of every service, starting with the *Selichot* service, and it is repeated on Rosh Hashanah, during the Ten Days of Repentance and throughout Yom Kippur day. The recurrence of the entire text over a period of approximately two weeks has its own psychological impact. This series of confessions and pleas inevitably takes on new nuances at every repetition.

Second, *Avinu Malkeinu* is always sung facing the open ark. As clergy, I am inches away from the Torahs, and there is nothing between me and the sacred scrolls. The focus of my congregation is on the Torah Scrolls. There is a certain vulnerability I feel when facing the ark, because God's presence is immediately felt when we stand before the Torahs.

Third, the prayer is a series of short verses, each beginning with "Our Father, our King." Considering the many repetitions of the beginning phrases within each recitation of the prayer and the multiple repetitions of the entire prayer, the compounded effect of addressing God as our protector and powerful master builds its own momentum, setting up both expectations and fears.

Finally, but not least, certain musical versions of *Avinu Malkeinu* have taken on such importance that if they were omitted, I would venture to say that the High Holy Days would not seem complete. I have in mind two melodies which the Jewish people tend to think of as coming from Mount Sinai; however, they are not as old as many of the *missinai* (from Sinai) tunes, such as *Kol Nidrei* and *Aleinu*, that are an integral part of the High Holy Day music.

The first melody is a folk tune. It is set to two verses of the text and is sung in unison by most Orthodox, Conservative and Reform congregations. The second, which is a much longer setting in both text and melody, has become a classic in many Conservative and most Reform congregations in North America. It is the *Avinu Malkeinu* written for cantor, choir and organ by the composer Max Janowski, who was born in 1912 in Germany and dedicated most of his adult life to the creation of Jewish music. When Janowski died on April 8, 1991, he had left a legacy of hundreds of compositions ranging from liturgical pieces for cantor to orchestral works.

Why do the folk tune and Janowski's melody for *Avinu Malkeinu* work? These are ideal examples of liturgical music that serves the demands of collective worship and the individual's need for prayerful expression. In their own respective ways, both pieces succeed in having two listeners: God and the worshippers. Music with which the worshipper is familiar and therefore participates in concerns humankind as much as God. Music where congregational participation is not absolutely necessary, primarily that which addresses God, stirs us humans to address our God.

The two pieces succeed in focusing on both God and God's supplicants. Every worshipper sings along with the folk version of *Avinu Malkeinu*, which invites the congregation to unite in one voice. The melody is written in the Ahava mode, a distinctly Jewish scale to which Jewish ears are either consciously or unconsciously sensitive. Through the repetition of a simple motif and the repetition of two phrases, it achieves a mantra-like affect which is hard to resist. We join the mantra, which aims at sending our minds and souls up to the higher *sfirot*.

The Janowski version aspires to the level of religious art, yet its seemingly artistic perfection is paralleled by its liturgical function. The melody, also in the Ahava mode, has attracted many Jewish souls the way it magically draws the listener right in, with its own mantra-like melody. Everyone hums or sways along as they meditate to the moving melody; yet, the prayer keeps some distance from the worshippers by its inclusion of an awe-inspiring cantorial and choral setting. Toward the end, the music soars higher and in its majesty, addresses God. We supplicants are made to reach toward the heavens with our hearts and our souls and therefore closer to God.

I believe that the appeal of *Avinu Malkeinu* during the High Holy Days is also deeply rooted in its music, particularly when it comes to the above-mentioned melodies. The musical setting by Max Janowski was so admired and moving that it became a genuine Reform tradition across the United States and Canada. In the process, it has become a staple of many Conservative congregations also.

The stage is set: multiple occurrences of the prayer, multiple repetitions of the phrase "Avinu Malkeinu," visible Torah scrolls in an open ark, and mantra-like modal melodies that speak to both the worshipper and to God. An urgency has been created through textual structure, choreography, words and music.

Why all this urgency? Why do I feel that if I don't sing with all the power my body and vocal cords have, then God may not hear my prayers and those of the congregation? Why are we given all these resources to help accomplish the task?

In *Avinu Malkeinu*, we confess to having sinned again and again, and then we plead with God to erase our sins and to inscribe us in all sorts of books which will put us in good stead. Yet what are these sins? Sometimes I feel that I am not really sure what is considered a sin. Although I have not participated in insider trading or mugged a pedestrian on a dark side street, why do I feel such a responsibility when I mouth the words of this prayer? Perhaps because I feel that I have sinned when I haven't called my family members enough times, or I didn't devote enough time to a friend in need or invite a stranger to Shabbat lunch. Perhaps I fear that I am not even aware of when I have sinned against my fellow brother or sister.

If I cannot recognize my own sins, how shall I ever be able to fully pray for forgiveness and expect God to have compassion upon me? How can I improve my score with God? Sins aren't to be put under a group heading. Each one should be identified separately so that it is not repeated during the year 5767.

As we approach the High Holy Days, we are again given the opportunity to pray our unique prayers of the season. We can prepare ourselves by searching our souls and identifying not only the obvious, but the hidden. Then, when you pray *Avinu Malkeinu*, you will have prepared your own stage and will thereby benefit that much more from the extraordinary textual and musical design that has been gifted to us.

When you sing, you pray twice. So sing from your soul, with your heart. The rest is in God's outstretched hands. Shanah Tovah. May you and your family be sealed in the Book of Life, bringing you health and sweetness in the year to come.

Deborah Ruth Staiman is a cantor in Toronto. A graduate of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Staiman has served congregations in New Jersey and Florida.

A detail of Aladar Brüll's *Synagogue Interior* (First half of the 20th century) signed oil on panel

Epitaph for Yiddish

The printed program for the Ashkenaz festival, the Toronto celebration of Yiddish culture, contained prominent ads by two groups offering "secular Judaism." I doubt whether one would get very far in either group by speaking Yiddish. Nowadays, when Yiddish has ceased to be the language of the Jewish masses in eastern Europe, it's often evoked by Jews in the West in search of Judaism without God. Sadly, it is usually also Judaism without Yiddish.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

Many who attended the three-day event at Toronto's Harbourfront earlier this month would probably not want to be seen in shul under any circumstances. Instead of looking forward to the Kingdom of Heaven, they would rather look back to an idealized past in the old country. To me – a Yiddish-speaking Jew born in Poland – the secular nostalgia seems infinitely more elusive than the hope that religion offers. Ashkenaz, excellent though it is and long may it continue, seems for some an escape from Judaism, not an affirmation of it. My commitment to Yiddish is part of my affirmation.

But for many, Yiddish seems to have become a substitute for religion. In *Rethinking Modern Judaism*, Arnold Eisen, the newly elected chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, writes persuasively about the power of nostalgia. Though his references are to traditional Jewish observance, they can also be applied to anti-traditional non-observance in the guise of love of Yiddish.

By listening to, and perhaps even singing, *My Yiddishe Mama*, some Jews try to reconnect with what once was the culture of their forbears. It's a vain pursuit, for their nostalgia is usually vicarious. It may have been alive for parents and grandparents when they came to the New World, but it's not so for their offspring. Most of the children don't know Yiddish beyond a few fractured phrases, and they're not likely to learn it now, despite all the courses currently on offer. Yiddish has become the *mamaloshen*, the language of mothers who are no more. It is not significant in contemporary Judaism.

There are good reasons to bewail this state of affairs, but it would be quixotic to try to revive Yiddish as the language it once was. Theoretically, Hebrew should have replaced it, but practically, English has become the lingua franca of the Jewish people. Most Jews in the world speak it as their first or second language.

All that is left today is to learn about Yiddish as though through a glass darkly. Scholars will continue to write about it and teach its history, and musicians will make us dance to their jazzed-up klezmer tunes at festivals, but, as we say in the *mamaloshen*, "*Vos iz geven iz geven*," which is rendered by some Yiddish speakers as, "*Vot voz – voz.*"

Anyone need a shawarma expert?

Summer is now on its way out. Leaves are turning yellow, the bees are out in force, and the price of jackets is starting to rise. Our thoughts turn from air conditioning to heating, from iced to hot tea, from mowing to raking, and most importantly, from vacation to classes.

Gershon Richter in Winnipeg

This summer, I spent very little time doing things that could be construed as academically constructive. I painted my room. I read some books. I travelled to Israel (twice) for the weddings of my older brother and sister and spent nearly a month and a half there. I lounged, I relaxed, I breathed easy, I sat back, unwound and rested.

I didn't take any courses, as I did last summer. I had decided to slow down a bit at university. Working on projects day and night, getting two hours of sleep and drinking small oceans of coffee, all those are things of the past. I enjoy what I'm learning, but a full course load demanded too much of my already scarce sanity. In 20 years, I asked myself, will it matter if I took an extra year to finish my degree? I think not. In those same 20 years, will it matter if I am still sane? Probably, and I'm not going to chance it.

In Israel, I enjoyed many typically Israeli things that, for the most part, we simply don't have in Canada. I ate shawarma and falafel. I watched the sun set in Jerusalem. I saw some of the tourist attractions, like the Dead Sea and Masada, even though I'd seen them before. I visited family I almost never see and met some I never had seen. I ate some more shawarma.

Whenever we drove anywhere, I sat white-knuckled, wondering how anyone could be so crazy as to drive in the Jewish state. Israeli drivers are a mixture of fearless and suicidal. They tailgate. They weave through traffic like punch-drunk boxers. They speed and you can't guess their intentions when they begin to move. Israelis rarely if ever use turning signals. The typical Israeli driver is more aggressive than the craziest Canadian driver. The aggressive Israeli drivers seem to have a death wish. Motorcycles drive between two lanes of cars, probably in a hurry to deliver fast food. Of course, all this is occurring at 120 kilometres an hour, while the driver has one hand on a cellphone and is eating shawarma at the same time.

One thing I did not do this summer was earn money. It was a mixture of circumstance and procrastination, though I'd be inclined to lay the blame more on the former and my mother would blame the latter. I wrote a resume and left copies at a number of business places. I had several phone interviews. Then I left for Israel. Twice. Now I am bankrupt and beggared, destitute and down-and-out.

Summer is over, and I have little to show for it. My room is freshly painted, but it took only a month for it to return to the clutter it was before, but now it's a clutter with shining walls. I returned from Israel just in time to go to school, not even having time to buy books before classes began. My desktop computer finally went the way of the dinosaurs, taking with it my schedule and most of my personal files.

So now I find myself at the beginning of a new year. My non-existent finances and reduced school load mean I both need and have time for a job. I'm back where I was at the beginning of summer, except now I have to go to university as well. I would update my resume, but I don't really have anything new to put in, unless eating shawarma is an employable skill. Do you know anyone looking for a shawarma quality control specialist?

What's in a name?

I never thought of myself as having an interesting name until I came to King's College three years ago. While growing up in mostly Jewish settings, I was quite comfortable being Mordechai to friends and family, or going by the diminutive "Morry." Though not as common as some Jewish names, my name was recognizable enough to be "normal" and I was especially pleased when Purim came around and I was the star of the show (at least in my own mind).

Mordechai Walfish in Halifax

When I began public high school in Hamilton, I always introduced myself as Morry. I suppose I was a little cautious about being in a new place, and therefore, I was trying to fly somewhat under the radar. Even if Morry wasn't your regular Joe or Mark name, it was at least eminently pronounceable. I figured that that if I went by Mordechai, I would have to put up with many botched "ch" sounds and have to constantly answer the question: "How do you spell that again?"

I thought that all would be the same once I got to university: I could hide behind my semi-normal nickname Morry and keep my full name reserved for family and Jewish friends.

But in actuality, I had very little choice as to what people in university would call me. The move-in day for freshmen at King's was on Shabbat, so I arrived in Halifax one day later than the rest of my cohorts.

The frosh leaders – those in charge of orientation activities – placed welcome signs with our names on them on the doors to our dormitory rooms. By the time I arrived on Sunday afternoon, there was a tremendous buzz going around the school that there was somebody in first year named Mordecai (pronounced with the hard "c"). My frosh group was thrilled to see me and informed me that they had called themselves "Team Mordecai" after their elusive late-coming member with the unique name. Often when I met people in the next few weeks, they had already heard of me because of my name.

It is a great name to have at a place like King's. Thanks to the bird in *The Royal Tenenbaums* and a certain Mr. Richler, people have heard of my name, but it is still different enough that it causes them to pause and appreciate it. Luckily, King's is a place where people wear their idiosyncrasies on their sleeves; so being a little out of the ordinary is not only expected, it is encouraged.

Some of my Jewish friends give me a hard time about the fact that people at school pronounce my name with the hard "c" and thus not the true way. But I don't mind. This is how my name is officially spelled and I prefer the hard "c" to a botched "ch." At least they're halfway there.

Jacques Derrida, a philosopher I have studied in the last few years, claims there is no such thing as a proper name. He means, among other things, that the name is the property of no one – even my own name does not belong to me – and that there is never complete symmetry between a name and what it names. According to Derrida, my name can never completely encompass who I am.

This thought agrees with me, especially since, over the years, I have managed to amass more than a dozen nicknames, each given to me by a different person in my life: Mordy, Uncle Mordie, Mordchele, Voldemordy, Mordefly and many others. Even those who call me Mordy spell it in different ways: Mordie, Mordy, Mordi or even Morde. People ask me: "What do you want me to call you? How should I spell your name?" And I answer, "However you like." And I mean it.

For me, a name defines a relationship more than it defines one single person. If we lived in solitude, we probably wouldn't need names because we would not be calling anyone anything. Therefore, if I had my choice, everyone I knew would call me something else, because my relationship with every person in my life is different. I think this thought is encapsulated beautifully by the poet Zelda in her poem *Unto Every Person There is a Name*: "Each of us has a name/ given by our parents… the stars… our neighbours… the mountains… our walls" and so on…

In this sense, each of my nicknames is as much my name as the one my parents gave me. I hope that I will continue to collect names as I journey through life and always be comfortable with having a multiplicity of names and pronunciations of these names.

The Kirshner File

Tragedy and cheap thrills at the film festival

At this year's Toronto International Film Festival, which ended Sept. 16, an Israeli and a Dutch movie were among the pictures that caught my attention.

The Bubble, directed by Eytan Fox and produced by Gal Uchovsky, delves into Tel Aviv's fizzy gay counter-culture, centred on and around cosmopolitan Sheinkin Street. But on a deeper level, this lively but ultimately tragic film turns on a doomed relationship between an Israeli Jew and a Palestinian Muslim.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto.

Black Book, by Paul Verhoeven, takes place in Nazi-occupied Holland in 1944 and 1945 and revolves around a Jewish cabaret singer who witnesses the gruesome murder of her parents, joins the Dutch resistance movement, befriends a Gestapo officer, fights off constant treachery and betrayal and finally ends up on a desert kibbutz in Israel.

The first scene of *The Bubble* – which unfolds in Hebrew and Arabic, with English subtitles – occurs at one of those ubiquitous checkpoints in the West Bank through which Palestinians pass.

One of the soldiers manning it is Noam (Ohad Knoller), a gay guy from Tel Aviv who is suddenly called upon to deliver a baby. As he tends to the robed Palestinian woman giving birth, Ashraf (Yousef "Joe" Sweid), a Palestinian from Nablus slightly younger than Noam, surveys the proceedings with an empathetic eye.

The scene shifts to hip Sheinkin Street, a narrow thoroughfare of trendy shops, boutiques, cafes and restaurants in the heart of Tel Aviv. Noam, a clerk in a record store, lives here. He shares a flat with Lulu (Daniella Wircer), a straight woman employed in a bath products shop, and Yali (Alon Friedmann), a flamboyant homosexual who manages a cafe.

Into their tight little world comes Ashraf, who gradually establishes a powerfully erotic friendship with Noam, and whose brooding eyes are a window into his personality. As their bond deepens, Yali hires Ashraf as a waiter. But in a reflection of endemic Arab-Israeli tensions, Yali asks Ashraf to call himself Shimi, after the Hebrew name Shimshon. Jokingly, Yali refers to Shimshon (Samson), the biblical figure, as "the first suicide bomber." Little does he know how prophetic he would be.

As the film proceeds, Fox adeptly weaves in two amusing subplots concerning Lulu's brief romance with a serial philanderer and Yali's comical fling with a talkative hunk. He also paints a colourful montage of Tel Aviv's gay night club milieu.

The Bubble, whose title is a half-jaundiced reference to the tendency of Sheinkin Street's beautiful people to cut themselves off from the harsh realities of the Middle East, adopts an unmistakable left-wing tone.

But a rave against Israel's occupation of the West Bank, which Yali, Lulu and Noam publicize and attend, is little more than an excuse for a beach party where kindred souls can socialize and hook up.

On a more serious political note, the film makes references to Israel's demolition of Ashraf's parents' home in eastern Jerusalem and the wave of suicide bombings that have plagued Israel.

Fox admirably succeeds in delineating the immense social and political distance between Israelis and Palestinians.

While Noam defends the checkpoints as necessary security barriers, Ashraf dismisses them as "propaganda." Yali is a tolerant fellow, but he is distinctly uncomfortable with Ashraf's presence in the cafe. As for Ashraf, he leaves the cafe in a huff when a Jewish magazine editor asks for his co-operation in a story about Tel Aviv through the eyes of a Palestinian.

At its best, *The Bubble* is a portrait of two societies and of their radically different attitude to gays. In Israel, gays and lesbians are free to enjoy their lifestyle, but in the West Bank, they are marginalized, demonized and scorned. To get by in Nablus, Ashraf has to pretend to be a heterosexual.

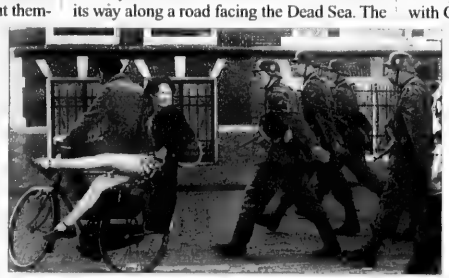
When he finally comes clean, on the eve of his sister's wedding to a glowering Hamas activist, she is outraged and unable to accept her brother's sexual orientation. Beyond this immediate conflict, the film is a microcosm of Israel's deadly struggle with the Palestinians.

Thanks to a plausible screenplay and credible performances from the lead actors, *The Bubble* is a feather in the cap of Israel's film industry.

* * *

Black Book is bold and bombastic, an action-packed thriller from the director of *RoboCop*, *Total Recall*, *Basic Instinct*, *Starship Troopers* and, yes, *Showgirls*.

It opens in Israel in 1956 as a bus threads its way along a road facing the Dead Sea. The vehicle pulls into a kibbutz and Dutch tourists pour out for a coffee break. A visitor recognizes an old Dutch friend, a Hebrew-language teacher named Rachel Steinn (Carice van Houten), whom she knew during the war. After they talk, Rachel sits on the shoreline and reflects on her past. Through the device of a flashback, the core of the movie, we're taken back to the summer of 1944, when Rachel was hidden by a Christian family.



Carice van Houten in *Black Book*.

Yousef "Joe" Sweid, Daniella Wircer, Alon Friedmann and Ohad Knoller in *The Bubble*.

Bombed out of her refuge by the Nazis, she joins her parents and a group of Jewish refugees on a perilous boat voyage to freedom. Their vessel is ambushed by a German patrol boat, and there is a bloodbath. Steinn's mother and father perish in a hail of bullets, their bodies stripped of money and valuables.

Rachel witnesses their cold-blooded killing as she cowers in a marsh. After joining the Resistance in Amsterdam and changing her name to Ellis de Vries, she is assigned to infiltrate Gestapo headquarters by ingratiating herself with Gestapo commander Muntze (Sebastian Koch). He quickly succumbs to her feminine charms.

Imagine the scene, if you can: a nice Jewish girl sleeping with a Nazi. It's not altogether implausible. Some Holocaust survivors in impossible situations were forced to jettison their scruples. But *Black Book* strains credulity when Rachel, in an incredible confession, admits that she is Jewish, and Muntze lets it go.

He is the sole decent German in the film, which excels at spinning webs of intrigue. Yet *Black Book* does not deal kindly with many of its Dutch characters either. The gruff farmer who shelters Rachel berates her at the kitchen table, claiming that Jews would have been better off had they "listened" to Jesus. Acutely aware of her hosts' prejudices, Rachel complains that she must rattle off biblical verses to eat.

Duplicity is always in the air. The Dutch lawyer who helps Rachel in her hour of need may be a collaborator, and the Dutchman who arranges the disastrous boat trip for Rachel and her parents is a traitor who preys on well-off Jews. Indeed, a Gestapo officer suggests that, without the help of Dutch collaborators, Germany could not have occupied Holland so easily. What an indictment!

Even members of the heroic Resistance come off as anti-Semitic. "Is the life of a Jew worth the life of a good Dutchman?" a man archly asks. In a reference to Jews, a woman says, "You can never trust them."

Black Book tries hard to be worthy of its theme, but it rarely achieves that goal.

Infused with a comic book sensibility and suffused with nudity, it seems more interested in providing pure, unadulterated entertainment than in tackling a serious topic.

Black Book might have been a first-rate film, but instead, it is merely a superficial, though well-crafted, potboiler that overflows with cheap thrills.

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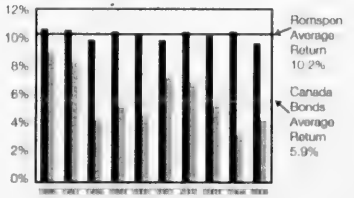

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War sets back Ethiopian olim absorption schedule

New olim show commitment to Israel despite war

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA Federation

Evacuating newly-arrived Ethiopian immigrants from their absorption centres in the northern Israeli city of Tzfat (Safed) was a necessary safety measure during the recent war with Hezbollah, but the relocation wreaked havoc on their absorption schedule. Micha Feldman, senior advisor on Ethiopian Issues at The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) says absorption initiatives for Ethiopian olim (immigrants) have now been set back by at least two months. Feldman spoke with *Jewish Toronto* during a Canadian speaking tour, which included presentations to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto leaders.

The absorption process is also being supplemented by counseling and workshops run by psychologists and social workers knowledgeable about Ethiopian culture, designed to help them recover from the psychological scars of the war. For those who don't yet understand Hebrew, professionals who speak Amharic are being brought in. And while many of the children escaped the worst of the war, thanks to JAFI-organized summer camps in central and southern Israel, they now need additional support to deal with the residual anxiety and stress of being separated from their parents so soon after arriving in Israel.

Even without the psychological impact of the war, the Ethiopians "have a long way to go because they are black coming into a white society, they are the less-educated within the Israeli society, and 72% live below the poverty line, so it's not easy for them anyhow," explains Feldman.

Ultimately, however, the Ethiopian immigrants display a remarkable adaptivity and commitment to Israel, "in spite of all the hardships," says Feldman. During the war, those who remained in Tzfat approached the head of their absorption centre demanding weapons to protect their new home. In Ethiopia, they told him, they were used to defending themselves and their families when necessary. It had to be explained to them that the "war was conducted by rockets and not by rifles, but this shows you the attitude and the resolve of these people," Feldman says. After the ceasefire, "one would think that they'd refuse to go [back to Tzfat], but everyone went back to their absorption centre. Now they are living there and preparing for their move out to permanent housing."

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) began evacuating newly-arrived Ethiopian families, such as this one, to more secure areas of the country immediately after the conflict with Hezbollah began. (inset) Micha Feldman.

After the first katyushas hit the north, JAFI, with support from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto – the first Federation to send emergency money to Israel –whisked children away to summer camps established in vacant youth villages, and adults were encouraged to stay with family outside the north or were placed in absorption centres in central and southern Israel. Those who remained in Tzfat benefited from more bearable bomb shelters, newly outfitted with air conditioning, televisions, DVDs, and games to occupy children too young to go to camp.

Upon their return to Tzfat, the immigrants were spared the insecurity of seeing their new home in shambles by the reconstruction effort already in progress. "With the help of the money that came from North America, everything has been repaired," says Feldman. "If you come today to Tzfat, which was hit by several katyusha rockets, you don't see any evidence of the war. Now it's in a better condition than it was before," he says with a laugh.

New *birthright israel* program honours memory of Andrea Bronfman

By A.M. SEGAL
UJA Federation

With winter just around the corner, Canada Israel Experience (CIE), organizers of the popular Taglit *birthright israel* trip have launched a series of new programs for the winter season.

Registration is now underway for four new programs and three programs from previous years which send 18-26-year-olds from across Canada on structured, 10-day sojourns to Israel at no cost to participants.

In Toronto, Taglit *birthright israel* is financially supported by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

One new program that's attracting a great deal of interest is the Andrea Bronfman Israel Arts Experience.

Held in honour of Andrea Bronfman, the late wife of Taglit *birthright israel* co-founder Charles Bronfman, the trip has a unique focus on arts and culture, Bronfman's lifelong passions.

She died tragically this past January.

"Through arts and culture, we will help participants explore their Jewish identity and create connections to the community and to Israel," explains Lorne Klemensberg, director of Israel programs for CIE.

Andrea Bronfman z"l

Scheduled to leave in December with 40 participants, the trip will include meetings, discussions and seminars about Israeli artists, sculptors, musicians, poets and filmmakers.

Program organizers note the fundamental aspects of the traditional Taglit *birthright israel* trip will still be part of the journey, but the trip will offer a special arts and culture twist for participants.

"It will maintain traditional components of the program, like going through the desert, but with this desert experience, they will perhaps meet a sculptor who makes desert art or talk with a poet who lives in the desert," says Klemensberg.

Toronto's Sydney and Florence Cooper, close friends of the Bronfmans, are funding the program.

After Andrea Bronfman's untimely death, the Coopers wanted to fund something in their late friend's honour and, knowing Bronfman's keen interest in both the arts and *birthright israel*, this new program was born.

"This is a program she would have embraced, and I think she would feel very good knowing it is going forward in her honour," says Sydney Cooper.

"She would appreciate it being focused on arts and culture."

Arts and culture aficionados are a target group for the trip and those interviewed for a journey spot would likely benefit from highlighting their particular arts and culture interests.

But organizers emphasize participants don't have to be arts and culture experts.

"You don't have to be an artist or art student to be accepted on this program," says Debbie Osiel, CIE's recruitment and marketing manager.

Other new CIE organized programs include Southern Exposure – The Great Winter Escape, which, as the name implies, centers on excursions to Israel's southern region, including the Red Sea, and visits with the southern Bedouins.

The Extreme Outdoor Desert Experience will offer adventurous activities such as rappelling and snorkeling.

And the new SEC Sephardic Heritage Israel Trip will explore Sephardic cultural ties.

For more information about all CIE Taglit *birthright israel* trips, visit www.israelforfree.com or call Debbie Osiel at 416-398-6931 ext. 349.

Toronto Lions roar into Washington

Toronto's Tobie Bekhor, (second from left), received the Kipnis-Wilson-Friedland Award at the recent International Lion of Judah Conference in Washington, D.C. A Lion of Judah (LOJ) is a woman who makes her own gift of at least $5,000 to UJA Federation's annual campaign. The award is presented to women who have made exceptional contributions to the Jewish community through philanthropy and volunteerism. Bekhor has been a dedicated volunteer with UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy for more than 30 years. (Pictured) Joining Bekhor are her sister, Lynda Latner (left), her mother Florence Cooper (second from right) and her sister-in-law, Clara Cooper. The four women were part of a 67-member contingent from Toronto who, along with 2,000 other women from around the world, heard from a variety of keynote speakers, including former U.S. president Bill Clinton and Pulitzer-Prize winning columnist Charles Krauthammer

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Northern Israel residents strengthen chairman of Jewish Agency

UJA Federation campaign finances JAFI relief operation

By HOWARD ENGLISH
UJA Federation

The northern Israel rebuilding effort following the war with Hezbollah is being led by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), financed by the worldwide Jewish Federation network and headed by Zeev Bielski, chair of the JAFI executive.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto was the world's first Jewish Federation to establish an Israel emergency campaign once the war broke out. Today, UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, still strongly underway, has raised $52 million with $17 million designated for Israel's emergency needs. Emergency relief allocations will provide financial support for, among other services, vocational training to help those who lost their jobs get back to work; small business loans for northern Israel residents whose businesses went under; trauma counseling; temporary housing for the uprooted; and the restoration of social services to the elderly and other vulnerable individuals.

In this interview with Jewish Toronto, Bielski reveals to UJA Federation's Howard English how the war and its aftermath have affected him and the residents of northern Israel.

Q. How do you feel when you visit northern Israel today?

A. I feel very badly. You see boys in hospital who are my son's age. Sometimes, I come home almost falling apart, but I gain strength from the people who live there.

Q. What was the impact of Toronto's financial contributions during the war?

A. Toronto came forward immediately, which allowed JAFI to do what had to be done. We moved 40,000 kids from the north to the south and the centre of the country. But it wasn't just the money, it was the feeling that you had someone behind you. We took a risk on some of our decisions because we knew that Toronto was there.

Q. How much damage are we dealing with in the north?

A. The government of Israel will be paying 1.5 billion shekel (approx. $387 million Canadian) for damage plus another 1.5 billion shekel for various northern projects. The Jewish Agency will be raising $300 million U.S.

Q. What will that money allow the Jewish Agency to do?

A. Among the other projects that require funding, Toronto's donations will allow us to provide scholarships for college students who could not work during the war to earn their tuition. We'll be able to offer up to 50% of the cost of schooling.

To contribute to UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign, call 416.631.5705 or visit www.ujadonations.com

Families from northern Israel were sent on week-long respite trips funded by JAFI to other parts of the country during the recent war with Hezbollah.

Zeev Bielski

The Jewish Agency brings a week of fun to the North

On a recent balmy September afternoon, Pnina Levy breathes a sigh of relief. The 27-year-old social worker from the northern Israeli city of Acco, which was bombarded during the war with Hezbollah, is enjoying a day of fun and outdoor activities with her two young children, sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), UJA Federation's overseas agency.

"It feels so good to take the children out to something cheerful and festive," says Levy. "The children in the north did not have any summer vacation at all. These activities give them a feeling that maybe the holiday hasn't quite yet finished.

Anis Ali, a Muslim resident of Acco, also breathes a sigh of relief. He is enjoying the Jewish Agency's "Children's Village" with his three small children. Employed as a welder in Haifa, Ali was without work throughout the war.

"My wife Rozette is a caregiver in a senior citizens home, so she worked throughout the war," says Ali, as his son pulls him to a carousel. "I was at home taking care of our three young children. We only left our small apartment to seek refuge in the communal bomb shelter. Even today, my eight-year-old daughter still jumps at the sound of loud noises and my youngest son points to the sky as if expecting a missile to fall. It's just nice to be here and forget everything for a while."

For an entire week, the Jewish Agency provided tens of thousands of children and their families with fun and relaxing activities in major northern cities. Clowns made traumatized children laugh. Well-known performers encouraged people to sing and dance. Rides, complete with cotton candy and popcorn, and adventure sports gave the event a carnival-like atmosphere. All was free of charge for residents of the north.

The Jewish Agency played an essential role in supporting Israel's citizens during the war, most notably providing 40,000 children with safe summer sleep-away camps. Now, the Jewish Agency's energies are fully invested in returning life to normal and rebuilding the north. Recreational and entertainment activities give people like Levy and Ali the chance to forget, at least for a while, the traumas that the war brought them. For some, even the chance to leave their apartments brings a sense of relief.

Children from northern Israel enjoy a recent day of fun and games thanks to the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Photo Credit: Nafiali Hilger

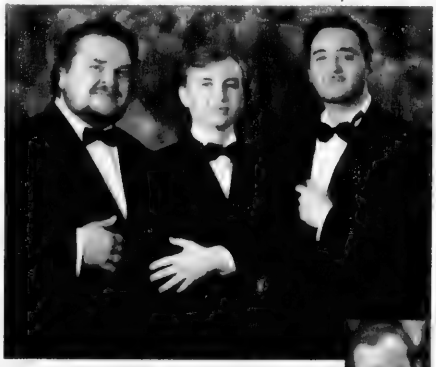
"Every time the sirens sounded my husband, myself and our two children crowded into our bathroom for shelter," says Levy. "Since then, every time I use the bathroom I remember the terrifying hours we spent there and a sense of fear wells up in me."

Guy Shlezinger, the DJ for the event, spent the war dodging katyusha rockets in his native Haifa. "The hardest week of the war was the week after," he says. "Going back to work and doing even the most mundane tasks like driving to the supermarket was difficult. We had to convince ourselves that it was safe to venture out. That's why events like this one are so important. They give a feeling of returning to normalcy."

Concert to raise funds for Israel Emergency Campaign

The Three Tenors from The Holy Land will be performing a special one-night only concert in Toronto this December in support of the UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, chaired by Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks.

The concert, which will be held at Toronto's Beth Tzedec Synagogue on December 12 at 8:00 p.m., is being produced by Show One Entertainment and Toronto's Alexander Shnaider, co-founder and chairman of the Board, Midland Group.



The Three Tenors from The Holy Land, (pictured l-r) Yevgeni Shapovalov, Vladislav Goray and Felix Lvivbitz

Alexander Shnaider

"I'm happy to say that my portion of the proceeds from this event will be allocated to UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign," says Shnaider, who like the three tenors, was born in the former Soviet Union. "Having lived in Israel in the past, I feel it is my duty to help out in any way that I can. UJA Federation does a great job of raising awareness for Israel, and supporting this cause is one way for those of us living abroad to help provide for Israel's continued well-being."

For tickets to the show, visit www.ticketmaster.ca or call 416.872.1111. For group tickets and more information, call 416.737.6785 or visit www.showoneproductions.ca

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Jewish-Muslim dialogue to be 'major plank' at JTS

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Even after 20 years on the faculty of Stanford University in northern California, Philadelphia native Arnold Eisen says it's hard for him to think of himself as a "west coaster."

But the chancellor-designate of the Conservative movement's New York-based Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) said in a telephone interview last week that if there is anything he brings to his new position in the way of west coast sensibility, it's that he's "relaxed about some things [that] people consider a crisis.

"I see numbers dropping in the Conservative movement, but I see them dropping in Judaism generally. I see tremendous success stories [in Conservative Judaism]," said Eisen, referring to schools and summer camps in particular.

In the United States, the Conservative movement – formerly the largest Jewish denomination – has been surpassed in recent years by increasing numbers in the Reform movement.

Eisen's own background in the counter-cultural chavurah movement in the late 1970s and subsequent leadership in the Conservative movement is not an isolated example, he noted.

Conservative Jews are overrepresented in chavurah-style independent minyans, many of which have "strong interactions" with organized movements and institutions, he added.

Currently the chair of the department of religious studies at Stanford, Eisen is on leave and will teach one last course in the spring. He is commuting to New York one week a month so his son can finish his last year of high school in California.

He said that in his new role, which becomes full-time next July, he will insist that JTS continue with its commitment to scholarship, but he noted that he wants to "bring that scholarship to bear on the issues of the day.

"We're not just here to advance knowledge. We're here to use knowledge for good."

Although JTS has already been involved with Jewish-Muslim dialogue on a limited basis, Eisen – who was instrumental in setting up an Islamic studies program at Stanford – said such dialogue will now be "a major plank," adding that "These are difficult times."

He believes that religion, unlike politics, is a "natural" common ground for Jewish-Muslim dialogue.

Arnold Eisen

But religion, in general, has "gotten a bad name lately, and been dragged in the dust by people who do bad things in its name."

Eisen believes there is a need for Jews to "demonstrate that religion can be a force for good in the world.

"[Conservative Jews] have something to model not just for other Jews, but for other societies, that there's no conflict between open-mindedness and fidelity to tradition."

The Conservative movement has a long-standing commitment to interfaith dialogue, as well as fidelity to tradition, Eisen noted.

That tradition is being challenged with the upcoming December vote by the movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, the Rabbinical Assembly's authority on Halachah, regarding the question of rabbinic ordination for gays and lesbians.

Eisen, who is not a rabbi, is in favour of gay ordination, but defers to rabbinic authority in determining whether or not it is halachically permissible.

The next step for JTS, if an accepted rabbinic tshuvah endorses the move, will be consultation and discussion with faculty and students. In that case, Eisen expects a decision will be made by early spring.

He does not foresee a split in the movement, despite the likelihood that opposing tshuvot will be accepted as valid.

"The Conservative movement has always prided itself on its ability not just to disagree but to come together. There have been a lot of disagreements before. It hasn't led to a split in the movement [although] we lost some congregations because of the decision to ordain women."

Conservative Judaism is "much larger" than the gay/lesbian issue, Eisen stressed. "There is much more that unites Conservative Jews."

From a sociologic standpoint, movements usually have a "left" and a "right," he added.

And the divisions are not necessarily what one might expect. At Eisen's synagogue in Palo Alto, Calif., there would "never" be instrumental music played on Shabbat, in accordance with a more traditional stance. However, in a more liberal expression of Jewish tradition, the Jewish matriarchs – not just the patriarchs – are included in prayers. At a Conservative congregation he visited recently in Atlanta, the situation was exactly the reverse.

"It's an interesting mix," he said. "I think it makes for a stronger movement."

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November 7 *Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust*. This documentary film tells the story of the American Film Industry's complex and fascinating response to the Holocaust.

November 14 Hindy Najman, Associate Professor of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and Religion at the University of Toronto will discuss *"Origins of Christianity and Judiasm – Intimately Separate"*, detailing a Jewish perspective on Christians in the 2nd Century.

November 21 *Suite Française*, by Irene Nemirovsky, a Polish Jewish woman murdered at Auschwitz will be reviewed by Marilyn Herbert.

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Jewish and Muslim students find common ground

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Seven Jewish students and eight Muslim ones learned that they had more in common than they imagined when the Jewish group visited a Muslim school in Scarborough last week.

The Grade 8 students from United Synagogue Day School's Beth Tzedec branch visited the NAMF Junior Academy, an affiliate of the North American Muslim Foundation (NAMF), on a trip facilitated by the Canadian Centre for Diversity, the programming division of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

Judy Csillag, the centre's manager of special projects, acknowledged that the meeting took "a certain amount of bravery," and told the students that the event was "of great importance. You've come together and shown this city and the world that we can be friends and we can communicate."

Canada, she told them, "is a country that celebrates your heritage. You can still be a good Canadian and still celebrate your own heritage."

This year, in a rare occurrence, Rosh Hashanah and the beginning of Ramadan – the Muslim holy month of daylight fasting and prayer that culminates in the celebration of Eid al-Fitr – coincide. Although Jews and Muslims both use a lunar calendar, the Muslim one is fixed at 354 days, meaning holidays can fall at different times of year, while the Jewish calendar adds a month every second or third year over the course of a 19-year cycle, keeping the Jewish holidays at roughly the same time of year.

Farooq Khan, executive director of NAMF, told the students that "given the global context in which we live, we need to develop understanding."

"I think it's important that we send a positive message that different communities can live and coexist together," he told *The CJN*. He noted that a speech competition organized by NAMF for Islamic schools is now open to all, and said he is looking forward to a reciprocal school visit.

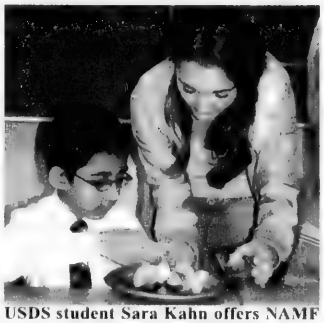
Reaction by NAMF parents to the Jewish school's visit was positive, Khan said. "Pretty much everybody said it's a good idea."

Kaila Budd, a USDS mother who accompanied the students, said that there were some initial reservations, but she was "very touched and very warmed by the reception" the school received.

Marianna Ludwick, who teaches grades 4 to 8 at NAMF told the guests from USDS that academy students are taught to respect everyone. Students at the school, although they are all Muslim, have a wide variety of backgrounds and countries of origin, she noted.

Her colleague Rola Muhanna, who teaches grades 2 and 3, said the school emphasizes that students live in a multi-cultural society while incorporating Islamic values such as "helping each other" into the curriculum.

Academy students share a common heritage, but "they are Canadian kids," Khan told *The CJN*. The two-year-old school, which runs from junior kindergarten to Grade 7, combines secular studies with Islamic education including the study of Arabic and the Qur'an.



USDS student Sara Kahn offers NAMF Junior Academy student Zillullah Mohammedi apples and honey as part of an interfaith student event.
[Frances Kraft photo]

Among the common denominators that emerged as children and staff from each school shared their customs were similarities in language (Shalom and Salaam both mean "peace" and are used as greetings) and certain dietary restrictions such as not eating pork, as well as the fact that both Muslims and Jews trace their origins to the patriarch Abraham, and that children begin to fast on Ramadan and Yom Kippur at about the same age.

The Jewish students arrived with a variety of ritual items, including a shofar, tallit, tfillin, a siddur and candlesticks, as well as a challah and apples and honey to share in honour of Rosh Hashanah.

Michal Gill, USDS campus principal, said her students would make presentations to their peers about the visit.

"We say to the kids, 'The future is built on this young generation.' The future looks very bright to us," she told the mixed group, who shook hands and wished each other "Salaam" and "Shalom," after the USDS students sang the Israeli song *Od Yavo Shalom (Peace will come)*.

USDS student Orli Matlow told the group, "We live in the Jewish community and it's like a tiny bubble. I was excited to get a chance to branch out, make new friends, sing and learn about you guys, too."

Rabbi Sean Gorman of Beth Tzedec Congregation, who accompanied the group, extended wishes for "an easy fast, [and] a meaningful one."

The meeting was "so good," said USDS student Sara Kahn, who noted that her friends and acquaintances are virtually all Jewish. "I thought there would be differences, but there ended up being so many similarities."

"I didn't actually know our religions were a little close," said NAMF student Omar Bekri, who is in Grade 5. "I think it was nice, and I learned about [Jewish] symbols and the horn [shofar]," he said of the event.

"I didn't really know much about the Jewish religion," said Grade 5 NAMF student Ayan Mohamed. As a young girl who wears a hijab, she found it particularly interesting to learn what Jews "use to connect to God," referring in part to the tallit, or prayer shawl.

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In responding to the urgent situation in Israel, the JNF has consistently been active on the ground. ***Operation Security Blanket*** will continue to provide real and tangible benefits for all the citizens of Israel. Support thus far from JNF communities around the world has been extraordinarily generous. However, the need to rebuild, replenish, replant and re-develop is ongoing and we are being called upon to continue the effort for at least another six months. This is clearly the time to demonstrate our solidarity for the people of Israel – and JNF has led the way.

As we prepare to celebrate the High Holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your family and friends health, happiness, and prosperity for 5767. But let us also offer our condolences to the families of Israel's fallen soldiers and the many civilians who have lost their lives in recent weeks; let us wish a speedy recovery to the thousands who have been injured; and let us hope and pray for the safe return of Israel's captured soldiers.

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Jewish Life

Keeping the doctrine of faith

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

It's a funny world we live in. A few cartoons can ignite worldwide fury, flames, mass demonstrations, indignation, vandalism violence and even killings for weeks on end.

Now, once again, the sensitivities of the Muslim faithful have been offended. None other than the Pope himself has publicly quoted the words of a medieval Byzantine emperor that were considered irreverent to Islam and its prophet Muhammad: "Show me this what Muhammad brought that was new and there you will find things only evil and inhumane, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached." This time however, the response has been so mild that it's almost benign. Yes, there have been calls for an apology and a re-examination of the comments, as well as calls to stop defaming the religion of Islam, but not much else.

Through A Sephardi Window

What I find most fascinating in this episode is that a man such as the Pope should find fault with the blood spilled in the name of Islam while conveniently overlooking his own church's history. So much blood has been spilled in the name of Christianity over the past 2,000 years that even the greatest Muslim jihadist would have to pause in awe and admiration. The Crusades across Europe and the Middle East, the pogroms and blood libels, the inquisition – all of these were initiatives of the church. And the Holocaust was, in large part, the culmination of this history of church-sanctioned violence.

Surely the Pope knows this. He has to know this. Before becoming Pope Benedict, Cardinal Josef Ratzinger's position was that of the Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, which is no more than the modern name for the Office of the Inquisitor General. Cardinal Ratzinger's job as inquisitor general was to correct the ways of wayward priests and wayward people. Through history, his very office dealt with millions of "heretics" who were corrected by the church using the most hideous (and perhaps even evil and inhumane) techniques, including fire, torture and the sword. Cardinal Ratzinger's zeal in his past post was such that it earned him the unfortunate name (or fortunate, depending on your perspective) of "God's Rottweiller."

But let's set issues of hypocrisy aside for just a minute and focus on the actual text of the quote. "Evil" and "inhumane" is pretty strong stuff. By quoting these sentiments, the Pope is propagating something he obviously believes, something he wishes his followers to also believe. He, of course, has every right to speak his mind, and in fact it's his duty to teach accordingly. Equally, his listeners have the same right to either accept or reject his words.

As Jews, we have no Pope or any such titular head. Instead we have scholars who, by virtue of the calibre of their scholarship alone are recognized as scholars. Who is it that recognizes them? We, the people, do. This is done without a ballot, without a vote or even without a nomination. The Jewish people as a whole make this determination. These scholars, present in every generation, are the final word in matters of theology.

Last year, a well-intentioned haredi rabbi named Nosson Slifkin had his published works banned by these same scholars for his attempt to reconcile Torah beliefs and current scientific thought on questions such as of the age of the universe and the origins of life. These scholars found that his theories were inconsistent with Torah and indeed heretical. The scholars were doing no more than their job as our keepers of the doctrine of the faith. By informing us of the failure of these words, these scholars have signalled that we need not study them as truth, incorporate them into our system of belief and certainly not quote them. If some consider this process to be censorship, so be it. One should be welcoming of such censorship.

Guest Voice

Bicycling to atonement

By A. MARK CLARFIELD

Yom Kippur is the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. Around the world, no matter how un-affiliated we might be the rest of the year, almost all of us go to synagogue on Yom Kippur. We go to fast, pray, consider our sins and beg forgiveness – both from God and our fellow man.

Growing up in Toronto, I remember walking solemnly to shul on the morning of the holiday – my brother, sister and I usually trailing our parents on the 20-minute ramble down to Beth Sholom Synagogue on Eglinton Avenue. I recall wondering, as we ambled along and watched the cars go by, why everyone else wasn't walking and fasting, why the whole world was not on its way to shul. After all, everyone I knew had taken the day off, either from school or work, and no one would ever have considered driving his car on such a day. Even the few non-Jewish kids at my public school took the day off. And if you needed a Jewish doctor, it was best to try the nearest shul.

As kids, we were also forbidden to listen to the radio, watch TV or ride our bikes.

So after we moved to Israel, it was with the greatest of surprise that we experienced our first Yom Kippur here. It's not that the whole country doesn't come to a standstill – it does, and the sudden lack of modern industrial noise is striking. No office, school, restaurant, business or gas station is open for business. Radio and TV stations are all off the air. While the phone system functions, there are no long distance operators at work and the 411 information services are off.

As a doctor, I can attest to the fact that hospitals are open, but just barely. Emergencies are dealt with, but everything else must wait. Oddly enough, patients seem to know how to delay all serious illnesses until the end of the holiday. I don't envy physicians on the immediate post-fast shift.

As well, in Israel, beyond the devotion to religious issues on this day, one suffers from the recurring memory of a near national catastrophe, the Yom Kippur War of 1973. Thousands were killed, many more were maimed and the near-success of the Arab armies in defeating Israel has left a scar that has never completely healed, despite the passing of more than 30 years. Try as we might, it's difficult not to transmit these painful memories to our children as we approach the Day of Atonement.

That being said, the loveliest aspect of the day is that, apart from the occasional ambulance or police cruiser, there is virtually no motor vehicle traffic on Israel's roads on Yom Kippur. An unearthly and beautiful calm descends on the country as the roads empty of traffic as the holiday approaches.

Interestingly, no civil law demands such compliance. No religious Jew would think of driving on Yom Kippur, but they also wouldn't drive on Shabbat. Yet Israel's roads are full on Saturdays, with cars being driven by the approximately 80 per cent of citizens who consider themselves secular. But on Yom Kippur, by mutual and completely voluntary consent, no private cars are driven. Doctors on call either sleep in the hospital or stay with friends close by so as to allow them to walk in if they're needed.

This of course doesn't mean the roads are empty. As one would expect, they are full of people strolling to and from synagogue, or simply walking down the middle of the country's highways in order to experience the unearthly feeling of traversing otherwise forbidden territory. Can you imagine strolling down a major highway with thousands of other Canadians, with nary a car to be seen for more than 24 hours?

But while the roads are free of cars, buses and taxis, they're not entirely free of wheeled conveyances. And I'm not thinking of baby carriages, although there are plenty of those around. Rather, I'm referring to a sudden efflorescence of cycles: mainly bicycles, but also unicycles, bicycles built for two (or even three), tricycles, mountain bikes, five-speeders, 10-speeders and 30-speeders. As well, there are legions of children on Rollerblades and foot-propelled scooters.

Despite the religious solemnity of the day and the difficult memories of war, the children appear immune to their parents' painful considerations. It seems that almost every kid in Israel, from age three to 23, is out on a bike. Streets, sidewalks and highways are packed. And being kids, they aren't all that careful. While some children walk their bikes, take friends for rides or pedal slowly, some speed downhill at breakneck speed, and some ride with "no hands" or weave among pedestrians and slower riders.

In fact, every year at the end of the fast, the evening news reports how many babies were born at home (or in an ambulance en route to the hospital), how many elderly people fainted in shul from dehydration and how many children were hurt in bicycle accidents – 134 last year.

I give my kids the same advice each year: wear your helmet, drive carefully, be careful of other bikers and above all, don't knock over any pedestrians, especially elderly ones, as that would be particularly embarrassing to your geriatrician dad. You would have more than God to apologize to on this highest of Judaism's High Holy Days.

Dr. Mark Clarfield is chief of geriatrics at Soroka Hospital in Be'er Sheva.

Jewish Life

A woman of valour

***At the Mercy of Strangers: Survival in Nazi-Occupied Poland* by Gitel Hopfeld, Mosaic Press and the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Many who were fortunate enough to survive the Holocaust feel compelled to tell their singular story. Each account is important in comprehending the full nature of the tragedy. Some of these memoirs take on a form of sanctity, as they reflect on matters of life and death and the awesome mystery of God's will.

At the Mercy of Strangers is a clear, brief account of how a brave and indomitable Jewish mother and her two children managed to overcome a variety of perils at a time of widespread inhumanity.

On one occasion, they were pursued by a brutal peasant who had discovered their hiding place and was eager to betray them. The author writes, "Unexpectedly, my 10-year-old son ran over and bit the peasant's hand so viciously that he let me free for a second. I ran away with all my strength and my children followed me. The tall peasant gave up chasing after us and returned to his companions."

Once, when she was viewed suspiciously by a group of soldiers and police officers, Gitel and her children could not retreat. Instead, they confidently approached the enemy, and the young daughter raised her voice and said, "Mamma, hurry up. The cows are not milked, the chickens are not fed, it's late…"

"'Yes, Zosia. You are right. We have a lot to do,' I replied aloud as we passed by the soldiers and continued on our way. I wanted to bend down and kiss my eight-year-old daughter for displaying so much wisdom and courage in the face of mortal danger."

On another occasion, when danger loomed, Gitel pushed her daughter into a dog's kennel. The dog crouched behind the kennel until a policeman had left the vicinity. A Polish couple couldn't believe their eyes when they saw young Zosia unharmed by their wolfhound. "It's a miracle, a real miracle!" exclaimed Duzynec, while his wife crossed herself several times before the icon of the Holy Mother.

What is noteworthy about this engrossing story of triumph over circumstance is the help and kindness offered the fatigued, helpless, impoverished Jewish trio by Polish acquaintances and strangers. These protectors included a leader of the Polish underground army, the supervisor of a railway station and assorted Polish soldiers and priests.

Under severe and constant stress, the author indicates that she became nervous and superstitious, no longer sure who she was or what to believe. "Whenever I passed an open shrine on the road or in a field, I would stop and murmur a short prayer: 'Lord, Jesus! See that your goyim do not kill me. Have mercy on my two children, amen!'"

Gitel Hopfeld died in 1969, in Israel, where she had immigrated after the war to begin a new life of hope and meaning. Simcha Simchovich, the author's nephew, is the editor and translator of this book from the Polish. He is a well-known Toronto Yiddishist, poet, novelist and scholar.

In his introduction to the book, he writes, "Reading Gitel's memoir one cannot help but be impressed by the strength of her character, her industriousness and her abilities to find ways to save her children in the incessant, day-to-day struggle to survive. She was indeed a woman of valour, a Jewish heroine in the darkest time of our history."

The meaning of *Viddui*

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The right hand is clenched into a fist.
Words of confession are recited.
The heart is lightly struck.
Ashamnu, bagadnu, gazalnu…
We have sinned, we have betrayed, we have stolen…

Those actions and words are repeated time and again over the course of Yom Kippur as people recite *Viddui*, the traditional confession prayer. But despite their familiarity, the meaning of *Viddui* can be a mystery. To truly get the most of the *Viddui* service, now is the time to read up on the meaning of this profound service.

"I have to confess that I don't think I do a very good job of confessing my sins." Sound familiar? I think that many people share Art Braufman's sense of caution as they approach *Viddui*. Braufman has done some soul-searching, and has written a lengthy but readable essay about the history and power of *Viddui*. For example, he asks why fully one-third of the *Viddui* statements refer to the sins of speech. And then he quotes this insight: "Most of us have hurt few people with our fists or our feet, but we have hurt many with our words. The tongue is a dangerous weapon. The sages say it is guarded by a fence of teeth and two lips, yet it gets out and does damage. How often have we cut down a person with a quip? How often have we carried tales and sullied a reputation?" **[http://tinyurl.com/e7xuw]**

The *Viddui* comprises two dozen Hebrew words presented in alphabetical order beginning with *ashamnu* (we have sinned) and ending with *titanu* (we have misled others.) But that doesn't mean "there are only 24 sins or kinds of sin; rather, it is meant to convey that we as individuals and as a community have sinned 'from *alef* to *tav*,' or, as we say in English, 'from *A* to *Z*.'" So begins a handy 12-page booklet produced by the Israel Torah Center, which you can download. It contains the entire Hebrew text of the *Viddui*, a literal translation into English and a brief commentary putting the sins into context. **[http://tinyurl.com/eejwc]**

The 24-word *Viddui* is said at various times during the year and by some Jews almost on a daily basis. However, on Yom Kippur, the *Viddui* continues with the *Al Chet* prayer. This longer and more specific list of 44 statements includes a catch-all confession: "Forgive us the breach of positive commands and negative commands, whether or not they involve an act, whether or not they are known to us." Rabbi Shraga Simmons explores each of these statements in detail. **[http://tinyurl.com/haexz]**

Rebbetzin Tzipporah Heller says that despite its length, the *Viddui* is not meant to induce paralyzing guilt. She points out that the word *chet* does not mean sin. Rather, it is an archery term that means "missing the mark." **[http://tinyurl.com/fqf3o]** Rabbi Goldie Milgram continues the metaphor. "Judaism understands you to be constantly developing and capable of changing your trajectory." **[http://rebgoldie.com/ashmnu.htm]**

Not surprisingly, I have come across certain updated "*Viddui*" services. Meir Tamari's Business Ethics Checklist looks at the *Al Chet* in a modern context. This is how he explains sinning in eating and drinking: "Modern-day gluttony [goes] far beyond eating and drinking. Always wanting to have 'more' creates a search for a constantly rising standard of living, often through dishonest means. Conspicuous consumption and exaggerated consumerism are also a betrayal of basic standard of self-control." **[http://www.daat.co.il/daat/english/index.html]**

The Israel-based Rabbis for Human Rights has created a confession for the ills they see plaguing Israel and the Jewish people, including:

- For the sin… of ignoring or turning our heads away from the disabled.
- For the sin… of denigrating new immigrants and failing to honour their traditions and cultures. **[http://tinyurl.com/hrdp9]**

Finally, the author of the Thoughts of Judaism blog has taken a step back, looked at his relationship with his children, and has composed a personal "*Al Chet* for my kids":

- For the sin of not playing catch because I was too tired.
- For the sin of not giving you my undivided attention while I was responding to e-mail.
- For the sin of not taking your dreams more seriously.
- And for the sin of not repenting all of this sooner. **[http://tinyurl.com/fxxgk]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Lorraine Sandler, chair of the UJA Federation Holocaust Centre of Toronto, and Citizenship Minister Mike Colle. [Ron Csillag photo]

Grant will help expand Shoah writing contest

By RON CSILLAG
Special to The CJN

Rarely has an Ontario cabinet minister sounded as effusive about Holocaust education as when Mike Colle, the minister of citizenship and immigration, announced a $12,000 provincial grant last week to help fund a creative writing and art contest for students.

Colle announced the funding Sept. 21 at a special luncheon, co-sponsored by Canadian Jewish Congress, before about 100 survivor speakers and docents of the UJA Federation Holocaust Centre of Toronto, which runs the contest.

The contest, for Ontario students in grades 8 to 12, has existed for years. Last year, there were more than 250 entries from across the province in both writing and visual arts, all with the Holocaust, genocide or racial intolerance as their theme.

In the past, said Lorraine Sandler, chair of the Holocaust Centre, funding allowed for only one winner in each medium, with the prize being an all-expenses paid trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Sandler said the extra money will allow not only for more prize winners, but will provide better access to teachers and school boards across Ontario by enabling the centre "to spread the word of this competition so that hopefully we will have thousands of children applying for this award."

Colle, a onetime high school history teacher, said the funding will help ensure that the Holocaust is "not only not forgotten, but is in our curriculum in everything we do – in writing, in movies, in every educational format possible."

He told the Holocaust survivors: "We must dedicate ourselves to incorporating your stories and the reality of what happened so that nobody can dare say it didn't happen, or revise it, or interpret it for their own means."

The minister mentioned that this past April, his Liberal government announced $500,000 in funding to expand Baycrest's Holocaust Resource Program to support educational and social programs for aging survivors.

At the time, Colle helped open Baycrest's Café Europa, which provides emotional support, recreational activities and social interaction to Holocaust survivors.

Last week, he recounted his own visits to the Washington museum and to Anne Frank House in Amsterdam.

He said he hopes that the latest grant "will be the beginning of a growing partnership. There is no doubt we have to do it."

Colle said he and Premier Dalton McGuinty both feel "we have to do this or else our education system will not be complete [and] our government cannot really be complete unless we make a serious investment in Holocaust memorial activities. This is something that we feel we have to partner [with]."

"We cannot just let others do it, because the threats, the ongoing peddlers of hate, are just too strong and too numerous. So it is not going to be enough for us as a society… to just do the minimum. We have to continue to find ways of encouraging, educating, fostering and honouring."

He called the grant "another little bit of concrete action that invests in a very critical role I think we all have."

The minister also quoted Holocaust scholar Elie Wiesel: "To remain silent and indifferent is the greatest sin of all."

Sandler said the extra funding will help "build a community of conscious children who begin to care, to ask questions, to research, to come up with their own pieces of information [so that they will] not believe fairy tales and dogma, but to really understand what it is in a community to care about one's brother and one's neighbour."

2006 Jewish BOOK FAIR November 4-12

Koffler Centre of the Arts presents the

30th Annual Jewish Book Fair

Saturday, November 4 to Sunday, November 12

Leah Posluns Theatre, Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St.

For tickets phone: 416-636-1880 [ext 368] or order by e-mail at: bookfair@bjcc.ca

Opening Night - Saturday, November 4 8:00 pm
MICHAEL KARPIN, author of **The Bomb in the Basement**, will speak on *How Israel Went Nuclear and What that Means for the World.*
SPONSORED BY CANADIAN FRIENDS OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY $10

Sunday, November 5 10:00 am
ANNE-MARIE BAILA ASNER reads from her latest book, **Kvetchy Boy**, one in a series from Matzah Ball Books. Followed by interactive book-making for children ages 5+. [supplies provided] STUDENTS $1

Sunday, November 5 11:00 am
KATHY KACER *Please see Sunday, November 5 at 8:00 pm*
AGES 9-13 STUDENTS $1 ADULTS $3

Sunday, November 5 1:30 pm
Shloime and Fannie Steinhart Yiddish Lecture
PROFESSOR EUGENE ORENSTEIN will speak in Yiddish and English on *Wisdom and Grace, Sholem Aleichem's Humour: A Tribute for his 90th Yahrtzeit.*
SPONSORED BY COMMITTEE FOR YIDDISH, UJA FEDERATION, FRIENDS OF YIDDISH AND THE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE, TORONTO.
SUPPORTED BY LIPA GREEN ENDOWMENT FUND. $5

Sunday, November 5 3:00 pm
A workshop on *How to Write and Publish a Book*, with LORNE MILLER, author of ***These Days Anyone Can Write a Book!***
SPONSORED BY MYSTORIES.CA FREE

Sunday, November 5 4:00 pm
DR. MARLA SHAPIRO, author of ***Life in the Balance***, speaks on *My Journey with Breast Cancer.*
SPONSORED BY WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM, CANADIAN SEAWAY BRANCH $5

Sunday, November 5 8:00 pm
KATHY KACER will speak on her latest book, ***Hiding Edith.*** Edith Schwalb Gelbard, the hidden child heroine of the book will also appear and speak on her experience.
A PROGRAM OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK. FREE TICKET MUST BE OBTAINED THROUGH JEWISH BOOK FAIR BOX OFFICE.

Monday, November 6 11:00 am
NORENE GILLETZ, author of ***Healthy Helpings*** will speak on *What's For Dinner? How to Cook Quick, Easy, Healthy Meals That Actually Taste Good.*
SPONSORED BY WOMEN'S HEALTH CLUB, BJCC FREE

Monday, November 6 1:30 pm
SIMCHA SIMCHOVITCH reads in Yiddish from his new book ***The Fiery Mountain: Collected Poems, Bilingual Edition.*** Renowned poet KENNETH SHERMAN reviews the book and DORION LIEBGOTT reads the poems in English.
SPONSORED BY LZA SENIORS YIDDISH CLUB. FREE

Monday, November 6 8:00 pm
DAVID PRYCE-JONES, author of ***Betrayal*** will speak on *France, the Jews, and the Arabs.*
SPONSORED BY B'NAI BRITH CANADA $5

Tuesday, November 7 10:30 am
She'arim Hebrew Day School performs ***Bone Button Borscht*** by ELIZABETH CHATTERTON based on the book by AUBREY DAVIS.
SPONSORED BY DR. ABRAHAM SHORE SHE'ARIM HEBREW DAY SCHOOL, SARA AND SAM HENNICK EDUCATION CENTRE
AGES SK-5 STUDENTS $1 ADULTS $3

Tuesday, November 7 1:30 pm
BILL GLADSTONE, author of ***Roots and Remembrance*** will speak on *Explorations in Jewish Genealogy.*
SPONSORED BY ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. FREE

Tuesday, November 7 8:00 pm
GERSHOM GORENBERG, author of ***Accidental Empire: Israel and the Birth of the Settlements*** will speak on *After the War- Before the Peace.*
THE HARVEY YALONETSKY MEMORIAL LECTURE SPONSORED BY CANADIAN FRIENDS OF PEACE NOW $5

Wednesday, November 8 10:30 am
Play performed by She'arim Hebrew Day School.
Please see Tuesday, November 7 at 10:30 am

Wednesday, November 8 1:30 pm
KATHY KACER. *Please see Sunday, November 5 at 8:00 pm*
AGES 9-13 STUDENTS $1 ADULTS $3

Wednesday, November 8 8:00 pm
BERNICE EISENSTEIN will speak on her new book ***I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors.***
SPONSORED BY KOLEL: THE ADULT CENTRE FOR LIBERAL JEWISH LEARNING $5

Thursday, November 9 10:30 am and 1:30 pm
KATHY KACER.
Please see Sunday, November 5 at 8:00 pm
AGES 9-13 STUDENTS $1 ADULTS $3

Thursday, November 9 8:00 pm
PROFESSOR GIL TROY, author of ***Why I am a Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today*** will speak on *Why I am a Zionist - Now More Than Ever.*
SPONSORED BY CANADIAN FRIENDS OF TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY $5

Saturday, November 11 8:00 pm
KATI MARTON, author of ***Great Escape*** will speak on *How Nine Hungarian Immigrants Changed the World*
SPONSORED BY NA'AMAT CANADA $5

Sunday, November 12 11:00 am
DR. RUTH PANOFSKY, author of ***The Force of Vocation*** will speak on *The Literary Career of Adele Wiseman.*
SPONSORED BY MORRIS WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL AND UNITED JEWISH PEOPLE'S ORDER OF THE WINCHEVSKY CENTRE. FREE

Sunday, November 12 Noon
Meet the author SHARON ABRON DRACHE. FREE

Sunday, November 12 1:30 pm
NATHAN GARNICK presents *Nu...I Ask You? A Literary Revue in Yiddish and English* honouring the legacies of I.L. PERETZ and SHOLOM ALEICHEM on their 90th Yahrtzeit, featuring JEANNETTE STEIN, FAYE ZEIDMAN, NAT GARNICK and PAUL MATHEW. $5

Sunday, November 12 4:00 pm
Growing Up Jewish in Jewish Toronto featuring readings and discussion with HAROLD TROPER, BONNIE BURSTOW AND HOWARD AKLER. FREE

Sunday, November 12 5:00 pm
ELLIOTT R. KATZ, author of ***Being the Strong Man A Woman Wants*** will speak on *From Homer Simpson to Sensitive New Age Guy - What's A Man Supposed to Be?*
SPONSORED BY THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS $5

Sunday, November 12 8:00 pm
Lower Lobby, Leah Posluns Theatre
SARAH CHANA RADCLIFFE, author of ***Raise Yours Kids Without Raising Your Voice*** will speak on *Ramban's Guide When You're Fit to be Tied: Anger-Proof Your Home and Office in Five Easy Steps.*
SPONSORED BY JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILD SERVICE OF GREATER TORONTO AND THE JEWISH HEALTH ALLIANCE, A SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORK FOR HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS. $5

Sunday, November 12 8:00 pm
A Celebration in Readings and Music of the Life and Poetry of OSIP MANDELSTAM.
RAFI AARON, will read from his latest book of poems, ***Surviving the Censor - The Unspoken Words of Osip Mandelstam.*** Readings in Russian by actors DMITRY CHEPOVETSKY and SHAUNA MACDONALD. Musical accompaniment by DANIEL and CAREY DOMB.
SPONSORED BY JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY OF TORONTO, A PART OF LATNER CENTER FOR JEWISH KNOWLEDGE AND HERITAGE OF UJA FEDERATION $5

TICKET INFORMATION

Order by phone at: 416-636-1880, ext. 368

Order by e-mail at: bookfair@bjcc.ca

Purchase in person at:
Room 274, BJCC, 4588 Bathurst Street
Monday - Friday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Programs subject to change.
No Refunds on tickets/books.

Jewish Book Fair is a program of the Koffler Centre of the Arts at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre with the assistance of UJA Federation.

Parking and Entrance to Jewish Book Fair is FREE

Tourism official touts Israel as his term ends

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Tourism consul Dani Shahal, who returns to Israel this week after heading the Israeli Government Tourist Office in Toronto for the past five years, says he'll miss the city and the many friends he and his wife have made here – but not the Canadian winters.

While the 62-year-old Haifa native has also served in the Netherlands and South Africa, he said he likes Toronto best.

"Besides the winter, I think that Canada is the most attractive place for someone to work and live," he said in an interview in his seventh-floor Bloor Street office, decorated with an Israeli flag, maps and framed portraits of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon. "I wouldn't say it's a paradise, but the people and the environment are wonderful. The warm Jewish community here are the biggest supporters of the State of Israel, I believe, in North America."

Soon after his arrival here, Shahal told *The CJN* of his rather grandiose ambition to see the number of Canadians visiting Israel soar dramatically above the 50,000 who came in 2000, until then the best tourism year for Canadians. His goal, he said in 2001, was to see 100,000 Canadians visiting annually before his term was through.

Although that goal wasn't achieved, Shahal is convinced it's still a realistic target for the short term.

"I'm quite sure that if the situation will continue as it is – I'm not speaking of peace, but relative quiet in Israel – within two years we can reach the number of 100,000 Canadians coming to Israel," he said.

Some 70,000 Canadians would have gone to Israel this year, but the war this summer in Lebanon sent a chill through the tourism industry, he said. But while the five-week-long conflict generated many cancellations, the tourism industry has since rebounded, so it "wasn't a disaster like the second intifadah."

Dani Shahal

By the end of 2006, some 55,000 Canadians are expected to visit the Jewish state, still a significant rise above the 53,500 who visited in 2005, he said. (Neither figure includes the roughly 10,000 annual visits by Israelis who live in Canada and return to Israel to see family and friends.)

During his Canadian posting, Shahal and colleagues travelled the width and breadth of the country, from Halifax to Victoria, recounting Israel's multiple charms as a tourist destination to countless Canadian audiences, hoping to persuade them to come see for themselves.

"We visited almost every synagogue and Jewish community organization and many, many churches in order to bring people this message," he said.

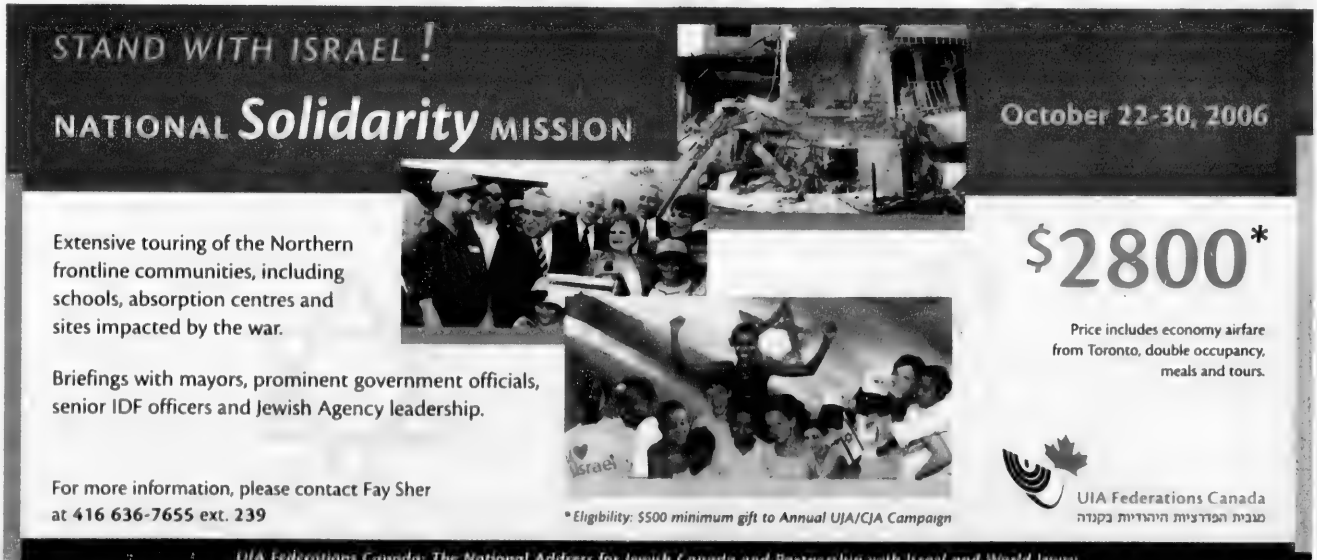
Shahal said he's grateful to have had an opportunity to see "the beautiful landscape of Canada," which has given him some "very good memories." He and his wife Idit, who worked in the Israeli consulate, are already planning to return to Canada next summer for a vacation in the Rockies.

In the meantime, he said they're looking forward to going home to Israel "to be with our two daughters and our two granddaughters, who were born while we were here."

Even as his official duties conclude, Shahal continues to spread the message wherever he goes, especially among community leaders and the media, that Israel is a safe and uniquely intriguing place to visit.

And the prices right now, he can't help but add, are quite favourable for tourists.

"I saw an ad for a flight on El Al, plus five days in Israel, all for $1,199," he said. "It's fantastic."



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UJA FEDERATION ISRAEL EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN 2007

Thanks to Alex Shnaider's generous contribution, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the UJA FEDERATION ISRAEL EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN 2007.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Mazel tov Gloria & Joe
on your 50th anniversary.
Wishing you life's very best always.
All our love, the Berkley,
Brass and Chasson families.

Mazel tov on your 60th anniversary
Sam & Rosa Weisberg.
With all our love, hugs and kisses,
your children, grandchildren
and great-grandchildren.

Mazel tov to Martin David
& Stephanie Zameck-David
who were married at Shaar Zion
Congregation in Montreal on May 21.

Mazel tov to Paulette Afilalo
and Marlene & Steven Naimark
who happily announce the
engagement of their children
Karen Kay & Ryan Naimark.
Fall wedding ahead.

BELATED
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO MY WONDERFUL
94-90 AND 88 YEAR OLD
YOUNG AUNTS
'MAZ'EL TOV'
GOOD HEALTH
HAPPINESS & HAPPY
NEW YEAR
PANNI AND FAMILY

Mazel tov to
Carrie & Martin on their
30th wedding anniversary.
Love, Judy, Julie, Sandra,
Efram and Reggie.

Lielle, born July 11 to
Jori & Asher Lichtman. Grandparents,
Cheryle & Henry Gertner, Annette &
Adrian Lichtman. Great-Bubbie
Regina Gertner, and
Great-Grandmother Jeanette Lichtman.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos (25 words or less) and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to:
The CJN, Family Moments,
1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205,
North York, ON. M3B 3K4

JNF
Say it with Trees
"Yasher Koach — Well Done!"
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
416-638-7200

What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

CJN DATING
MEET YOUR MATCH
www.cjndating.com
powered by JMATCH
JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

What's New deadlines: NOTE HOLIDAY DEADLINES. Wednesday, Oct. 4, is the deadline for the Oct. 19 issue and Friday, Oct. 6, is the deadline for the Oct. 26 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Sept. 28

TSHUVAH SERIES 5767

Torah Conferencing Network offers a lecture on tshuvah with **Rabbi Yissochar Frand,** 8 p.m. at Clanton Park Synagogue. For information, drsis@rogers.com.

Saturday, Sept. 30

PARSHAH DISCUSSION

David Schaeffer speaks about the weekly portion, Ha'azinu, 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

SHABBAT SHUVAH

Rabbi Moshe Stern speaks on "The 21st Century Version of Idol Worship" at his annual Shabbat Shuvah drashah at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. 5:15 p.m. 416-787-1631

Sunday, Oct. 1

YOM KIPPUR SERVICES

Looking for services for Yom Kippur? **Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto** has a complete list of synagogues with extra seating for non-members. For information, visit www.jewishtoronto.com or call 416-635-5600.

Anshei Minsk Synagogue offers a "Learning Non-Service," for a taste of the meaning and spiritual depth of Yom Kippur. A free program with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, it includes teachings, meditations and discussion in which questions are welcome. Tonight, 7:30 p.m. and Monday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m., 10 St. Andrew. 905-761-0040

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism Yom Kippur services tonight, 8 p.m., adult service only. Monday, Oct. 2, at 11 a.m. includes children's program and babysitting. Tickets required, reserve in advance. Non-members welcome. 416-385-3910 or info@oraynu.org.

The Winchevsky Centre hosts a secular humanistic Yom Kippur service tonight at 7:30 p.m. Tickets $30, children $18, unwaged/students $22. To reserve, call 416-789-5502, e-mail mws@on.aibn.com or visit www.winchevskycentre.org.

Tuesday, Oct. 3

BARRIE HISTORY SERIES

Am Shalom Congregation, Barrie, presents Great People and Events in Jewish History, a four- part series with **Jack Kugelmass** beginning tonight through Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. Reserve by calling 705-792-3949 or e-mail amshalom@bellnet.ca.

Wednesday, Oct. 4

AUDITION CALL

Medina Theatre Ensemble holds an audition for a staged reading for aged actors 12-70 of *Sun in My Eyes* by **Jack Kuper**, 7-9 p.m. at Temple Sinai Congregation. RSVP to **Roselle**, 416-633-2057, or **Lois**, 416-781-8076.

BETEL OPEN HOUSE

The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living holds an open house 9-11 a.m. Includes a tour of the facilities, overview of the centre's programs and brunch in the kosher kitchen. RSVP to 416-225-2112, ext. 225, or marak@betelcentre.org.

Other News

YIDDISH VINKL

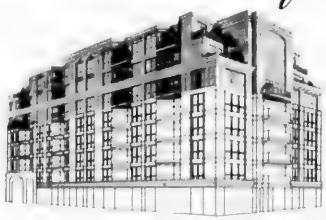
Join Yiddish Vinkl Thursday, Oct. 5, at 12:15 p.m. at Free Times Café, 320 College St. to hear **Beth Kaplan** speak about her great-grandfather, **Jacob Gordin**, author of *Mirele Efros (The Yiddish King Lear)* and *Got, Mensch un Tayvl*. RSVP to yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca or **Bess Shockett**, 416-630-7222, or **Bill Stern**, 416-665-3081.

SUKKAH IN BARRIE

Join members of the Barrie

Continued on page 23

Experience the life that COULD BE YOURS



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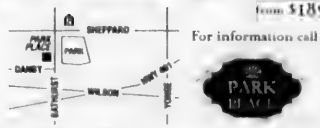

PARK PLACE

Specifications are subject to change without notice. All illustrations are Artist's Concepts. Prices subject to change without notice. E & O.E.

The Lanterr Group Inc

On the occasion of
YISKOR
it is tradition to make a charitable donation in memory of a loved one or friend.
As Yiskor is observed during High Holy Days, it is a time to Remember...

Even with a ceasefire, Israelis must continue to cope with the crisis

The High Holiday campaign this year is committed in total to support
JNF Operation Security Blanket

Jewish National Fund is on the ground with action, not words. The proceeds from this year's Yiskor Campaign will be allocated to rebuilding and repairing damages caused by Hezbollah Katyusha Rockets, to Israel's agricultural lands and forests and to the children who have been traumatized by war.

In this issue is a Yiskor sheet. Use it and fight terrorism.

What's New

Continued from page 22

community for sukkah building and decorating followed by a potluck Shabbat dinner on Friday afternoon Oct. 6. Dinner 7 p.m. For information or to reserve, call 705-321-7700 or visit www.jewishbarrie.com.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Introductory Gemarah with **Ohran Gobrin**. No previous Gemarah learning experience necessary; however, basic familiarity with Hebrew and ability to follow along with a text required. Mondays, 8:30-9:30 p.m. at 20 Meadowbrook Rd. #2. RSVP gobrins@rogers.com or 416-781-5637.

The Melton Adult Mini School, a project of Hebrew University, is taking registration. It will be meeting at Beth Emeth Synagogue and at CHAT beginning in mid-October. Call **Loretta Tanenbaum** 416-789-7400 or 416-667-1717.

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study offers 3-, 4-, 6- and 8-week courses beginning in October and November or full-year courses. For information and registration, contact 416-877-2050 or visit www.mekorot.ca.

ENHANCING YOUR HEALTH

Weizmann Women and Science presents Enhancing Your Health: From the Inside Out, a day of presentations of the latest information on emotional, nutritional and physical health. Program includes Weizmann president **Ilan Chet** on "Who Is Afraid of Genetically Modified Foods?"; **Dr. Fay Sliwin**, medical director of the Health Watch Clinic, Women's College Hospital, on "Maintaining Health in Mid-life"; and psychologist **Steven J. Stein** on "Emotional Intelligence," Oct. 11, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Beth Emeth Synagogue. $100. To RSVP or for information, contact **Sheri Federman** at 416-733-9220 or sheri@weizmann.ca.

JNF WINTER IN ISRAEL

Each year the Jewish National Fund organizes Canadian American Active Retirees in Israel, a program combining community service, study, JNF forest work, special events and touring in Israel. The group leaves Toronto on Jan. 17. Participants aged 50 and over can choose any 2- to 7-week portion of the program. Information evening and slide presentation on Thursday, Oct. 12, at 7:30 p.m. For details, call **Toba**, 416-638-7200, ext. 23.

YIDDISH CLASSES

The Committee for Yiddish, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto offers Yiddish classes beginning Oct. 22.

Beginners and Beginners Plus, for students who want to learn the aleph-beis and/or apply their Yiddish skills to reading, writing and discussion in Yiddish, Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon, for 9 sessions.

Intermediate/Advanced class, for those able to read and write Yiddish, Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon, for 9 sessions.

Yiddish Conversation, Tuesday afternoons, 1-3 p.m. Oct.17-Dec.19.

Children's Yiddish Class, to learn the Yiddish language through music, art, drama and games. Weekly and holiday themes enhance the language program. Begins Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Oct. 22, and continues throughout the school year.

For information and registration, contact 416-635-2883, ext. 185.

OSTEOPOROSIS GROUP

"Power" is a 7-week wellness, exercise, nutrition and education program for seniors living with osteoporosis. It runs on Monday afternoons at the Wagman centre, 55 Ameer Ave. Classes begin Oct. 16. $70. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 2588, for information and registration.

SIMCHAH DANCING

Join the BAYT Sisterhood for a women-only evening of simchah dancing, salsa dancing and more, Saturday, Oct. 28, 8:30 p.m. $20 if registered before Oct. 20, $25 at the door, students $10. Light refreshments will be served. For registration and information, call the Sisterhood hotline, 905-731-0351.

ICRF HOPE EVENT

Israel Cancer Research Fund Celebration of Hope Event, Thursday, Nov. 2, Capitol Event Theatre, 7 p.m. Contact **Karen Lieberman** at 416-440-7781.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse in the Jewish community is often considered a taboo subject, but it does exist. Domestic abuse, sometimes known as "woman abuse" or "relationship abuse," is very complex. It can happen to you or to someone you love. Learn more about it from trained speakers who are available free through Jewish Women International for your group. To book a speaker, call 416-630-9313.

EATING DISORDERS SUPPORT

Eating Disorders of York Region provides services, education and support groups for families and friends of individuals who are affected by eating disorders including anorexia, bulimia, compulsive overeating and disordered eating in a non-judgmental and non-threatening environment. Join a group in Richmond Hill Thursday evenings, 7:30-9 p.m. For information, contact 905-886-6632 or visit www.edoyr.com.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com.

Parenting Children with Challenging Behaviour, a 6-session group for parents who have children who frequently demonstrate difficult behaviour such as aggression, talking back and not following the rules, temper tantrums. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning Oct. 4. Call **Diane**, ext. 246 for info.

FOR SENIORS

The Association of Jewish Seniors' Sukkah Luncheon takes place on Thursday, Oct. 12, 11:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Members $10, guests $15. Reserve by Oct. 3. Call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Wednesday, Oct. 11; Sunday dance, Oct. 15. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka**, 416-631-5574.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Dr. Ben Schlesinger delivers a lecture, Tuesdays, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24. 10-11:30 a.m. $2, non-members $4.

Open Computer Lab, drop in, $1.50/hour or $10/10 hrs. Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Classes begin Oct. 3. Registration in progress.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Yom Kippur services with Kolel at the BJCC include a family service with **Ken Rabow** and a traditional service with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**. Call ext. 255 for reservations.

The Family Place offers Boogie Babies and Jammin' Tots, music for infants to 3-year-olds; Stirring Stories, My Mishpachah (Family) and Me; and the Holiday Cooking Club, cooking classes for children aged 4 and up. For info, call ext. 390.

The Family Resource Centre in the Promenade Mall has parenting workshops and programs for children up to age 5, including Daddy and Me, Ima and Me, Music Mavens, Kids Yoga, Hebrew Sing-along and Jewish Story Time. Call 905-882-8509 or visit www.thefamilyresourcecentre.ca.

Fall luncheon, Tuesday, Oct. 10. Tickets $5, on sale now.

Kolel begins fall courses and one-night events Oct. 23 at the BJCC. Visit www.kolel.org or ext. 235.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Between Stages Playwrights Reading Series: *Bear with Me* written and performed by **Diane Flacks**. Thursday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m. PWYC. Suggested donation $8.

Decorate the MNJCC community sukkah on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 4 p.m.

The group Balagan launches its CD and performs Thursday, Oct. 5, 8 p.m. at the Al Green Theatre. $12, $10 for seniors and students. Call ext. 0. Klezmer Players Workshop with **Eric Stein**, 10-week session, Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Begins Oct. 10. Members $150, non-members $200. Call ext. 111.

Image of the Jew in Film and Television with **Shlomo Schwartzberg**. Mondays, Oct 16-Nov 20, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Register at ext. 606.

JEWISH HISTORY THROUGH PHOTOS:

Danny Taran signs a copy of his book, *The 4000 Year Journey in Search of Peace*, at a book launch and photographic exhibit held at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. The photo exhibition continues through Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 4588 Bathurst St. For inquires and to buy the book, contact Sheila Krone at 416-638-7200.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Frances Goodman	Sep 9/06	155 Balmoral Ave
Louis Stemeroff	Sep 9/06	429 Walmer Rd
Jack Inhaber	Sep 7/06	221 York Hill Blvd
Miron Deca	Sep 9/06	154 St. John's Rd
Bert Michnick	Sep 8/06	55 Ameer Ave
Terry Moranis	Sep 10/06	1 Eastview Cres
Anne Brown	Sep 12/06	2500 Bathurst St
Mary Waxman	Sep 12/06	3560 Bathurst St
Nancy Freedman	Sep 13/06	284 Sandringham Dr
Molly Collis	Sep 14/06	645 Castlefield Ave
Esther Slatter	Sep 15/06	2330 Bridletown Circle
Matthew Elman	Sep 15/06	3 Glencedar Rd
Brian Acker	Sep 16/06	24 Loise St
Anne Tartick	Sep 16/06	2500 Bathurst St
Sydney Vosberg	Sep 16/06	17 Resolution Cres

Canadian Young Judaea
mourns the passing of
our long-time colleague and friend
Anne Brown ז"ל
and extend condolences to her family.

Subscribe to
The Canadian Jewish news

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BRENDA FREEDMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 1st, 10:00 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Arnie, Lenna, Blayne, & Brittany Gross want to thank
all our family & friends and those of the late
BUNNIE GROSS ז"ל
for their kind words, cards and donations in Bunnie's memory. Bunnie's dedication to charity work has taught us giving charity and love gives our lives a purpose and helps us to participate in creating the kind of world we want to live in. We wish all a healthy and happy new year and peace in Israel.

HENRY DASKO 1947 - 2006

The Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada mourns the passing of our beloved member and one of our founders, Henry Dasko.

Henry was the consummate non-academic intellectual, knowledgable about history, politics and especially literature. He is deeply missed by his wife Agata Tuszynska, his sons Nicolas and Daniel, and by his friends worldwide. His contributions to building bridges between Poles and Jews led to him to be awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit by the President of Poland, a fitting and long deserved tribute to a great man.

Yahrzeit

Wiesenthal remembered

By LEO ADLER

Simon Wiesenthal died one year ago on 16 Elul, 5765, Sept. 20, 2005.

I am now in Geneva with the top leadership of the Simon Wiesenthal Center: rabbis Marvin Hier and Abraham Cooper, the dean and associate dean of the centre, and Shimon Samuels, director of international relations and head of the centre's Paris office. We are here to present the views of Israelis who were subjected to crimes against humanity during the recent Israeli-Hezbollah conflict.

I find it ironic to be attending meetings of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the very eve of the anniversary of Simon Wiesenthal's death, because the same issues that plagued the old League of Nations are also plaguing its successor, the United Nations. Yet here we are, in the same city and the same hall where the League died an ignoble death and where the original United Nations Commission on Human Rights also came to an unlamented end. Their demise was due to the same illness: the implicit and explicit acceptance of bigotry and intolerance, the failure to be fair and judicious in affairs of state and the disregarding of the threats that democracies faced.

Then, as now, the way the world treated Jews and the threats to Jews were a harbinger of future events.

Almost 70 years ago, in 1938, at a meeting called to discuss the issue of "German Jewish refugees," the world's reluctance to protect Jews from Adolf Hitler's stated goals was obvious. No nation but the Dominican Republic offered to accept Jewish immigrants.

Now we are back in Geneva to once again "discuss" with the world's representatives the threat posed by those who want to kill Jews.

Seventy years ago, Wiesenthal was a young architect with a lifetime of creativity before him. The failure of the international community to effectively deal with Nazism, fascism and the anti-Semitism that was then very much in vogue, not only changed world history, it also transformed Wiesenthal from a distinguished architect to a distinguished symbol of humanitarianism.

There are, in my view, two examples of how Wiesenthal's inherent character was instrumental in his ability to become the man the world honoured at the time of his death last year.

In his book, *The Sunflower*, Wiesenthal wrote of how he and other concentration camp inmates (Jewish and non-Jewish) discussed a request for forgiveness he had received from a dying Nazi who had murdered Jews. Rather than wallow in his own predicament, rather than take advantage of the situation to better himself, rather than kill the soldier when they were alone, rather than disregard the Nazi's request, Wiesenthal, ever aware of the intertwining of morality, humanity, religion and ethics, wanted to be sure he was making the right decision. He therefore consulted others who had different perspectives. To his death, he always wanted to do what was right and just.

A few years later, shortly after being freed by the Allies and while the reality that he and his wife had lost more than 90 family members was just sinking in, Wiesenthal was approached by other former concentration camp inmates. They had formed a vigilante group and asked him to provide names of guards who had abused him and whom he had witnessed killing other Jews.

He refused, and in that moment, despite all the trauma and suffering he and his family had undergone, he conceived the idea of seeing justice done, not only for victims and survivors, but especially for perpetrators.

While the Allies held war crimes trials that lasted only as long as it took for the Iron Curtain to descend, and while countries opened their arms and closed their eyes to immigrants, no matter what their past conduct or misconduct as Nazis, soldiers or civilians had been, Wiesenthal dedicated himself to operating a centre that would remember those who died, those who lived – and those who murdered.

Unlike the diplomats, governments and politicians who saw war crimes as a one-time prosecutorial endeavour that would end reasonably soon after peace treaties were signed, Wiesenthal envisioned an ongoing justice system that would never rest as long as any war criminals remained at large. Unlike the prevailing belief that state leaders could not be made accountable for their policies of crimes against humanity unless they lost a war, Wiesenthal held to the notion that no political leader should ever be above the rule of law.

When the Cold War replaced World War II, Wiesenthal was alone in pursuing justice. He was ignored or ridiculed by almost all, including the Jewish community. His call for trials and the need to never put a time limitation on war crimes and crimes against humanity were seen as "unrealistic."

His instrumentality in the arrest and trial of Adolf Eichmann, the chief bureaucrat in charge of the "Final Solution," finally led to a gradual change in the world's perception of Wiesenthal's view of what constitutes justice, especially as he spoke out against ongoing genocides in Asia and Africa and Europe.

Throughout his career, he never veered from what he had said and practised while he himself was in the camps: that only through a sustainable, internationally accepted and viable justice system would the world be spared future catastrophes.

While he recognized that this goal was still far from being achieved and that the International Criminal Court and the tribunals were not yet up to his standards, he was satisfied that he had succeeded in inculcating the notions of political responsibility (the arrests and trials of Chile's Augusto Pinochet, Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic, Liberia's Charles Taylor and others) and no time limits to war crimes into today's legal precepts.

Wiesenthal's life was filled with both personal and public achievements and accomplishments. For me, though, it was his never-ending search for a just justice, rather than simply a staged justice, that stands out – especially here in Geneva.

Leo Adler is the director of national affairs of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies in Canada.

We stood fast with Israel

In a few days, during the waning hours of Yom Kippur, we will be reciting one of the most meaningful and beautiful prayers of the entire year. As Neilah begins and the holiest of days comes to an end, we ask that our prayers pass through the gates of Heaven, while they remain open, so we can take advantage of this divine window of opportunity. Just as God does not want to close the gates on us, so we never want to close the gates on our fellow Jews.

David Engel

That is the challenge we faced as a community this past summer, when war broke out and a storm of terrorist rockets rained down on Israel. These were among the most difficult days in Israel's short history.

I am intensely proud that we as a community more than met the challenge. We met the challenge of global leadership and we met the challenge of standing with Israel without hesitation from the minute the war began. Our remarkable response will, one day, make Jewish history.

Within a week, a coalition of more than 100 Jewish and non-Jewish organizations – under the organizational leadership of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario region, and the Canada Israel Committee – put together a massive Stand with Israel rally that was attended by 8,000 people. On the same day, a special meeting of the community's most generous philanthropists raised $6 million toward the fledgling UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign, now underway, chaired by Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks.

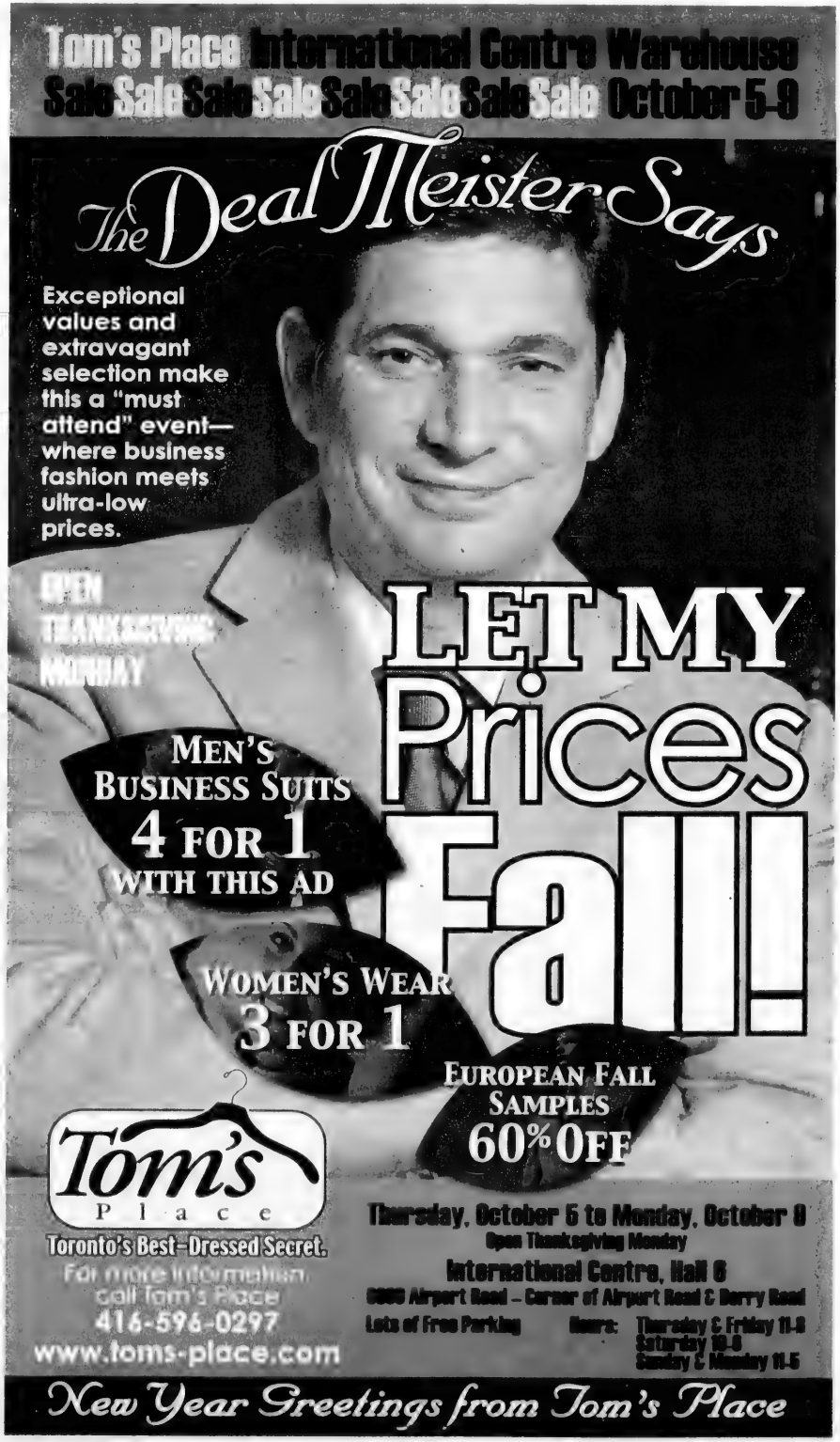
In fact, Toronto was the world's first Jewish community to initiate an Israel Emergency Campaign, which allowed the Jewish Agency for Israel – UJA Federation's overseas partner – to provide immediate relief for residents of Israel's wartorn north. Today, the remarkably generous contributions from members of our incredible community are being sent to Israel on a regular basis to help rebuild Israeli lives.

We opened our hearts in other ways as well. In the heat of war and after the rockets stopped, many of us boarded planes to Israel to show that we can raise morale as well.

Wherever Jews live, wherever they are in need, we are opening the gates to provide help and hope, with the resolve that no window of opportunity to demonstrate our responsibility for each other will ever pass us by.

Thank you for participating in this eternal task. On behalf of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, I wish you, your families, the people of Israel and Jews everywhere peace, health and happiness in the New Year.

David Engel
Chair of the Board
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto



Teacher tries to keep things 'lively and off-kilter'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Dan Mendelsohn Aviv was on track for a PhD in literary theory at Loyola University in Chicago in the 1990s, but he couldn't bring himself to go through with it after he began teaching at local Jewish schools so he could pay his bills.

"I was too interested in teaching at the day school," he said in a recent interview in his classroom at Bialik Hebrew Day School, where he teaches Grade 7 and 8 students Hebrew-language classes in Bible, Jewish history and social studies.

Realizing he "probably should professionalize" himself, he switched his major to education, qualifying as a teacher in Illinois, and continuing his studies in Israel, where he met his wife, Noa, a Canadian.

Mendelsohn Aviv received his master's and PhD in Jewish education from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1999 and 2002, respectively.

Sometimes people ask why he teaches middle school when his education qualifies him to teach at a higher level. "The short answer is, 'I like it,'" the 36-year-old father of two said.

Also, he added, studies show that students around bar and bat mitzvah age are at a "pivotal" time in terms of identity formation. Using the metaphor of building a house, he noted that the foundation is "the hardest part to put in."

Ideally, he would like to remain involved in both the theoretical and practical areas of education, and he has continued to speak at conferences and write for academic journals since he began teaching.

"Jewish studies is very relevant to Jewish education, but without it being applied in the actual classroom, you're adding to this huge pile of [academic] paper."

To keep his students interested, he tries to "keep things lively and off-kilter."

Every week, he has a class lottery to determine who gets to sit on "the couch," a comfy upholstered chair with matching footstool at the back of the class. To qualify, students draw cards from the oversized Darth Vader Slurpee cup Mendelsohn Aviv keeps on his desk. The student who draws a card with a smiley face gets the coveted seat.

Recently, Mendelsohn Aviv screened *The Truman Show* – the 1998 Jim Carrey movie in which an insurance salesman/adjuster discovers his entire life is actually a TV show – for his popcorn-munching Grade 8 students. The catch was that they had to figure out how the movie related to their studies. (There are similarities to the Book of Job, which they studied last year.)

A lesson from the teacher: "*Kasheh b'tironut. Kal b'krav – It's hard in basic training, but [as a result] easy in combat. If you learn the fundamentals now, then later on it will be much easier.*" (An Israeli citizen, Mendelsohn Aviv – who was born in Chicago to Israeli parents – learned this lesson during a stint of military duty in Israel.)

"For me the most important thing in terms of Jewish education is engagement," Mendelsohn Aviv said. "You want them to come away saying, 'Now I'm ready to continue my Jewish studies,' not to say, 'I've had enough and I'm done.'"

He has always felt connected to Judaism and Jewish studies, but Mendelsohn Aviv said that although he had some excellent teachers when he attended an Orthodox Jewish day school in his native Chicago, he also had some who were "fairly dogmatic and harsh."

His own style is quite different, but he said students still haven't figured out that tests are "not such a big deal" for him. "I wish we could do away with [marking]."

That is not an issue at the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, where he teaches an advanced course on Food and Jewish Culture, a subject that relates to his doctoral thesis, titled *Knowing as Eating: Enriching Jewish Education Through Food as an Anti-Cartesian Dialogic Paradigm, Pedagogical Method and Subject Matter.*

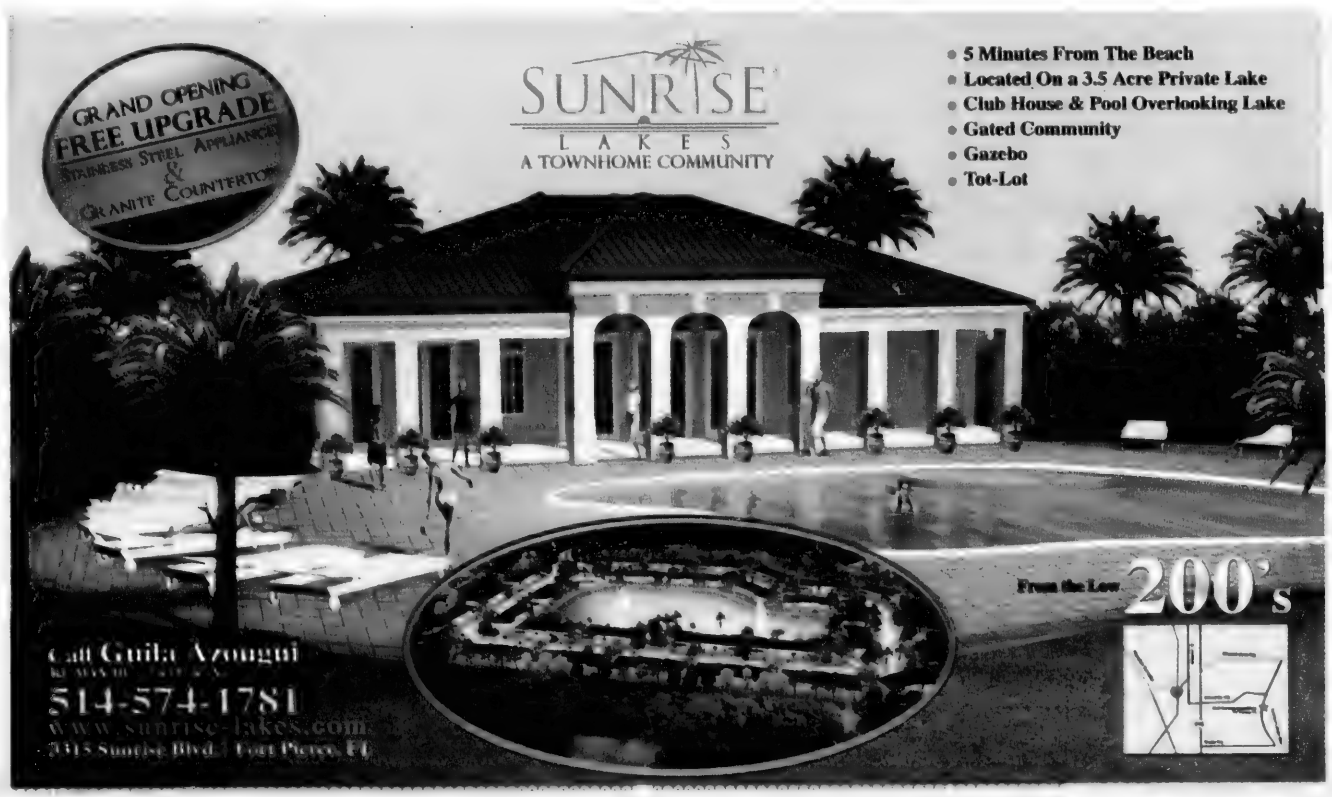
Dan Mendelsohn Aviv

He is also an online adjunct professor of Jewish education at Philadelphia's Gratz College and teaches at UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education's Midrasha L'Morim.

At Bialik – where he has been on staff since 2003, following a one-year stint at United Synagogue Day School – Mendelsohn Aviv has co-written a four-unit curriculum on Jewish history.

Among his initiatives was a competition similar in format to the popular television show *Canadian Idol*. Four classes were involved in the project, for which students had to write poems in the style of a particular section of the Book of Job.

"I want [their studies] to be the little mint on the pillow that's a nice flavour [so they'll say], 'Now I want to do more.'"



A little skepticism is definitely in order

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

In a Sept. 17 *New York Times* book review of *The Greatest Story Ever Sold: The Decline and Fall of Truth from 9/11 to Katrina*, by Frank Rich, reviewer Ian Buruma discussed the media's failure to ask tough questions about the war in Iraq. He posed the rhetorical question, "How can one explain the temporary paralysis of skepticism?"

He wrote that the job of newspaper editors "is to publish what they believe to be true, based on evidence and good judgment."

Buruma pointed out that the *New York Times* is among the papers that failed to be properly skeptical. So perhaps it's not surprising that the next day, the *Times* editorial, "A Road Test for the Palestinians," said: "After six months of crippling sanctions, Hamas' leaders are trying to figure out the very minimum they need to say – and the even less they plan to do – to end their isolation and salvage their government. Skepticism is more than warranted."

But the *Times* promptly abandoned any skepticism. It argued that even though "Hamas still refuses to say the words necessary to unlock international aid: that it will renounce violence and recognize Israel's right to exist," the United States should try to find a path back to "peace talks."

The *Times*' inconsistency was remarkable. Its argument, in effect, is that if Hamas and Fatah join a national unity government based on the international conditions mentioned above, then the international community can provide aid to the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority and resume negotiations. But Hamas won't accept the international conditions, so, therefore, the international community should look for ways to resume aid and promote peace talks.

While such faulty logic would receive a failing grade in a university term paper, it passes for progressive thinking in the *New York Times*.

A similar failure of logic is found in the Sept. 12 *Globe and Mail* front-page article "Palestinian unity deal aims to end aid boycott" by Mark MacKinnon.

The headline appropriately applies the journalistic test of skepticism in describing Hamas' motivation for forming a unity government with Fatah: it needs to find money for some 160,000 striking PA employees who have gone several months without pay.

However, in describing the deal between Fatah and Hamas, MacKinnon writes: "It seems to allow the new government to implicitly recognize Israel – a key condition set by the international community for the restoration of aid – while the Hamas movement maintains its anti-Israel position."

The international community requires the unambiguous or "explicit" recognition of Israel – "implicit" recognition is not acceptable. While MacKinnon notes that Hamas "would not change its 1988 founding Charter, which calls for the destruction of the Jewish state," he fails to even ask what "implicit" recognition means and how Hamas could reconcile its declared aim of destroying Israel with "implicitly" recognizing the Jewish state.

* * *

On Sept. 14, the CBC's Terry Milewski reported from Israel about the debate over prisoner exchanges, and in particular the ordeal of Smadar Haran Kaiser. She is the sole remaining member of a family that was destroyed by terrorist Samir Kuntar in 1979, whom Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah is demanding be included in any exchange for the two Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah in July.

Previously, this column criticized the CBC's Nahlah Ayed's Sept. 4 sympathetic portrait of Kuntar's family. Whether intentionally or not, Milewski's longer report compensates for Ayed's unbalanced piece by providing extensive Israeli perspective, including the brutal nature of Kuntar's murderous acts.

Milewski's report, nonetheless, is not uncritical. He shows that while successive Israeli leaders have always said they would never negotiate the release of citizens held by terrorists, there have been prisoner exchanges over the years.

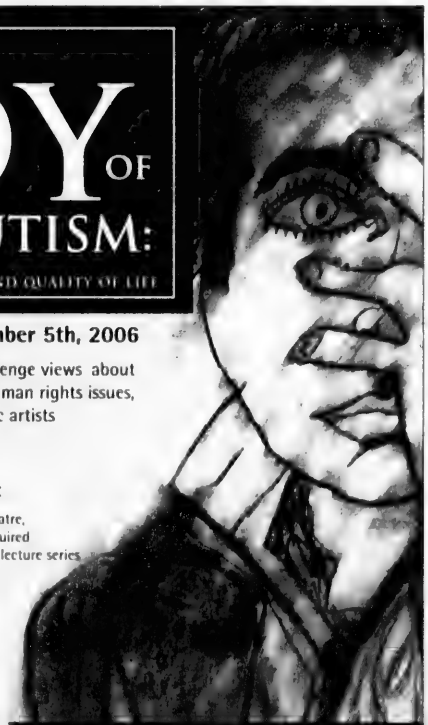
His story shows how much Israelis value life – how far they are willing to go to get one or two (or sometimes just the remains) of kidnapped soldiers or MIA's back in exchange for hundreds of Arab prisoners, including terrorists.

Milewski interviews Arie Lova Eliav, a former Israeli negotiator, who explains that the Arabs know "the Israelis are ready to pay a very high price, not only for live prisoners, but for bodies. It's according to Jewish law, and it's sacred."

Most remarkably, Milewski notes that Smadar Kaiser "doesn't pretend to like the idea of freeing Kuntar, but she is not campaigning to keep him in jail. She is not looking for revenge."

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

THE JOY OF AUTISM:
REDEFINING ABILITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE



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Enrolment declines in Jewish school programs

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — School administrators are attributing an enrolment decline in Winnipeg's Jewish school programs this year largely to Russian Israeli families who transferred their children to the general school system.

The half-day free Hebrew immersion program at Margaret Park Elementary School's, a public school in north Winnipeg (most young Jewish families live in south Winnipeg) lost 20 students from last year – most of them Russian Israeli children – pushing the program's enrolment below 90.

"We had a number of Russian families from Israel who sent their kids here last year because of our Hebrew program," said principal Cynthia Dutton.

"Some of them weren't interested in celebrating the Jewish holidays and traditions and were more concerned with having their children learn English. In some cases, the students moved to other schools in the area. Other families moved out of the area."

She noted that this year's kindergarten class has 10 students.

The Gray Academy of Jewish Education Winnipeg's main Jewish private school, with students in kindergarten through Grade 12 is also feeling the loss of Russian Israeli students and the decline in Argentine immigration.

Part of a campaign to bolster Winnipeg's Jewish community, Argentine newcomers boosted Gray Academy's enrolment to 650 two years ago. The wave of immigration has largely ended over the past two years, and while the number of Israeli immigrants, mainly of Russian origin, has been substantial, their attachment to the Jewish community appears not to be as strong as that of the Argentines.

Thus, last year, Gray Academy's enrolment dropped back to 620 students, and this year it stands at 585.

On the positive side, head of school Rory Paul said Gray Academy has had to add a fourth junior kindergarten class to handle demand.

"We budgeted for 590 students for this year, and we should reach that number by the end of September," Paul said. "We expect we have some more students enrolling in junior kindergarten and we know some new immigrant families are expected."

Paul said the enrolment decline is partly due to the slowdown in Argentine immigration.

He added that antipathy to Jewish education may also be why some immigrant students didn't return to the school, but he noted that cost is also a factor for some. While the school waives tuition for first-year immigrant children, their parents are expected to pay a minimum $750 per child in their second year in the school. Full tuition is $6,325 per student. but the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education has a sliding tuition scale based on family income and the number of students per family enrolled in the school.

Paul also noted that some families, including one prominent Winnipeg family with five children, have left the city for business opportunities elsewhere.

As well, he said that Gray Academy traditionally loses a substantial number of students at the junior high and high school levels to other private schools and, at the high school level in particular, to the University of Winnipeg Collegiate program. Paul said this year's Grade 12 class, whose numbers vary from year to year, has 27 students, compared to 34 last year.

Winnipeg's two other Jewish day school programs are showing slight increases in enrolment this year. The Hebrew bilingual program at Brock Corydon Elementary School, a public school in south Winnipeg, has 181 students this year, up from 172 last year, likely due to more Russian immigrants signing up. There are 24 children in its kindergarten, about the same as last year.

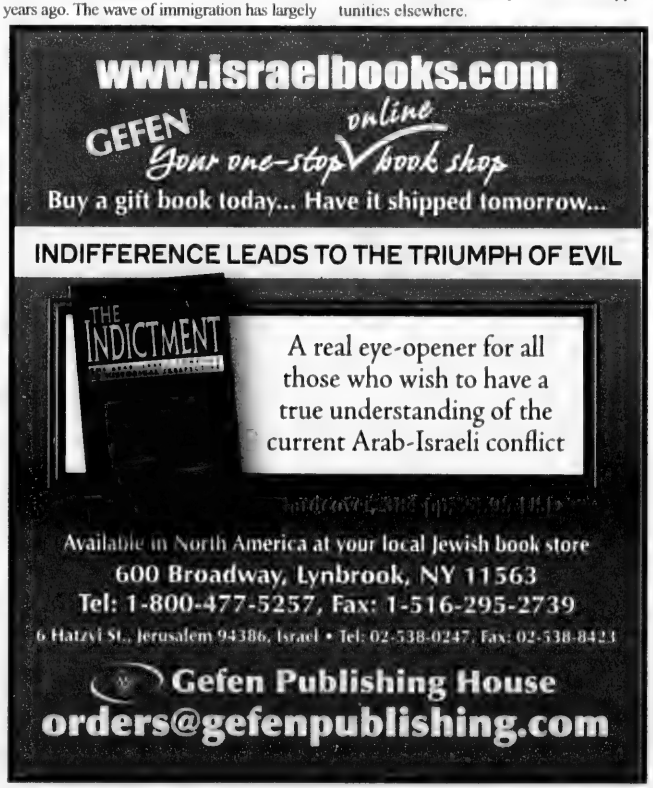
"We have several more [English as a second language] students this year," said principal Ira Udow.

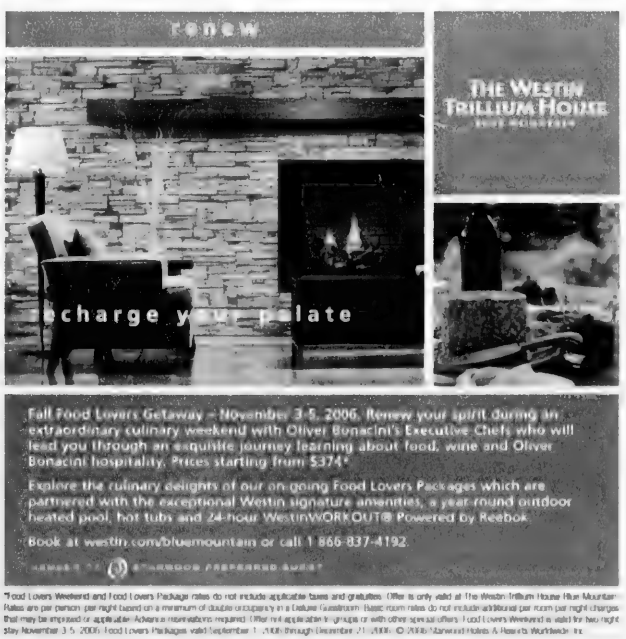
Meanwhile, Ohr HaTorah, the modern Orthodox elementary and junior high day school that holds classes at Herzlia Synagogue in south Winnipeg, has an enrolment of more than 60 this year, compared to 45 last fall.

One reason for this year's higher enrolment was the Lubavitch movement's decision to close its elementary school in north Winnipeg and place its younger children in Ohr HaTorah.

"We opened our school in 1988 after the school that was operating out of the Herzlia closed," said Rabbi Avraham Altein, Chabad's senior rabbi in Winnipeg. "Now our children are mostly grown up and the younger Chabad families live in south Winnipeg. We thought we would try enrolling the children in Ohr HaTorah this year. If it doesn't work out, we can always re-open our school next year. Our purpose in opening our school wasn't to compete with the other school programs. We had a need."

FALL REFLECTIONS: Grade 3 students at Netivot HaTorah Day School created fall scenes in art class using the monoprinting technique. From left, Hadas Green, Merav Collins, Zvi Abramovitch and Yonatan Fortinsky show off their creations.
[Rebecca Ansel photo]





Oscar winner Matlin headlines campaign launch

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — She is an Academy-Award winning actress, a published author, an activist and a sought-after public speaker, yet she says her proudest accomplishment is being the mother of four wonderful children.

Marlee Matlin, who is deaf, gave the keynote address at this year's annual campaign kickoff for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. The event was held Sept. 19 at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Matlin delivered her address in sign language, with her interpreter by her side.

Matlin said she lost her hearing as the result of a childhood illness. "After 1½ years of hearing and speaking, I was diagnosed as profoundly deaf and there was no cure. My parents were devastated. My parents grieved and they felt guilty, very guilty," she said.

Marlee Matlin

Although professionals recommended that her parents place Matlin in a residential school, her parents chose to keep her at home and send her to regular, neighbourhood schools.

"My parents never treated me as different. They never treated me as special," she said.

She learned to make her way in the world with the love and support of her family and because, she said, "I had chutzpah!"

Fortunately for Matlin, she grew up in Chicago, where she was able to attend Temple B'nai Shalom – "not your ordinary temple" – which served both the deaf and hearing communities.

In an interview, Matlin described her happy childhood experiences at the temple, where she was part of the "signing choir," attended Sunday school and had private lessons with the rabbi, who knew sign language, to prepare for her bat mitzvah.

As an aspiring actress, Matlin was fortunate to meet Henry Winkler of TV's *Happy Days*, who became her friend and mentor.

"He may have been the Fonz to the rest of the world, but to me Henry Winkler is the coolest Jew and the biggest mensch in the world," she said. "Fortunately for me, Henry came from a family that had even more chutzpah than mine… Henry said 'Marlee, sweetheart, you can be whatever you want to be. Just follow your dreams'… Nine years later, I was standing on his front doorstep with the Academy Award in my hand."

She added: "I have worked as an actress for 20 years. I have an Oscar, a Golden Globe and four Emmy nominations to prove it. I am not boasting, but I am proud."

Matlin said she's equally proud of her work helping federations with fundraising. She has visited many cities over the past three years to help with UJA fundraising. "Throughout my travels on behalf of [federations], I have seen the important work [they] do providing both immediate help and long-term solutions," she said.

Ottawa's annual fundraising campaign supports more than 29 local beneficiary agencies, as well as Jewish organizations in Israel and around the world.

MAKE YOUR OWN SHOFAR: Grade 4 student Kate Brooks of the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School makes a shofar as part of a learning unit titled "Sounds of Silence."

War has shaken Israel's political system: academic

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The recent Israeli/Hezbollah war has shaken the Israeli political system to its roots for the second time in less than a year.

The first time was last Nov. 11 when then-prime minister Ariel Sharon announced that he was quitting the right-wing Likud party to form Kadima, a centre party, and then he called an election, Reuven Hazan, of Hebrew University of Jerusalem's political science department, said.

"Kadima broke the mould," said Hazan, who was a speaker at the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Winnipeg chapter's mini-conference, The Best of Hebrew U, on Sept. 16 and 17.

The conference featured six Hebrew U professors speaking on a range of topics, from biblical interpretation and archeology to aging, social conditions in Israel and domestic politics. It was co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and the Rose and Max Rady Jewish Community Centre of Winnipeg.

Hazan said the problem the war created for Kadima is that its principal electoral plank, unilateral withdrawal, has become null and void. "Just five months after the election, polls show that [Prime Minister Ehud] Olmert is in trouble. If an election were held now, Kadima would lose. Olmert's best hope would be for a very low voter turnout."

He noted that recent polls show that 71 per cent of Israelis support the new United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) force in southern Lebanon and 51 per cent would support an international force to separate Israelis and Palestinians.

"It's too soon to know where events are headed," Hazan said. "There is the impression that the government has lost its way and that anything is possible. We can only hope that the result of this latest upheaval will be a more stable political system that will restore public confidence in politicians and the system."

Hazan said that Kadima became the first Israeli centrist party to ever win an election as the Israeli public had coalesced in the centre after 40 years of right- and left-wing battles for power. All other centrist parties failed to survive because there has been no middle ground until now, he said.

Going back to the beginning of the state, Hazan noted that for the first 20 years, the political debate was dominated by economic and social issues with the Labor party, under the leadership of David Ben-Gurion, and his successor, Levi Eshkol, winning every election. Although Labor never won an outright majority, the party was always far ahead of the next closest competitor, Menachem Begin's Herut, which later became Likud.

After the Six Day War in 1967, Israeli domestic political debate shifted from social and economic concerns to security and what to do with the new acquired territories. The electorate became polarized between the right wing, which favoured keeping and settling all of the new territories, and the left wing, which favoured a land-for-peace deal with the Palestinians. Elections since 1967 had been a neck-and neck-contest between the left and the right.

Hazan described Sharon as a pragmatic realist who helped form Likud in 1973 because it suited his purposes. Sharon came to realize within the past couple of years that for demographic reasons, Israel could not hold onto Gaza and all the West Bank, Hazan said. It was also clear that his Likud party wouldn't support his disengagement policies, so he formed his own party.

"Polls just before the election call last November indicated that Likud would win 38 seats and Labor 23," Hazan said. "As soon as Sharon left the party, the Likud vote collapsed. Kadima became the heavy favourite and the only question was who would finish second."

At one point, he said, Kadima was projected to win 44 seats. That many seats hadn't been won by any one party in 25 years.

Kadima showed itself to be more than Sharon's personal party after he suffered an incapacitating stroke early in the election campaign.

Kadima's support softened somewhat under the leadership of Olmert, Sharon's successor, but still finished with 38 seats. While the Labor vote held, Likud's support collapsed.

In analyzing where Kadima's voters came from, Hazan noted that half were former Likud voters who had moved to the centre. A third came from the collapsing secular party, Shinui, while one- quarter were former Labor voters. The Kadima voters came equally from all parts of society.

According to a recent survey by the Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace, 49 per cent of Israelis now identify themselves as centrist, with 27 per cent on the right and 24 per cent on the left, Hazan said.

"A majority of Israelis are in favour of negotiations with the Palestinians, would recognize an independent Palestinian state and want to sever all relations with the Palestinians."

Hebrew U's travelling road show

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Nearly 150 people recently had a learning experience that usually requires a transcontinental flight and a considerable investment of time and money.

Participants in the fourth annual "Hebrew You!" had access to the talents of four professors from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, without having to leave home. A one-evening event, the travelling road show was brought to Ottawa by Canadian Friends of Hebrew University and was co-chaired by Myrna Barwin and Sonja Kesten.

Yair Zakovitch, the Father Takeji Otsuki Professor of Biblical Studies at Hebrew U and a leading scholar in the literary analysis of the Bible, delivered the keynote address, "The Peace of Jerusalem in Biblical Prophecy," as participants ate dinner.

Zakovitch said that "every prophet has his own style. Every prophet is a poet." Expressing frustration with English translations used by participants, he quipped, "All translations are bad by definition. You cannot translate poetry. The next time I come to Ottawa, please make sure you have all learned Hebrew."

After dinner, each of the three other professors delivered two lectures apiece.

Howard Litwin, the founding head of the Israel Gerontological Data Centre at Hebrew U, outlined six different theories for aging successfully in the first of his two lectures.

Nava Panitz-Cohen, of Hebrew U's Institute of Archeology, spoke on the topics "Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax, Cabbages and Kings: Archeology in the Quest of Ancient Individuals" and "Can Archeology 'Save' King David and King Solomon."

Eitan Barak of Hebrew U's department of international relations delivered lectures on "Weapons of Mass Destruction: Myths vs. Realities" and "From Alienation to Involvement: Israel's Arms Control Policy."

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Coast to Coast

News was 'like a bombshell'

Continued from page 3

Eric Weiner tracked down Irwin Glasberg, a lawyer with the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General in Toronto, who is the son of Eddie, another of the four surviving brothers, who died in 2004. The two exchanged photographs that confirmed that they were indeed descendants of the same family.

"It was like a bombshell," Irwin Glasberg said. "I called my uncle Simon and told him I had some good news – that two of his sisters had survived the war [one died in 1970] and Hilda was living in Israel. He was incredulous, and he started to cry."

Irwin said his uncle felt a sense of urgency to get to Israel to see his sister as soon as he could, a wish that came true last week.

As the various members of the family began to communicate, they slowly pieced together the history of their family, which had been torn apart by the war.

When the Nazis invaded their hometown of Chernowitz, Romania, the Glasberg family of nine splintered. Hilda, who was 10 at the time, escaped with her older sister Bertha to Uzbekistan. Hilda married Elye Itshok Shlick and they had two children, Zali and Hertha. In 1998, Hilda immigrated to Israel, following her son Zali's family, who have been living there since 1991. Hilda's daughter, Hertha, currently resides in Minnesota.

Simon Glasberg, his parents, Henia and Benzion, and three brothers, Mark, Karol and Eddie, found refuge in a Romanian basement. A third sister, Pepi, vanished and her fate is unknown, although the family presumes she was a victim of the Nazis.

After the war ended, Simon and Mark moved to Israel. Together, they fought in the War of Independence before moving to Canada to join their parents and brothers. Henia and Benzion lived into their 90s and died in the 1980s. Eddie died in 2004. Mark lives in Montreal but was not well enough to travel to Israel for the reunion. Mark's son, Irving, lives in Be'er Sheva, Israel, about a 30-minute drive from Shlick.

Glasberg and Shlick spent Rosh Hashanah together in Israel. Shlick wants to come to Canada to spend time with her newly found relatives, including her brother Mark, and to pay respects at the graves of her parents and brothers Karol and Eddie, whom she never saw again after their childhood separation.

Irwin Glasberg plans to go to Israel this winter and meet some of the 13 new relatives he has discovered (at least the ones there – one first cousin is still in Estonia and another is in Minnesota).

While he said the whole experience left him feeling "wonderful. I was on Cloud 9," it was bittersweet as well. "I was disappointed that because it took so long, my father died and couldn't be part of it."

Yad Vashem director Avner Shalev hopes the reunion will encourage Jews everywhere to search the database for the names of relatives and to submit pages of testimony for those who have been lost. Since the database went online, Yad Vashem spokesperson Estee Yaari said there was at least one other reunion of two sisters in 2005 – Klara Blaier, then 81, and Hannah Katz, who had not seen each other for 61 years.

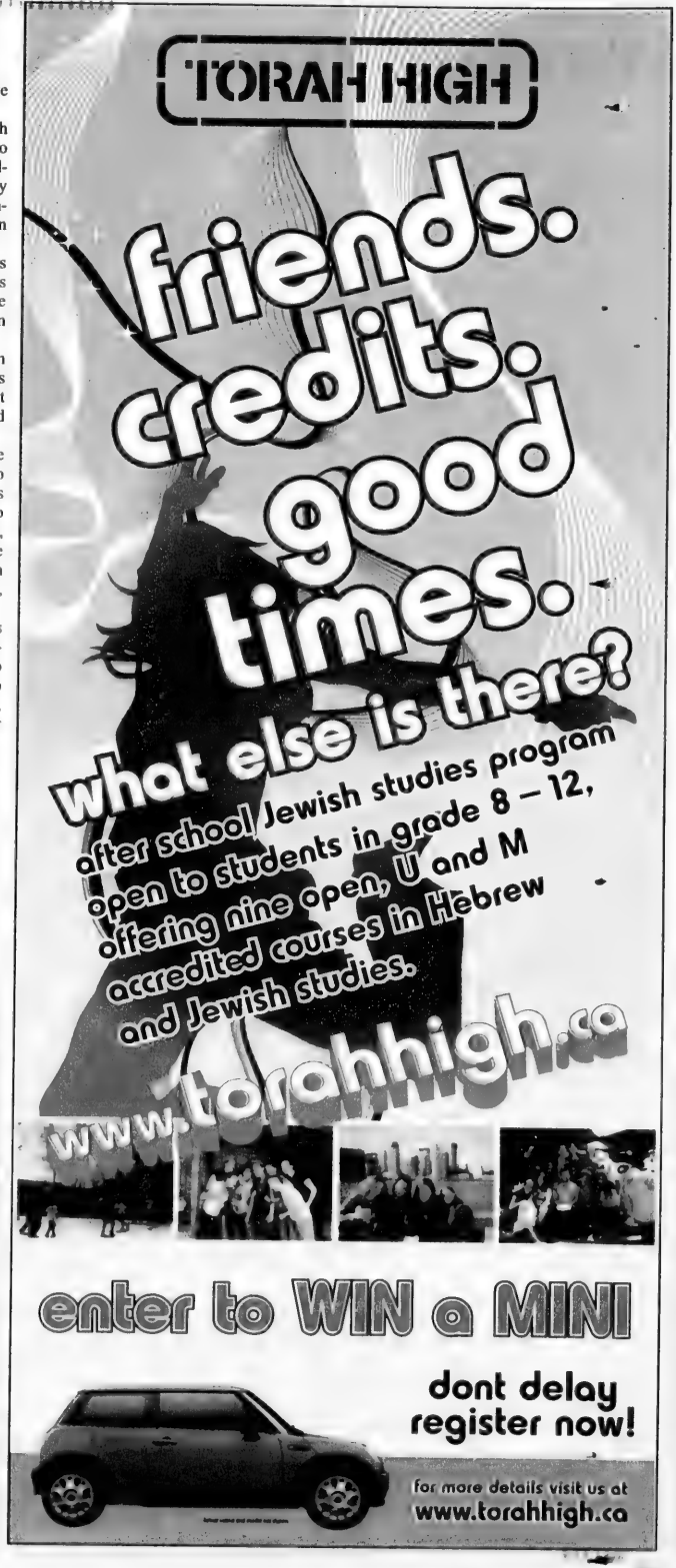
"During the holidays, while everyone is spending time together," Yaari said, "we're encouraging children and grandchildren to talk to their grandparents and search the database to ensure that their losses are recorded and if not, to submit pages of testimony in memory of their loved ones killed in the Holocaust."

With files from Leila Speisman.

Correction

In the article titled "Jewish refugees from Arab countries can register online," (*CJN*, Sept. 21), Bernie Farber was misidentified. He is CEO of Canadian Jewish Congress. *The CJN* regrets the error.

STUDENTS BAKE FOR ISRAEL: From left, Sarah Azoulay, Rachel Pesah, Megan Fisher, Mimi Elmaleh and Orital Saban were among the Grade 7 and 8 girls of Or HaEmet Sephardic School who visited the new Kosher City Plus Bakery to bake cookies as a fundraiser. The cookies were donated by Kosher City Plus. Proceeds will go to Ezer Mizion, the Israel Health Support Organization, to help children affected by the war in northern Israel.



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Employment fair planned for Oct. 5 at Asper JCC

By REBECA KUROPATWA
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — The third annual Employment Networking event will be held at the Asper Jewish Community Campus on Oct. 5.

It is "a great way for both new and established Winnipeggers to meet employers from a broad variety of fields, in a relaxed, welcoming setting," says Cliff Huot, the manager of the Jewish Job Exchange.

So far, 27 employers and employment agencies have committed to coming out and setting up tables at the Employment Networking event. Huot says his aim is to have at least 30.

RBC (Royal Bank of Canada), the City of Winnipeg, Reaching E-Quality, Houston Group, Bison Transport, YES (Youth Employment Services) and Great West Life will be at the networking event. Companies specializing in consulting, engineering, information technology and accounting will be there, along with staffing companies, employment services and training providers. Self-employment guidance will be offered.

Huot, who has been managing the Jewish Job Exchange since July 6, plans to make some changes at the exchange this fall, including bringing in new staff and introducing new employment programs to help every age and stage of job seekers.

One of the exchange's new programs will teach essential skills. "It will be a great program for new immigrants, including the honing of English-language understanding. Without such programs, this can be a big stumbling block for people looking for work," says Huot.

"When you are given a form to fill out to apply for a job, or on a job, you have to be able to have that understanding. Without that basic skill, it can be very challenging out there.

"Many of the Russian Israelis who have recently immigrated here have been through a process like this before [when they came from Russia to Israel]. They may not have had the local language skills at that time, and again now, but they have found entry-level, manual jobs that get bread on the table," he says.

"The problem is that most of these newcomers are educated and skilled, and after six months or a year, they get bored in entry-level work and want to find work in their trained professions… Pursuing work in their fields… often requires some time not working, and having to go back to school to upgrade their skills."

So far, about 35 people are registered for the networking event – both new immigrants, including those with Russian-Israeli backgrounds, and Canadian and Winnipeg-born candidates. Many people sign up at the last minute, or just show up. "Last year, we had at least 150 candidates attend. Hopefully, we'll have even more this year," Huot says.

"The whole idea is to get people out to talk to and meet one another, with the hope that it will lead to an interview."

For more information about the Employment Networking event, call 204-480-7559 or e-mail chuot@aspercampus.mb.ca.

ש'שאר י'נ'נו

גידי קורן וחברים

פרסי האקדמיה לסרטים

בשבוע שעבר הוכרזו בארץ בטקס תגיגי הסרטים שזכו באוסקר הישראלי לשנת 2006, ומאחר והתמזל לי לראות את שני הזוכים הגדולים-חשבתי לשתף אתכם במשהו שאינו עוסק בָּמשברים הפוליטיים והמדיניים לשם שינוי.

אביבה אפשטיין הוא סרטו החדש של שמי זרחין, האיש שמאחורי לילֶדָה המפורסם של לפני מספר שנים. אביבה (מלי לוי, שוכתה בפרס שחקנית השנה) היא אשה טבריינית שעובדת במטבח של מלון, שבנוסף לטיפול בילדיה המתבגרים, בעלה המובטל, אמָה המטורפת ואחותה המתוסכלת, כותבת סיפורים מופלאים שקשורים בחוויותיה האישיות. מסיע לה בשיפור כתיבתה סופר ואיש אקדמיה תל אביבי שכבר שנים רבות איננו מסוגל לכתוב. ואז הוא מציע לאביבה להוציא ספר מסיפוריה תחת שמו המפורסם תמורת תשלום נאות. אביבה, שנמצאת במצוקה כספית, מתלבטת האם לוותר על שמה, או להתעקש בסיכון שאיש לא יפרסם את סיפוריה. לא אשתף אתכם בסוד החלטתה, אך רק אומר שזהו סרט רגיש, מצחיק ונגע ללב, חכם ונעים מאוד לצפייה. שמי זרחין זכה בפרס במאי השנה, תסריטאי השנה, והסרט התחלק במקום הראשון עם "אדמה משוגעת". סרט מעורר כבוד ושווה צפייה. שמתה בסולם קורן.

אאפ אשאת הוא סירטו החדש של דרור שאול, שרק לפני כשבוע התקבל בהתלהבות רבה בפסטיבל הסרטים הבינלאומי של טורונטו. זהו סיפורו האוטוביוגרפי של הבמאי, שנולד וגדל בקיבוץ כיסופים שבנגב, על ילדותו בצל מחלת הנפש של אימו, ויחסותו מאביו שהתאבד כשהיה בגיל צעיר. הסרט, שהוא קופרודוקציה ישראלית-צרפתית, עשוי ברמה אירופאית מרשימה. הסרט אינו מחמיא לקיבוץ ולחבריו, ומציגם כקבוצה של אנשים אטומים, שחסרים רגישות מינימאלית למצבם האנוש של האם ושל בנה. בניגוד ל"אביבה אהובתי" שמועלה בהצלחה רבה מזה מספר חודשים, "אדמה משוגעת" יגיע לאקרנים רק בדצמבר. שמתה בסולם קורן.

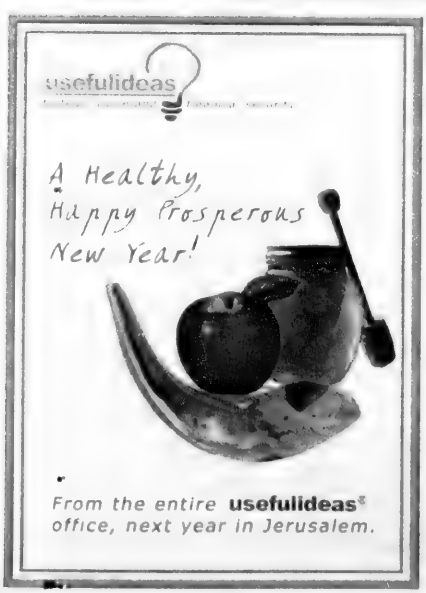
שני הסרטים ראויים לצפייה, רגישים ועשויים ברמה מרשימה ומחמיאה לקולנוע הישראלי החדש. אין לי ספק שתיהנו, אבל שישאר בינינו.

נמר חתימה טובה

שנה קשה הסתיימה, ועיני כולנו נשואות לשנה שתהיה יותר רכה, עם יותר חסד ורחמים. זמן חשבון הנפש יימשך הרבה אחרי הימים הנוראים, ומדינה שלמה תצטרך לתת דין וחשבון על התנהלות הצבא והמנהיגות בזמן מלחמת לבנון השניה. אם מיטיבים לזה את המעקה הקשה של החשדות נגד נשיא המדינה ונגד שר המשפטים לשעבר חיים רימון-הרבה נחת אין לתושבי הארץ ולישראלים באשר הם שם.

הכביש הישראלי

חייתי לפני כשבועיים בארץ למשך שבוע, נהגתי בהזדמנות יתר בצד ימין של הכביש, חששתי לחיי, ראיתי איך מתנהגים הישראלים על הכביש ואמרתי לעצמי עם שנוהג כך, באוסף משמעת מינימאלית, בפראות ופזיזות כל כך בוטות, בלי לאותת ובלי לתת סימן כלשהו על שינוי מסלולים- מה הפלא שהוא מתנהג באותה צורה בצאתו למלחמה, באוסף דאגה לבטחון חייליו הצעירים והמבוגרים, באוסף כבוד לחיי אדם. הלא הכל בא מאותו מקום-ולוותל כללי בזולת, אלא אם כן הזולת הוא במקרה אחיך או חברך מתצבא. כל השאר-על הראשי. אבל שישאר בינינו.



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Nazi-looted art back in Germany

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The battle by the estate of the late Montreal art dealer Max Stern to wrest a valuable Nazi-looted painting from an elderly German aristocrat living in Rhode Island has taken a bizarre twist with the revelation that she spirited the artwork out of the United States to Germany, where it was originally bought.

The aristocrat wants a Cologne court to decide who the lawful owner is and whether she would be owed compensation if she's forced to return the work.

Montreal lawyer Robert Vineberg, an executor of the Stern estate, said he hopes to pre-empt her gambit by obtaining a Rhode Island court declaration that the painting belongs to the estate.

He said it appears that Maria-Louise Bissonnette, 82, believes she will get a more sympathetic hearing in Germany than in the United States. He added, however, that he has "no idea" if that would be the case, or even if a German court will hear the case.

Vineberg maintains the work was "acquired improperly" by the Nazis in the 1930s, and that Bissonnette should have voluntarily handed over the 19th-century oil painting by Franz Xavier Winterhalter, a popular German portraitist, when the estate first contacted her more than 1½ years ago. Titled *Girl from the Sabiner Mountains*, it depicts a slumbering young woman in peasant costume.

Bissonnette is the former Baroness Von Morsey Pickard, whose late husband is believed to have been originally from Quebec. If she still does not relinquish the work, Vineberg said the next step is to try to get a German court to ratify the hoped-for Rhode Island decision, which would permit the estate to seize the painting – if it can be found.

Vineberg said he's almost certain of where the painting is now. The estate is retaining German lawyer and art historian Willi Korte, a specialist in the restitution of looted art for more than 20 years, who has traced it.

He said Korte has also confirmed that Bissonnette's stepfather, the physician Karl Wilharm, who bought the painting at a forced sale for a price well below its value in 1937, was a high-ranking member of the Nazi party and was investigated for war crimes, but never convicted. Bissonnette, who has lived in Providence for many years, inherited the painting from him.

Vineberg said he does not know if Bissonnette broke the law by sending the painting out of the country while it was the subject of legal negotiations, "but at the very least it is morally offensive to take the property out of the country and try to get another court to say it is yours."

It also may have broken an agreement that the painting remain at the auction house where she had consigned it for sale until the dispute was settled out of court.

Stern, who owned the Dominion Gallery for four decades until his death in 1987, is considered one of Canada's foremost art dealers and patrons. He and his late wife Iris had no children and left their estate, which included a huge art collection, to Concordia and McGill universities and Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which have created a foundation in his name.

Concordia launched an international effort in March 2005, headed by cultural property specialist Clarence Epstein, to track down and recover the more than 400 artworks that Stern is said to have had to liquidate from the Dusseldorf gallery he inherited from his father in 1934. Stern sold off his holdings between 1935 and 1937 after the Nazi government ordered him to do so.

In March, Epstein announced that the estate would launch legal proceedings "in the upcoming weeks" against the person in possession of the Winterhalter painting, whom he did not name, after more than a year of negotiations had failed. In April, after the proceedings had begun, Bissonnette's lawyer informed the estate that the painting was in Germany, Epstein said.

Epstein learned of the painting's whereabouts when it was put up for sale in January 2005 on eBay through a Cranston, R.I., auction house, Estates Unlimited. The estate immediately wrote the auction house's owner, Steven Fusco, and informed him of the painting's provenance. Vineberg said Fusco "agreed not to do anything."

The estate's lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Rhode Island, also names Estates Unlimited.

Although the painting apparently left the United States in April, the news only came to light in a Sept. 10 front-page story in the *Boston Globe*.

Bissonnette's position, according to her lawyer John Weltman of Boston, is that she is the painting's legitimate owner because Stern was adequately paid for it. She will only sell it to the Stern foundation for what she considers the fair-market value of $150,000 (all figures US). Fusco said last March that he believed the painting would sell for between $50,000 and $75,000.

Vineberg confirmed that the foundation offered Bissonnette, who reportedly suffers from breast cancer and is of modest means despite her hereditary title, a "relatively small sum" as a goodwill gesture, but he could not confirm that it was $15,000, as reported by the *Globe*.

The paper reported that Weltman, who is Jewish and has represented Jewish families seeking to recover art lost during the Holocaust, said he did not counsel Bissonnette to send the painting to Germany and only knew about the move after the fact. He disputes that there was any agreement preventing her from doing so.

"There's no question it was a forced sale, and it has never been her intention to keep that work of art from the Max Stern foundation," Weltman is quoted as saying. "She simply wants a court to determine to whom the work belongs, and if she has to return it, the issue is how much she's entitled to be paid."

Vineberg said the estate's position is that Stern sold the painting under duress, and in "most jurisdictions, a forced sale is the same as stolen art" therefore Bissonnette is owed nothing. "Her title to it is no better than her stepfather's was," Vineberg said. Moreover, Stern did not even get to keep the bargain price for the painting because he had to flee Nazi oppression for England in 1937. Vineberg acknowledged that this has not yet been proven in court.

Epstein, however, said that the documentary evidence is indisputable. Meticulous catalogues were kept by the Lempertz auction house in Cologne, which handled the 1937 sale of about 225 works and is still in business. Records show the painting was sold to the baroness's stepfather for $3,600, although Stern probably received much less. Epstein believes Stern netted "about two to five cents on the dollar." The Winterhalter is listed as confiscated by the Art Loss Registry in London, Epstein noted.

The Holocaust Claims Processing Office, a New York state agency that assists in the recovery of lost or confiscated art, conducted the negotiations between the estate and Bissonnette and her lawyer.

The office was shocked by Weltman's news that the painting was gone. "Your client's actions… reflect bad faith and are unprecedented in our experience," wrote Sherri North Cohen, a lawyer for the office.

The Winterhalter is one of about 13 Stern holdings that Epstein has located to date and he has traced more than 40 others. Stern is thought to have sold off more than 400 works between 1935 and 1937.

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McGill, Weizmann join forces on cancer research

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Michel Tremblay and Ari Elson are both fascinated by the obscure world of protein tyrosine phosphates (PTPs), a diverse group of enzymes involved in the regulation of cell activity.

PTPs are thought to play an integral role in the "signalling" among cells necessary for growth. When something goes wrong in that normal process, cancer may develop.

Despite their possible importance in the understanding of cancer, PTPs have received little scientific study.

Tremblay, director of the McGill Cancer Centre, and Elson, chair of the Life Science Board at Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science, are in the forefront of that research.

With their labs half a world apart, they have done their best to keep abreast of each other's work and exchange information. Now they look forward to a more formalized collaboration after the first annual joint conference of McGill and Weizmann cancer researchers was held in Montreal this month.

Elson was one of 12 Weizmann cancer researchers who participated in the three-day conference whose topic was Molecular Mechanisms of Tumorigenesis.

Tremblay and Yoram Groner, head of Weizmann's M.D. Moross Institute for Cancer Research, announced the creation of a partnership between their two institutions, which have a total of 150 researchers.

At the conference, more than 30 presentations were made on the latest insights gained in basic and clinical research, covering such topics as how cancer spreads, communication between cells, cell death and therapeutic advances. Five of the researchers also participated in an evening geared to the public.

"This conference with the Weizmann Institute marks the start of a relationship with one of the world's great research centres," Tremblay said. "Through our association with the Weizmann Institute, McGill will not only mount ambitious joint research projects and have access to an important technological platform in both countries, it will also be able to recruit high-level researchers."

The partnership is intended to strengthen and expand the scientific exchanges already existing between the two institutions.

"Many of our research programs overlap and complement each other in all fields of cancer research," Tremblay said.

Groner said that nearly 40 per cent of Weizmann's life-sciences research projects are cancer-related and involve multiple disciplines. "Our scientists are attacking the problem from different directions, exploring the mechanisms of malignancy at its various stages. Their aims include understanding the basic biological processes involved in cancer, devising improved diagnostic techniques and developing targeted therapies."

But true progress can only be achieved by "transcending geographical boundaries," he said. Groner commented that it is a sign of Israel's resilience that a small country that was in the midst of war only a few weeks earlier continues to carry on making a contribution to humanity.

Weizmann already has joint programs with such leading research institutions as the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre and the National Institutes of Health in the United States. Three McGill researchers are currently engaged in post-doctoral studies at Weizmann.

This formal collaboration has its roots in a visit to Israel by 50 Canadian academics, from a variety of disciplines, organized by the Israeli embassy in January 2005. Tremblay was one of four McGill professors on the trip.

After touring the Weizmann Institute, Tremblay realized the advantages of deepening the ties that existed between individual scientists from both institutions.

Tremblay said the inaugural conference shows a great deal of goodwill on both sides "like every new marriage. The challenge now is to see how we can maintain that."

Denis Therien, McGill vice-principal of research and international relations, said that "in an era when one in three people will be diagnosed with cancer during their lifetime, collaborations such as these are imperative to optimize efforts in accelerating cancer-therapy developments.

"Only through interdisciplinary teamwork and international co-operation will breakthrough discoveries and innovations be made," he added.

The McGill centre was founded in 1978 to co-ordinate cancer research in the university's different departments and affiliated hospitals. About 20 researchers work full time at the centre, while another 50 are directly associated. There is an academic chair at Weizmann named for its founding director, Dr. Phil Gold.

The Moross Institute, founded in 1998, co-ordinates more than 50 interdisciplinary research groups studying cancer-related topics at Weizmann and facilitates bringing discoveries to clinical trials.

PTPs are a diverse group – over 100 members of this family have been identified on the human genome – and not much is known about them. Recent observations have shown that PTPs can function as tumour-suppressor genes, while mutations in certain others may cause tumours to form.

Elson, a molecular geneticist, has identified the PTP epsilon as a potential target for breast-cancer therapy.

Tremblay, a biochemist, has found PTPs act as both triggers and targets of the pathways by which DNA damage occurs.

Among the other Weizmann participants was Eli Canaani, whose discoveries led to the development of Gleevac, a drug now used in the treatment of chronic myelogenous leukemia. Renowned McGill cancer researcher, biochemist Nahum Sonenberg, who was recently named a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, is a Weizmann graduate and was one of the conference's organizers.

The inaugural conference, held under the auspices of Weizmann Science Canada, was made possible with funding from McGill, the Israeli consulate, the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation, and several Canadian pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

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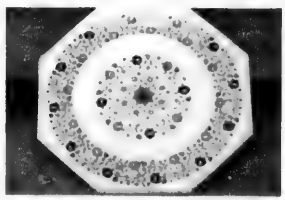

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Israeli hip-hop group rocks London

By NOAH FARBER
Special to The CJN

LONDON, Ont. — Chart-topping Israeli hip-hop group Hadag Nachash ended the Canadian leg of their North American tour by tearing it up in front of 500 University of Western Ontario students at Club Phoenix in London, Ont.

After learning that Hadag Nachash would be performing

in Toronto and Montreal on Sept. 10 and 11, Western Hillel invited the band to London to perform on the following night.

The seven members of Hadag Nachash – rapper Sha'anan Streett, DJ and rapper Guy Mar, keyboardist Dudush Klemes, drummer Moshe "Atraf" Asraf, bassist Yaya Cohen Aharonov, guitarist Nir Geva, singer, saxophonist and flautist Shlomi Alon, and trombonist Yair Selotzki – took to the stage for what Western Hillel president Tali Bogler described as one of Western's biggest Jewish social events ever.

"It's the best way to start the year," Bogler said.

"It was great to see a gathering of so many Jewish students all looking to see a great concert," said fourth-year business student Boris Poley.

Other organizers and sponsors of the gig included Israel on Campus, AEPi, National Jewish Campus Life and the Jewish National Fund.

Hadag Nachash, which is currently touring to promote their fourth album *Be'ezrat Ha'Jam*, uses hip hop as a forum to discuss Israeli political and cultural issues.

Their new No. 1 hit song, *Hine Ani Ba* (Here I Come), for example, is about the deepening cultural struggle in Israel between Jerusalem, the ancient city that symbolizes Israel's heritage, and the country's largest burg, Tel Aviv, which is known for its nightlife.

The band, which infuses rap, hip hop, funk, jazz, electronic, and rock with Middle Eastern modes, is one of Israel's most popular acts, and judging by the hundreds of students that came to the concert, they're quickly making a name for themselves in North America.

"We had people come out that usually shy away from Jewish events on campus. It was great to see so many Jews singing and dancing together, having the chance to hang out with the band and just take in the entire experience," Bogler said.

Israeli hip-hop group Hadag Nachash played for University of Western Ontario students.

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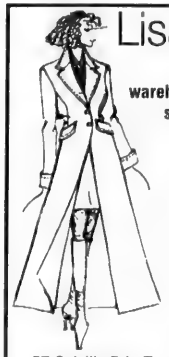

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Cooking experts share their recipes

For the major holidays, the Kashruth Council of Canada, COR, publishes recipes as a service to the community.

This year, COR has published a new newsletter and invited several guests involved with cooking ventures to contribute recipes for the holiday table. Following are two of these recipes.

For information, visit www.cor.ca or call 416-635-9550.

SEVEN VEGETABLE SOUP
Esther Benaim

4 stalks swiss chard, mostly white part and a bit of green leaf
1 quince, peeled, cored and cut into quarters
1 lb. Chinese winter melon or zucchini, peeled and cut into cubes
2 leeks, white part only, cut into small pieces
1 small butternut squash, peeled and cut into cubes
1 rutabaga, peeled and cut into pieces
1/4 small white cabbage, cut into pieces
2 veal bones with marrow
2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. white pepper
a few threads of saffron

Place all vegetables and bones in a soup pot and cover with cold water. Bring to a boil. Add salt, pepper and saffron. Turn heat down and let simmer, covered, until all vegetables are soft.

Remove veal bones. Using a hand blender, puree all ingredients. Adjust seasoning and the soup is ready to serve. Serves 4-6.

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BRISKET WITH DRIED FRUIT AND POTATOES
Daphna Rabinovitch

2 tbsp. vegetable oil
3 onions, chopped
4 cloves garlic, minced
1 tbsp. paprika
1/4 tsp. each ground ginger and coriander
1/2 tsp. ground cumin
1/4 tsp. each turmeric, cinnamon, cayenne and salt
pinch pepper
3 1/2 cups chicken stock
1 1/2 cups dry red wine
3 tbsp. honey
2 bay leaves
1 single side brisket (about 4 lb.)
1 cup dried apricots
1/2 cups pitted prunes
2 each baking and sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks

In large saucepan, heat oil over medium heat; cook onions and garlic, stirring often, for 15 minutes or until soft.

Meanwhile, in a bowl, combine paprika, ginger, coriander, cumin, turmeric, cinnamon, cayenne, salt and pepper and stir half into onion mixture. Cook, stirring for 30 seconds. Add stock, wine, honey and bay leaves; bring to boil. Remove from heat and let cool for 10 minutes.

Trim all but a thin layer of fat from brisket. Rub remaining spice mixture over nonfat side. Place in large roasting pan, fat side up. Scatter apricots and prunes around brisket.

Pour stock-wine mixture over brisket. Cover with foil and bake in centre of 325 oven for three hours, basting every 30 minutes.

Place potatoes around meat. Cover and bake, basting every 30 minutes for one to 1 1/2 hours longer or until meat is very tender. Let cool slightly. Cover and refrigerate for up to 24 hours. Remove solid fat from pan. Transfer meat to cutting board; slice thinly against the grain.

Return to pan and spoon juices over meat. Cover and rewarm in oven at 325 for one hour, basting occasionally. Remove bay leaves. Arrange meat on large platter, arranging dried fruit and potatoes alongside meat. Makes eight servings.

For more recipes, go to www.cjnews.com/food

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Prime Minister Olmert admits to war errors

Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert admitted last week that there were failures in the management of the Israel Defence Forces and the home front during the war in Lebanon.

Ehud Olmert

"There were military mistakes during the war and in how to support the civilian population," Olmert said in an interview with Channel 2.

"I always make mistakes, and the ultimate authority lies with me, but the most basic decisions were not mistakes," he added.

"We could have got ourselves into even greater danger and been under fire from longer range missiles," Olmert continued, claiming that hundreds of Hezbollah guerillas had been killed and the organization's front line had been completely destroyed.

"There is no more threat of Hezbollah on northern settlements," he said.

When asked if the appointment of Defense Minister Amir Peretz was one of his mistakes, Olmert snapped, "He is the defence minister – period! He will continue in this role."

Olmert also pointed out that 15 per cent of the Israeli public had even voted for Peretz to be prime minister.

The prime minister also rejected criticism over the continuation of IDF operations despite the ceasefire secured by the United Nations Security Council.

"It was a correct, justified and responsible decision, which was made out of consideration for all the issues involved. It was impossible for us to halt operations at that time, since we would have endangered the soldiers' lives," Olmert said.

"The IDF told me that we had to continue until we reached a point where if Hezbollah continued with its activities, we would not be in an inferior [strategic] position," he said.

Olmert said the argument that Israel had lost the war is incorrect.

"There is great disappointment amongst the public. I understand that, and it needs to be considered," he conceded. "But there is a new situation now, and the international community has also recognized that we had a huge victory against the guerillas."

When asked about efforts to secure the release of the kidnapped soldiers, Olmert said Israel is working "day and night" to free them. "We are using all our force and all methods," he said, refusing to enter into specifics.

Olmert was quizzed about the timing of the war's end, to which he replied, "We received all the information, all the intelligence, and in the end, all the members of the cabinet accepted this decision, and there were a lot of citizens who also agreed with it."

When asked about reported shortages in equipment supplied to IDF forces, Olmert was defensive. "It's not the job of the prime minister to think about how many vests there are in storage."

Concerning the Palestinian issue, Olmert said the peace process is "by no means dead," adding, "All the time, we are in contact with the Palestinians."

On the Iranian threat, Olmert said the danger must not be taken lightly.

"The threat from Iran is a threat which one must not for a moment take lightly. We are occupied with it unceasingly," he said.

Olmert said that while Israel can defend itself, he hoped the international community would be able to keep Iran in line. "I am convinced that the international effort, led by the United States, will lead to the required results."

IDF developing measures to counter Iran's threat

By YAAKOV KATZ
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — With Iran racing to obtain nuclear weapons, the Israel Defence Forces Home Front Command (HFC) has shifted its focus since the war in Lebanon and is now investing most of its efforts in confronting the threat of non-conventional weapons of mass destruction (WMD), a high-ranking officer revealed last week.

The officer said the HFC was in the process of developing new technological means to deal with chemical and biological threats. The *Jerusalem Post* has learned that the HFC was in the process of developing mobile air-purification containers that could be brought to areas infected by chemical or biological weapons and purify the air.

According to an officer involved in the development, the containers would minimize the number of dead and wounded during a chemical attack since they would quickly purify air infected by deadly chemical agents.

Part of the reason for the shift in the HFC's focus was due to the defence establishment's realization that following the war in Lebanon – during which close to 4,000 missiles were fired at the north – Israel was facing a major threat from ballistic missiles. Iran has developed the Shihab-3 missile that can reportedly carry a 500- to 650-kilogram warhead and has a range of between 1,550 and 1,620 kilometres.

"As was demonstrated during the war in Lebanon, the other side is investing all of its resources in missiles," a high-ranking Israeli Air Force officer said. "We therefore need to provide answers to deal with this threat offensively but also defensively, once the missiles are already launched."

The growing assessment within the defence establishment is that facing a nuclear Iran, Israel will find itself in a "lose-lose situation," as one senior defense official. "If Iran is attacked, long-range missiles will land in Israel," the official said. "If, on the other hand, nothing is done militarily, Israel will find itself under a constant nuclear threat from Iran."

The Post has further learned that in high-level talks with Israeli officials, senior Egyptian officials close to President Hosni Mubarak have given their discreet support for international efforts to stop Iran's race to obtain nuclear capability.

The Egyptian officials told their Israeli counterparts that according to their estimates, Iran will obtain a nuclear bomb within five years and must be stopped. Unlike Egypt, Israel has said that the point of no return regarding Iran's nuclear program is a few months away and at that point the Islamic republic would have independent research, development know-how and the ability to continue its program without outside help.

While the Egyptians gave their support to Israeli diplomatic efforts to stop Iran, the officials also called for the denuclearization of the entire Middle East. The assumption within the defence establishment is that an Iranian success at developing nuclear weapons would lead to a race among other countries in the region – including Egypt and possibly Saudi Arabia – to also begin their own independent nuclear programs.

Meanwhile, Iran said that reports it was ready to consider temporarily freezing uranium enrichment were "just a misconception," but did not rule out that the proposal was being discussed in negotiations with Europe.

Iran has been largely silent amid signs from European officials of some progress in the crucial talks over Iran's nuclear program. Europeans are seeking a freeze in enrichment to avoid imposing United Nations sanctions on Iran and allow broader negotiations to begin.

Iran's comments did little to clarify its position on the suspension issue.

Meanwhile, a senior Iranian official warned against UN sanctions, saying his country would respond by cutting international inspections of its nuclear program.

Government spokesperson Gholan Hossein Elham said in Tehran that any mention of Iran agreeing to suspend its nuclear program, even temporarily, was "just a misconception." Both sides of the negotiation "have not reached any conclusion in this regard," Elham said.

With files from AP.

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Making amends for snub to Herzl's children

Continued from page 1

The Zionist establishment was not eager to advertise the unhappy end that the children of their visionary leader met, and did not press for their burial in Israel. Meanwhile, the Orthodox religious establishment was opposed to bringing their remains to Israel because Hans had violated Jewish law – first by converting to Christianity and later by committing suicide.

Only after Israeli historian Ariel Feldestein pursued the case for six years, after coming across related documents in a brown enveloped marked "Top Secret" at the Central Zionist Archives, did Israeli authorities begin exploring how Herzl's final wishes might be honoured after so many years.

"Why has this not been done before in recent times?" Feldestein asked at a ceremony Sept. 19 in Bordeaux when the coffins were disinterred. "I think it's a question of negligence."

Officials from the Jewish Agency for Israel "came here to Bordeaux in 1949 but decided not to move the coffins. They returned in 1956 and put up a sign marking agency recognition of the coffins, but did not touch them.

"For both occasions, I cannot tell you why no transfer was made," he told JTA.

Feldestein managed to convince Israel's Sephardi chief rabbi, Shlomo Amar, that Hans appeared to have recanted his conversion and might be considered a Jew. Rabbi Amar subsequently wrote a ruling that Hans was a Jew, that his suicide was a result of being mentally unstable and that he should be allowed to be buried in Jerusalem.

"We had the opportunity and we did it, to bring human justice to Herzl," Feldestein said at the ceremony marking their reburial in Jerusalem.

Afterward, talking to reporters, he said times had changed. In 1956, when the state had closed the case on the subject, Israel had "different rabbis and a different generation."

The Herzl siblings' remains were brought to Israel as part of a joint initiative of Olmert and Zeev Bielski, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency.

Bielski said the mission was an especially moving and essential one, since it made amends for the way the WZO snubbed Herzl's children – and especially Pauline when she was destitute and desperate for funds.

"This is about bringing historical justice," Bielski said.

The family had enjoyed a comfortable, bourgeois existence in Vienna and Paris, but by the time he died of heart failure at age 44 in 1904, Herzl had used up his money pursuing the Zionist cause, leaving the family penniless.

The Zionist movement raised money to support the family after Herzl's death, investing the funds in Austro-Hungarian bonds, at the time the safest currency in central Europe. But once World War I broke out, the money was worthless and the family's financial state became precarious.

After Herzl's death, his wife, Julie, spent time in a series of sanatoriums and died three years later, at age 39. According to the most authoritative book written on the family, *The Labyrinth of Exile*, Julie was cremated, and Hans is said to have left the urn with the ashes on a train.

All three of the Herzl children suffered from varying degrees of mental illness. Their messy personal lives and hardscrabble existences hardly resembled the royal future that Herzl imagined for them.

For the World Zionist Organization that Herzl founded, the children became an embarrassment. WZO offices turned down a request for financial assistance from Pauline. By some accounts, the homeless Pauline may have died of hunger.

Hans, the son Herzl envisioned would one day serve his people as a prince, lived in London and struggled for years to get by, earning a paltry living translating his father's writings.

Battling depression and seeking a feeling of connection, he converted to Christianity in 1924, joining the Baptist Church and then hopping among various denominations. He tried being Catholic and then Protestant, Unitarian and Quaker.

Trude, the Herzls' youngest child and her parents' favorite, was killed in the Nazi concentration camp Theresienstadt. She was likely buried in a mass grave.

Her son, Stephen, the last hope for Herzl's imagined dynasty, also met with a tragic end. He survived the war in England, where he served as a lieutenant in the British army, visited British Mandate Palestine once in 1945 but refused to settle there, and took a diplomatic posting for the British government in Washington.

Two months after hearing of his mother's and father's deaths in Theresienstadt, he committed suicide in November 1946 by jumping off a Washington bridge.

Last week, the bodies of Hans and Pauline were removed from the cemetery in Bordeaux in a ceremony organized by the Jewish Agency's Paris office. It was hailed by Jewish Agency officials, Israeli government representatives and members of the French Jewish community as a historic moment.

"Our community was proud to watch over the graves of Hans and Pauline," said Eric Aouizerate, president of the Consistoire of the Gironde-Bordeaux area. "But now the time has come for them to take their place on Mount Herzl."

Bielski told JTA the idea for the reinterment came about five months ago from Olmert.

"He said, 'Let's bring Herzl's children to Israel,'" so the Jewish Agency "went into action," he said.

Last week, under the shade of a white tent over the graves of Pauline and Hans Herzl, relatives living in Israel took in the scene of politicians, flowered wreaths and television cameras.

"At last they have come here in a respectful way," said Rachel Telmon Herzl, 82, whose grandparents were both cousins of Herzl.

JTA correspondent Brett Kline contributed to this story from Bordeaux.

'Aliyah' of a troubled family – the Herzls

By HILLEL HALKIN
Jerusalem Post

Commentary

"Let the dead bury the dead," said Jesus, and that's more or less what Theodor Herzl has managed to do, though it did take some time.

In his will, made public at the time of his death in 1904, Herzl asked to have his three children buried with him when they died, and two of them, Hans and Pauline, finally had their bones exhumed this week from their graves in the Jewish cemetery of Bordeaux and transferred to their father's burial site on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

It's a melancholy story, that of the Herzls. Pauline, the eldest, led a psychologically disturbed life, became a morphine addict, wandered in penury from place to place, and was arrested in Bordeaux for vagrancy shortly before, in 1930, she died there of a heart attack at the age of 40.

Hans, a year younger, came to Bordeaux to make the funeral arrangements and complicated them further by shooting himself in his hotel room and asking to be buried in the same coffin as his sister. Lonely, troubled, and penniless like Pauline – he had to borrow the money to travel to Bordeaux from the Zionist Executive in London – he was psychoanalyzed at one point by Karl Jung and at another stage of his life converted to Christianity. Later, he sought to return to Judaism.

As for Trude, Herzl's youngest child, she was a manic-depressive with delusions of grandeur and a long history of psychiatric hospitalizations. She died in a concentration camp in 1942, and her only child, Herzl's one grandchild, having emigrated to England and changed his name from Stephen Theodor Neumann to Stephen Norman, joined the British foreign service and took his own life in Washington, D.C., in 1946.

You might say that the apples didn't fall that far from the tree. Herzl himself, apart from being regularly accused of being a madman by his anti-Zionist detractors, had pronounced manic tendencies, feared more than once that he was about to go mad, and was obsessed by the subject of suicide. His wife, Julie, from whom he was estranged for most of their marriage, was a chronic neurasthenic who repeatedly threatened to kill herself. With such a family history, the similarities among Pauline, Hans, Trude and Stephen Theodor's fates may have, at least partially, a genetic constituent.

But given a hysterical and over-possessive mother who raged against her husband and mocked his Zionism and a megalomaniac father who was rarely home and was too busy being a leader and a visionary to be with his children, who were still young when he died, there's no need to look for the explanations in DNA. Emotionally close to their mother, Pauline, Hans and Trude at the same time couldn't stand her; it was surely not by sheer accident that, after she died and was cremated in 1907, the 17-year-old Hans mistakenly left the urn with her ashes on a train. Emotionally remote from their father, they also admired him and felt compelled to live up to his image; both Hans and Trude had fantasies of themselves as Jewish leaders that were totally out of reality.

Though a source of great embarrassment to the Zionist movement, Hans' conversion to Christianity – which he viewed as a symbolic act showing the way for the restoration of the Jews to the universal brotherhood of mankind – was more inspired by his father than Herzl's followers cared to admit. Not only, after all, had Herzl, in his pre-Zionist stage, been so indifferent to Judaism that he did not bother to have Hans circumcised at birth; not only did he fail to provide Hans with even a symbolic bar mitzvah ceremony; but it was Herzl himself who, in 1893, a scant three years before writing *The Jewish State*, envisioned the Jewish "problem" being solved by a mass, voluntary conversion to Christianity in a spectacular pageant planned for St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, thus bringing to the world a "message of racial fusion."

Sons sometimes avenge themselves on their fathers by becoming an abandoned part of them. What was Hans' baptism, if not a deliberate act of desecrating his father's memory by acting out precisely what his father had once proposed?

And now their bones are together again. Were there some kind of personal immortality after death, Herzl could perhaps take some comfort in the fact that the children he had so utterly failed to protect while he and they lived from misery, from penury, from madness, from the Nazi concentration camps – were now sheltered in the shadow of his grave.

"Though proud to be a father," writes Herzl's biographer Ernst Pawel, "and ever ready to be maudlin about his children in print or in his letters, he gave them little of his time and even less of himself." Fathers often sacrifice their families for their careers. And yet cannot such men sometimes say in their defence that they were thinking of their families all along, even as they were ignoring them? Might not a Jewish state, had only it come sooner, given Pauline a haven, Hans an alternative to conversion, Trude an escape from the death camps?

A friend of mine, who has been accused by his family of being a workaholic and not communicating with his four children, recently told me of a strange dream he had. "I was in the back of my house, in the garden," he said. "Four little figures – I did not know who they were – began to approach the garden gate leading to the street. I was terribly frightened and wanted to warn them away from it. But when I tried speaking to them, I couldn't talk. Suddenly, I felt myself turning into a dog and let out a growl. Honestly, a real growl! It even woke my wife, who was so scared by it that she woke me."

"Do you think the four little figures were your children?" I asked.

He thought about that. "I guess they were," he said. "You see, in the dream I so much wanted to protect them. I knew the street was dangerous. I had to stop them from going through that gate. But I had no language to say it to them in. I could only growl like a dog." He had tears in his eyes. "And when they grow up, that's all they'll remember: the non-communicative, growling father they had."

His children will, of course, remember more of him than that. So did Herzl's children; but it was Herzl's personal tragedy that though it was with words that he set the Jews on their path to a state, he had so few for Pauline, Hans and Trude.

Israel Briefs

Greetings from Olmert, Katsav

Israel's prime minister and president both called for Jewish unity in their New Year's greetings to Jews worldwide. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert wrote, "Your participation in strengthening the Jewish homeland is invaluable, and your unwavering encouragement reinforces our determination to live our lives here in Israel and to uphold our Jewish, democratic values." Katsav wrote, "On the eve of the New Year 5767, we are once more facing new and difficult challenges that force us to find effective ways of coping with them." In response to such threats, Katsav wrote, "I call on the Jewish communities to tighten and reinforce the connection between the Jews of the Diaspora and the State of Israel, and I call on Jewish youth all over the world to visit Israel, to act to preserve the Jewish heritage, Jewish values and to strengthen the attachment of the Jewish people to its homeland."

New homes planned

Israel plans to build 164 new homes in three West Bank communities. The Israel Lands Administration issued construction offers for additional housing units in Ariel, Alfei Menashe and Karnei Shomron. The move could upset the United States and European Union given Israel's obligation under the "road map" peace plan to freeze settlement expansion. The three settlements cited are located in blocs that Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has said would be annexed to Israel under any future peace deal with the Palestinians.

PM's popularity plunges

Ehud Olmert came fifth in an Israeli opinion poll on who should be prime minister. Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu came first in the *Yediot Achronot* survey with 27 per cent of respondents backing him. He was followed by Avigdor Lieberman, head of Yisrael Beiteinu Party, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Olmert's low ranking, with 7 per cent support, reflects dwindling public faith in his government since the Lebanon war.

UN unfair to Israel: Annan

Kofi Annan said Israel is often unfairly judged at the United Nations. The UN secretary general, who steps down after 10 years at the end of 2006, told the opening of the 61st General Assembly last week that the United Nations' reputation for impartiality would suffer as long as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continued. "On one side, supporters of Israel feel that it is harshly judged by standards that are not applied to its enemies," he said. "And too often this is true, particularly in some UN bodies. On the other side, people are outraged by the disproportionate use of force against Palestinians and by Israel's continued occupation and confiscation of Arab land."

Ahmadinejad backs 'return'

Iran's president called on Israel to admit all Palestinian refugees. "Our position toward the Palestinian question is clear: We say that a nation has been displaced from its own land," Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told *Time* magazine. "Our suggestion is that the 5 million Palestinian refugees come back to their homes, and then the entire people on those lands hold a referendum and choose their own system of government." Israel has long ruled out a mass influx of Palestinian refugees, saying it would destroy the Jewish state.

Buffett visits Israel

Leading investor Warren Buffett said he is committed to Israel. *The Jerusalem Post* quoted the U.S. billionaire as saying that "Berkshire Hathaway and Israel will be here forever, as Israel and the U.S. will be here forever." The businessman made the remarks after visiting Iscar, the Israeli company in which Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway recently acquired an 80 per cent stake. The May investment in Iscar, an international metalworks consortium, was valued at $4 billion (US). Buffett said he was also considering buying Israeli utilities companies.

– *JTA*

Jewish groups protest Ahmadinejad at UN

By JACOB BERKMAN
JTA

NEW YORK — The 61st convening of the United Nations General Assembly was marked outside the UN building by pro-Israel rallies and inside by a growing ideological rift between the United States and its opponents, with Israel caught in the middle.

U.S. President George W. Bush used his speech to the General Assembly last week to appeal to the people of Iran, telling them that their president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is wasting their resources to build nuclear weapons and support terrorism.

In response, Ahmadinejad sought to paint the United States as an imperialist aggressor that uses Israel as its proxy.

Jewish groups and others came out en masse to protest against Ahmadinejad in a rally organized by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, the United Jewish Communities and other groups such as Canadian Jewish Congress.

Some 35,000 people rallied across from the United Nations to protest Ahmadinejad's presence at the world body. The crowd also wanted to show solidarity for Israel and implore the United Nations to enforce Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended Israel's war this summer with Hezbollah and calls for the release of three Israeli soldiers taken hostage by Hamas and Hezbollah.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chairman of the Presidents Conference, referred to Ahmadinejad's night speech to the General Assembly, in which he portrayed the creation of Israel as aggression against the Muslim world.

"He's constantly lied and misrepresented the truth," Hoenlein said, "and he comes and lectures the rest of the world?"

The rally drew dozens of speakers, including Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton, Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, New York Governor George Pataki, Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz, and Canadian MP and former justice minister Irwin Cotler.

"Shame on you for being the biggest Holocaust denier in the world," Wiesel said of Ahmadinejad. "You bring shame to your culture and your nation."

The United Nations, he added, should also be ashamed for giving Ahmadinejad a forum.

Dershowitz brought to the podium a copy of an indictment he said he was set to file against Ahmadinejad for trying to incite genocide against the Jews.

The rally also featured a healthy number of non-Jewish speakers and protesters. Kimberly Nucco and Sonya Davie, members of Christians United for Israel, came to the rally from Brooklyn. Both had been told in their church that it was imperative to support Israel.

It seemed clear, though, that the Jewish state was at the centre of a power struggle as opponents of the United States paint Israel as an the pawn of U.S. imperialism.

Though he didn't mention Israel by name in a speech laced with improbable appeals for more love and human rights, the Iranian president devoted much of his speech to criticizing the Jewish state.

He also called for the UN Security Council to be reformed so the United States would no longer be a permanent member with veto power. The United States, he said, abuses its veto power to achieve its imperialist goals and stifle the voice of the oppressed, Ahmadinejad argued.

"This is blatantly manifested in the way the elected government of Palestine is treated, as well as in the support extended to the Zionist regime," Ahmadinejad said. "It does not matter if people are murdered in Palestine, turned into refugees, captured, imprisoned or besieged. That must not violate human rights."

Ahmadinejad did not use the UN podium to deny the Holocaust, as he has done publicly in the past, but he made clear that he feels the creation of Israel was an act of aggression.

Palestine "was placed under control of some of the war survivors, bringing even larger population groups from elsewhere in the world, who had not even been affected by the war… driving millions of the rightful inhabitants of the land into a diaspora and homelessness," said Ahmadinejad, who in recent years has called repeatedly for Israel's destruction.

"This is a great tragedy with hardly a precedent in history… Can any member of the United Nations accept such a tragedy occurring in their own homeland?"

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez picked up Ahmadinejad's rhetoric in his speech the next day. Calling Bush the devil, he castigated the Security Council for, in his view, allowing Israel to destroy Lebanon and intentionally kill hundreds of civilians.

"The bombs in Beirut had micro-millimetric accuracy, and they are caught in the crossfire?" Chavez said. "It is genocidal."

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The Year in Review

Threat from Iran: 'The World Without Zionism'

Tishrei

EVENTS

• A lulav shortage looms before Sukkot when Egypt, the world's main supplier of palm fronds that form the base of the lulav, suddenly says it will no longer provide the leaves to suppliers internationally. U.S. congressmen and senators work with Egypt's ambassador to the United States and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser to avert the crisis.

• Euroleague basketball champions Maccabi Tel Aviv triumph over the stunned Toronto Raptors in an exhibition game at the Air Canada Centre with a last-minute basket by Tel Aviv's Anthony Parker.

• The Jewish Agency for Israel compensates Israeli Arab terror victims for the first time. Four families who lost relatives in a gun attack by an extremist Jew in the Arab town of Shfaram in August are each given a check for $5,000 (US).

• Qatari officials contribute $10 million (US) toward a sports complex in the Israeli Arab town of Sakhnin, home to Bnei Sakhnin, which won Israel's soccer championship last year.

PEOPLE

• The funeral for Alicia Ross, 25, takes place in Toronto. The Thornhill, Ont., resident had gone missing from her home weeks earlier. Her next door neighbour was later charged with second-degree murder.

• Israeli-American economist Robert Aumann, 75, wins the 2005 Nobel Prize for economics, along with U.S. scientist Thomas Schelling, for using game theory analysis to understand conflict and co-operation.

Cheshvan

EVENTS

• Toronto hosts the annual General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities for the first time in 21 years. Some 3,600 delegates from North America, the former Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, Ethiopia and Israel attend. Prime Minister Paul Martin addresses the opening plenary.

• The 10th anniversary of the assassination of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin is commemorated in Israel and around the world. Some 200,000 people gather in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square, where Rabin was killed in 1995.

• Hundreds of anti-Semitic pamphlets titled "Jewish Supremacism Unmasked" are found in books in libraries at York University, Ryerson University and all three campuses of the University of Toronto.

• Iran's president calls for Israel's destruction. Addressing a Tehran conference titled "The World Without Zionism," Mahmoud Ahmadinejad voices hope that Palestinian terrorism "will wipe off this stigma [Israel] from the face of the Islamic world." In response, Israel calls for Iran's ouster from the United Nations.

• Israel offers aid to Pakistan after a 7.6-magnitude earthquake kills nearly 40,000 and leaves millions homeless. Pakistan, which has no formal ties with Israel, accepts the aid on the condition that it be channelled through a third party.

PEOPLE

• Bill Gates visits Israel and praises its high-tech sector, meeting with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Industry Minister Ehud Olmert, students and local entrepreneurs.

• Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon resigns from the Likud party he helped found and forms a new party, later called Kadima.

• Shimon Peres is ousted as leader of the Labor party by union leader Amir Peretz. He subsequently leaves the party and joins Kadima.

• Torontonian Miriam Anbar, 21, wins the heart of the "bachelor" on the Israeli version of the reality TV show, called *Mikol Habanot B'olam* (Of All the Girls in the World).

Kislev

EVENTS

• The UN General Assembly passes a resolution establishing a Holocaust Memorial Day at the United Nations and calling on member states to incorporate Holocaust education into their missions.

• A suicide bomber blows himself up at a mall in Netanya, murdering five people and wounding 50. Mall security guard Haim Amram, 26, sacrifices his life and prevents many more deaths by stopping the man from entering the building.

• Israel's Magen David Adom edges closer to becoming a full member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movements when Geneva Convention signatory countries adopt a neutral red diamond as an official symbol.

• The number of Israelis taking charity increases from 11 per cent the previous year to 17 per cent, a survey finds. One in two Israelis cites poverty as the country's No. 1 problem, ahead of education and terrorism.

PEOPLE

• Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffers a mild stroke. Dr. Tamir Ben-Hur of Hadassah Ein Karem Hospital in Jerusalem says the stroke "will not leave behind any damage... There's an excellent chance [the stroke] won't repeat itself." Sharon is released and returns to work.

Tevet

Iran's president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad [RNS photo]

EVENTS

• Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffers a massive second stroke that leaves him in a coma and impairs his ability to ever return as prime minister. "He will not continue to be prime minister, but maybe he will be able to understand and to speak," Sharon's chief surgeon Jose Cohen says. Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert takes over Sharon's duties.

• Hamas wins the Palestinian Authority parliamentary elections, taking 76 seats out of 132 seats. Acting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert says there will be no negotiations with a Hamas-led Palestinian Authority. Canada's prime minister-designate, Stephen Harper, says his government will not recognize Hamas if it continues to practise terrorism.

• Twenty left-wing groups in Quebec, including the Fédération des Femmes du Québec and the CEGEP teachers union, endorse a new campaign to boycott Israeli products and firms that support Israel's "apartheid politics."

PEOPLE

• Andrea Bronfman, 60, is killed after being hit by a taxi in Manhattan. The wife of Charles Bronfman is buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem and is remembered for her philanthropy, including birthright israel and the Karev Foundation.

• Playwright Wendy Wasserstein, known for her wry portrayal of strong, conflicted women, dies of lymphoma at 55.

Shvat

EVENTS

• Iran's announcement that it will resume research and development on its "peaceful" nuclear energy program suspended in late 2004 draws international criticism.

• Jewish groups vow to challenge the legality of a new Ontario law banning faith-based arbitration in the province, saying it takes away the legal standing that Jewish courts had enjoyed for 15 years. The law was passed in response to criticism the province was about to give Muslim *sharia* law similar standing in Ontario.

• Abbas Al-Sayed, mastermind of the 2002 bombing of a Passover seder at Netanya's Park Hotel, receives 35 life sentences for his role in the bombing, which killed 30 people.

• Three NASA astronauts arrive in Israel to mark the third anniversary of the Columbia shuttle disaster that killed Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon.

PEOPLE

• Leonard Katz, the first-ever Jewish mayor of Halifax, dies of heart failure at age 89.

• French Jew Ilan Halimi, 23, is murdered after being kidnapped and tortured by French Muslims of North African descent, in what officials call a hate crime.

Adar

EVENTS

• In the run-up to Israel's national elections, acting prime minister and Kadima party member Ehud Olmert says Israel's permanent borders will be established by 2010.

• Avian flu is detected on a farm in the Negev, prompting a mass cull of poultry and the quarantine of several farm personnel.

• The Kadima party wins Israeli elections, garnering 28 seats in the 17th Knesset. The Likud party, which dominated the 16th Knesset with 40 seats, falls to 11, and centre-left Labor wins 20.

• The Dutch culture ministry says 202 of 267 paintings claimed by the survivors of a Dutch Jewish art dealer whose paintings were looted by the Nazis, will be handed over after a decades-long reclamation battle.

• The World Bank approves $42 million (US) in aid to the Palestinian Authority. The decision comes shortly after the European Union announces it will release $143 million (US) in emergency funds for the Palestinian Authority, despite the victory of the terror group Hamas in PA elections.

PEOPLE

• Betty Friedan, whose book *The Feminine Mystique* launched the feminist revolution in the United States, dies at age 85.

• Winnipeg native and Federal Court justice Marshall Rothstein is nominated to the Supreme Court of Canada and will become the body's third Jewish member.

• Israeli ice dancers Galit Chait and Sergei Sakhnovski finish eighth at the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy.

Nisan

EVENTS

• At the opening of a conference in Tehran in support of the Palestinians, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad questions whether the Holocaust took place and labels Israel "a permanent threat" to the Middle East that will soon be annihilated.

• Canada becomes the first donor country to cut diplomatic relations and funding to the Palestinian Authority, saying the newly elected Hamas government promotes violence and does not recognize Israel.

• The Reform- and Conservative-dominated Toronto Board of Rabbis says it won't take part in or endorse Toronto's community-wide Yom Hashoah commemoration after organizers refuse to allow a choir to sing because it includes girls above bar mitzvah age. Organizers say they made the decision out of deference to Orthodox sensibilities.

Continued on page 41

War in Lebanon: 34 days fighting Hezbollah

Continued from page 40

• Nine people are killed and at least 60 wounded when a suicide bomber detonates himself outside a restaurant in Tel Aviv's Neve Sha'anan neighbourhood. It is the second time the same restaurant is targeted. Islamic Jihad and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade claim responsibility.

• Israel's 17th Knesset is sworn in, though celebrations are postponed, out of respect for the victims of the Tel Aviv terror attack that killed nine people and wounded many others. The Kadima-led coalition includes the Labor party, Shas and Gil, the pensioners' party.

PEOPLE

• Israel's top woman tennis player, Shahar Peer, teams up with Sania Mirza, an Indian Muslim, in women's doubles. The pair are semi-finalists in the Japan Open and quarter-finalists at the Thailand Open.

• Rudolf Vrba, one of five Jews able to escape from Auschwitz during the Holocaust, dies of cancer at 82.

Iyar

EVENTS

• Four months after former prime minister Ariel Sharon suffered a massive stroke, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert moves into the Prime Minster's Office and promises to crack down on illegal Jewish settlements in the West Bank and to redefine Israel's borders.

• Larry and Judy Tanenbaum donate $50 million in stock to the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, the endowment arm of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Tanenbaum, a prominent local businessman, is perhaps best known as chairman of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment. The gift comes shortly after a federal budget eliminated the capital gains tax on securities donations.

PEOPLE

• Israeli actor, musician and writer, Yossi Banai dies at 74.

Sivan

EVENTS

• Through his Berkshire Hathaway corporation, investment guru Warren Buffett buys an 80 per cent interest in Iscar, an international metalworks consortium based in Israel, for $4 billion (US).

• The Ontario wing of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) votes to boycott Israel for its policies toward the Palestinians.

• Seventeen alleged Islamic terrorists are arrested in Toronto. Officials say those arrested were not considering Jewish targets.

• The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, a major British teachers union, votes in favour of a boycott of Israeli academics. The boycott is rescinded two weeks later, primarily because of international pressure from academic organizations.

• The hate crimes conviction of former native leader David Ahenakew is thrown out by a Saskatchewan appeals judge who finds that the trial judge didn't consider the defence that Ahenakew did not wilfully promote hatred of Jews.

• The birthright israel program celebrates the arrival in Israel of its 100,000th participant.

• A looted Holocaust-era painting is auctioned to cosmetics magnate and philanthropist Ronald Lauder for a reported $135 million (US). The 1907 portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer by Gustav Klimt had been returned earlier to Bloch-Bauer's niece, Maria Altmann, who put it up for sale.

PEOPLE

• Bernard Ostry, a former prominent federal and provincial civil servant, dies of cancer at the age of 78 in Toronto.

Tammuz

EVENTS

• Israel Defence Forces soldiers Lt. Hanan Barak, 21, and Sgt. Pavel Slutsker, 20, are killed, and Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19, is taken captive by Palestinians who tunnelled under a border fence and infiltrated an Israel Defence Forces base. Hamas and Islamic Jihad claim responsibility.

• The Israel Defence Forces destroys a power plant and three bridges in Gaza after rockets are fired into Israel and two Israeli soldiers are killed. In response to rocket attacks from Gaza and in an effort to free kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit, Israel launches a military operation in the territory.

• The Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada passes a motion in support of CUPE Ontario's resolution to boycott Israel.

• The United Nations' new Human Rights Council passes an anti-Israel resolution, the only country-specific resolution passed at the council's inaugural meeting. The resolution makes Israel's alleged human rights violations and occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories a talking point in all future meetings.

• Israelis mark the 30th anniversary of the Entebbe operation to free more than 100 Jewish hostages held by pro-Palestinian hijackers in Uganda.

• The women's section at Jerusalem's Western Wall is to be expanded to make it equal in size to the men's section.

• France marks the 100th anniversary of the rehabilitation of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus in a ceremony led by President Jacques Chirac at the École Militaire, the site where Dreyfus was stripped of his military honors in 1895. Dreyfus was falsely convicted of treason in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War on anti-Semitic pretenses.

• Hezbollah successfully crosses into Israel, killing eight IDF soldiers and kidnapping two others. It then launches Katyusha rockets into the north of Israel. Calling the attack "an act of war," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert holds the Lebanese government accountable.

Ehud Goldwasser

Eldad Regev

Gilad Shalit

• Israel launches an offensive into Lebanon in an attempt to retrieve its kidnapped soldiers and to oust Hezbollah forces from the northern border. The subsequent military campaign lasts 34 days.

• UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and FEDERATION CJA in Montreal establish emergency Israel crisis relief funds to aid residents in Israel under attack by Hezbollah.

• Rallies in support of Israel are held throughout Canada.

PEOPLE

• Actor-comedian Red Buttons dies at age 87. Born Aaron Chwatt in New York, Buttons was known for his red hair and diminutive stature.

• Rabbi Louis Jacobs, author and the controversial first leader of the Masorti (Conservative) movement in Britain, dies in England at age 85.

Av

EVENTS

• Naveed Afzal Haq, 30, an American Muslim of Pakistani origin, kills one person and injures five others after opening fire at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle building. Haq reportedly told a 911 dispatcher, "These are Jews and I'm tired of getting pushed around and our people getting pushed around by the situation in the Middle East."

• A ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah is implemented after 34 days of fighting during which 115 Israeli soldiers and 52 Israeli civilians die.

• Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel sends eight ambulances and medical supplies to Israel after a Magen David Adom station in the country's north is hit by Hezbollah rockets.

• Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe, Parti Québécois leader André Boisclair and Liberal MP Denis Coderre are among the public figures who attend an anti-Israel rally that features many pro-Hezbollah supporters.

• A United Church of Canada resolution rejects divestment and economic sanctions against Israel at its 39th General Council meeting in Thunder Bay, Ont. Its new resolution supports investing in firms that will benefit the security and economy of Israel and the Palestinians.

• A meeting organized by the Global Network of Researchers on HIV/AIDS in the Middle East and North Africa – a non-political scientific forum – brings together researchers from Beirut, Tehran, Bethlehem, Khartoum and Jerusalem at the 16th International AIDS Conference in Toronto.

• A six-day global aliyah campaign organized by Nefesh B'Nefesh brings 550 North American Jews, 150 of them Canadian, to Israel, the largest number of western immigrants to arrive in Israel in a single day.

• The Israel Defence Forces uncovers and destroys an underground bunker built by Hezbollah. The two-square-kilometre bunker is less than a kilometre from Israel's border and next to a United Nations observation post.

• Some of Israel's army reservists who fought in Lebanon protest their government's handling of the situation in Lebanon and demand the resignation of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Defence Minister Amir Peretz and Chief of Staff Dan Halutz.

• In its 20-page report on the recent war, the human rights organization Amnesty International says Israel deliberately destroyed civilian infrastructure in Lebanon and demands an international investigation for what it calls war crimes. Israel responds that it acted in self-defence and that Hezbollah was operating in civilian areas, making Israel's conduct legal under international law.

The Year 5766 – in Review

PEOPLE

• Josef Furman and Jura Skomatchuk, both former Nazi SS soldiers now in their 80s , may lose their Canadian citizenship for lying to authorities about their former Nazi service.

• Hollywood film star Mel Gibson is pulled over for drunk driving in Malibu, Calif. A report filed by the arresting officer cites Gibson as saying, "F…cking Jews. The Jews are responsible for all the wars in the world," before asking the officer, "Are you a Jew?"

• Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj is dismissed as his party's foreign affairs critic after a trip to south Lebanon in which he called Israel a terrorist state and suggested that Hezbollah be removed from Canada's list of banned terrorist groups.

Elul

EVENTS

• A gunman opens fire in the lobby of the North Valley Jewish Community Centre in Los Angeles wounding three children and two adults. Buford O'Neal Furrow Jr., who has a history of involvement in white supremacist organizations, later tells authorities he wanted his actions to serve as "a wake-up call to America to kill Jews."

• In one of the worst such desecrations in recent years, 219 headstones are damaged at a Winnipeg cemetery.

• Reuters admits that one of its freelancers altered a photo of an Israeli airstrike on Beirut, making the bombardment during the conflict with Hezbollah appear more intense.

• One in three Canadians blame Israel for 9/11, a poll finds.

• Philanthropist Seymour Schulich donates $20 million (US) to the faculty of chemistry at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology.

• At its annual convention, the New Democratic Party (NDP) passes controversial resolutions calling Israel's response to Hezbollah in Lebanon "drastically disproportionate," and calling the Hezbollah terror group "a recognized political party with democratically elected members in Lebanon's parliament."

PEOPLE

• German Nobel Prize-winning author Gunter Grass admits he was a member of the Waffen SS during World War II.

The Year in Review was prepared by Jessica Freiman and Jenna Rosman.

'It meant a lot to us to see the project through'

Continued from page 1

When Jay and Amy Papernick, a recently married young couple from Thornhill, Ont., heard the story of these new immigrants to Israel, they wanted to do something to help the Ethiopian families who returned to the centre after the conflict ended.

"Here they are, totally new to Israel. Most of them speak very little Hebrew, if any. They have come from a very difficult situation to begin with. Then they finally get here, and suddenly they are thrown right into a war," says Jay, a financial advisor with Assante Capital Management in Toronto. "This is no way for them to start their new lives, let alone the New Year, in Israel."

Originally, Jay says, the absorption centre intended to organize a big Rosh Hashanah gathering for the newcomers, all Falash Mora, but because of the war, it had to redirect the celebration budget to fix the damage to the building and feed and care for those who had been relocated during the war.

"After everything they had been through, we thought the least we could do was to give them a great Rosh Hashanah meal for their first Rosh Hashanah in Israel," Jay says.

By the time the couple got the go-ahead from United Israel Appeal (UIA), which agreed to organize the catering of the event from Israel and give them $5,000 (Cdn) of the $15,000 needed for the project, the Papernicks had only three days to raise $10,000. Jay sent out an e-mail to all of their friends and family in Toronto, asking for donations.

"The response was unbelievable," Jay says. "By the time the deadline came around, we had raised $16,000 [from] random friends, family members and co-workers. We told UIA to keep their money for another cause."

A few days later, the Papernicks were on a plane to Israel on a trip they paid for themselves. "It meant a lot to us to see the project through, in person," says Amy, a Grade 2 teacher at Bialik Hebrew Day School in Toronto. "We wanted to be there to connect with the people rather than just give a dinner donated by anonymous people in Canada."

Amy also got the school's Grade 2 and 3 students to make Rosh Hashanah cards in Hebrew and little gifts for the children at the absorption centre. In addition, the Papernicks brought bags of candy, chocolates and New Year's care packages for each family, as well as Canadian flags and pencils.

The personal touch went a long way, Amy says. "The manager of the absorption centre [Yonatan Freedman] kept saying how nice it was that we were actually there to give the gift, because it was much more memorable for them.

"I really enjoyed that part of it," she adds. "We were able to connect with them on a personal level, and I think our presence made their memory of the event that much stronger. I feel that small projects like this make a big difference in people's lives."

In the end, more than 400 people came to the dinner in the ballroom at the Merkaz Hotel in Safed, a lavish dinner that included both Ashkenazi and Sephardi dishes.

"We wanted them to experience a traditional Rosh Hashanah meal," Jay says, adding that the dinner also served as good practice for some of the immigrants who were not used to western skills like using utensils. "The best part of it was the look of enjoyment on their faces. You could tell that they were relieved to not to have to cook and to have something so nice done for them."

To show their appreciation for the event, some of the children performed a short play about Rosh Hashanah. Another child read aloud a poem he wrote about the holiday and the community leader gave a speech to thank the Papernicks.

This was the highlight of the event for Amy. "He got up and did this whole, big speech about how they had never had something so nice, and that it was so great for them to be together for the holiday," she says. "It was beautiful. It felt really good to know that we created [this] experience for them."

The event was also a great learning experience for the Papernicks. "We learned a lot about their culture and how different it is for them to come here," Amy says. "It was really neat to be a part of their culture while they are learning to be a part of ours."

Freedman says that when they first arrive at the centre, most new immigrants from Ethiopia have never seen electric lights, used a toilet or lived in an apartment. When they first come, families of nine or 10 people assume that they are meant to occupy only the living room section of the apartment and other families will occupy the other rooms.

Freedman also says that moving to Israel is especially challenging for the men, who, for the most part, were farmers in Ethiopia and have no skills to bring to their new urban world. The children learn Hebrew quickly and adjust easily to school, the women cook and clean and are able to work in the community, but the men go from being the king of their family to becoming the least useful player in their new life. Depression is common among them.

As for their Judaism, their religious observance has not changed since the destruction of the Second Temple. "When they come to Israel, they have to learn the entire second half of Judaism," Jay says, adding that the most interesting aspect of the cultural exchange was hearing the Ethiopians pray in Hebrew.

"They are so totally different from us in so many ways, but in other ways, their observance is exactly like ours."

By far the biggest thing Canadian Jews and Ethiopian Jews have in common, Jay says, is Zionism. "Having lived through the war [with Hezbollah], all the youth we spoke to said that the only thing that they want to do is join the army. They couldn't be more appreciative of Israel."

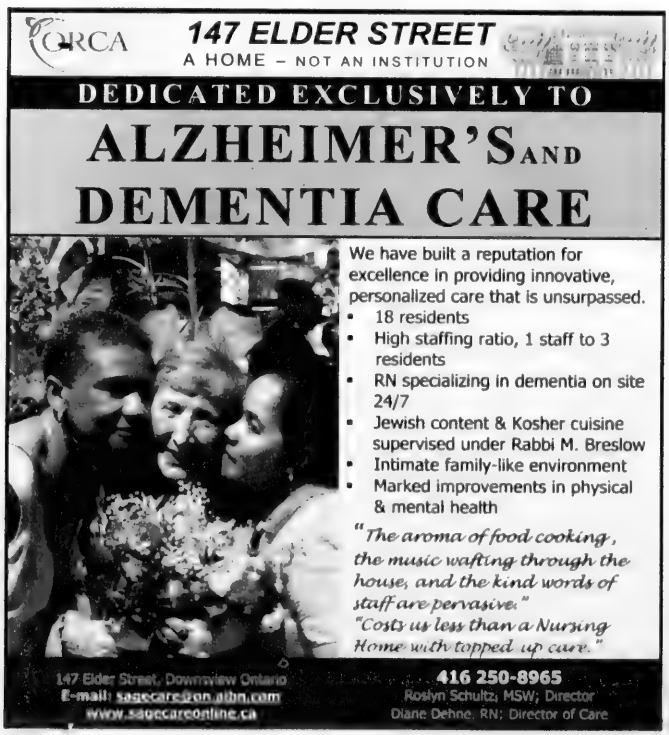
This is one lesson Amy intends to bring back to her students. "I am excited to bring this whole experience back to Bialik and use it as a teaching opportunity for all grades," she says. She has taken lots of photos and video footage of their new friends at the absorption centre.

The Ethiopian children were so touched by the cards the students made them that Amy is going to launch a pen-pal program between them and the Bialik students. "We do so much tikkun olam, but we never see the end result of it," she says. "Now that I can bring back the end result and show the students at Bialik what tikkun olam can do, I think it will do wonders for the program."

Jay says there is still a lot to be done. "It felt a little disheartening that it was just one little thing that we did, and these people are still struggling and could really use more help."

He hopes the initiative marks the beginning of a lasting relationship between the Jews of Toronto and the new immigrants at the Tzahal Absorption Center.

"Until we got there, most of these Ethiopians didn't know where Canada was," he says. "Now they do, and now they know there are Jews in Canada who care about them and who are concerned about their future. Being a part of that felt really good."



Irish academics call for Israel boycott

By HAVIV RETTIG
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Israeli academics over the holiday weekend slammed a call for a European Union boycott of Israeli academic institutions delivered by 61 Irish academics in a recent letter to the *Irish Times*. Signatories to the petition, meanwhile, are defending their actions.

While complaining that the "Israeli government appears impervious to moral appeals from world leaders and to long-standing United Nations resolutions," the Sept. 16 petition called for "a moratorium on any further [cultural and academic] support to Israeli academic institutions, at both national and European levels."

The petition cited Israel's "policy of violent repression against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and its aggression against the people of Lebanon" and urged that the "moratorium should continue until Israel abides by UN resolutions and ends the occupation of Palestinian territories."

"It is obvious that there is no universal norm [in the call for boycott], only discrimination," Prof. Alexander Yakobson said in response to the petition.

Yakobson, a lecturer in history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, recently authored a book with former MK and renowned legal scholar Amnon Rubinstein titled *Israel and the Family of Nations: The Jewish Nation-State and Human Rights*, which confronts anti-Israel activism and discourse.

"The petitioners don't call for a boycott of academic institutions in every country with whose policies they disagree," Yakobson said. "They don't demand a boycott of Sudan, or of China, which has tremendous academic ties to Europe. And they don't want to boycott the United States or Britain over Iraq. There is no universal norm, they're just anti-Israel. So we have to ask what it is about Israel that upsets them."

More importantly, Yakobson said, "they don't demand of any Palestinian academic even to disavow terror." This is particularly strange, he believes, since "even when Europe imposed sanctions on the Hamas government, it did not impose them on Palestinian universities. Nobody has even suggested doing this."

In a letter sent to European Commission members and offices late last week, Yosef Yeshurun of Bar-Ilan University, who chairs the International Advisory Board for Academic Freedom (IAB), and Edward Beck of Walden University, who serves as president of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, blasted the boycott, calling it "antithetical to the universal principle of academic freedom."

"The call for an EU boycott of Israeli academia is a betrayal of [academic] values," Yeshurun and Beck wrote. "Academic life is about building bridges, not destroying them; opening minds, not closing them; hearing both sides of an argument, not one alone," they argued.

Books & Authors

A Sephardi Yom Kippur in the byways of Jerusalem

Haim Sabato's third novel, The Dawning of the Day: A Jerusalem Tale, *has just been released by Toby Press in English translation from the Hebrew. A humble, religious Jerusalemite in Machane Yehuda who works as a presser in a laundry, Ezra Siman Tov is a teller of stories. Ezra also has a source of shame and a secret that overshadows his family, and his pain is particularly acute as Yom Kippur approaches. Only at the bittersweet end of this sensitive psychological mystery do we learn what was the youthful sin that so tormented Ezra. Through him we penetrate the deepest meanings of repentance and atonement. Below is a selection abridged from chapter four.*

By HAIM SABATO

A radiant and happy countenance adorned Ezra's face throughout the entire year, except for the days between the *Straits* and the Days of Penitence. During the Days of Penitence the tension and heaviness were apparent in his demeanour. From the day they announced the coming of the month of Elul in the Zoharei Hamah Synagogue up until the moment he emerged from the ritual bath on the eve of the Day of Atonement, a period of almost six weeks, a cloud hovered about him, as if he were a man anxious and concerned.

In these weeks he increased his service of heaven and spent less time on idle matters, rising early to recite the penitential prayers and remaining silent for long stretches of time, augmenting his almsgiving and beneficence to acquire advocates in the heavenly court.

During this period, Haham Menashe would rid his homilies of humorous and entertaining tales and deliver words of chastisement and ethical rebuke, filling his sermons with discussions of *Sha'arei Teshuvah* by Rabbeinu Jonah the Pietist or *The Duties of the Heart* by Rabbeinu Bahya. Ezra Siman Tov would listen to the penitential prayers and hymns and shake with anticipation. Their words would take hold of his heart.

My youthful vigour cares but for itself.
When will I my haughty spirit save?
And how may I my maker truly serve, when I am but my carnal passion's slave?
What can I utter? Implacable desires pursue me from childhood to the grave.

His heart shuddered at the gravity of judgment. The verses repeated themselves in his mind throughout the day and would not relent for even the slightest moment.

Haim Sabato

'For several years he wept and pleaded for his sin to be pardoned'

My youthful vigour cares but for itself.
When will I my haughty spirit save?
My youthful vigour cares but for itself.
When will I my haughty spirit save?

He was filled with terror of Day of Judgment. Each time he arrived at the appeal for repentance in the prayer of the 18 blessings, his eyes filled with tears, and the memory of the folly committed in his youth loomed before him and did not leave him. Hard and painful the deed had been, and still more painful was its memory. At those moments the sigh of the poet would appear before him.

Whither may I turn for succour, for support on judgment day?
Constantly my sins surround me; I flush with shame, in disarray;
If my friends could scent my errors, they would flee without delay.

For several years he wept and pleaded for his sin to be pardoned, and he scrubbed and scoured the stain with all his might. But every year during the penitential days, it seemed to him as though his sin returned and stood mockingly before him: "You think that you have erased the stain. You err." And he could tell that his sin spoke truthfully. Ezra well knew what the Torah promised about repentance, that the sages had said, "Great is repentance for it reaches unto the Throne of Glory," but "the heart recognizes its own bitterness." But he felt the impure thoughts about that sin accompany him, for they had not been entirely uprooted and filled him with shame.

Thus he walked, meditating upon repentance and filled with shame, throughout the time between the first days of the month of Elul and the eve of the Day of Atonement.

On the eve of the Day of Atonement, after having been flogged on his back with a calfskin strap by the beadle of the synagogue, Benjamin Assoulin, in commemoration of the 40 lashes; after his lips had uttered the verse three times, *"But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time He turned his anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath"*; after he had descended and immersed himself in the pure waters of the ritual bath in order to fulfil what is said, that *"we have come through fire and water,"* and had emerged and dried off; only then, at that moment, was it apparent that his sin had been reconciled.

A certain spirit of purity and appeasement spread throughout the world. At that instant, even the slightest memory of the sin seemed fleeting, and he was filled with love toward the entire world. When he sat in the Zoharei Hamah synagogue before the opening prayer, *Kol Nidrei*, with the entire congregation wrapped in white prayer shawls, and listened to Haham Eliyahu Raful begin the hymn *To Thee my God, my yearning*. "In Thee, my soul and my mind, my breath and my spirit," he felt his heart fill with great longing and tenderness. When Haham Raful reached the closing lines of the hymn:

With my whole heart, Thee have I sought;
May my request not be for naught.
Wash out my errors in thy grace,
With tears I shed before thy face;
Truly my soul has said its piece
Through Thee my God I seek my peace
Gather in with love my sin
On the day that I am gathered in,
The day when I to meet Thee go
Accept my Lord my conduct so
And grant to me my just reward
For those that follow Thee, O Lord…

His entire being shook and stirred as if a spirit of purity from the recesses of the synagogue had settled upon him. Once, in those very moments, a thought had occurred to him: Would that when the time comes for me to depart from the world I might depart with that very hymn and melody.

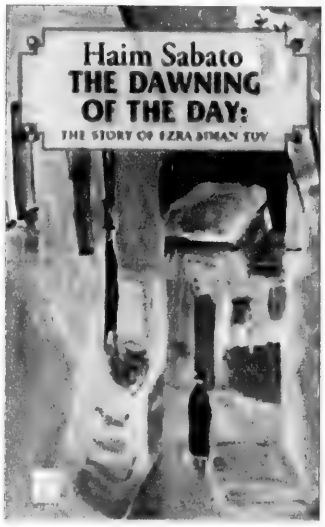
Every Thursday night… Ezra would walk through Nahlaot, down a small alleyway off Betzalel Street next to the Synagogue of the Jarmulkim, and then descend 10 steps before arriving at the house of the celebrated musician Rahamim Kalifa.

Rahamim was a great artist. He was also blind. A lonely, childless man. An extraordinary player of the oud, the qanun and the violin… The cantors had learned many melodies from Rahamim, each one different from the others. What they all had in common was the pain that pulsed through them and melted the hardness every heart. Yet they were not entirely forlorn – a thin thread of light always sprang forth full of hope, and even the pain itself was gentle…

Ezra Siman Tov would come to Rahamim's house every Thursday evening armed with two overflowing baskets. Tiptoeing silently, he opened the door quietly. As soon as Ezra put his hand on the doorknob, Rahamim would recognize him and call out "Ezra, welcome"…

As soon as he arrived, he picked up a broom and swept the house free of dust, filled a bucket with water and washed the floor. Afterwards, he would take a rag and wipe the dust off the few pieces of furniture in the room. In the kitchen, he would wash the dishes that lay in the sink, then put a pot of water on to boil, put away the food he had brought with him for the Sabbath. He would prepare a mug of hot tea, bring it to Rahamim and sit down at his side.

Every Thursday, Rahamim asked Ezra to tell him a story. And Ezra would do so. When Ezra finished telling his tale, Rahamim would pick up his violin, tuck it under his chin, pick up his bow, focus his thoughts as if he were standing at prayer,



and fill the room with sweet and pleasing sounds. Throughout the entire week he played the qanun; this was the only time that he touched his aged fiddle.

The violin sighed, wept softly, cried; then it moaned, wavered, and prayed; then it opened a window onto a new world and seemed to laugh as if it were floating and dancing lightly. Ezra closed his eyes in those moments as if his spirit had left his body and floated through other worlds. At last Rahamim would put down his bow, raise his chin from the violin.

Once Rahamim asked him, "Ezra, what would you call the story told by my violin?"

Ezra was silent.

Rahamim turned to him. "If I were to take a title from Scripture, I would call it 'My soul, wait thou only upon God'; for my expectation is from Him; from the writings of the sages, I would call it 'The Lord desires Thy Heart.'"

Ezra remained silent. When he got up to leave, a phrase from one of the dawn hymns occurred to him and stood in front of him, pleading. He said to him, "I would call it, 'The Dawning of the Day.'"

Throughout his entire life, Ezra had never heard such a melody, or anything like it; and Rahamim had never performed such a melody, not on any other day, or for anyone else. Neither Rahamim nor Ezra ever told anyone about this melody. It was a secret between the two of them. Who knew its meaning?

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Watch the caloric content of alcoholic beverages

Q. I have an alcoholic drink on occasion, and I am wondering about the difference in calories between wine, hard liquor and beer. Could you please tell me which has the fewest calories?

A. There is certainly a difference in the calories in various alcoholic beverages, but, of course, the amount is important too. Many people, when pouring a drink, tend to be a little generous and actually drink more than they think they are. So if you're concerned about the calories, start by having a good sense of the real size of your drink.

Regular beer has about 150 calories in 12 ounces, about the same as a can of pop. Light beer has about 100 calories in the same size serving, so there are 33 per cent fewer calories, an amount that is substantial if you drink beer often. With hard liquor, including scotch, vodka, rum and whiskey, 1.5 ounces contain between 100 and 125 calories, while 3.5 ounces of wine (red, white or blush) contain about 75 calories.

By comparing these amounts, you can see that wine is lowest in calories, but again, the most significant issue to consider is the amount that you drink. Two drinks every night really add up, not only in terms of calories, but also in the effect that alcohol has on your metabolism.

While alcohol is fat free, you should look at it as if it was a little dessert in a glass. Alcohol is metabolized as a sugar in the body, and those added calories do count. Ideally if you are drinking with a meal, you should eat less to compensate accordingly for these calories; however, we tend to do the opposite. We typically drink alcohol at our largest meal of the day or week. We drink when we are out on a Saturday night and eating a large, rich meal. Or at the Shabbat table, which again is often a heavy meal. So be aware of how much you're drinking as well as how often.

When you drink, you notice that you feel relaxed. Alcohol has an almost sedative-like effect. This slows your body down, including your metabolism. The alcohol does not necessarily do permanent damage to your metabolism – it returns to normal after the alcohol wears off – but in the interim, you are burning off the food less efficiently than if you had not consumed alcohol with the meal. Therefore, if you drink most nights, or many nights, then you create this effect often. This will not be a problem if you are careful about the quantity of both food and alcohol. Otherwise, it may contribute to added weight.

One way to indulge in alcoholic beverages and still limit calories is to have drinks like wine spritzers (wine mixed with soda water). Or try a bloody mary or bloody caesar. While fruit juice is high in calories, tomato juice is low and very filling, and you'll eat less, making one of these a great cocktail party choice.

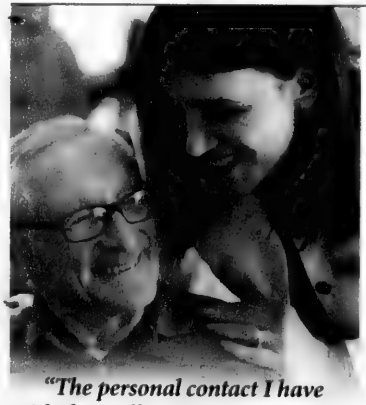
Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

FRUITS OF HESCHEL:

Toronto Heschel School Grade 2 students Goldie Turk, left, and Drew Cohen will be among those enjoying the fruits of a much larger organic Heschel garden this year, when vegetables grown from seeds students planted last spring will be harvested in time for Sukkot. The garden is located on the grounds of the school's newly amalgamated single campus at Sheppard Aveue and Faywood Boulevard, where elementary students have joined their middle school counterparts this fall.

GETTING READY: Eitan Grinshpan, left, Habonim Dror's incoming shaliach in Toronto, consults with Simona Dayan, Jewish studies prinicipal at Bialik Hebrew Day School, second from left, as well as Bialik's special events co-ordinator Ziona Hagler and outgoing Habonim Dror shaliach Omer Eshel, about this year's series of special programs sponsored by Habonim Dror that aim to enrich Bialik's teaching of Israel and other aspects of Bialik's Jewish studies curriculum.

THE RESPECT I DESERVE



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With 14,000 square feet over two levels, including a separate nightclub and streetside patio, the Hard Rock in Toronto offers a wide variety of configurations for a wide variety of events, from family celebrations to Fortune 500 conferences, breakfast through late-night.

Says DeOliveira: "We've hosted countless bar and bat mitzvahs, corporate receptions, product launches, press conferences and weddings. We've put on events for 50 guests and for 500, hosting everyone from Deloitte & Touche to the big music company BMG. And people love the place. It's a very special environment."

As if to make his point, DeOliveira walks a visitor past some of the priceless rock memorabilia hanging on the wall. There's Bob Dylan's autographed guitar from the cover of a 1984 live album and a handmade mariachi suit he wore on tour. There's a pair of sketches by John Lennon, a fur-trimmed purple jacket that belonged to Prince, and an outrageous pair of platform shoes from the closet of Stanley Eisen—better known as Paul Stanley of Kiss. That's not to mention the beautiful custom instrument once owned by Canadian guitar virtuoso, Alex Lifeson, of Rush.

DeOliveira explains that his staff will design exactly the experience a guest is looking for. "You can do a sit-down dinner or a buffet—for instance, our bar and bat mitzvah buffet includes, among other things, lox canapes, spanikopita, caesar salad, roasted chicken and lasagna. We have great sound, great lighting and video monitors throughout the Cafe. We can set up for dancing or karaoke. We can even put together really fun loot bags from our Rock Shop. Whatever you need. Because to us—whether you're a certified public accountant or a certified 13-year-old—you're a rock star."

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For more information, contact Marcelo DeOliveira,

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Arts & Travel

Jazz singer Sophie Milman surprised by her success

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Sophie Milman

When she moved to Toronto in 1999, the Russian-born teenager would never have believed seven years later she'd be performing to a thousand people to promote her top-selling jazz album.

But Sophie Milman, now 23, a commerce student at the University of Toronto, is taking it all in stride. Since her self-titled album was released over a year and a half ago, she's been busy touring and keeping up with her studies. She'll be playing at the Winter Garden Theatre in Toronto on Oct. 28.

"I am surprised by my success for sure," Milman says. "As the record started doing better, my expectations have changed. At first I didn't allow myself to hope for too much."

Milman, who moved from east Russia to Israel when she was seven and then to Toronto at 16, has sold more than 50,000 copies of her debut CD and was up for a Juno Award this year, losing to Diana Krall. "I was in pretty good company with Paul Anka," she says of her nomination. "It was all fun. I didn't go to the Junos expecting to win and didn't have a speech prepared."

At her boyfriend's urging, she did scribble something down on a napkin just in case. "For the most part, I've been really lucky. It doesn't always happen as quickly as it happened to me. Fifty thousand copies is not Diana Krall, but it's good for an indie release. When this all started, I wasn't expecting to sell that much."

It was Canadian jazz producer Bill King who spotted her performing at a jazz singer series he hosted. After seeing her perform a few times, he realized she was no fluke, and she was offered a recording contract with the independent label Linus, which has a major distribution deal with Warner Music. Since then, her album has been solidly in the top five jazz recordings in Canada and was a No. 1 download on iTunes in France and the United States.

After spending the summer touring all over the United States, Milman is now back at school, but her hectic schedule means she can only attend part time. "I no longer think I'm Superwoman, studying full time in the week and performing in Mexico City on the weekend," she says.

"Things are happening at an insane speed, my life is definitely a lot more hectic," she says, and people are telling her to quit school altogether. "I'm not that kind of person. I really want to finish my education."

It hasn't always been easy for Milman. She was born near the Ural Mountains in eastern Russia, but moved to Israel as a young child with her family when the opportunity presented itself after the fall of communism. "It was very difficult," she says of the transition. "I stopped being a kid and became a tiny little adult. I went from being a Jew in Russia to a Russian in Israel. In 1989-90, over a million Russian Jews went to Israel. In the beginning, there was lots of animosity and we suffered a lot."

No sooner was she getting settled, then she was on the move again. In 1999, her family immigrated to Canada, settling in Toronto, mostly because of the security situation in Israel.

When she moved to Toronto, she never anticipated singing was what she'd be doing now. "I was an angry teenager. I was a loner, totally alienated from the high school community [Forest Hill Collegiate]. Nobody could have told me I'd be playing in front of 1,000 people. It's insane."

It was in Israel that Milman discovered jazz. Unable to afford a CD player and new CDs, she fell under the spell of her father's records, listening to artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, George Gershwin and Oscar Peterson. "He's a huge jazz fan and he started to throw all these jazz records at me. I was not really exposed to other stuff growing up," Milman says, showing no trace of either a Russian or Hebrew accent.

After performing in so many places over the past year, Milman is looking forward to playing in her hometown on Oct. 28. "It will be fun. We have lots of new material to play. But it will also be nerve-racking. My parents and friends who haven't seen me play in a long time will be there."

Next year, in addition to studying and performing on weekends, Milman will be spending at least a week in Japan, where her album has just been released. "We'll be touring all the biggest jazz clubs there. The record has become a bit of a hit there," she says. She's also working on new material and is hoping to find some time to go to the studio to record a new album next year.

Her current album, a mixture of popular jazz standards, undiscovered gems and contemporary songs includes Edith Piaf's *La Vie en Rose*; the Sondheim/Bernstein hit *I Feel Pretty*, *Ochi Cherenye*, an old Russian song, and *Matchmaker Matchmaker* from *Fiddler on the Roof*. It has recently been released in Europe and is doing well there as well.

"It's a hit in Poland," she says. "That's a little weird. I'm a hit in Poland – how weird does that sound?"

Tickets for her performance at the Winter Garden Theatre can be purchased at Ticketmaster for $39.50.

Arts & Travel

Israeli film portrays a doomed gay relationship

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

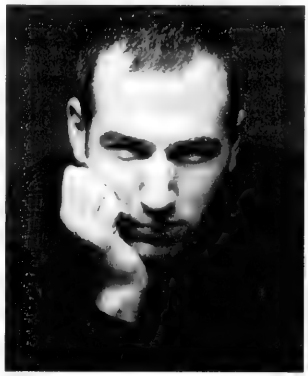
What do you do for an encore?

Tel Aviv-based filmmakers Eytan Fox and Gal Uchovsky must have asked themselves this question after the commercial success of their last film, *Walk on Water*, the highest-grossing movie in Israeli history.

The story of a Mossad secret-service agent assigned to track down a Nazi war criminal, *Walk on Water* was screened in 25 countries and was a box-office hit, earning a grand total of $7 million (US).

Hot on its heels, the Israeli duo recently presented their latest picture, *The Bubble*, at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Mainly set on Sheinkin Street, in their hip neighbourhood in central Tel Aviv, *The Bubble* is unique in terms of subject matter – the first Israeli feature-length film about a gay relationship between an Israeli Jew and a Palestinian Arab.



Eytan Fox, who made *The Bubble*, with Gal Uchovsky, said Tel Aviv, where the film is set, "is the only truly liberal and progressive place to live in Israel."

It opened in Israeli theatres at the end of June, shortly before the second war in Lebanon broke out on July 12.

"Our timing was terrible," said Fox, noting that movie theatres all over northern Israel closed in response to Hezbollah Katyusha rocket fire.

But once the war ended in mid-August, *The Bubble* bounced back and the buzz about it resumed.

"It has created a lot of commotion in Israel," said Fox, the director and co-screenwriter. "Not left-wing enough, too left-wing. Too gay, not gay enough. It got people talking. Numerous articles have been published about it."

In *The Bubble*, which is due to be released in Canada next year, Noam (Ohad Knoller), an Israeli reservist soldier, strikes up a red-hot romance with Ashraf (Yousef "Joe" Sweid), a Palestinian from Nablus, after a chance meeting at a checkpoint in the West Bank.

The homosexual theme is hardly coincidental.

Fox and Uchovsky, who are both gay and live as a couple in the cosmopolitan neighbourhood where the film mostly unfolds, are partial toward gay characters and situations.

In *Walk on Water* (2004), the grandson of the hunted Nazi criminal is gay, while in *Yossi & Jagger* (2002), two male soldiers stationed in southern Lebanon gravitate to each other.

Fox, who was born in New York City and raised in Jerusalem, regards *The Bubble* as something of a paean to Tel Aviv, whose openness and cosmopolitanism he highly appreciates.

"Tel Aviv is a socially and culturally vibrant city, and is the only truly liberal and progressive place to live in Israel. But Tel Aviv is a bubble, cut off from the harsh reality of the Middle East."

Not surprisingly, gays feel comfortable in Tel Aviv.

"It has amazingly become one of the world's most hospitable havens for homosexuals," observed Fox, who is 42. "But this was not always the case, and is a reaction to previous years of oppression," he added. "Lots of Israelis would leave Israel if not for Tel Aviv, which is an alternative to the religious right."

Uchovsky, the 48-year-old producer and co-scriptwriter whose artistic collaboration with Fox began in 1997 with the musical short *Gotta Have Heart*, agrees with his partner's assessment.

"Israel is very tolerant toward gays and lesbians, which marks a shift in attitude. Israel is one of the best countries in the Middle East for gays and lesbians."

This emerges in *The Bubble* loud and clear.

Ashraf, the scion of a socially conservative clan, has no choice but to conceal his homosexuality from family and friends. Only in Israel, and in the arms of Noam, can he truly be himself and find happiness and bliss.

"Palestinian society is not really open to gays," said Uchovsky, who has been a vocal advocate of gays rights for the past two decades. "It's complicated to be a gay there, and even more so to sleep with the enemy."

Fox believes that Israeli and Palestinian gays may one day be lovers, friends and partners. But in *The Bubble*, friendships of this kind are definitely doomed.

Expressing pessimism over the state of Israel's current relations with the Palestinians, Fox commented, "We're in one of the worst times as far as hope goes. Israelis have become cynical, but I think people want to live in peace."

Fox, who opposed the recent war in Lebanon from the outset, said that Israel must be flexible in its approach toward the Palestinians.

"They will be our neighbours forever, and we have to find a way of talking to them."

For real peace, he said, Israel should be prepared to withdraw to the pre-1967 lines and resolve the gnawing Palestinian refugee problem.

"We've conducted ourselves wrongly and we've gone astray," said Fox in a reference to Israel's policies toward the Palestinians. "But I love Israel and care about it."

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE TURNING 100 YEARS YOUNG

The Royal Alexandra Theatre, the Edwardian-era theatre that **Honest Ed Mirvish** rescued from possible demolition in the '60s, is turning 100 years old next year. The Alex opened on August 26, 1907, and has been in almost continuous operation as a legitimate theatre ever since.

The "Grande Dame of King Street" was recently renovated in preparation for its centenary and the Toronto publishing house McArthur & Company has begun preparing a commemorative book. Members of the public are being asked to contribute stories, photos and other memorabilia.

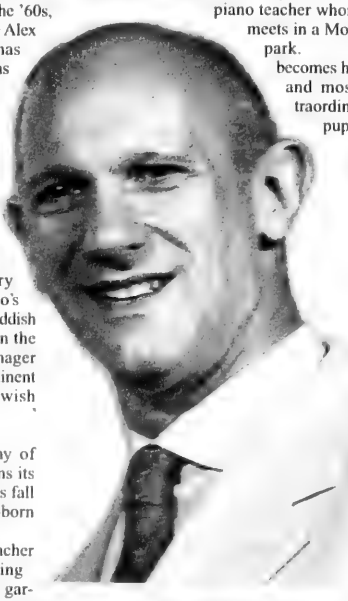
The Royal Alex's rich history happens to overlap with that of Toronto's Jewish community, since numerous Yiddish productions were performed there in the early days and its first longtime manager was **Lawrence (Lol) Solmon**, a prominent businessman and member of the Jewish community.

* * *

Names in the News: The Academy of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles opens its Outstanding Documentaries series this fall with *Mr. Mergler's Gift* by Montreal-born filmmaker **Beverly Shaffer**.

Shaffer is a former high school teacher who took up film as a more interesting way to earn a living. Her works have garnered more than 40 awards during her career at the National Film Board. She won an Oscar for her sensitive portrayal of a disabled girl in *I'll Find A Way* (1978), one in a series about children from diverse backgrounds across Canada.

Mr. Mergler's Gift explores the relationship between a nine-year-old pianist, the daughter of Chinese immigrants, and her piano teacher whom she meets in a Montreal park. She becomes his last and most extraordinary pupil.



David Mirvish

Shaffer's filmography includes *To My Birthmother* (2002), about a woman's search for her biological mother, and the Children of Jerusalem series produced between 1991 and '96, focusing on the lives of seven Palestinian and Israeli children. Before joining the National Film Board, she worked for the American PBS network in Boston on the acclaimed series Nova and Zoom.

* * *

Names in the News II: Joe Rosenblatt, one-time Governor General's Award winner (1976) is the subject of *Joe Rosenblatt: Essays on His Works*, a recent addition to a notable literary series from Guernica Editions. Edited by **Linda Rogers**, the book offers a biographical peek at a Canadian original who deftly combines words and images in both his poetry and art. Its 18 essays include pieces by **Barry Callaghan, Susan Musgrave, Ada Donati** and **Sharon Abron Drache**.

While we're on the subject, we've been informed that a photo that ran in this space recently was misidentified as **Michael Redhill** but was actually Joe Rosenblatt. *The CJN* regrets the error.

* * *

Musical and Drama

• **Diane Flacks** performs her one-woman show, *Bear with Me*, a comic flight into the secret and insane world of motherhood, as part of the Between Stages playwrights reading series. Pay what you can. Suggested donation $8. Thursday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m. esthera@mnjcc.org, 416-924-6211, ext. 606

• The acclaimed play *Hana's Suitcase*, written by **Emil Sher** and based on the bestselling book by **Karen Levine**, returns to the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People from Sept. 30 to Oct. 19 before embarking on a Canadian tour. Dates have been confirmed for the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton (Oct. 28 to Nov. 12) and the Manitoba Theatre for Young People in Winnipeg (Nov. 16 to 26).

• **Balagan**, a huge band featuring **Mickey Lewin, Jordan Klapman** and others, plays everything from traditional Jewish tunes to modern Israeli pop, including Hebrew bossa novas, French cabaret, and Mediterranean and Afro-Cuban rhythms. Nadal JCC, Al Green Theatre. $12-$10. Oct. 5, 8 p.m.

Television & Film

• TV Ontario launches a new flagship current affairs program this week. *The Agenda* with **Steve Paikin** airs nightly at 8 p.m. and is repeated at 11. The show practises what Paikin calls "long-form" journalism, each program tackling only one or two topics. The show also marks TVO's entry into the emerging sphere of "citizen journalism," and utilizes video, audio and written content sent in by viewers.

• **Garry Beitel**'s documentary *Chez Schwartz* premières at the Calgary International Film Festival on Sept. 30. The Montreal filmmaker is slated to attend the opening, where 100 pounds of Schwartz's famous Montreal smoked meat will be served. "The film is about how a place that is a legend has an effect on the people who work and eat there," said Beitel, who spent nearly a year at the famous deli and shot more than 70 hours of footage.

•A repeat broadcast of *Fatherland*, a film by **Manfred Becker** about how three generations of Germans are dealing with Germany's responsibility for the Holocaust, airs on History Television, Thursday, Sept. 28, 9:30 p.m. Becker's documentary, *Hitler's Children: Germany in Autumn 1977*, about the Baader-Meinhof gang, premières on the same channel on Oct. 4, 10 p.m.

Literary Notes

• The grand opening of George Faludy Place, a city parkette dedicated to the recently deceased Hungarian-Jewish poet, takes place Tuesday, Oct. 3, 12:30 p.m. The parkette, a co-operative effort of the City of Toronto, Toronto Legacy Project, Heritage Toronto and University of Toronto, is located opposite 25 St. Mary St. (south of Charles Street, east of Bay Street).

• Ottawa professor-poet **Seymour Mayne** is slated to read his word sonnet sequence *Hail* as a prelude to a performance by soprano **Doreen Taylor Claxton** at the launch of a CD featuring musical and vocal renditions of Mayne's word sonnets. The event, part of this year's Ottawa International Writers Festival, is free and open to the public. Foyer, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa. Thursday, Oct. 5, 8:30 p.m.

• **Anne Dublin, Leora A. Freedman, Larry Frolick, Jonathan Garfinkel, Yaacov Glickman, Lynne Kositsky, David Levine** and **Hannah Moscovitch** are among the 79 writers named as grant recipients last week by the Toronto Arts Council. A total of $345,000 was handed out through the Grants to Writers program for 2006.

Arts & Travel

Jazz singer, 12, makes homework her priority

By ELAINE COHEN
Supplements Co-ordinator

Jazz singer Nikki Yanofsky adores the vocals of Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin. She admires the young singers Joss Stone and Christina Aguilera. She counts *The Wizard of Oz* and *Rent* among her favourite musicals. She enthuses about Mitch Albom's bestseller, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

However, the big news is that this 12-year-old Montrealer currently tops the charts of local music critics and is on their "must see and hear" lists. And Nikki's recent concerts have benefited the Maimonides, the Montreal Children's Hospital, the Jewish General Hospital's cancer research and other worthy causes.

"Nikki took pride in sharing the first cheque she earned with the Montreal Children's Hospital, and there is still a fund [at the hospital] in her name," says her mother, Elyssa.

"I like singing at concerts, but the best part is when everybody likes what I sing," Nikki says. "Besides, if people need money more than I do, they should have it."

Blessed with a powerful voice and bright brown eyes and possessing a ready smile and a friendly demeanour, Nikki is confident yet unassuming. She also realizes the value of a good education.

"I take more time on my homework than on singing. Even though I may want to watch TV after school, I make sure to do my assignments first."

As for other pastimes, Nikki enjoys playing basketball with her older brothers, Michael and Andrew. She is also fond of her baby cousin. "Her name is Ella, just like my favourite singer."

Nikki says she doesn't get nervous about performing and she finds it easy to memorize songs. She also does some scatting, adding that scatting is more difficult than people realize.

Nikki sings *Airmail Special*, a song that involves concentrated scatting. The technique is defined as a vocal imitation of instrumental phrases. Scat singers improvise singing of syllables without specific words. "She spent a good 48 hours of concentrated study to perfect it," her mother said, noting some singers focus on scatting for their doctorates.

Nikki must attend group rehearsals plus practise on her own before each concert. She has learned to play the piano and the drums by ear and plans to study the saxophone at school.

"Nikki doesn't take singing lessons but she has a voice coach," her mother says. "My husband helps me field a lot of calls and we have a musical director."

Nikki is planning to record a track on a CD, sponsored by the Bank Nationale and Jean Coutu Pharmacy, which will benefit underprivileged children.

Nikki credits her family for exposing her to music at an early age. "I was born in 1994, and by 1996, I was already listening to Broadway music, which, incidentally, I like acting out in my kitchen using the big mirror." At a later stage, she discovered jazz, while searching songs on iTunes. She was immediately captivated by the genre.

Last summer, Nikki made headlines for her stellar performances at the Montreal International Jazz Festival, where she sang before thousands of people. She stole the show, performing with well-known instrumentalists and vocalists.

Performing and preparing for upcoming shows and recordings keep her busy. At the ORT Gala, at Place des Arts, she will be accompanied by a full orchestra and other singers . She is also booked to do a fundraiser in Toronto with a trio.

Moscow Jewish Chamber Choir performs in Toronto

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The Moscow Jewish Chamber Choir will stop in Toronto on its current North American tour.

The choir, under the direction of Michael Turetsky, will sing liturgies, opera classics and Broadway hits in 10 languages, including Hebrew, English, Spanish, French and Russian, at an Oct. 6 concert at 8 p.m at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

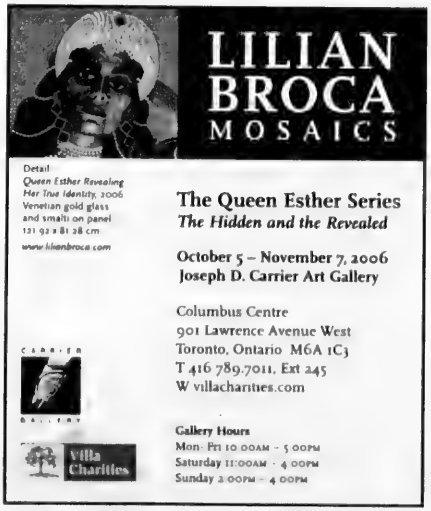
The choir has performed at Carnegie Hall, at the United Nations, in Washington, D.C., for the U.S. Congress, and in Spain during the commemoration of the 500th year of the Spanish expulsion of the Jews. The choir has accompanied Placido Domingo, Isaac Stern and Zubin Mehta.

The Moscow Jewish Chamber Choir was created in 1989 as part of a program to revive cantorial and synagogue choir music in Russia. Choir members, many of whom also play instruments, were trained in conservatories in the former Soviet Union.

"I am proud to bring to Toronto Russia's most famous choir," says concert producer Ella Tcheloznova.

"Although many Russians attend their performances, there is a growing audience of people who do not speak Russian but enjoy this international choir, which delights everybody."

For tickets ($40 to $100), call Ticketmaster, 416-226-9151. For more information, call 416-721-4662.



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Breathtaking New home on Secluded Lot w/ Walk-up Lower Lvl, Theatre Rm, Wine Cellar. Carolyn Feldman** 416-488-2875

BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS + NEW HOME - $3,595,000
In a Class of it's Own! 5600' of Exquisite European Finishes, Nat'l Stone Ext, Perfect Layout. Carolyn Feldman** 416-488-2875

WEST MOUNT/WILSHIRE BEAUTY $549,000
Immaculate Exc. 4 Bdrm, 2630' Corner Lot w/Main Fam rm, Den + Laundry, Fab Spacious Layout. Carolyn Feldman** 416-488-2875

NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES CONT'D.

BEAUTIFUL 4 BDRM DETACHED HOME W/9FT CEILINGS
2 ensuite bathrooms, hardwood flrs, prof. fin basement. $525,000 at Bayview & Major Mackenzie. Bess Tong* 416 226-1987

58 KINGSBRIDGE CRESCENT! 4BR 3BTH! SOLD
$499,900! Wilshire/Westmount Seldom Available 2822' End Unit! Move Right In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

TOWNHOMES OF HOGGS HOLLOW $719,000
1790 sq.ft. Premium South Facing Courtyard unit, Loaded with Upgrades, 3Bdrms, 3 Baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

85 SKYMARK DR $549,000 - 2+1 BDRM/2 BTH
Luxury condo w/2 large balconies, master bdrm has 5pce. ensuite, 24hr concierge. Approx. 2,448 Sq.Ft. Pauline Mack* 416-226-1987

FOREST HILL VILLAGE – JUST $539,000
1500 sq.ft. 2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2 Car Parking, New Hardwood Flrs Thru, Fabulous Views. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

***SKYMARK - CLASSIC* PENTHOUSE**
$489,900. Stunning, Vaulted Ceilings, skylights, sauna, fireplace +++. Marty Wagman** 416-226-1987

NEW OFFERING STUNNING 1 BDRM LOFT $399,000 SOLD
Open Style 2 Level South Facing Corner Balcony, Beltline Views, 935 sq.ft., 2 Baths, 2 Pkg. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

10 DELISLE AVENUE - YONGE N/ST CLAIR
$375K! Incredible 1Br+Den SOLD End Unit Garden Ste W/Private Terrace! Won't Last! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

FABULOUS FOREST HILL CONDO
22 Shallmar. $315,000. Spacious + Bright South Facing Corner Unit, 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath. Susan Kimel* 416-785-1500

500 GLENCAIRN AVE! SIZZLING HOT!
Total Reno 2Br, 2Bth! Designer Decor! Hrdwd, Marble, Granite++ 2Car Prkg+Locker! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

BATHURST/GLENCAIRN – CONDO $309,000
Quiet Low Rise Bldng, 2 Bdrm, 2 Baths, 2 Parking spaces, Approx. 1225 sq.ft. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

1101 STEELES AVE WEST! 2BR 2BTH! SOLD
$229K! "Primrose" Value Pack S/W Ste W/Balcony+Panoramic Views! Fab Complex! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

ORIOLE /KILBARRY CO-OP APT $214,900
Charming 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Eat-in Kitchen, Hardwood Floors Thru. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

RENTAL PROPERTIES

GRAND PENTHOUSE BATHURST/EGLINTON
3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, Hardwood Floors, Parking, Balcony. Lynne Elkind* 416-488-2875

85 SKYMARK, CLASSIC LUXURY PH $3,500/MTH
Stairs to roof grdn, mrbl flrs, 2 wshrms, 2 skylights, 2 bdrm+den, 2 frpls, sauna, Jacuzzi, 2prkg. 24 hr concierge. P. Mack* 416-226-1987

OUT OF TOWN PROPERTIES

$249,900 "REDUCED" 2+2 BDRM BUNGALOW
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BATHURST/STEELES
First time offered, large 4 bdrm semi-back split, 3 baths, good sized living & dining room, eat in kitchen, appliances, fam room, walk out to yard, finished basement with private entrance, double drive garage, great location.

BATHURST MANOR
3 bdrm bungalow, 2 baths, L shaped living & dining room, hardwood floors, new kitchen & bath, appliances, finished basement with private entrance, double drive garage. Don't Miss!

WILSON HEIGHTS/SHEPPARD
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BATHURST/WILSON
1bdr+den, balc, great location.

CENTURY 21 HERITAGE GROUP

WATERFRONT ESTATE SUPREME

Spectacular 1 yr old, modern, open concept home. Stucco design with 66' of lake frontage, break wall and dock on beautiful Lake Simcoe. Good sandy bottom lake bed. Magnificent Kit w/granite counter tops, huge snack counter and built-in appliances. Beautiful hrdwd, marble & porcelain flrs. Custom blinds raise to show a breathtaking view of the lake and islands. Private ensuites for all BR's and MF guest suite. MF FR. Sep. nanny suite. Alarm system, 9 ft ceilings, dbl garage. Fabulous lot. MLS # 0606538. 2447 Leonard St, Innisfil $1,250,000.

Sandra March & David Hunter, Sales Representatives,
CENTURY 21 B. J. Roth Realty, Brokerage*
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Bathurst/Wilson, upper level 2 br. $1200/mo+util. Lower 1 br. fin. bsmnt. $700/mo+util., or whole house $1800/mo+util., new appl. Please call 905-763-0957.

Thornhill (Winding Lane-Clark/ Bathurst) 2000 sq. ft., spacious & clean 3 bdrm, 3 baths, fin. bsmnt., avail. immed., $1950 + util., close to Shuls, schools, shops. Please call 905-731-6819.

20 HOUSES FOR SALE/RENT

Bathurst/Centre, TH, 2 master bedrms., den, balcony, 3 baths, 2 prkng., finished basement. Private Sale. 905-709-0924.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK

FOREST WOOD / GLENCAIRN

Spectacular custom 4,000 sq. ft. home on professionally landscaped 50 x 135 ft. lot. 4 + 2 bedrooms (each with ensuite bath), luxurious finishes throughout. Extensive use of granite, limestone, marble, hardwood, crown mouldings, and wainscotting. 10 ft. ceilings on both levels, 20 ft. ceiling on 2nd level hallway. $2,195,000. Call Mark Eichorn, Sales Representative (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST MANOR HUGE BACKSPLIT — NEW PRICE

Ideal family home, 4 + 1 bedrooms, 4 baths, sep. entry to self-contained apartment, huge family room on lower level, main floor library, 2 heating & AC zones. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $459,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

BATHURST / RANEE — REDUCED $ 50,000

Very spacious ranch bungalow on gorgeous 57 x 132 ft. lot, approx. 2,400 sq. ft. + finished basement with separate entry, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 4 baths. **ONLY $649,000 — ACT NOW!** Also available for rent @ $3,250 / mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / WILSON CONDO

SPACIOUS 3 BEDROOM CONDO, 2 baths, **PRICED TO SELL AT ONLY $189,900 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / LAWRENCE

Ideal starter home! 2 storey, 3 bedroom detached brick home on 50 ft. lot. Wraparound deck, thermopane windows, close to TTC, shops, schools ++. **ACT FAST — WON'T LAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / COLDSTREAM

BRAND NEW custom family home. Approx. 4,000 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., 5 + 2 bdrms., 6 baths, separate entry to in-law suite, main floor library, extensive use of granite, limestone, crown mouldings, custom trim, pot lights. Fabulous location close to TTC, schools ++. $1,195,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW PRICE

BRAND NEW custom executive home, approx. 3,500 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., luxurious finishes, 4 + 2 bdrms., 6 baths, gleaming hrdwd. floors throughout, 10 ft. ceilings on main floor, 9-10 ft. ceilings on 2nd level. Extensive use of granite, marble, cherry & ash. Stone front, interlock driveway. **ONLY $1,095,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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HOUSES FOR SALE

BATHURST/ELGIN MILLS

Executive 4 Bedroom home with self-contained apt, All appliances, Elf's, Window coverings, Crown Moulding, Calif. Shutters, Hardwood, Landscaped, Lots of other Extras!! *Mark Waxman

• • •

BATHURST/CLARK

Custom Built 5 Bdrm home, Hrdwd, Elf's C/air, Fin bsmt, Close to amenities, Too many extras to mention, Must See! *Mark Waxman

• • •

BATHURST/CLARK

Less than a minute Walk to Shul, 3 Bdrm, fin bsmt, family Rm w/o to deck, large eat-in kitchen, w/large Pantry, ceramics, parquet & upgraded Carpets, and more!! Do not miss this one!!! *Becky Wener

• • •

OVERBROOK & WILMINGTON – 1" AD

Fabulous 3 Bdrm Bungalow plus den on 53 x 120 ft lot, Finished basement, Appl, Main floor laundry, x-large living, dining room & kitchen, Hardwood, Air, +++. Asking $439,000. *Ted Waxman

• • •

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

1 BDRM CONDO- RICHMOND HILL

Prestige Building 3 years new, 1st Floor, Walk-out to terrace, North Hwy 7, Steps to trans & Shops *Helen Gould

• • •

BATHURST/STEELES

Large 2 Bdrm, approx 1400 sq.ft, Hardwood, Open Concept w/ famiy room, Appliances, Central Air, Ensuite Laundry & Storage, Incredible Value!!!! Asking $220,000 *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST/STEELES "COURTLAND"

Large 1 Bedroom + den, Approx 1400 sq.ft. Open Concept with ensuite storage & Laundry, 6 Appliances with balcony, Great Layout. Must See!! Asking $199,900. *Ted Waxman

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75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Spacious 2 bedroom, quiet, beautiful setting. $1,450/month. Call…

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85 APARTMENTS WANTED

Looking for furnished condo/apt. 2-3 bdrm, Bathurst/Steeles area. Please call 613-829-2455.

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

Lake of Bays - Walk to the Synagogue Family compound, 3 separate cottages each w/2 baths, fireplace and 5 appliances for a total of 9 bdrms and 6 bths. Lrg central deck. Tennis court, central air, fully winterized and easy year round access. Level lot with sandy beach and southern exposure on Lake of Bays. Ideal for extended family $769,000. **Donna Freberg, Sales Rep. Royal LePage-Lakes of Muskoka Rlty. 1-888-648-6300**

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30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

Corner Penthouse in Exclusive Forest Hill

Stunning panoramic views enjoyed from 1/out this large corner penthouse suite! 1745' + 208' Balcony facing south west. Dbl door entrance to marble foyer stepping down to an open concept living/dining area. Doors to balcony from both kitchen & dining. Steps to the Village & amenities!

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BRAND NEW 1,249 sq. ft., 2 bedroom condo, 5 appliances, close to TTC, $359,000, immediate possession. **Call SOL GOLDKIND Sutton Group Admiral Realty 416-739-7200**

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

Bathurst/Wilson, 2 bdrm., 2 bath, laundry en-suite, walk to subway, Shul, Yorkdale. TTC at door. Ideal for seniors. $1350/mo. Call 416-782-5685.

40 CONDOIMIUMS FOR SALE/RENT

Bathurst/Steeles, 2 bdrm., 2 bath, hrdwd firs, $1650/mo, $258K for sale. Call 905-771-1161.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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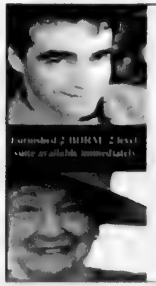
75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Thornhill apt, 2 bdrm., brand new, 8' ceilings, sep. entr., 4 appls., full bath, n-smkr/pets, close to shul, shops. Best price. Avail. immed. 416-274-2160.



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100 Arlen House East, 1 bdrm., conv., minimum 4 months. 2nd floor, free daily bus to mall. Please call 416-636-6470.

Longboat Key. Desirable and spacious 3/3 corner gulfside unit. Newly reno'd. kitchen. Photos avail. online. $5500/mo. US. Call 734-662-1878.

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Boca Raton, 2 bdrm., 1 1/2 bath, water view, seasonal. Call 561-584-2771.

Hallandale, Three Islands, reno'd, 1 bdrm., w/den, 1 bath. Deck overlooks canal, tennis, pool. 10 mins. to Aventura, and all amenities. $2000/mo. US + hydro. January-April '07. Please call 416-630-2177, primeannex@hotmail.com

Hallandale, across from beach, 2 bdrm., 2 bath, min. 3 mos. Call 416-398-3859, 416-633-1610.

Boca Raton, Century Village, 2 bdrm., 1.5 bath, seas. rental, 3 mos. min. Call 561-212-0586.

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Bloor/Yonge - Studio, furnished - $1225

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Sheppard/Bathurst, prof. office + bdrm. to share. Priv. office 10'x12' avail. within space. Refs. required. Please call 416-638-8366.

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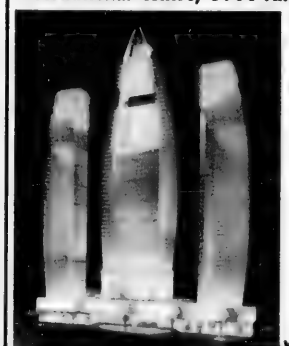

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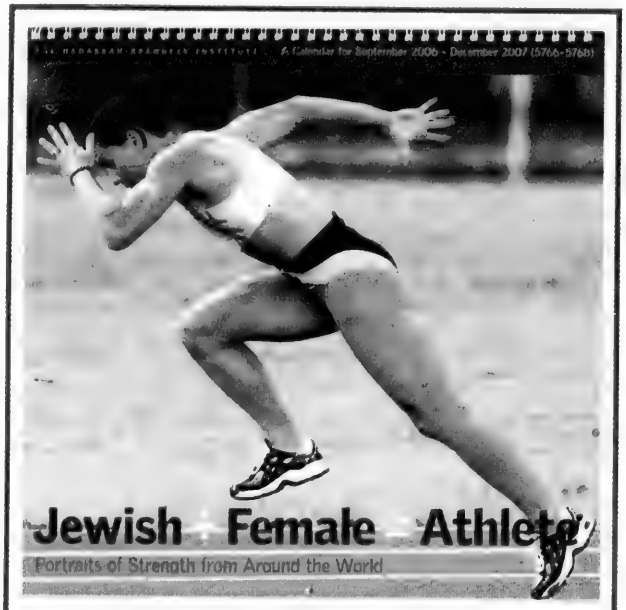

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Search begins for Canada's best Jewish basketball players

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Ted Badner is looking for the best male basketball players that the Jewish community has to offer to represent Canada next year at the 11th Pam-Am Maccabi Games.

Badner, the head coach of the Canadian Maccabi men's open basketball team, who has been involved with Maccabi Canada since he coached the under-16 basketball team at the 1999 Pan-Am games in Mexico City, said he has a list of the top Canadian Jewish basketball players, 28 of whom have played university or college basketball.

"This team will be made up of players who have played at an elite level of basketball," said Badner, adding that only 12 men will make the team that will compete in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in December 2007.

"There is a chance that some younger players could come, but it would be pretty stiff competition. Guys that are still in high school might have a difficult time making the team," said Irvin Mintz, a former assistant head coach at the Pan-Am games who is helping Badner spread the word.

Badner said that having also been involved in the Pan-Am games in 2003 – when his under-19 team won silver – and the Maccabiah Games in Israel in 2001 and 2005, he has a general understanding of the Canadian Jewish basketball community.

"I've built up a database of Jewish basketball players, but there may be 10 or 15 guys out there that I don't even know are Jewish," said Badner, a basketball coach at Newtonbrook Secondary School in Toronto.

Children of intermarried parents may have last names that don't sound Jewish, but a player only needs one Jewish parent to qualify to play at the Maccabi games, he said.

"With a name like Cohen or Schwartz, you're going to assume that the kid is Jewish. But if you see a guy with the last name McDonald, you think, OK, the father is probably not Jewish. But that doesn't mean the mother wasn't a Jew and the father converted," Badner said.

"There is a chance that some players, young Jewish men, have never experienced Maccabiah or don't know about it… We're looking for players all the time," Mintz said.

"I want to be able to reach out to all communities… to a guy who is from Moose Jaw, Sask., who is playing varsity basketball at the University of Regina… who has no idea that these games exist," Badner said.

While Badner and Mintz are searching for the country's best Jewish basketball players, the Pan-Am Maccabi games, like the Maccabiah games that take place in Israel every four years, also hold competitions in many sports, including baseball, volleyball, soccer, softball, swimming and tennis.

While most of the teams that compete in the Pan-Am games come from countries in North, Central and South American, Australia and Israel also usually send teams to the games.

In 2003 in Santiago, Chile, more than 2,000 athletes competed and about 20 countries took part.

Although the 2003 Canadian men's open basketball team failed to medal, Badner said that winning gold next year is a realistic expectation.

"Our goal is to win the gold medal. If you talk to anyone in the United States, they'll laugh at us, but my team, back in 2003, beat the U.S. in the round robin. The U.S. beat us to win the gold medal, but the U.S. is 10 times the size of us in both Jewish population and national population. It is a pretty lofty goal, but that is our goal," he said.

"This is a very high-level competition and we expect to go there with a very competitive team and our goal is to win a gold medal."

Badner expects to select a team by December, at which point, Maccabi Canada will begin to raise funds in an attempt to cover the costs of sending a team to Argentina.

"What we've done in the past is some serious fundraising and we hope to cover the cost of all our players, but if we can't come up with all the money, the players would be responsible for covering the shortfall," Mintz said.

"The misconception is that every Jew has money, but there may be some top-quality university players who won't be able to go unless we are able to fundraise," Badner said.

Open tryouts will be held in Toronto at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 8 to 10 p.m. and on Sunday, Nov. 12, at Newtonbrook Secondary School from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.

In Montreal, tryouts will be held the following weekend at the Ben Weider Jewish Community Centre on Saturday, Nov. 18, and Sunday, Nov. 19, at the same times.

The top players will be asked to attend national tryouts at the end of December in Toronto.

Players who live outside Toronto and Montreal aren't expected to show up for the November tryouts. They can contact Badner to make arrangements to come to the national tryouts in Toronto.

For details, contact Badner at 905-707-7556 or at tbadner@hotmail.com.

Inside Back

Fear in Europe, fear in Montreal

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

It's a frightening world out there for Diaspora Jews. Around the globe, anti-Semitism is once again on the rise, leaving Jews feeling vulnerable and Jewish institutions exposed to attack. Over the past few years, those who hate us – and, increasingly, that despicable demographic is being populated by radical Islamists and not simply run-of-the-mill racists – have shown a desire to destroy our institutions and their constituents, resorting to arson, violence and even murder. For Diaspora Jews, it's getting more and more difficult to find a peaceful place to live.

New Views

In Europe, the rise in hatred toward Jews has received much publicity. Across the United Kingdom, anti-Semitic attacks have ranged from the bigoted rantings of London Mayor Ken Livingstone to a handful of attempted (though unsuccessful) boycotts of Israeli institutions by academics. Thus far, anti-Semitic attacks in England have been rather tame, but with a rise in attacks by Islamic terrorists – including the July 2005 London transit bombings – and the revelation only a few weeks ago of a foiled airline plot that might have killed hundreds, English Jews should be feeling nervous.

French anti-Semitism has taken a far more sinister tone over the past five years. Synagogues and cemeteries have been torched and vandalized, students have been assaulted and two French Jews have been murdered (both, apparently, at the hands of radical Muslims). In 2004, the anti-Semitic explosion in France even prompted then-Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon to urge all French Jews to move to Israel – and many French Jews are doing just that.

Europe is certainly in bad shape, but are Jews that much safer in Canada?

For the Jewish community in Montreal, the answer is a definite no. Over the last few weeks, Canadian Jews have been shocked by two stories that emphasize the threat – both existential and practical – faced by Montreal's Jewish community.

On Sept. 2, a masked male caused more than $150,000 in damage when he lobbed a Molotov cocktail into a chassidic school operated by Montreal's Skver community. This most recent act of arson adds to an ever-growing tradition of vandalism and violence against Jewish institutions in Montreal (including the April 2005 firebombing of the United Talmud Torahs school by Hamas sympathizers).

Perhaps more frightening, a recent survey found that nearly 40 per cent of Quebecers believe the Sept. 11 attacks were at least partially a result of Israel's actions in the Middle East. As reported in the *The CJN* (Sept. 14), that's more than 10 per cent higher than in the rest of our country. And while the statistics don't particularly bode well for Jews across Canada, the higher number in Quebec means that a significantly larger percentage of people there have bought into the precise reasoning about 9/11 that's being espoused by those who perpetrated the attacks and the Islamic groups that continue to support terrorism.

Of course, there are still safe Jewish communities in North America. Most notably, in Toronto, Canada's largest Jewish community continues to experience little anti-Semitism, and virtually none of the kind that threatens to harm its members or destroy institutions. For the most part, the combined efforts of community leaders, law enforcement officials and local government have prevented anti-Jewish hatred from getting out of hand. Protests at the city's universities and rallies at the Israeli consulate are mere annoyances when compared to the brand of anti-Semitism practised outside Toronto.

But in Montreal, the situation continues to worsen. For a long time, French-Canadian anti-Semitism was cloaked in Quebec's traditional politically left leanings – world events provided a convenient context for hating Jews. But that disguise has been discarded over the past few years. In Quebec, apparently, anti-Semitism is no longer a faux pas.

It might be time for Jewish leaders to start thinking about voicing Sharon-style encouragements to the Jews of Montreal.

Succoth Ruby Caribbean Grapefruit Chicken

2 lg red grapefruits
6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
1/2 c flour
salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
6 tblsp unsalted pareve margarine
2/3 c chopped shallots, about 4
1/2 c each: light & dark rum
1/2 c honey
1/4 c fresh lime juice
3 tblsp chopped cilantro
1 c chopped green onions, white and 2" of green

Peel grapefruits, divide into segments; remove seeds. Set aside. Cut breasts into 1" strips. Place the flour in shallow plate and season liberally with salt and pepper. Toss chicken in flour. Heat margarine in large nonstick skillet. Add strips; sauté over medium heat; about 5 minutes. Remove from the pan; drain on paper towels. Add chopped shallots to skillet; saute about 4 minutes. Off the heat, add the rums. Bring rums to a boil; reduce for 3 min. Stir in honey and lime juice; simmer 3 minutes. Remove skillet from heat; stir in cilantro, green onions, grapefruit segments. Arrange chicken strips on a platter; pour sauce over.

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YOM KIPPUR CONTRASTS

The observant and the non-observant could be seen side by side on Yom Kippur last year in Tel Aviv. [Israel Sun photo]

This morning's guest: God

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Good morning and welcome to YK5767 Talk Radio. We have a special guest this morning. God is here with us, and we're going to take calls addressing the question: Are we, human beings and God, good partners in taking care of our world?

URBAN WRITER

Host: Shlomo from Thornhill, thanks for calling. What would you like to ask God?

Shlomo: Well, God, probably a good question to ask at Yom Kippur time is, do you have any thoughts on how it is that people have been eyewitnesses to so many wars, yet we allow them to continue unabated?

God: Thanks for calling, Shlomo. You know there is much evil in the world, and always has been. However, goodness outweighs it and is stronger than evil and therefore must stand up strongly and loudly to overshadow it. People could stop wars if they committed themselves to doing so, but so far my idea of acting as "my brother's keeper" has never really kicked in. I was hoping that Rwanda would have been a paragon of virtue, but instead it turned into a very ugly sore. I was hoping the Vietnamese, Cambodians and those from the Congo would have shown the world how to do good deeds – but instead they trained us in the use of a machete. Change it, Shlomo. Encourage the world to do so as well.

Host: Thanks, Shlomo. Let's move on to Miriam in North York. Thanks for joining us, Miriam.

Miriam: Good morning, God. Firstly, I would like to express my appreciation to you for the miracle of birth. I had my first baby this year, and am still reeling from the sheer brilliance of creation. My question is, there is so much suffering in the world – children starving, villages gobbled from earthquakes, the tsumani – I can't help but wondering, as I praise you in my prayers on Yom Kippur, how you allow this to happen?

God: Yes, mazel tov on your boy, Miriam. He is a precious child. I created the world, imbuing it with the laws of nature, which sometimes cause natural disasters. To some extent, these can be controlled if you and your neighbours took better care of the environment. As per the suffering of children, as an example, the million and a half killed in the Holocaust, this is something that has to be asked of those humans who perpetrated it. I gave them free choice; the ability to make life beautiful or ugly. They chose the second. Miriam, on Yom Kippur, when you pray and and set your goals for the new year, make sure that one of them is to fight as hard as you can to bring peace to the earth. As I told the previous caller, evil will be marginalized if goodness is powerful and grows.

And Miriam, I understand your questioning of my role in these events and, of course, the answer is complex. However, I ask you to remember that on Yom Kippur we – you and I – walk hand in hand as partners, as we did in the creation of the second set of tablets Moses presented to the Jewish people.

Query me and challenge me, but do so as vociferously with yourself. You have it within you to change the world. Ask yourself, if you might be able to do a better job. And thanks for the call.

Host: Well, that wraps it up. We want to thank God for appearing. We wish you would do so more often, perhaps just to reassure us. But maybe that is what Yom Kippur is all about. To my listeners, have a great day, and remember we only need to fast for one day. Imagine those who go hungry every day.

avrum@veahavta.org SUDAN?

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Canadians seek French redress for Auschwitz transports

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Twenty Canadian families, mainly in Toronto and Montreal, have joined more than 400 Jewish families around the world to demand compensation from France and its national railway company for the role they played in sending their relatives to the Auschwitz death camp.

Case involves more than 400 families worldwide

Last week, the case took on new momentum when the lawyer in Paris handling their case, Avi Bitton, sent his second letter of notice to the French government and the Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français (SNCF), and demanded a reply by Nov. 29.

Bitton dispatched his first letter at the end of August, only to be rebuffed by SNCF. Its chief executive officer said that he would oppose the claim.

Bitton said he will file lawsuits on behalf of his plaintiffs, about half of whom lost relatives during the Holocaust, should SNCF and the French government ignore his second letter.

Bitton does not believe he will receive a satisfactory answer.

"I think they're going to refuse us. If they do so, we'll launch a lawsuit with the courts," said Bitton in a telephone interview from his office in Paris.

The case would then go to trial, and last at least two years, he added.

Bitton decided to contest the case after Alain Lipietz, a Green party member of the European Parliament, and his sister successfully sued the railway and the French government, which holds a majority ownership in SNCF.

Lipietz's father and uncle were shipped by train to the Drancy transit camp near Paris, but survived the war.

Continued on page 32

Darfur: if not now, when?

By NORMAN L. EPSTEIN

Opinion

The world is teetering shamefully toward a diminished humanity unless we stop the senseless slaughter in Sudan. For more than three years in Darfur, the government of Sudan and its proxy militias have attacked African villages with impunity, causing the death of some 400,000 people and leaving almost three million languishing in internally displaced persons camps.

Despite the government's adamant denial, there is a credible paper trail indicting many in the upper echelons of the Khartoum regime for orchestrating this genocide. In fact, last year, a UN fact-finding mission found many of these influential government members should be tried for crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Perversely, we continue to negotiate with the Sudanese

Continued on page 35

Refugees wait to receive drinking water at a camp on the outskirts of Zalengei in western Darfur. *[RNS/Reuters file photo]*

Shabbat Sukkot
Candlelighting: 6:33
Havdalah: 7:38

Greater Toronto Area

Israel to receive descendants of 'lost' Jewish tribe — see page 31

The News in Brief

CANADA

Prof Airs Grievance

TORONTO — A Jewish professor began testifying last week in a grievance hearing against York University for criticizing flyers he distributed that said the school's fundraising arm is biased in favour of Israel. David Noble filed his complaint last year, alleging defamation and violation of his academic freedom and freedom of speech, after the university denounced literature he circulated at a pro-Palestinian event on campus in 2004. The literature, titled "The Tail That Wags the Dog," said the York University Foundation is "biased by the presence of pro-Israel lobyists," and it listed some of its board members and their links to Jewish community groups. Noble is also suing York for $10 million in damages and an apology. He told the hearing that he circulated the literature in defence of a student who was suspended for using a bullhorn at two unauthorized pro-Palestinian rallies on campus. His suspension was later rescinded.

UTT Trial Date Set

MONTREAL — The mother of the youth who firebombed the St. Laurent United Talmud Torahs' library will go on trial June 14, more than three years after being charged with being an accessory after the fact. Police allege Rouba El-Merhebi Fahd, 38, tried to help her son Sleiman El-Merhebi flee Canada after the April 2004 attack by seeking to buy him a plane ticket to Brazil. She was freed on $10,000 bail in May 2004 and pleaded not guilty in December 2004. She faces up to seven years in jail. Her son, 20, was released in May after serving two-thirds of a 40-month jail term.

WORLD

Hitler Art Auctioned

LONDON — Artworks attributed to Adolf Hitler sold in Britain for a total of $245,000 (Cdn) – more than double their estimated worth. The 21 items, made during World War I, were sold Sept. 26 by the auction house Jefferys. The works, found in a Belgian farmhouse 60 years after their creation, depict landscapes on the French-Belgian frontier, where Hitler spent the winters of 1916-17 and 1917-18.

Babi Yar Recalled

KIEV — Ukrainian President Viktor Yuschenko marked the 65th anniversary of the Babi Yar massacre. A Sept. 27 ceremony at the ravine involved 1,000 guests from 41 countries. It ended two days of events recalling the 33,000 Jews killed along the ravine's edge on Sept. 29-30, 1941. Israeli President Moshe Katsav, the presidents of Croatia and Montenegro, and official delegations from several nations – as well as Ukrainian officials, rabbis and local and international Jewish leaders – took part in one event in Kiev.

Zionist Pirates?

TEHRAN — A report on Iranian TV said Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie series is a tool of the Israel lobby. Referring to Zionism, the July 27 report said the film "is considered another subtle weapon in the hands of those who support this corrupt ideology," the Middle East Media Research Institute reported. As evidence of its claim, the report noted that "7.7 per cent of Disney's board of directors" are Jewish. A report earlier this year aired similar comments about *Tom and Jerry* cartoons.

CJC Condemns Arson At Muslim School

OTTAWA — Jewish groups have condemned the recent arson at an Ottawa Muslim school that faced controversy in 2005 for a student essay advocating revenge against Israel.

The Sept. 23 fire at the Abraar Islamic School, which occurred on the first day of Ramadan, started in a playground toy box and spread to the exterior of the building, causing an estimated $100,000 in damage. There were no injuries.

Ottawa police said the fire was caused by arson, but added that they found no evidence it was a hate crime.

The school made headlines in 2005 when two of its teachers were disciplined for allegedly praising a student's story about taking revenge on Israel for killing the Hamas spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Joel Richler, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said that after the Sept. 2 firebombing of a chassidic boys school in Montreal, the Jewish community has a special understanding of the vulnerability now being felt by parents, staff and children at the Abraar School.

"We hope [the] schoolchildren will learn that the immoral acts of a small number do not reflect the values of respect that are shared by most Canadians," Mitchell Bellman, president of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, wrote to the school.

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Education report urges funding, structural changes

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

A newly released report on the future of Toronto's Jewish day schools is advocating a test loan program for tuition, a $100-million education endowment fund, a new body to oversee Jewish schooling, and a study to examine the idea of creating a community-wide middle school in Vaughan.

Seymour Epstein

Those four recommendations are among 23 put forward by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's task force on Jewish education in a study it presented last month to the federation's board.

The task force, co-chaired by volunteers Morris Perlis and Lou Greenbaum, spent 10 months consulting with federation executives and lay leaders, as well as representatives of all local Jewish day schools funded by UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE), a total of 20 day school parents and prospective day school parents, and American BJE leaders and representatives of the U.S.-based Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education.

The task force's initial objectives included finding ways to spend money more efficiently to support Jewish education, and maximizing the number of young children in day school, Perlis told *The CJN* in March.

Among the task force's other recommendations are:

- to ensure that all resources possible are provided "to actively and vigorously" pursue government funding;
- to set funding for tuition subsidies to at least current levels (about $7.8 million per year, out of the BJE's $12-million budget);
- to expand co-operation among schools in order to generate cost savings;
- to assess the financial impact on schools that have a larger percentage of subsidized students and develop a strategy to address it; and
- to invest more in strategies to enhance the quality of day school education.

In accordance with the recommendations, the BJE is being "recast into a new entity" that will tentatively be called the Centre for Jewish Education of Toronto, effective July 1, 2007, said Seymour Epstein, the BJE's executive director and the federation's senior vice-president of Jewish education and identity.

Tuition loans, community middle school among proposals

Epstein, who is in charge of implementing the report, said that any specifics about the centre and other recommendations that aren't spelled out in the 34-page document will be examined carefully in the months leading up to next April, when an implementation plan is scheduled to be presented to the UJA Federation board.

He said he didn't know, for example, how schools would be overseen differently by the new Centre for Jewish Education.

The cost of creating such an entity is not known, said federation president David Engel. He added that, "ideally, the centre is not going to become a bureaucracy that will attract funds away from Jewish education."

Among its expanded responsibilities will be to develop marketing plans that highlight the importance of Jewish education and to address perceptions among parents and students that the quality of Jewish education is not as high as the education in other private schools, Engel said.

He stressed that the report contains "some fundamentally big concepts," including "increasing commitment to Jewish education and the importance of Jewish education in our community" as well as the idea of schools working more together.

Also, he added, the report contains a new focus on "parents who… are deciding not to do Jewish [day school] education not only because of funding, but because of the quality of education."

Continued on page 22

Proceeds from the 2006 JNF Toronto Negev Dinner will be directed primarily to the 4,000 square meter ***Edward and Fran Sonshine Beit Eshel Historical Site Restoration*** - an active, dynamic centre for heritage and environment education, focusing on leisure time activities.

Ed and Fran Sonshine are confident that the funds raised will exceed what is required to complete their Beit Eshel project, and have agreed to direct any additional funds to a second initiative, ***Operation Security Blanket*** – to provide alternative activities for children affected by the war; ***Project Replant, Rebuild and Restore*** – replant burned trees in the north; cultivate decimated farmland; fire-fighting upgrading; emergency response equipment and vehicles to supplement current capacity; and to rebuild recreational and tourist areas of Northern Israel.

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Friendship, scholarship

From the editor's desk

Anyone who finds a faithful friend finds a treasure. Our sages recorded that bit of wisdom many hundreds of years ago. Our own experiences taught us that very same lesson from our earliest days in the schoolyard.

It is not uncommon for friends to walk "that extra mile" for each other. In certain special cases, however, friends might even go half way to the moon and back for each other. The following is a story of such friendship.

The Israeli pilot-and-astronaut Ilan Ramon lived too short a life. It ended, alas, when he and his Columbia crewmates died in their shuttle craft's failed return to earth on Feb. 1, 2003.

The essence of Ilan Ramon was his goodness. His many accomplishments were but a reflection of that essence. It was his goodness, radiating outward from him like a pinwheel casting droplets of sunshine all around, that attracted others.

He had good friends.

And it is very clear, in light of the special cargo carried into space last month by the crew of the shuttle Atlantis, that the astronauts, scientists and technicians of NASA were among them.

As is well known, Ramon took a miniature Torah scroll with him on his mission into space. It belonged to Tel Aviv University professor Yehoyachin Yosef, a survivor of the Shoah who had brought the scroll safely out of Bergen-Belsen.

Ramon wanted the tiny Torah – itself the embodiment of the eternity of the Jewish people – to be with him in space as a living emblem, as it were, of the singular determination and remarkable ability of the Jewish people to shine and achieve, even through the very darkest days. But neither Ilan nor the scroll returned.

Through a confluence of extraordinary circumstances that may or may not have been merely coincidence, Ilan's wife, Rona, learned of the existence of another miniature Torah scroll written by the same *sofer* (scribe) who wrote Yosef's scroll.

With kindness and understanding of heart, the scroll's owner lent it to Rona, who could now try to complete the mission that had meant so much to Ilan.

Ilan's friends at NASA joyfully, if tearfully, agreed. The Atlantis crew carried the Torah scroll with them into the upper reaches of space as they soared toward the heavens. And this time, they brought it back with them to earth.

"The circle to the stars and back was now closed," Rona said after the crew and the Torah returned safely. "The important message Ilan hoped to convey that humanity has the ability to overcome all hardships and difficulties," was now fulfilled.

That message of optimism and hope is a testament to the character of Ilan Ramon. That it has finally been delivered is a testament to his friends and the everlasting friendship they felt for him.

* * *

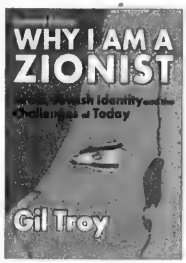
The boisterous, anti-Israel sentiment on campuses throughout the western world, especially since September 2000, has been well documented. The Israeli cause has been unremittingly attacked by an aggressive, mean-spirited confederation of zealous ideologues of all stripes.

It often requires considerable personal self-confidence, resiliency and, at times, courage to be an advocate for Israel and a champion of Jewish rights in the often poisoned, contentious atmosphere of North American campuses. Even students comfortable with their Jewish identity and well-informed on the myriad, complex Middle East issues can experience difficulty when arguing with or, as is more often the case, trying to avoid arguing with people who are anti-Israel.

Imparting information and knowledge to our children is the best way we can help to instil in them the desire and the confidence to stand on Israel's side.

One of the very best resources for that information and knowledge is the book *Why I Am A Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today*, by Gil Troy. The book was reviewed in this space four years ago when it was first released in January 2002. Troy has since updated that version. The new edition is expanded and revised.

Harvard-educated, professor of American history and politics at McGill University, Troy is a monthly *CJN* columnist and one of the most articulate, eloquent and impassioned spokespeople anywhere in the world on behalf of Israel. His skill at marshalling facts and weaving arguments is masterful.



His book is a compact yet comprehensive primer on how and why to be a supporter of Israel. It is a perfect handbook for the individual, whether or not a student on campus, who wishes to educate himself or herself regarding the case for Israel. It also provides tips on "how to talk about Israel on campus and elsewhere."

One of the additions to the text is a pithy, two-page chapter explaining "Why Israel has every right to exist." In light of the fact that more and more people are being heard these days echoing the calumny that Israel's creation was a mistake, these 1,000 words alone are worth the cost of the book.

The book is published by the Bronfman Jewish Education Centre in Montreal and can be ordered by sending an e-mail to bjec@bjec.org or to michael@dershowitzgroup.com

Royalties from the sale of the book are donated to help terror victims and their families. All other profits are donated to the birthright israel program. –*MBD*

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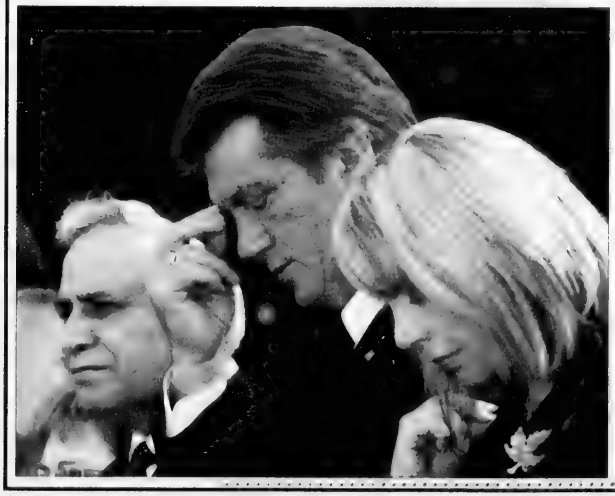

BABI YAR REMEMBERED

Israeli President Moshe Katsav, left, his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yushchenko and Yushchenko's wife, Kataryna, last week attended a wreath-laying ceremony at a monument in the forest of Babi Yar near Kyiv, in the Ukraine, commemorating the massacre of Jews there 65 years ago. Some 33,000 Jews were killed there by the Nazis over a period of some five days from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3 in 1941.

[RNS/Reuters photo]

Fund set up for family of missing boater

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

A volunteer committee has established a fund to help support the family of a Toronto man who is presumed to have drowned on Lake Nipissing.

It's been more than a month since Eli Horowitz, 30, and his father-in-law Heine Mondrowitz, 56, went missing during a fishing trip near North Bay.

Although Mondrowitz's body was found a week after their rented, 19-foot boat drifted ashore empty near the lakeside community, Horowitz's body has yet to be found.

David Stein, a good friend of Horowitz and a fellow paramedic with Hatzolah, has been instrumental in keeping the search going.

He and Hatzolah, a volunteer emergency medical service for the Orthodox community that Horowitz helped found in Toronto, have offered a reward of $10,000 for the recovery of his body.

Stein said the search by air, land and water is continuing and that he is still in touch with the Ontario Provincial Police.

"The OPP believes very strongly that he is underwater," said Stein, who vowed the search will continue until Horowitz's body is recovered.

Meanwhile, Horowitz's wife and three children, all under age five, are relying on the community to help them through this difficult time.

Horowitz supported his family by running a small paint business, but because he had cystic fibrosis, a respiratory disease, he was not able to get life insurance.

A 20-person committee consisting of friends of the family and "concerned people in the community" was set up last month to try to provide Horowitz's young family with a modest income.

Mark Rosenblatt, Horowitz's friend and one of the volunteers who helped establish the Eli Horowitz Fund, said he wanted to make sure the family will be looked after.

"We're trying to put together a fund that will be administered by a group of trustees, and hopefully we'll raise enough that they can live modestly on the income," Rosenblatt said, adding that the goal is to raise a lump sum within the next two months and invest it.

Rabbi Yitzchak Feigenbaum, who also sits on the committee, said that while many people are volunteering their time and effort for this cause, businessmen Philip Reichmann and Nathan Uhr are the two main players who are making the fund happen.

"They are the ones who are administrating it and setting it up so that it runs properly, that the money is distributed in the right fashion," Rabbi Feigenbaum said. "They are the main movers and shakers, just out of the goodness of their hearts. I don't even think they knew Eli. They are just doing this as a community service for a family that needs our help."

Horowitz, who was originally from Toronto but grew up in Monsey, N.Y., before moving back to Toronto eight years ago, was very involved in the community, Rosenblatt said.

"He was the type of guy who would do anything for anyone. That's just the type of guy that he was. The community came first in his eyes."

"He was altruistic..He was a very community-minded person. He was a Hatzolah volunteer, notwithstanding he had a lot of difficulties in his own life, he always found time for other people," Rabbi Feigenbaum said.

"And he always had a smile. You would never know that he had difficulties in his own life. He was a very accepting person, a non-judgmental kind of guy," he added.

He said that the initiative to raise money for the family can be tricky because while the committee is trying to get the word out about the fund, they also want to to be as sensitive to the family as possible.

"We want to be discreet but professional," Rabbi Feigenbaum said.

He added that the family is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances.

"The kids are in school, his wife goes about her business, but it is a difficult time because they are still in limbo. The search continues."

He said that while the committee wants to avoid high-profile, "splashy" fundraising events, if anyone is interested in hosting a small gathering to raise some money for the family, they can contact the committee.

Contact information can be found at www.ehfund.com and tax-deductible donations can be made by credit card on the site.

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Outrageous calumnies

As we wrote last week in this space, the United Nations has so methodically disqualified itself as an organization of fairness, balance, justice and timely, effective response to international crisis that it offers no hope for the flowering, let alone growth, of world peace.

The most blatant example of the organization's institutional unfairness is its obsessive singling out of Israel for repeated condemnation and censure. Last week, that obsession was again on display.

At a meeting of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, UN human rights envoy John Dugard accused Israel of turning the Gaza Strip into a prison and repeated earlier charges that Israel was breaking international law with its actions in the Gaza Strip. "Israel violates international law as expounded by the Security Council and the International Court of Justice and goes unpunished. But the Palestinian people are punished for having democratically elected a regime unacceptable to Israel, the U.S. and the EU," Dugard said.

Dugard is well known for his anti-Israel tirades over the years. Indeed, his allegations against the Jewish state have been so full of invective and incendiary statements that the Anti-Defamation League called for his dismissal in March of this year and in October 2004.

Last week Dugard also criticized Canada, the United States and western European countries for cutting off funding to the Palestinian Authority after Hamas' victory in legislative elections last January.

As demagogic and dangerous as Dugard's allegations are, they are also quite fatuous and hollow. The process by which Hamas was elected to govern the Palestinians was indeed important, but far more important are the policies by which Hamas chooses to govern.

Avoiding a government that refuses to recognize Israel, advocates violence against the Jewish state and aligns itself with blood-crazed, anti-western terror groups is not only legitimate, it is quite appropriate.

The Austrian people elected Joerg Haider and his Freedom Party in March 2004 to govern the province of Carinthia. But other countries in Europe and elsewhere refused to have any dealings with him. In light of his troubling, fascist policies and background, they had every right – and were right – to do so. Eventually, he stepped aside.

Why should Canadian taxpayers send money to a government that espouses the annihilation of Israel and its people; that since its election has sent a regular barrage of Qassam rockets against Israel; and that refuses to return the soldier its forces kidnapped from Israeli soil?

Similarly, why should the brazen, anti-Israel bias of a man such as John Dugard still be the norm at the United Nations and its many agencies? The fact that it is, and that he and others like him can still peddle his outrageous calumnies against Israel under the seal and imprimatur of the United Nations, is further sad proof that the organization is a moral wreckage and in perpetual violation of its precious, but now degraded, purposes and principles.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

An anonymous survivor paid more than $50,000 to inform Canadians of the horrors of Auschwitz. Citing only his or her prison number , B-6418, the former Auschwitz inmate underwrote five pages in the *Globe and Mail*, on which were reproduced an article titled *Kingdom of Auschwitz* by Otto Friedrich.

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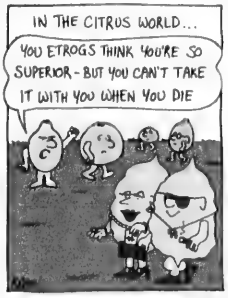
NDP policy on Hezbollah

At its recent annual policy conference convention, the New Democratic Party adopted a motion that stated, "Hezbollah is a recognized political party and… there should be a comprehensive peace process that brings all state and non-state parties to the table" ("NDP resolution slams Israel," *CJN*, Sept. 21)

Hezbollah is an armed subsidiary of the Islamic fascist state of Iran and is rightly listed as a terrorist organization by the United States, Canada and many other countries worldwide. The leader of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, chillingly suggested in a May 2003 *New York Times* article that if all the Jews returned to Israel, it would make their job easier rather than having to hunt them down worldwide. Hezbollah has been repeatedly condemned for using civilians as human shields in their armed conflict with the State of Israel, and uses an immoral terrorist tactic in lieu of conventional, and legal, armed warfare.



So, the Toronto Board of Rabbis joins many Canadians in wondering why NDP leader Jack Layton and his party would wish to see this group part of any peace process. It would seem to the rational mind that Hezbollah is part of the problem, and not part of any just solution. One would hope that the NDP would embrace a policy that reflects this great country's desire for peace, and morality.

Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich
President
Toronto Board of Rabbis

* * *

Positive elements of NDP resolutions

Your reporter quotes parts of the two resolutions that were adopted at the New Democratic Party's recent annual policy conference convention, as well as quoting parts of eliminated earlier drafts ("NDP resolution slams Israel," *CJN*, Sept. 21).

He overlooks positive elements of what was adopted, including "support for a two-state solution with Israelis and Palestinians living safely… in independent states with secure borders" and for Canada to take a " pro-active role" in bringing all parties into the peace process. The resolution condemns all "acts of violence against civilians" and "all acts of terror" including "suicide bombings." The Palestine Authority and Israel are called upon to abide by UN resolutions.

On the Lebanon situation, the NDP says that Hezbollah "retains the capacity to strike at Israel's northern towns and cities." It challenges Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his uncritical support of Israel and presses for federal government advocacy of a comprehensive peace process "bringing all state and non-state parties to the table" to resolve regional conflicts.

The NDP resolutions certainly criticize Israel, but I believe that NDP foreign affairs critic Alexa McDonough succeeded in removing the anti-Israel elements from the earlier drafts brought to the convention.

Abraham Arnold
Winnipeg

* * *

Torah Judaism will thrive

Although Rabbi Shlomo Miller appears to be a target of much of the frustration expressed in your recent two-part series about Orthodoxy in Toronto ("Toronto's Orthodox community: Is it becoming too religiously right-wing?" *CJN*, Aug. 24 and 31), it should be noted that all the trends mentioned affect the larger Orthodox world – and in particular, its Israeli and American centres – and are not in any way restricted to Toronto or its rabbis.

Secondly, the changes going on in the Orthodox world, and the pitch of debate that they have generated, are indications of the seriousness with which Orthodox Jews approach their religion. This is a healthy sign and points to a vigorous future, in spite of predictions of some of the naysayers you quoted in the series and subsequent letters. Torah Judaism will survive and thrive because of the passion of those who take it seriously.

Andy Rechtshaffen
Toronto

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Israeli chutzpah

Martin Kalson criticizes the Toronto Orthodox community for being obsessed with supposedly minor issues ("Toronto's Orthodox community, letter, *CJN*, Sept. 7). His accusations display an ignorance of our community and the chutzpah associated with Israelis who seem to know everyone else's business better than their own.

Yes, we know there was a war in Israel this summer. Toronto's Jewish community was deeply affected and responded, financially and otherwise, in the typical superlative fashion. We've been doing it for years, war or no war, in case he didn't know. He should write letters to his government asking why they do such a poor public relations job in portraying Israel's position to the world media and not countering the lies and propaganda that the Arabs feed the same media.

As for his boasting about the *achdut* (unity) that existed between the various religious and non-religious factions during the war, the only time there is such *achdut* is when there is a war and Israel is under attack. The rest of the time, there are bitter disputes and confrontations between the religious and non-religious. I would not be so proud of an *achdut* that is brought about only as a result of the actions of our enemies.

Rob Benedek
Toronto

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Perspectives

A modern Orthodox manifesto

By MARTIN LOCKSHIN

A few weeks ago, *The CJN* ran an informative two-part series that addressed the tensions between modern Orthodox and non-modern Orthodox Jews in Toronto.

Since one of the articles quoted me, a number of Torontonians have recently asked me whether there really is such a thing as modern Orthodoxy in Toronto, and, if so, where is it? Some wondered if modern Orthodoxy is an oxymoron, like "kosher pig" or "postal service."

Martin Lockshin

I may be an incorrigible optimist, but I see some positive developments in modern Orthodoxy in North America. Before I outline them, I will define my terms. Admittedly, my definition of what modern Orthodoxy is – or should be – is not the only one possible, but, for the record, here it is.

• Modern Orthodoxy is unabashedly Orthodox Judaism. It's not "Orthodox Judaism lite." It involves prayer three times a day, intensive study of Torah, and making life decisions – even on delicate, personal matters – based on traditional Halachah (Jewish law). Modern Orthodoxy does not see personal autonomy as a value, but rather prefers "heteronomy," that is, allowing something else (God's Torah) to influence our decisions and make our lives holier and more fulfilling.

• A modern Orthodox Jew feels that the State of Israel is a positive religious value. Aliyah is seen as the fulfilment of a mitzvah (a religious duty). Modern Orthodox Jews who have not yet made aliyah support Israel in any way that they can. And they believe that the language of the State of Israel – modern Hebrew, the language now spoken by more than half of the world's Jews – is a holy language.

Hebrew, of course, has changed much over the last three millennia. But modern Hebrew is the national language of the Jewish people in its most recent incarnation. As such, modern Orthodox Jews see fluency in modern Hebrew as a crucial Jewish value.

• Modern Orthodox Jews in Canada feel that it's their Jewish duty to take part in public life here. They should feel empowered not just to lobby for the State of Israel or for day school funding (although those are important causes), but also to try to make Canada a better country for all of its citizens – striving to eliminate poverty, ignorance, corruption and discrimination. It should go without saying that modern Orthodox Jews see it as their religious duty to pay the taxes that are required by our government.

• Modern Orthodox Jews should see it as their Jewish duty to do what they can to help those in need in other countries, for example, by fighting illiteracy, AIDS-HIV and poverty. And as Jews living after the Holocaust, we have a particular duty to get involved in preventing genocide wherever it may be occurring.

• In a modern Orthodox synagogue, men and women don't have identical roles. Men and women sit separately, separated by a mechitzah. But a modern Orthodox synagogue takes steps to make women more involved in communal religious life than they were in pre-modern times. A modern Orthodox synagogue has a women's section from which the women can see and hear as well as the men can. In a modern Orthodox synagogue, men and women study Torah together. All classes, even Talmud classes, are open to both women and men. All classes may be taught by women or men.

In a modern Orthodox synagogue, women and men serve on the board and the executive.

In a modern Orthodox synagogue, laypeople – both women and men – can make announcements or teach Torah from the bimah in the sanctuary.

In a modern Orthodox synagogue, rabbis strive to find new ways, while still conforming to Jewish law, to involve women in religious activities. In some such synagogues, women read the megillah on the holiday of Purim. In others, they participate in some form of Torah reading, or dance with a Torah scroll on Simchat Torah. While modern Orthodox leaders are still trying to work out boundaries for such activities, what all modern Orthodox people have in common is a sincere desire to find new ways to accommodate the spiritual needs of women.

• Modern Orthodox Jews believe in the words of the classical rabbis that wisdom is found among the gentiles. Study of secular subjects is not seen as forbidden. It's appropriate to study and learn to appreciate the great works of world culture: prose, poetry, science, music and art. That is why modern Orthodox Jews are lifelong learners of Jewish texts, of modern sciences and of the humanities. They do not shy away from controversial topics. They disdain simplistic, glib answers.

A teacher or a rabbi in a modern Orthodox synagogue will draw on secular wisdom, not just to contrast it in an unflattering manner with Jewish teachings. Quotations from Shakespeare, and even from great writers who were not friends of the Jews, such as T.S. Eliot, are appreciated in a sermon, as are analyses of opinion pieces by journalists such as Margaret Wente or Robert Fulford (even if they do not discuss Israel).

• A modern Orthodox synagogue is proudly Orthodox, but it strives to be welcoming to all Jews. The synagogue promotes meticulous halachic Sabbath observance, but it welcomes, in a non-condescending manner, members or guests who drive to the synagogue on Saturday.

The rabbi in a modern Orthodox synagogue will realize that not everyone there is learned. He will give sermons that can be understood by all. When he uses Hebrew, Yiddish and Aramaic phrases, he is careful to translate every word into English.

• Modern Orthodox Jews realize that they do not live alone. Accordingly, a modern Orthodox synagogue will host guest lecturers who are not Orthodox and ones who are not Jewish if they have messages that help promote the synagogue's values or advance the education of the congregation.

Modern Orthodox Jews are eager to cooperate with haredi Jews. They will accept some compromises for the sake of unity, but will not allow the more insular approach to win out consistently.

Modern Orthodox Jews believe in tolerance.

The author believes that a modern Orthodox Jew feels that the State of Israel is a positive religious value. [RNS/Reuters photo]

They are saddened, and occasionally upset, by the treatment that they receive from those haredi Jews who try to destroy the careers of some modern Orthodox rabbis by labelling them heretics, who work behind the scenes to try to make modern Orthodox educational programs fail, who phone out-of-town rabbis and tell them not to appear at local modern Orthodox venues and who seek out Orthodox university students to warn them of the dangers of studying Judaism with modern Orthodox scholars. (All of these things have occurred here in Toronto.) Modern Orthodox Jews wish to be treated with tolerance, but they themselves still extend tolerance to the intolerant.

Modern Orthodox Jews seek out ways to cooperate with the non-Orthodox when possible on issues of mutual concern, so long as we do not have to abandon our values. Modern Orthodox Jews treat non-Orthodox rabbis – both women and men – with respect, as leaders of large segments of the Jewish people.

• With all their openness to the outside world, modern Orthodox Jews oppose intermarriage as a serious sin and as a grave danger to the Jewish people. They don't seek out converts to Judaism, but when potential converts come to them, they adopt positions of the more lenient halachic authorities in reaching out to them.

• Modern Orthodox Jews respect the quest of all Jews who are sincerely trying to find God and live a life of the spirit in ways other than modern Orthodoxy. They are often very impressed by the deep fear of God demonstrated by some haredi Jews who have rejected the modern world and dedicated themselves solely to the study of Torah, recognizing that sometimes their accomplishments in depth of Torah knowledge are remarkable.

Nevertheless, when modern Orthodox Jews need, as they often do, to consult with Torah scholars on halachic issues, they will first seek out scholars who subscribe to the tenets of modern Orthodoxy as listed above, rabbis who have deep knowledge both of the world and of the law, rabbis who believe in the principle that "*koach dehetera adif*," that the knowledgeable scholar will rule leniently on issues of law when possible and will not decide to follow the stricter path simply "to be safe" or to avoid criticism from the religious right.

Is the description above of modern Orthodoxy based in reality? Is modern Orthodoxy gaining in strength or slipping into oblivion here in Canada?

The pessimists appear to have a case. Not long ago, there was a chapter of the Rabbinical Council of America in Toronto – a group of university-educated rabbis who gathered together to advance the cause of non-haredi Orthodoxy. It no longer functions. These days university-educated Orthodox leaders often kowtow to the haredi worldview.

Some people worry that developments here in Toronto are just part of an international phenomenon in Jewish, Christian and Muslim circles, where there has been enormous growth in the popularity of the kind of "old-time religion" that eschews intellectualism, avoids nuance and provides simplistic feel-good answers.

But there are also reasons for optimism. Here in Toronto and throughout North America, there are several synagogues that incorporate some or many of the tenets listed above. And I believe that in the future, there will be even more modern Orthodox Jews and modern Orthodox synagogues.

Here and elsewhere, observant lay people are coming together to form new minyanim, and sometimes new synagogues. First-rate educational outfits such as Torah in Motion in Toronto and Drisha in New York reflect the strength, depth and vibrancy of modern Orthodoxy. Their effect will inevitably be felt. Successful day schools that teach modern Orthodoxy, such as Netivot HaTorah and the Bnei Akiva high schools in Toronto, are producing more and more graduates who are not likely to be pleased with the status quo. Finally, the new and unabashedly modern Orthodox rabbinical school in Manhattan, Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, continues to produce top-quality rabbis with excellent pastoral skills, deep Torah knowledge and openness to the world in which we live.

I can't help thinking that all these factors mean that a better future awaits modern Orthodoxy. In a few years, *The CJN* might have to run another series of articles about the surprising growth of dynamic modern Orthodoxy in Canada.

Martin Lockshin is a modern Orthodox Jew. He is also a professor of humanities and Hebrew at York University and an ordained rabbi.

Opinions

Bring them home

Does your conscience bother you? Well, it should. I have my own blunders to reflect on during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. But some failures are communal, and this year, our entire community's conscience should be troubled. We have forgotten our captive sons.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

Gilad Shalit, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev are still being held prisoner by Hamas and Hezbollah. The Red Cross can't visit them, and there's been no independent verification of their condition. No one knows if they're alive or dead.

Israel went to war because of these three young men. The war has left the country with a huge casualty total, and still, Gilad, Ehud and Eldad are not home.

Of course, there was no guarantee the war would bring the captives freedom. But what's happened since the end of the war? The captives are not exactly the cause celebre of the Jewish world. There have been rallies in Tel Aviv and New York. Is that all we can expect from a people who believe that each Jew is responsible for the other?

Freeing captives is a fundamental Jewish value. The Exodus narrative instils in Jews a profound love of freedom. Exile made the ransoming of slaves an all-too-common event, and a communal priority. Most importantly, the commandment to free captives is rooted in kinship and community.

Kinship is the starting point of Jewish identity. Abraham risks his life to save his nephew Lot from captivity. Actually, he can't stand Lot, but family is family, and saving Lot is his responsibility. (Years later, Abraham's great-grandchildren will commit the cardinal sin of kinship and sell their brother into slavery. For that sin, the Jewish people will be exiled to Egypt).

Jews throughout the ages have emulated Abraham and gone to heroic lengths to free their captive brethren. In the Middle Ages, Jews emptied their savings to ransom captives. In 1286, the Jewish community collected 23,000 marks (the equivalent of $15 million today) to ransom Rabbi Meir of Rothenberg. (Rabbi Meir refused to allow them to pay the ransom).

Israel's history is also filled with dramatic rescue efforts such as Entebbe and Operation Solomon, as well as lopsided prisoner exchanges. Jews don't ignore their captive brothers.

Today, we must raise our voices to help Gilad, Ehud and Eldad. We must mention their names at every Jewish event, pray for them every Shabbat, and write letters to our MPs. We need to support their families, and we must march on the Iranian Embassy in Ottawa.

It's time for the Jewish community to take responsibility for the captives. We need to let the world know that their continued captivity is an outrage. We need to bring Gilad, Ehud and Eldad home.

A wake-up call for Quebec Jews

Montreal has long fancied itself the "Paris of North America," but this is ridiculous. Many Quebecers reacted harshly to Israel's justified war against Hezbollah this past summer. Leading Quebec politicians marched against Israel while some protesters waved Hezbollah's flag. Shame on those who waved that flag ignorant of Hezbollah's terrorism. Shame, too, on those who waved the flag conscious of Hezbollah's genocidal desire to destroy Israel.

Gil Troy in Montreal

Alas, these people were shameless. I and others who defended Israel, including that great Canadian, MP Irwin Cotler, endured anti-Semitic – not "just" anti-Zionist – attacks. Many were of the "you don't belong here anyway" variety. Even after the Mideast ceasefire, anti-Jewish violence erupted in Montreal. The Friday night before Labour Day, shortly after a dozen yeshiva students exited, a masked man firebombed the Skver-Toldos Jewish Boys School, scorching the entrance. Clearly, the mask reflects premeditation. Yet officials refused to pronounce it a "hate crime," because they found no anti-Jewish note or graffiti.

That same week, a flight attendant threw a chassidic man off a Montreal-to-New York flight, apparently for praying. Air Canada has not adequately explained what occurred or apologized properly to the Jewish community.

More broadly, a survey commissioned by the Association for Canadian Studies found many that Quebecers are soft on Jihadists. In Quebec, 77 per cent of respondents deemed 9/11 "a response to U.S. policy," and 38 per cent blamed Israel, at least partly. As well, fifty-three per cent wanted Canada to "be more sensitive to the concerns of terrorist organizations in the Middle East."

Can we connect these dots? Did something change this summer, or did longstanding realities become more obvious? Let's not exaggerate. Jews live freely and peacefully in Montreal. But are we discovering pockets of Jew-hatred fomenting in Quebec? At best, do most Quebecers echo Count de Clermont-Tonnerre's French Revolutionary sentiments: "We must refuse everything to the Jews as a nation and accord everything to Jews as individuals?" The community must debate this situation candidly.

The community also needs an honest, self-critical debate about how to respond to this new, or perhaps renewed, anti-Semitism. Cowering behind security guards and security cameras is not the answer. This summer, to my embarrassment, Montreal was one of the first and few communities to rush back participants from Israeli summer programs when the war with Hezbollah began. Rather than rallying behind Israel in the tens of thousands outside and downtown, Montreal held an indoor "town hall" meeting. People became so skittish that when one school cleaned its outdoor sign, some parents suggested removing such a big sign that says "Jewish" from the school's building. And when the *National Post*'s Barbara Kay courageously wrote a column that "the reflexive anti-Americanism and a fat streak of anti-Semitism that has marbled the intellectual discourse of Quebec throughout its history" risks creating a new, ugly "Quebecistan," few Jews defended her when the Francophone press vilified her.

We do not risk recreating 1930s Germany, but 1970s Montreal, when thousands of Jews fled down the 401, fearing the separatists. We may not be "*pure laine*," pure "old stock" Quebec wool, but we cannot be the local lambs. We must not be North America's "Jews of silence," nor the latest generation to "cut and run." Nor should we become angry crusaders who overreact to the smallest slight, real or imagined.

Judaism should not be a fighting faith. It must be an enriching way of life. Yes, we should defend our community, but we must also do a better job of explaining "why bother" to ourselves and our children.

While standing up strongly for our rights, the time has come for a communal renaissance, a "re-Jew-venation." Now more than ever, we need a unity based on commitment, intelligence, literacy and vision. Now more than ever, we need to teach our children about Jewish pride, Jewish values, Jewish texts, Jewish holidays and Jewish life. Now more than ever, we need to adapt to modern needs, reinvigorate our Jewish institutions and stretch our Jewish souls.

Bigotry should be fought politically and spiritually, by reacting and affirming. To paraphrase Hillel, if we don't react and protect our rights, who are we? But if we don't affirm who we are and why we do what we do, what are we? And if not now, when?

Standing up for ourselves, and others

When I learned about the brutal attack on a 12-year old British girl on a London bus this summer by a group of British young people, I felt as if I had been sucked into a rupture in the space/time continuum. It seemed to me that this frightening event in 2006 England was somewhere between 1946 Kielce, Poland, and 1964 Queens, N.Y.

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

I was in the midst of reading historian Jan Gross's new book, *Fear*, a devastating account of postwar anti-Semitism in Poland, with an extended account of the brutal massacre in the city of Kielce of the remnant of Jews who had survived the Nazi genocide. When I learned of the beating in London, I couldn't help thinking of the events that Gross recounts. I thought, too, of the assault on a woman named Kitty Genovese in the Queens neighbourhood of Kew Gardens.

For those who missed the news item about the British girl, she was beaten unconscious on Aug. 11 by four older teenage girls after they asked her whether she was Jewish. Sensing danger, she replied that she was "fully English." Still, the gang surrounded the Jewish 12-year-old, punching and kicking her and throwing her to the floor of the bus.

Newspapers reported that one of the attackers stomped on her face with such force that her eye socket was fractured. The gang didn't harm the girl's friend, who, one report said, was wearing rosary beads. Throughout the assault, and with both young girls screaming, no one on the bus came to their assistance – not even the bus driver.

I'm not suggesting that London is Kielce. I don't like such facile and sensational – and thoughtless – analogies. Today's United Kingdom is not postwar Poland. But from the perspective of the person assaulted, there is this similarity: both were brutal attacks perpetrated for sheer pleasure by a group that vastly outnumbered its victims, overpowering through the force of numbers and the passion of hatred. In Kielce, the attack was licensed by a tacit idea that brutalizing Jews is acceptable, socially and morally, and that whatever legal restraints pertain will not be enforced by those nearby. So it was, too, for the girl in London.

As devastating for the surviving Kielce victims as the attack itself was the realization that no one would come to their aid. Similarly, several weeks into recovery from the serious injuries she sustained, the London girl reflected that what has stayed with her, and is most disturbing, is that no one on the bus responded to her cries for help.

It's clear from the accounts of what happened that racial or religious hatred motivated the assault. But what of the response of others on the bus? When the girl and her friend attempted to pull open the doors of the bus to escape their attackers, the bus driver kept the doors closed. Was that, too, part of an atmosphere of hate? A number of studies have cited a rise in anti-semitic episodes in the United Kingdom.

More likely, what underwrote the non-involvement of the bystanders on the London bus was something closer to the mixture of fear, apathy and callousness that explained why neighbours ignored the cries of 29-year-old Kitty Genovese as she was assaulted and ultimately stabbed to death near her home one night in 1964. The "Genovese syndrome," or bystander effect, was epitomized by one neighbour who told reporters that he simply didn't want to get involved.

In addition to continued concern for the well-being of the British girl, and compassion for what she has suffered, I believe we come away from this terrible event with two thoughts. First, we must take anti-Semitism seriously as a 21st century plague and work to counter it. Second, we must not become bystanders ourselves, too apathetic or too fearful to take a stand when the harm does not concern us directly, but affects someone else, or some other people.

This is a quintessentially Jewish concept, most succinctly articulated long ago by Hillel: "*Im ein ani li, mi li? Uk'she'ani li l'atsmi, ma ani?*" "If I am not for myself, who is for me? And when I am only for myself, what am I?"

The Kirshner File

Muslim radicalism in Britain is a problem

Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh was a cold-hearted killer, but on the surface, he seemed like a perfectly adjusted, upwardly mobile, well spoken member of Britain's 1.8-million-strong Muslim community.

Born in London, the son of a Pakistani merchant who immigrated to Britain in the 1950s, he attended a private school and studied statistics at the London School of Economics. In 1993, he visited Bosnia as an aid worker, and there he met hardened Arab veterans of the wars in Afghanistan who converted him to Islamic radicalism. A year later, he was arrested in India, having been charged with kidnapping four Western tourists. Released from prison in 1999, he got married and settled down in Lahore, Pakistan. Sheikh, however, was not cut out for the routines of domestic tranquility. In 2002, he planned the abduction and murder of Daniel Pearl, a young American Jewish correspondent on assignment in Pakistan for the *Wall Street Journal*.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Once his identity as Pearl's murderer was disclosed, commentators in Britain expressed shock that someone as acculturated and integrated in British society as Sheikh could have committed so heinous a crime.

Sheikh is representative of the second and third generation of British Muslims and Christian converts to Islam who have embraced the anti-Western, anti-liberal, anti-modern, anti-Israel and anti-Semitic agenda of Islamic fundamentalism. Although he was born and bred in Britain, he vehemently rejected mainstream secular values and went his own way, like other jihadists who have committed crimes in the name of Islam.

The incidents they are associated with are indelibly carved into the annals of Muslim rage against the West, though it must be noted that the vast majority of British Muslims are law-abiding citizens. (Last week, a survey commissioned by the mass-circulation *News of the World* found that 68 per cent of British Muslims said they would inform police if they suspected that a fellow Muslim was involved in a terrorist attack.)

Not long after Sheikh kidnapped, tortured and beheaded Pearl, two middle-class British Muslims of Pakistani descent recruited by Al Qaeda, Asif Mohammed Hanif, 22, and Omar Khan Sharif, 27, checked into a hotel in Tel Aviv. On April 30, 2003, Hanif walked into Mike's Place, a cafe and pub on the Tel Aviv promenade facing the Mediterranean Sea, and blew himself up, killing three civilians and wounding over 50. Hanif thus became the first European suicide bomber to perpetrate havoc in Israel. His accomplice, Sharif, tried to detonate a bomb in a nearby hotel, but it failed to explode, and he fled the scene. On May 12, his body washed ashore on Tel Aviv's beachfront.

Richard Reid, the son of a British mother and a Jamaican father, was a petty thief who spent much of his adolescence in prisons. Then he turned to Islam, becoming a devout Muslim and an Al Qaeda sympathizer. On Dec. 22, 2001, about three months after 19 Arab hijackers crashed four American commercial aircraft into the World Trade Center in Manhattan, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a field in Pennsylvania, Reid boarded an American Airlines flight in Paris bound for Miami. Before he could activate a bomb in his shoes, he was overpowered, and a disaster was averted.

Mohammed Sidique Khan, 30, was the oldest of the four Muslims responsible for the most serious terrorist incident in British history. On July 7, 2005, they detonated bombs on three subway trains and a bus in central London, killing 52 people and injuring more than 700. Khan, born in Leeds to a Pakistani foundry labourer, was a youth outreach worker. In a video statement released by the police after his self-inflicted death, he described himself as "a soldier" and hailed "martyrs" who had given their lives in defence of Islam.

Mohammed Sidique Khan

The emergence of homegrown Muslim terrorists in Britain is a worrisome trend. But it's really a Europe-wide phenomenon. Mohammed Bouyeri, a Dutch Muslim of Moroccan ancestry, murdered the filmmaker Theo van Gogh in Amsterdam in 2004. The jihadists who killed 191 commuters in Madrid two years ago were Spanish citizens. These events prompted French scholar Gilles Kepel to write in *The War for Muslim Minds: Islam and the West* (Harvard University Press), "Europe has emerged as the primary battlefield in which the future of global Islam will be decided."

Kepel's claim may be overstated. Iraq and Afghanistan may yet be the crucibles where this issue is played out. But there is little doubt that one of the battlefields will be the European continent, which is home to some 23 million Muslims, or about five per cent of the total population.

By 2025, Europe's Muslim population is expected to double, given continued immigration and high Muslim fertility rates. Some projections, based on a continuation of current trends, plus declines in the non-Muslim population, foresee a Muslim majority in France – which has the largest proportion of Muslims – and perhaps in all of Europe by 2050.

Abu Hamza al-Masri

Robert Leiken, author of *Bearers of Jihad? Immigration and National Security After 9/11*, says the mass migration of Muslims to Europe was an unintended consequence of post-World War II guest worker programs.

It was thought that these workers would remain in Europe temporarily, but family reunification programs, generous welfare and housing benefits, free language courses and a high standard of living persuaded them to stay on.

Today, most immigrants in western Europe, including Holland, Germany, Belgium and France, are Muslim. And while many of them are willing to integrate, some younger, militant, unassimilated Muslims reject the minority status to which their parents or grandparents acquiesced, says Leiken.

More often than not, these militants – having been influenced by developments in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Arab-Israeli conflict – hold views on religion and the state, gender equality and freedom of expression that are diametrically at odds with their respective host societies.

Last month, British Home Secretary John Reid gave voice to these concerns when he warned Muslim parents to watch their children for signs of extremism in the "battle for values."

Beyond such warnings, the British government has taken further steps to contain Muslim radicals.

The Terrorist Act, passed this year in response to the 2005 bombings in London, is designed to discourage the "fostering of hate" and the "advocating of violence to further a person's beliefs." Groups and organizations can be banned and mosques where radical Islam is disseminated can be closed.

"Let no one be in any doubt," Prime Minister Tony Blair said. "The rules of the game have changed."

Some Muslim and civil liberty spokespeople claim that the Terrorist Act will increase tensions, alienate Muslims and play into the hands of terrorists. But their misgivings have not stopped the authorities from cracking down on suspected terrorists and banning extremist groups.

On Aug. 21, the government announced terrorism and murder-conspiracy charges against 11 Muslims in an alleged plot to blow up trans-Atlantic airliners. On Sept. 2, the police detained 14 Muslim men in London and Manchester in raids aimed at nipping potential terrorist schemes in the bud.

Earlier this year, Britain imprisoned Mustafa Kamel Mustafa for seven years after he was found guilty of inciting murder and race hatred from his platform at the Finsbury Park Mosque in London. Otherwise known as Abu Hamza al-Masri, the fiery Egyptian cleric justified the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and branded Jews as the "enemy of Islam."

Britain also issued a deportation order against Abu Qatada, a Jordanian cleric of Palestinian origin who was alleged to be a spiritual guide to Al Qaeda.

Omar Bakri Mohammed, a Syrian national who was granted political asylum and became a legal resident of Britain in 1993 after his deportation from Saudi Arabia, left London abruptly in August 2005 when the government announced its intention to prosecute imams who preach violence. Mohammed was the founder of two extremist groups accused of being anti-Jewish: Al-Muhajiroun and Hizb ut-Tahir.

Recently, a British parliamentary group chaired by politician Denis MacShane issued a report warning that anti-Semitism in Britain is on the rise.

The report concluded that "a minority of Islamist extremists... do incite hatred toward Jews," but it added that even middle-of-the-road organizations such as the Muslim Council of Britain, which has called for the abolition of Holocaust Memorial Day, are riddled with problematic attitudes that could affect British Jews.

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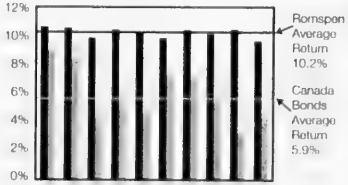

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Jewish Toronto

New chair of National Jewish Campus organization takes a personal look at campus life

Richard Diamond to visit all Canadian campuses in the next two years

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA Federation

Richard Diamond has only been chair of National Jewish Campus Life (NJCL) for three months, but he has already begun to make the rounds on campus. The 46-year-old has already checked out the Jewish student scene at Université du Québec à Montréal and The University of Western Ontario in London. His goal is to visit every campus across the country over the next two years.

NJCL is a national coordinating body of Hillel across Canada, funded by Jewish Federations through UIA Federations Canada. It also serves as the campus advocacy arm of CIJA.

The trips are part of Diamond's plan to develop suitable Israel advocacy and Jewish identity programming on campus.

"This generation of kids on campus looks at Israel and looks at its Jewishness very differently from the older members of the community," Diamond says. "It behooves us as leaders to understand what drives these kids, what their issues are, where their priorities are, what their goals are."

But, says Diamond, a member of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Board, NJCL's Israel advocacy work is not limited to Jewish students. "It's equally important to advocate to the non-Jewish student community so that they too can become advocates for Israel. This is not easy but it's essential to creating a pro-Israel atmosphere in this country."

Richard Diamond

With that thought in mind, NJCL is taking a "shared values" approach to Israel advocacy, in which it discusses subjects such as the quest for peace, the principles of democracy, education, family, and free enterprise.

"These are the values of Israel, these are the values of the Jewish people, and, indeed, these are the values of Canadians," says Diamond.

Regarding anti-Israel sentiment on campus this semester, "it's been relatively quiet," Diamond says of the campuses served by NJCL. But he is not convinced that it's going to remain that way and NJCL has prepared materials to combat potential flare-ups in response to this past summer's war with Hezbollah.

Diamond has also been meeting with administrators to ensure that schools remain safe for students.

"There's no problem having a discussion about the various issues on campus, but it's got to be in an atmosphere of respect and mutual consideration," says Diamond.

Holocaust Centre honours volunteers

Government grant announced

Holocaust survivors who serve as speakers and docents (tour leaders) for the UJA Federation Holocaust Centre of Toronto share their stories with 20,000 students and teachers each year. Recently, they shared with each other instead.

The 18th annual Survivors and Docents Educational Enrichment Day was not only an opportunity to give the volunteers tools they can use in their work, it was a chance for them to get together as a group.

"I see Israel, Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Iraq, Gaza, Darfur, terrorism – they all seem to be the fault of the Jews and the Jewish State," said Lorraine Sandler, chair of the Holocaust Centre. "How come the adult world still believes in fairy tales? You are all our best antidote. You teach children to question evil and intolerable action," she told the volunteers on hand.

Alex Levin, a survivor speaker to mostly non-Jewish students, explained his involvement. "My mother was killed, my father was killed, and my five-year-old brother was killed. They cannot speak. I must speak." Levin was joined by Yona Bromberg, a survivor looking to join the centre's speakers bureau because she now feels, 60 years after the Shoah, that "it's getting easier" to talk about her experiences.

Rabbi Joe Kanofsky, director of education for the Holocaust Centre, who lived in Poland in the early 1990s and the beginning of this century, told participants, "Jewish life in Central Europe is not flourishing, but it's certainly happening," he said, describing new *yeshivot* in Poland, Jewish pre-schools in Germany, and a Jewish camp in Hungary.

Lorraine Sandler, chair of the UJA Federation Holocaust Centre of Toronto, shares a smile with Mike Colle, Ontario minister of citizenship and immigration, at the recently held Docent Day. During the event, Minister Colle announced a $12,000 government contribution to the Holocaust Centre's annual creative writing and arts contest.

"The Hitlers of the world come and go and cause a lot of damage but what they forget is that they condemn themselves to living forever only in our memory. The Jewish people are always here."

During the event, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Mike Colle announced a $12,000 government contribution to the Holocaust Centre's annual creative writing and arts contest which is designed to encourage Ontario's Jewish and non-Jewish students to think about the issues of hate, intolerance and anti-semitism.

Colle explained the government's commitment to the Holocaust Centre and its programming: "If you're truly touched by the atrocities, you have to do something to make sure it doesn't happen again."

The voice of UJA Federation steps down after 27 years

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

Just over 27 years ago, Sara Mosoff, then a self-described "57-year-old Jewish housewife with nothing much to do," realized that she needed a copy of a receipt she had misplaced for her donation to that year's UJA Federation annual campaign. That receipt would change Sara's life forever and the lives of so many she has touched since then.

After arriving at the UJA Federation offices - then on Beverley Street in downtown Toronto - Mosoff, who was known around the place thanks to her voluntarism with Women's Campaign, was asked if she would be interested in becoming a full-time employee.

While the job offer was tempting, the avid golfer accepted with one condition.

"I told them I'd work winters, but the summers, well, that was for playing golf," said Mosoff. "It worked that way for a few years anyway, but, as the demands of my job grew – mostly because Toronto's Jewish community was growing in leaps and bounds - I needed to work full-time."

After her stint with Women's Campaign, Mosoff became the voice of UJA Federation, working in Donor Services where she answered countless calls from community members.

Sara Mosoff

Now, almost three decades later, the 84-year-old mother of two and bubbie of four, is calling it quits, figuring it's time for a change; a time to spend with her kids and grandkids. Mosoff stepped down at the end of September.

"Sara's dedication and commitment to UJA Federation over the last 27 years are almost impossible to measure," said Carol Kassel, UJA Federation's senior vice president, integrated development. "Her pleasant, caring voice on the phone has soothed many an irate donor and her smiling face at our front door makes everyone feel welcome and special. On a personal note, I have enjoyed working with Sara since her Women's Campaign days and I will miss her very much."

"Sara has always been a positive influence on me and the work we do," said UJA Federation campaign director, Jeff Springer. "Her commitment to our community is exemplary. I will miss her a great deal."

"Leaving UJA Federation is somewhat bittersweet," Mosoff said. "I've made lifelong friends and I've seen babies grow into wonderful adults. I've quite literally seen Jewish Toronto grow from childhood and adolescence to adulthood. I wouldn't have changed it for the world."

"Sara is the UJA Federation office mom," said Livana Ohayon, who has worked with Sara for 25 years. "Most importantly, Sara loved what she did here. I don't think I have known anyone here who cares about what they do the way she did. Sara did her job with all her heart because it was so important to her that we help the Jewish community here and, of course, our homeland, Israel."

Ina Glick, who has been at UJA Federation for 31 years, is sad to see Mosoff go, but has fond memories of her long-time co-worker.

"I remember that when Sara started here, one of her primary jobs was to enter each and every donation to the campaign in a ledger book by hand," said Glick. "Now, of course, with technology, all that has changed, but Sara never did. She was always committed to the Jewish cause, always passionate about her role here."

"Working alongside Sara in Donor Services over the past 11 years has been one incredible trip," said Michelle Spring. "She is an incredible friend and mentor to me and I value all she has taught me. She will be sorely missed by all of us."

"Probably the most fulfilling part of my years at UJA Federation is seeing how Toronto has swelled with vibrant new Jewish life. I would be willing to wager that Toronto's Jewish community is one of the strongest anywhere in the Diaspora. I am so proud of the growth of our Jewish community, and, with it, the growth of UJA Federation," noted Mosoff.

Suddenly, the youthful and energetic octogenarian leapt to her feet, cutting our interview short.

"Sorry, Dan," she said, "but I've got to go. We have some big cheques waiting upstairs, and you know nothing makes me happier than that."

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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Renewal underway in northern Israel

Psychological and economic scars are still deeply felt

By HOWARD ENGLISH
UJA Federation

With funding from North American Jewish Federations, northern Israel work crews are labouring around the clock to repair buildings damaged by Hezbollah rockets and the results are beginning to show. The outer face of Israel's north is improving, but the psychological and economic damage to Israeli residents is still severe.

Israel's Industry and Trade Ministry estimated, at the end of August, that a quarter of northern Israel businesses may be forced to close.

A recent UJA Federation mission to northern Israel not only found lingering anguish from the incessant rocket attacks but enormous resilience as well.

"We saw the impact and devastation that 4,000 katyusha rockets made on physical structures in each town and on the magnificent landscape of the Galil, leaving the green, lush environment burned and blackened," said Wendy Eisen who, along with her husband Elliott, chaired the mission. "More importantly, we saw the resilience of the people, who, after 30 days of cramped living in underground shelters, are going about the business of living normally, with smiles on their faces and with the greatest appreciation for the partnership of Jews, worldwide, who have assured them that in their hour of need, they are not alone."

Repairs are well underway in northern Israel following the month-long war with Hezbollah.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is relieving the anxiety, distress, and hardship felt by thousands of northern Israel residents through Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, now underway.

Campaign gifts are being allocated to among other initiatives:

- Recovery from war-time trauma, especially for school children and new immigrants
- Small business loans for those whose livelihoods were lost during the war
- Scholarships for college students who could not work to earn their tuitions during the summer
- The restoration of home care, meals on wheels and other services for the elderly
- Temporary housing while destroyed homes that are still damaged wait to be rebuilt.

Dozens of Web site blogs illustrate the dimension of Israel's emergency recovery. Many of them, written by immigrants from the former Soviet Union, living in the north, have been brought to light by the Jewish Agency for Israel, UJA Federation's overseas partner.

"Today I was very lucky - the missile fell 50 meters from our house, on to the roof of the nearby industrial building. We were ok, except frightened (me especially) and our windows have holes now," wrote *Jimmka* from Kiryat Bialik on August 5.

"I lost count which day of war it is. For the last three weeks my family is not at home, and I am carrying all my belongings on myself at all times, like a snail, because it's a rare morning when I know where I will spend the next night. Actually, usually it's the hospital - whether I am on duty or not. My family is already beyond despair, but there is no choice - getting back home now would be a stupid move," added a blogger calling herself *Olgabrook* the next night.

The UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 total now exceeds $55 million with over $17 million designated for Israel's emergency needs.

To make a campaign contribution, visit www.ujadonations.com or call the campaign hotline at 416.631.5705.

In His Words

Herzl's historic will fulfilled

Recently, Zeev Bielski, who chairs both the World Zionist Organization and the executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel (UJA Federation's overseas partner), led a delegation to France to bring the remains of Theodore Herzl's son and daughter to Israel. Paulina and Hans Herzl died in September 1930 and were buried in Bordeaux. The will of their father - Theodore (Benjamin Zeev) –founder of the modern Zionist movement - expressed his wish for the children to be buried beside him on Mt. Herzl in Israel, where he was laid to rest in 1949. Here are Zeev Bielski's edited thoughts one day after the moving reburial ceremony that took place on September 20, before Rosh Hashana.

As I write to you, I am filled with such intense emotion for the great privilege bestowed upon us to work alongside the Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, to fulfill a historical justice and bring Herzl's children for burial in Israel. Yesterday, the State of Israel and the Zionist movement paid their debt to Benjamin Zeev Herzl, Israel's state visionary, coming full circle 70 years after the death of Hans and Paulina Herzl and their internment in the Jewish cemetery in Bordeaux.

For me, as Chairman of the World Zionist Organization - the same institution envisioned, founded and first chaired by Herzl - it is a dual honor to carry out the will of a man who's vision, spirit, and resolute Zionist stance culminated in the ultimate contribution of a national initiative to build a sovereign state for the Jewish People in the land of Israel.

We escorted the caskets from Bordeaux to Paris and on to our final destination, Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem, for internment at the side of their father, Benjamin Zeev Herzl.

Yesterday we closed a chapter in history. Yesterday, we completed an act of justice for Judaism, for history and for Zionism. Above all is the personal and humane justice paid to Benjamin Zeev Herzl, Israel's State visionary.

It is appropriate to remind us all that Benjamin Zeev Herzl's vision of a Jewish State, exemplified by an exceptional ethical society, is no less applicable today than it was a century ago. If I may be so bold, I assert that it is perhaps even more relevant and important now than ever before. Though numerous are the remarkable achievements of the State of Israel in all areas of society, the challenge of creating an exemplary society is a dynamic task leveraged by the changing reality of the world we live in today.

On this important day, we are reminded of our commitment to bestow upon the next generation, our sons and daughters, the Jewish values, humanitarianism and Zionism expressed by the State visionary. At this time, at the end of a difficult and painful war, at a time of national reflection…this is the most important mission we have placed before ourselves – to expand and deepen our connection to the fundamental values that constitute our nation, to gather strength and faith from them and, in sum, we must solidify them as foundations, firmly set in our lives in the State of Israel.

The caskets containing the remains of Hans and Paulina Herzl, the children of Benjamin Zeev Herzl, were recently flown from a cemetery in Bordeaux, France to Jerusalem for internment at the side of their father, on Mt. Herzl. (inset) Zeev Bielski, chairman of JAFI, speaks at the reburial ceremony.

On this day we remember our dedication to the vision of Herzl – to encourage aliyah among members of the Jewish People from the four corners of the globe and to expand the Jewish education of the younger generation around the world. On the eve of this New Year, I praise the completion of this important historical process of bringing Paulina and Hans Herzl for burial in the State of Israel. At this time it is fitting to remember the youngest child of Herzl, his daughter, Trude, who perished in the Holocaust and whose final resting place remains forever unknown.

Blessed be their eternal memory.

May this be a blessed year for the Jewish People and the State of Israel.

UJA solidarity mission tours northern Israel

Fourteen participants on the recent UJA Federation solidarity mission to northern Israel take a moment to pose for this photo at an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) artillery unit on the Golan Heights. The mission – chaired by Wendy & Elliott Eisen – took participants to a number of northern communities devastated by the 34 day war with Hezbollah, including Haifa, Nahariya, Metulla, Kiryat Shmona and Kibbutz Misgav Am, a northern community that overlooks Lebanon. (Photo by Igor Ellyn)

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SUSAN JACKSON
The Changing Face of the Family

Ms. Jackson is the Executive Director of the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge & Heritage of UJA Federation. She combines humour with her intimate knowledge of the Toronto Jewish community.

PANEL MEMBERS:
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Conference Coordinators: Paula David, Eva Dojc and Margie Levitt, Holocaust Resource Program Advisory Team.

REGISTRATION: $36, including lunch
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Greater Toronto Area

Harbord Club to honour husband-wife medical team

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Former students and teachers of Harbord Collegiate Institute and former patients of doctors Gerry and May Cohen are being invited to honour a husband-and-wife team who have left an indelible mark on the Canadian medical community.

The Harbord Club will honour the Cohens at a dinner on Oct. 19 at the Meron Banquet Hall in Vaughan.

May and Gerry graduated from Harbord in 1949 as gold and silver medalists, respectively. They went on to excel at the University of Toronto's medical school. Graduating in 1955, they attained numerous honours for academic excellence.

In 1977, they left their successful family practice in Bathurst Manor when they were recruited by McMaster University's faculty of health sciences to teach and practise family medicine.

Gerry became an educational leader in the undergraduate medical program, as well as director of a teaching community health centre.

May was appointed associate dean of health sciences. She earned national and international recognition for her work in women's health and in advancing the careers of female physicians. She received a number of awards, including the Governor General's Award in 1995.

May and Gerry retired from McMaster as professors emeriti in 1998 and returned to Toronto, where they continue their involvement in health care on a part-time basis.

Murray Rubin, a retired pharmacist who graduated from Harbord in 1950, has been involved in many projects at the Harbord Club, which was was established to maintain a sense of common identity among former students and teachers. It has 1,700 members from among the alumni of Harbord, which was a hub of Jewish life in Toronto until the end of the 1950s.

Doctors Gerry and May Cohen

He said the club regularly honours former Harbord students who have achieved success in their respective fields, and funds raised from the dinner and a silent auction will go to support Harbord Club projects, such as scholarships.

"We are delighted to have May and Gerry as our 2006 honorees," Rubin said. "They bring great pride to Harbord Collegiate, their profession and to Canadian society."

Ticket are $50 for the dinner, which offers a choice of menus, including glatt kosher and vegetarian.

For tickets, call Murray Rubin at 416-483-0985, or send a cheque, payable to the Harbord Club, to 286 Harbord St., Toronto, Ont., M6G 1G5.

Woman of Valour luncheon planned

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center of Holocaust Studies' inaugural Woman of Valour Luncheon is honouring three women actively involved in the organization.

The sold-out luncheon, taking place Oct. 11, is paying tribute to Carole Grafstein, Elise Kalles and Pauline Menkes. Luncheon keynote speaker is Bonnie Fuller, executive vice-president and chief editorial director of American Media, Inc.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center, headquartered in Los Angeles, is an international Jewish human rights organization whose mission is to generate change by confronting anti-Semitism, hate and terrorism, promoting human rights and dignity, standing with Israel, defending the safety of Jews worldwide and teaching the lessons of the Holocaust for future generations.

Programs and services provided by the centre include the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and the New York Tolerance Center, the only training facility of its kind for professional training and youth education.

Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal, says the idea behind the first annual luncheon is to bring in women so they can participate in the organization and become leaders.

"The premise is that there are many accomplished women, and we want them involved. Not only have the honorees volunteered in our community, they have also been supportive of the organization. We want to acknowledge them and say thank you."

Carol Grafstein, married to Senator Jerry Grafstein, is involved in a number of other organizations including Mount Sinai Hospital, Baycrest, Israel Cancer Research Fund and the Lion of Judah, Women's Alliance of UJA Federation.

Elise Kalles, a real estate broker, also supports Israel Cancer Research Fund and the Lion of Judah, Women's Alliance of UJA Federation.

Pauline Menkes, a native of New York, is also involved in UJA Federation, Weizmann Institute of Science, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, the Israel Museum, Toronto General Hospital, and Princess Margaret and Mount Sinai hospitals.

Luncheon co-chairs are Anna Koffler and Helene Korn, and committee chair is Barb Silverberg.

Leo Baeck on path to International Baccalaureate

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Leo Baeck Day School has been accepted as a prospective member of the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) for its middle years program.

Only two other Jewish day schools, one in Mexico and one in the United States, are members of the prestigious organization, which works with 1,888 schools in 124 countries, including about two dozen public and private schools in the Toronto area, to improve their curricula and teaching methods.

The IBO offers three programs: one for students age 3 to 12 (the primary years program); another for age 11 to 16 (the middle years program); and its oldest and best-known program, a diploma program for students age 16 to 19, which dates back to 1968.

The middle years program at Leo Baeck will run from Grade 6 to Grade 8, the highest grade the school offers. The school will develop its own version of the program for younger students, said David Prashker, the school's director.

He said the prospective membership for the middle years program, which was approved in June, is "extremely exciting." The program, for which he expects full qualification to take at least three years, aims to help students become critical thinkers and inquiring learners who care about local and world issues.

"It's a huge undertaking, especially for two campuses and 90 staff," Prashker said.

However, he noted, he doesn't believe it is a difficult change for teachers to make. "It's not as if you're asking a science teacher to teach French.

"It's not more work; it's different work. You plan differently. It takes more time to plan collaboratively… but it balances out."

The Leo Baeck initiative, which got underway last year with a school-wide pilot project, was proposed by Prashker's predecessor Zita Gardner before her retirement two years ago, Prashker said.

Last year, Leo Baeck implemented a school-wide project in which each teacher at both the Thornhill and the Toronto campuses used IBO methodology for a six-week "unit."

One aspect was incorporating an "attitude of the month" into the curriculum. "Junior kindergarten kids were using the word 'empathy' and really understood what it meant," said Prashker.

Also, teachers were asked to plan the work for the unit they chose in conjunction with at least one other subject teacher. Using a hypothetical example, Prashker noted that middle school students study astronomy as part of the science curriculum, while their Hebrew studies include the Book of Joshua, which is "full of astrology."

Response from teachers, parents, students and administrators has been overwhelmingly positive, Prashker said.

In May, the board gave the go-ahead to start the process of becoming an IBO school.

"This seemed like a great idea to enhance the way we teach," said Brian Simon, president of Leo Baeck's board. "We keep trying to improve how the kids learn."

Prashker said the change is not expected to be reflected in tuition fees, although there is a cost to join the IBO and also to implement related professional development. The school's professional development budget, set in 2005, "will be sufficient to meet our needs," said Prashker.

The school does not face any challenges specific to being a Jewish day school, nor does Prashker anticipate any substantive curriculum changes, he said. In fact, elements of the program, like having a second language, are already in place.

Sandra Coyle, an IBO spokesperson in New York, said the school's double curriculum would "mesh quite well" with the IBO program because of the IBO's commitment to "expanding knowledge beyond the regular" program that is offered at non-IBO schools.

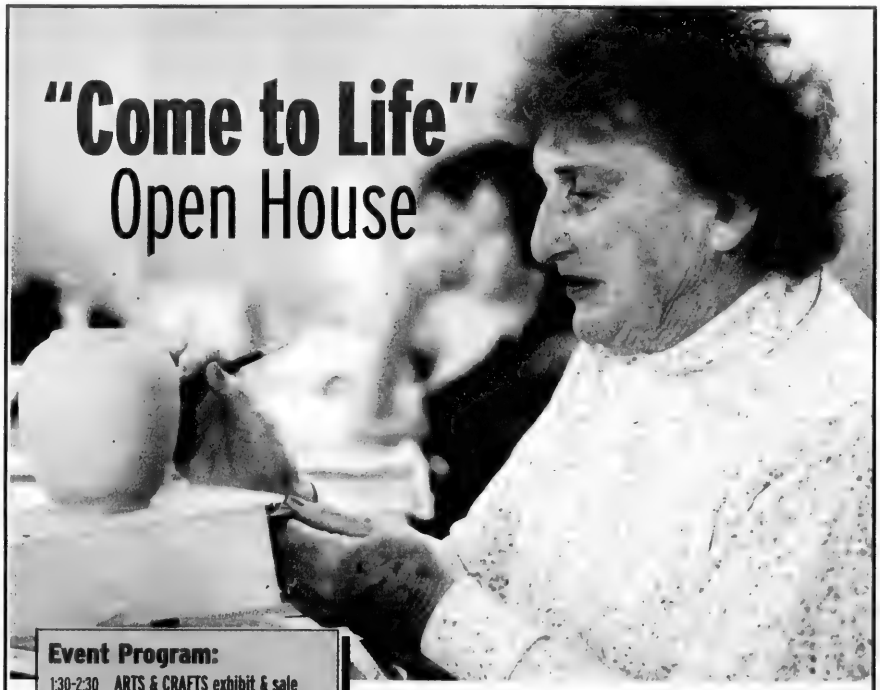
More than a third of the teachers at Leo Baeck have already visited other IBO-affiliated schools or attended IBO workshops, or both, Prashker said.

"We're trying to learn as much as we can."

TFILLIN DEMO: **Seth Goldsweig, a Grade 5 teacher at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School, demonstrates how to put on tfillin to Grade 1 students, from left, Kohava Mendelsohn, Malcolm Mandel, Jonah Dayton, Aya Danzig and Jesse Shrier.**

Greater Toronto Area

WELCOME WAGONEERS:
Associated Hebrew Schools' parent teacher council held two barbecues to welcome more than 125 new families to the school. Each new family was assigned a mentor family to help them adjust to the school. One barbecue was held at the Posluns Education Centre on Neptune Drive and the other at the Kamin Education Centre in Thornhill. Pictured at the Posluns event are, back row from left, Talia and Jonah Benmor and their mother Jackie Marshall, along with Marlene Direnfeld and Alan Direnfeld, and Yael Benmor, front left, and Shayna Direnfeld, front right.


"Come to Life"
Open House

Event Program:

1:30-2:30 ARTS & CRAFTS exhibit & sale
2:30-3:30 LIVE MUSIC - SHAKSHUKA
Jazz and Klezmer performing band
Blending the sounds of many Jewish cultures with a jazzy beat
3:30-4:00 Tours and light refreshments
Door Prizes

Date: Sunday, October 22
Time: 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Place: Terraces of Baycrest
55 Ameer Ave., Toronto
Assembly Room - Main Floor

Registration is FREE. Seating is limited.
Register by Tuesday, October 17.
416-785-2500 x 2267 or
MJacobson@baycrest.org

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Arts and Crafts Exhibit: View our display of hand painted ceramics, knitted items, stained glass pieces, jewelry, and other unique items created by Terraces residents and Joseph E. & Minnie Wagman members. Select pieces will be available for purchase.

Shakshuka: Recently featured at the Ashkenaz Festival, this exuberant band is an original spicy fusion of jazz, Middle Eastern music, Israeli music, and music from around the Jewish Diaspora.

Terraces of Baycrest

Baycrest

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

סוכות — דער יום־טוב פון פרייד און אָפּטימיזם

פון אַלעק סילווער

סוכות איז דער איינציקער יום־טוב פון די שלוש רגלים ביי וועלכן עס ווערט דערמאָנט דריי מאָל דאָס וואָרט שמחה: „ושמחת בחגך", „והיית אך שמח" און „ושמחתם לפני ה'". עס ווערט באַטאָנט, אַז די פרייד איז דער עיקר פון דעם יום־טוב. עס איז געווען אַ פרייד פאַרן יחיד און פאַרן ציבור. ספּעציעל איז די פרייד געווען גרויס פאַר דעם ערד־אַרבעטער און גערטנער, וועלכער האָט שוין פאַרענדיקט זיין שווערע אַרבעט נאָך דעם זומער. שוין אַריינגעברענגט די תּבואות פון די פעלדער אין די שייערן, שוין איינגעזאַמלט די לעצטע פרוכטן פון די גערטנער, איז איצט די פּאַסיקסטע צייט אין יאָר פאַר פריילעכקייט און פאַר אויסדריקן אַ דאַנק צום באַשאַפער פון דער וועלט.

די מפרשים האָבן אַ סך אַריינגעטייטשט אין אָט די דריי שמחה־אויסדרוקן און, פאַרשטענדלעך, אַז יעדער מפורש האָט זיין ווערסיע. אַ צאָל פון זיי האָבן סומירט די וויכטיקייט פון דרייפאַכיקן אָנזאָג פון שמחה אַזוי: דער יום הדין איז שוין אַדורך, יידן האָבן געטאָן תשובה און געבעטן מחילה. די האָפענונג איז, אַז דער רבונו של עולם האָט געזאָגט „סלחתי". הייבן יידן אָן דאָס נייע יאָר מיט אַ ריינעם צעטל. איז דאַרף מען זיך טאַקע פרייען.

דער יום־טוב סוכות, וועלכן דאָס ייִדישע פאָלק גייט איצט פייערן, איז אַ געמיש, אַ קאָמבינאַציע פון אַ גאַנצער ריי ימים טובים. אין דער פאַרנעפּלטער, אַלט־היסטאָרישער פאַרגאַנגענהייט פון אונדזער פאָלק איז דער יום־טוב געווען אַ ריין אַגריקולטור פייערונג — חג האסוף — ווי איך האָב פריער דערמאָנט. מיט דער צייט האָט דער ייִד צוגעגעבן — פונקט ווי ער האָט דאָס געטאָן מיט אַנדערע פייערונגען — דעם רעליגיעזן, גייסטיקן אינהאַלט צום יום־טוב סוכות.

דער „זמן שמחתינו" יום־טוב איז פול מיט פרייד און ער ענדיקט זיך מיטן פריידיקסטן טאָג פאַר יידן — מיט שמחת תורה. און עס איז מערקווירדיק, אַז דער פריילעכסטער יום־טוב אין דער טראַדיציע איז געשאַפן און אויסגעהאָדעוועט געוואָרן דווקא אונטערוועגנס, אין גלות. אויסער די גרענעצן פון זיין אייגן לאַנד, פאַרטריבן אין גלות, צעזייט און צעשפּרייט צווישן פעלקער און לענדער, האָט דער ייִד זיך גענויטיקט, כאָטש איין מאָל אין יאָר, אַוועקצושטופּן פון זיך דעם יאוש און די פאַרצווייפלונג און אויסשרייען און אויס־זינגען צו דער וועלט דעם אָפּטימיזם און די האָפענונג, וואָס די תורה גיט אים. וואָס מער ער האָט דאָס געקענט באַווייזן, אַלץ פריילעכער איז דער ייִד געוואָרן. איז טאַקע שמחת תורה פאַרוואַנדלט געוואָרן אין דעם פריילעכסטן טאָג פון ייִדישן קאַלענדאַר.

נאָך מער, ער איז אַן ווערט געפייערט מיט געזאַנג און טענץ פון גאַנצן פאָלק. מענער און פרויען, קינדער און אַלטע לייט, תּלמידי חכמים און עמך — אַלע פרייען זיך מיט דער תורה אין שמחת תורה. אין יענעם טאָג ווערן אַלע יידן איין משפּחה. דורות נאָך דורות האָבן זיך געפרייט מיט דער תורה. אַזוי איז עס געווען אַמאָל, אַזוי איז עס היינט. פון די תושבי ישראל ביז צו אַלע ייִדישע קהילות אין די פרייע לענדער, און אפילו פון די פאַרשקלאַפטע יידן אין די אַראַבישע לענדער, טראָגט זיך אַ געזאַנג און פרייד איבער דער ייִדישער וועלט. שמחת תורה שליסט איין אין זיך די עלעמענטן פון האָ־פענונג און אָפּטימיזם, אַז נישט געקוקט אויף די שוואַרצע וואָלקנס, וואָס הענגען איבער דעם ייִדישן הימל, מוז די צוקונפט זיין פול מיט פרייד און גליק פאַר דעם ייִדישן פאָלק און פאַר דער גאַנצער מענטשהייט.

מיר ווינטשן אַלעמען אַ פריילעכן יום־טוב סוכות!

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ZIONISM 101

Monday October 16 Tonight's presentation will include the roots of the Zionist movement and the miraculous founding of the state; the refugee problem; and key dates that marked the beginning of Israel.

Monday October 23 An exploration of the religious secular divide, the settlers in the West Bank; the political right/left split; the Israeli Arabs; and the intricacies of the state and its complex electoral system are part of this evening's program. The fantastic scientific artistic and literary achievements of Israel's Jews will also be discussed

Monday October 30 Part three will deal with Israel's wars, external relations and future prospects of peace. Relationships with Arab neighbours, the United States, Europe, the Diaspora and the rest of the world will be reviewed.

All programming begins at 8 p.m.

The Community is invited to attend.
This lecture series is free of charge. Light refreshments.

Beth Tikvah Synagogue – 3080 Bayview Avenue – Toronto – 416-221-3433

40th Anniversary

Lunch and Learn Tuesdays - Fall 2006

Chartwell Constantia Retirement Residence

An Outstanding Series of 8 Diverse Lectures and Films

October 10 *Ever Again*, a film depicting the explosion of anti-Semitism in Europe today.

October 17 *Sholom Aleichem's World: the Laughter and Wisdom of Shtetl Life"*, starring Reuben and Dorothy Silver, is proudly co-sponsored by Constantia Retirement Residence, a Chartwell Development.

October 24 Dr. R. Prussen, an expert on American political culture will discuss U.S. and Canadian cultures.

October 31 *A Jewish Writer and Journalist at War*, the story of Vassily Grossman, will be related by moderator Gerald Ziedenberg.

November 7 *Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust*. This documentary film tells the story of the American Film Industry's complex and fascinating response to the Holocaust.

November 14 Hindy Najman, Associate Professor of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and Religion at the University of Toronto will discuss *"Origins of Christianity and Judiasm – Intimately Separate"*, detailing a Jewish perspective on Christians in the 2nd Century.

November 21 *Suite Française*, by Irene Nemirovsky, a Polish Jewish woman murdered at Auschwitz will be reviewed by Marilyn Herbert.

November 28 York Region Police Chief Armand Labarge will discuss the impact of terrorism on Canada and the current status of our preparedness.

Lunch at 12:15 p.m./Learn at 1 p.m.

For Payment Options & Registration Call
The Lunch & Learn Hotline 416-221-3433 x 352

Fall Lunch and Learn 2006 Payment Form

Three great options:

(1)	Purchase one lecture at a time	$12.00
(2)	Purchase the series (Save $16/00)	$80.00
(3)	Purchase a mini-series of any 4 lectures (save $8.00)	$40.00

Pre-registration and Pre-payment a Must!!!

Check off the program(s) you would like to attend; mail your cheque for the total amount to the Synagogue Office; or fax us your form with payment included by VISA or MasterCard at ***416-221-1602***

❑	Oct 10	*Ever Again*
❑	Oct 17	*Sholom Aleichem's World*
❑	Oct 24	Divergent US/Canadian Cultures
❑	Oct 31	The Story of Vassily Grossman
❑	Nov 7	*Imaginary Witness*
❑	Nov 14	Jewish perspective on Christians in the 2nd Century
❑	Nov 21	*Suite Française* reviewed by Marilyn Herbert
❑	Nov 28	York Region Police Chief Labarge
❑	***Put me down for all 8 Lectures! (The best deal!)***	

Name_____ Telephone Number _____

Number of Lectures_____ Amount Enclosed $_____

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Beth Tikvah Synagogue – 3080 Bayview Avenue – Toronto On M2N 5L3

New CHAT principal makes daily class visits

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Frieda Woznica believes that the classroom is where the most important things happen in a school.

That's why the 580 students at the Richmond Hill campus of TanenbaumCHAT (or the Anne & Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, as CHAT is now known) are getting used to seeing their new principal stopping into their classrooms for brief visits.

"I do classroom visits every day," Woznica said in an interview last week. "I hope that by my presence the students and teachers will realize how important [the classroom] is to me."

An early retiree from the Toronto District School Board, where she began her career some 30 years ago and most recently served as vice-principal of East York Collegiate Institute, Woznica, 53, always wanted to be a teacher.

Her father, the late Rabbi Israel Levin, was a congregational rabbi and a Hebrew teacher. Her late aunt was also a Hebrew teacher, and Woznica's sister is a former teacher.

A native of South Africa, Woznica immigrated with her family at age 8 and moved around Ontario, living in Timmins, Oakville and Belleville, then in Glace Bay, N.S., and Welland, Ont., before moving to Toronto in Grade 11.

After completing high school at Sir Sanford Fleming Secondary School, she studied at the University of Toronto, obtaining a BA in English and psychology, and then her B.Ed.

Coincidentally, her mandatory "out of town" placement as a student teacher was at Richmond Hill High School, in the same building now occupied by TanenbaumCHAT.

[Frances Kraft photo]

Frieda Woznica

Now the mother of three grown sons, all of whom are CHAT graduates, Woznica honed her considerable time-management skills by balancing an observant lifestyle with work in a secular environment. It was not unusual for her to arrive home minutes before candlelighting time on a winter Shabbat night, or to host a seder for up to 20 people on the first night of Passover after working until 3 or 3:30 p.m. the same day.

Having a supportive husband and the ability to get by on few hours of sleep, as well as being "highly motivated and excited about what I do," keeps her going, she said.

When her children were young, she taught part time, and in recent years, she has been working on her PhD at U of T's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Her thesis will focus on the little-studied role of emotional intelligence in teachers and administrators.

The exciting part for her is that emotional intelligence can be raised.

"Even if teachers believe they are caring, and even if they are caring, if they're not projecting the caring to the students, it's going to impact on learning in a negative way," she said. "I think the teacher-student relationship is key to learning."

A lifelong learner, Woznica completed her master's of education in 1992 and her principal's qualifications in the mid-1990s.

This year, working at a Jewish school for the first time, her professional and personal lives are merging. "It's really very nice," she said.

Woznica, who replaced Gary Levine (now director of professional services, Jewish studies, for both campuses), is excited about being part of the transition to the school's new building next September at the Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan.

As a former arts school vice-principal, she is particularly enthused about the state-of-the-art music system planned for TanenbaumCHAT's new location. "We're hoping to attract serious music students," she said.

And having recently attended her first school Shabbaton, Woznica was struck by the way older students looked out for their younger counterparts, and by the existence of both a traditional and an egalitarian minyan at the event.

"The 'C' in CHAT is for 'community,' so it's definitely an important goal of the school that every student no matter where on the religious spectrum they are, feels comfortable," she said.

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Oct 10	Drew Keller of Golf Town speaks at Brotherhood dinner at 6:30 pm
Oct 23	Vivian Felsen on Yiddish in Japan at 8:00 pm
Oct 22 & Nov 12	Chef Mitch Lipperman cooks Pad Thai and Curry with Young Couples at 7:00 pm
Oct 24	Nina Shapelsky, Pianist & Vocalist at 7:30 pm
Nov 23 & 30	Jordan Klapman discovers the Jewish Roots of Broadway at 8:00 pm (Nov 30 held at Beth David)
Nov 15	A Tribute to Hazzan Louis Danto, Cantorial Concert at 7:30 pm
Nov 19	Books & Bagels: The Plot Against America, by Phillip Roth at 11 am
Nov 20	Joseph Glass, The Development of Modern Jerusalem at 8:00 pm
Nov 21	Musical Duo "Esther & Rudy" at 7:30 pm
Dec 12	Brotherhood Chanukah Dinner & Musical at 6:30 pm
Dec 18	Sid Rochwerg (YOWIES) on meeting the originators of "Paper Clips" at 8:00 pm
Numerous	Call for details about dozens of Young Family programs scheduled.

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda presents informative speakers and topical events regularly. In addition, we have numerous continuing education programs running all year. Bring your friends! Call us to find out more.

Israeli clinic treats family of sexual abuse victims

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

For Sheri Oz, it was a seamless transition to move from teaching biology and agriculture in Israel to running a treatment centre for sex trauma survivors.

Oz, 55, a biology and agriculture major in university, says she moved to Israel 30 years ago because "she wanted to help make the desert green."

At her first job, in a boarding school, however, "teaching biology meant I also taught 'sex ed,' and that is when I discovered [what I really wanted to do.]"

A native of Toronto, she returned to Canada to study family therapy at University of Guelph, and then moved back to Israel where she developed an expertise in sexual abuse.

"I actually learned myself. That was in the '80s, and there were no courses. All experts in the field got educated by teaching each other and sharing knowledge."

Oz, a divorced mother of two grown daughters, said among the issues she studied were how sexual abuse victims are handled by society, the services available to help them, and what happens to victims' families.

She opened a clinic, Machon Eitan, in Kiryat Motzkin, north of Haifa, in 1999, she says, "because I wanted to work with the entire family under one roof. It was the first of its kind in Israel."

In Toronto recently to raise funds for the clinic, Oz, co-author of the new book *Overcoming Childhood Sexual Trauma* (Howarth Press) says she now has two family therapists, an art therapist, a drama therapist, a clinical social worker and a social psychologist working for her.

They offer therapy for children, adolescents and adults who were sexually traumatized; family and couples therapy for parents, spouses and other family members of sex trauma survivors; therapy for children, teens and adults who have sexually abused a child; and lectures, workshops and courses for professionals.

Sheri Oz

As well, they provide family assessments when there is a suspicion of sexual abuse.

One of the projects for which she is raising funds is a hotline for people afraid they're about to abuse a child, a drop-in centre for adults who have been abused, and a program for families in which a brother has abused a sister.

"[The latter] is particularly heartbreaking for families. They are poorly understood, and some say even the courts have been judgmental. They are tragic cases."

She says, however, that she tries not to report cases to the authorities. "I use the possibility of reporting to motivate families to seek therapy."

Her measure of success, says Oz, is to observe how abuse victims go about their everyday lives. "If I see an adult survivor functioning and developing a greater capacity for intimate relationships, then I know the therapy is working.

"Most child abuse victims have difficulty with social interactions and with expressing their feelings. If their parents see them making friends and co-operating in school and at home, then there has been success."

She says it was hard for her to leave Israel to come to Toronto, "especially after what went on all summer. I feel like I'm cut off when I'm here, but I'm exhausted from the stress."

Though her clinic was closed during the war, she says, she kept up with her clients by phone. "When they heard that I was in a traumatic state, it made them feel more normal. It was reassuring to them that their feelings were [justified.] Watching myself go in and gradually out of a stressful state gave me a lot of respect for the psychological process."

Some examples of common symptoms of trauma (not only sexual trauma), she says are low self-esteem, sleep problems, addictions, chronic headaches, relationship problems, difficulties concentrating, overwhelming fears and panic attacks, and nightmares.

"One client said that by observing me, she understood what she wanted to come out of and another said that I made her feel more hopeful. Everyone took it to their own place."

Dental fraternity to mark 100th anniversary in '07

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Steve Braunstein of Buffalo, N.Y, the international president of the Alpha Omega dental fraternity, was in town recently to address members of the group's Toronto Alumni Chapter at its annual dinner.

Steve Braunstein

More than 325 people attended the Sept. 18 event, held at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

Founded in Baltimore in 1907 by a group of Jewish dental students to fight anti-Semitism in dental schools, Alpha Omega, with its headquarters now in Princeton Junction, N.J., is today primarily an educational and philanthropic organization. It has chapters and members in cities and dental schools in the United States, Canada, South America, Europe, Israel, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

The Toronto Alumni chapter is the fraternity's largest.

The fraternity, which has has about 6,000 member dentists worldwide, will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2007, and Braunstein told *The CJN* that "excitement for Alpha Omega's centennial year is building."

He said there are plans for a travelling centennial exhibit and for a permanent exhibit in Jerusalem to be completed by the end of 2007.

The kickoff to the year-long celebration will take place in Las Vegas at the group's convention in December.

While in Toronto, Braunstein – accompanied by Alpha Omega international director Terry Shapero, Toronto chapter president Barry Reinblatt and David Mock, dean of the University of Toronto's dental school – met with members of the fraternity's student chapter at U of T.

Reinblatt said the Toronto Alumni chapter "will have a full schedule of social and continuing education programs in conjunction with our many philanthropic pursuits."

He noted that the chapter supports "many local and Israeli charities, and we have a wide range of continuing education and social programs for our members."

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Date: Thursday, October 19, 2006
or
Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: **Centro Restaurant & Lounge**
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We are commanded to be happy!

By RABBI LORI COHEN

RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

"*V'samachta b'chagecha!*" – "You shall rejoice in your festival." What a mitzvah to have to follow! We are actually commanded to be happy.

The Torah commands us to appear before the Lord for three festivals a year – Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot. In biblical times, there were specific rituals that were performed and sacrifices that were offered for each holiday, but that was not sufficient. Especially during Sukkot, we are commanded to elevate both our physical selves and our spiritual selves. We are to follow the details of our obligations to God, but we are also to clothe ourselves in festive clothing and to enjoy the earthly pleasures of food and drink.

In the Talmud, we read that "the soul becomes truly joyous only if the body too co-operates; therefore, it is necessary to gladden the body with good food and drink and clothing to achieve that true and proper harmony of pleasure which is expected of us on our festivals".

However, the mitzvah continues by stating that we are to celebrate with our families, our slaves, the strangers, the orphans and the widows. In other words, we are to invite to our holy day celebrations all of the people in society who have less reason to be happy due to unfortunate circumstances.

This leads to an interesting philosophical question – is it possible to be happy by ourselves, or is it only through making others happy that we can truly rejoice?

The sukkah, the fragile dwelling that we inhabit during Sukkot, is traditionally a place to invite guests. Many people decorate their sukkah with pictures of biblical characters to "invite" them to participate in their festivities. This is to fulfil the mitzvah of "*ushpizin*" – inviting guests into our sukkah.

But I believe we must go beyond the pictures. We are literally commanded to invite those who do not have the opportunity to celebrate the holiday in a festive way. Many people in our society need a chance to laugh and find joy, if only for an evening, and it is our responsibility to make that happen.

A popular Hebrew folksong actually combines the words from two Torah verses: "*V'samachta b'chagecha v'hayita ach sameach*" – Rejoice in your festival and then you will be truly happy. Thus, only when we have fulfilled all of the mitzvot for the festival will we be truly happy. So open your home or your sukkah, make it a place of joy and laughter and help elevate another soul with your own.

Chag Samayach.

Rabbi Lori Cohen is at Temple Sinai Congregation in Toronto.

The more things change…

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Midrashic Moments

The holiday of Sukkot is somewhat familiar to most Jews. We know about building the sukkah, taking the lulav and etrog in hand for blessing, and discussing the weather to decide if this year it will be comfortable to sit in the sukkah for long meals or quick ones. We gather the branches to put on top of the sukkah, and in the past few years, we have had a proliferation of pre-fab, ready-to-build sukkot in plastic, fabric, metal, wood or bamboo that seem to be popping up at every storefront or parking lot.

It's wonderful to see the flurry of activity and surround ourselves with the smell of citrus and fruit and decorations. What we no longer have expression of is the ancient water libation that was once a significant part of the Sukkot celebration.

During the Temple era, at the end of the first day of Sukkot, everyone would gather in the Women's Court of the Temple for an elaborate water libation celebration during which water was drawn and poured on the altar. The Talmud tells us clearly that people who have not seen the rejoicing at the place of the water-drawing have never seen true rejoicing in their lifetime – a tremendously powerful statement on joy, a true simchah.

In fact, the symbolic echoes of the water-drawing ceremony and the messianic era of drawing from the wellsprings of redemption dialogue with each other in visions of a new era where joy and true simchah will frame reality. When viewed in that light, losing the water libation celebration is not a small thing.

The Talmud also outlines an elaborate processional of priests, Levites and Israelites as they weave through the Temple, lighting lights, singing songs, playing instruments and preparing for the pouring of the water libation itself. The technicalities are enormous, the ritual itself is of utmost importance and all of Israel is gathered together to experience the greatest national expression of joy that will occur that year.

A flurry of activity

Amidst all the texts that describe this tremendously powerful and heightened expression of happiness, there is the reality of the Jewish people at the time of the Temple.

Two thousand years ago, we were an extremely factionalized nation. There were many distinct groups who could not agree on how to fulfil the technicalities of the commandments or what the philosophy of Judaism should be. They debated whether or not there really was an eternal soul and whether ritual should be adhered to with strictness or with lenience.

The evidence from our texts describes a nation that disagreed and debated everything. When the arguments weakened the structure of the people, when the doors to the enemy began to open because of the disputes, the sages of ancient Israel warned all future generations to take heed.

There must have been fierce and heated debate over the complex technicalities involved in the water libation – processionals, candles, singing, drawing water, pouring water. Yet interestingly, the texts reflect the joy of the unity of Israel at those moments.

We are told in the Talmud that once the celebration was concluded, "When they separated one from the other, what did they say to one another? 'The Lord bless you from Zion and you should see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life and see your children's children. Peace be on Israel.'"

Interesting how 2,000 years disappear in the blink of an eye.

Jewish Life

By ALEX GROPPER

CHAT participating in archaeology dig

With a combined population of more than 1,400 students, The Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) is the largest Jewish high school outside Israel.

CHAT students have gone on to excel in many areas. The school is a training ground for leaders in the Jewish community at a time when our community is encountering increasing animosity and needs to prepare itself to confront a more hostile world. It gives students a chance to define their Jewish identity and be prepared to defend it. As one who has taught at the school for the past 34 years, I am particularly proud of those former students who have come back to CHAT as teachers.

Past Forward

Many of us have taken strange routes to arrive at the school. Rabbi Philip Scheim of Toronto's Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue asked me awhile ago how I got to CHAT. As the only Jew in my public elementary school, I resented my parents' forcing me to go to Jewish school in the afternoon while my friends stayed home, played and watched TV. Consequently, I swore after my bar mitzvah that I would never set foot inside a Jewish school again. Not in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine that I would not only set foot in a Jewish school, but that I would be there teaching for over three decades.

Fate has strange things in store for us. At least that was my take on it when I told Rabbi Scheim the story. His interpretation was different from mine. He began to laugh when I told him the tale. Puzzled, I asked why. Because, he said, "you see, Alex, God has a sense of humour."

Prior to my arrival at CHAT, I became aware of my Jewish identity through the study of history and archeology, although I first became fascinated with our people's past and its archeological remains when I lived in Israel as a young boy. This fascination has remained with me ever since. I indulged it even further while studying in university. For 25 years, I was fortunate to have taught archeologically related courses at the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies. In conjunction with these courses, I took my students to participate in some major excavations such as the City of David in Jerusalem.

Always in the back of my mind was the thought that participating in archeological excavations in Israel would be the ideal way to inculcate key values and skills in our students at CHAT. An excavation would give them first-hand appreciation of our history as well as instilling in them a love of Israel and its past. It would help them define their Jewish identity in a tangible way. It would also hone methodological and problem-solving skills so important for success in today's world.

Fortunately CHAT has been presented with such an opportunity. In my capacity as president of the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies at St. Michael's College at U of T, I recently helped organize an international conference on the Sea Peoples, the best-known being the biblical Philistines. One of the speakers was Ayelet Gilboa, co-director of the excavations at Tel Dor in Israel, who invited us to help excavate her site with the blessing of Cobie Brosh, the Israeli consul general in Toronto.

Dor is a major Mediterranean site whose excavations are casting light on the relationships between the eastern Mediterranean and the West. It is a visually breathtaking site on a turquoise lagoon halfway between Tel Aviv and Haifa. Tel Dor had a prominent biblical history, but it was then occupied by the major powers of the ancient world, including Assyrians, Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks and Romans, making it an ideal site for students studying ancient history.

Excavating Dor will give CHAT students a unique chance to immerse themselves in our heritage and become a part of it. It will also be a voyage of self-discovery. There is no better way to commit to our future than to appreciate our past. Past – Forward.

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Special guests in your sukkah

If you're putting up a sukkah this year or perhaps visiting a friend's – be prepared to be joined by some other esteemed guests: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron and King David. Those seven tzaddikim (righteous people) are traditionally welcomed into the sukkah during the seven days of Sukkot. Today, a look at the *ushpizin*. **[http://tinyurl.com/fl4zy]**

The Jewish Highway

The mystical book, the Zohar, is the source of *ushpizin* ("guests" in Aramaic.) It explains that "when a person sits in his sukkah, the Shchinah (God's Divine Presence) spreads its wings over it from above and then Abraham together with the other five tzaddikim and King David dwell together with him." Abraham is the guest on the first day, Isaac on the second and so on. **[http://tinyurl.com/fqk2s]**

"Each of these ancient personalities represented a particular spiritual blessing, characteristic or mystical aspect of God (*sfirah*). These figures were imagined to dine with their hosts, bringing their unique qualities into the sacred space of the sukkah." **[http://tinyurl.com/gxqwh]**

But merely dining with a heavenly guest is not good enough. The 19th-century Rebbe of Sanz warned that these holy visitors would undoubtedly refuse to dwell in a sukkah where the poor were not also welcome. **[http://tinyurl.com/zzq2r]** Virtual Jerusalem explains that there is a custom "to invite seven poor people to eat in the sukkah corresponding to the seven *ushpizin*. You then have seven exalted guests from above, with seven earthly guests and God's Divine Presence hovering over it all." **[http://tinyurl.com/fqk2s]**

In addition to the traditional *ushpizin*, several other variations have ushered in more modern guests. For example, the sixth Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn (1880-1950), spoke of seven "chassidic *ushpizin*" as well: the Baal Shem Tov, the Maggid (Rabbi DovBer of Mezeritch) and the first five rebbes of Chabad. **[http://tinyurl.com/z46la]**

Even more recently, female guests were welcomed into the sukkah. The *ushpizot* guide created by the Ma'yan Jewish Women's Project quotes a medieval kabbalist who said that along with the seven male guests, we should invite the seven female prophets listed in the Talmud: Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Avigail, Huldah and Esther. The site has brief biographies of these personalities as well as recommended activities for an *ushpizot* celebration. **[http://tinyurl.com/gxqwh]**

Unless you have a great imagination, it can be a challenge believing these great people really are in your midst. Barbara Weill has a suggestion: hold a press conference. In one of her role-playing games, you invite several friends to your sukkah and have each adopt the identity of one of the traditional ushpizin. Each real-life *ushpiz* is asked "questions concerning his life as related in the Bible. For example, one might ask Abraham, 'How could you agree to offer up your son Isaac as a sacrifice?'" Players are scored for the quality of their questions and responses. **[http://tinyurl.com/hztxr]**

Although not a common word, *ushpizin* entered a wider lexicon after the release of the award-winning movie of the same name. *Ushpizin* (2004) tells the tale of a devout, childless couple who welcome two unconventional guests to their sukkah. **[http://tinyurl.com/89pnk]** You can watch the movie's trailer at the film's website. **[www.ushpizin.com/]**

Finally, a poignant story of a very personal *ushpizin*. Several years ago, Timora (Timmi) Avitzour died of leukemia at the age of 18. Her mother's blog has memoirs about her daughter's six-year struggle and its aftermath. **[http://tinyurl.com/fcxlb]** She tells of sitting in the sukkah almost five years after Timmi's death when another of her daughters "surprised us by saying with a smile, 'Maybe tomorrow Timmi will come and be our guest in the sukkah. It will be her birthday, after all.'... I think that at that moment all of us at the table felt bound to each other in a mixture of contradictory feelings – a warm happiness at our memories of Timmi, a deep sadness that she will never again sing with us and an intense yearning for the possibility that, in honour of her birthday, she might actually make this Sukkot 'our time of joy' by joining the Patriarch Isaac the next evening as one of the *ushpizin* at our table.

"If only."

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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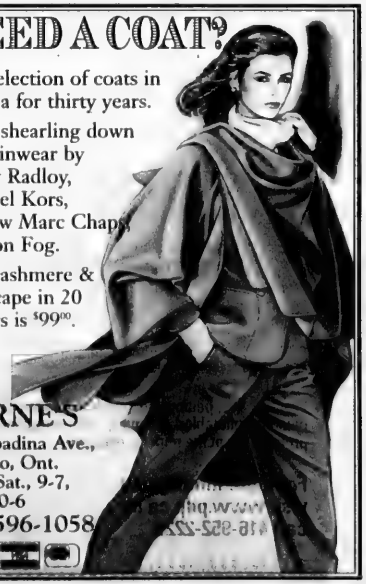

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Greater Toronto Area

Loan proposal means 'debt for life': parent

Continued from page 3

But Yossi Adler, a parent who has been active in lobbying for provincial funding for religious schools, maintains that "if there's no funding, there will be no quality."

He said he was disappointed with the report, criticizing both its summary's lack of specifics and the fact that the people most involved in lobbying for government funding were not consulted.

Ira Walfish, a former co-president of the Ontario Association for Jewish Day Schools, said the OAJDS has worked on the issue for more than five years, including presenting reports to the government. He believes the federation should be assisting in lobbying the province on the funding issue, but not "leading the charge."

Walfish said that the federation has an inherent conflict of interest and thus can't effectively criticize the government on tuition issues when it is providing other funds and services that the federation wants.

OAJDS is still extremely active in trying to get government funding, said Aaron Blumenfeld, Walfish's former co-chair. The federation is "100 per cent" reinventing the wheel in terms of lobbying for funding, he said.

Adler said he knows a number of people who have removed their children from day schools because they "can't afford it, or are not willing to humiliate themselves" by going through the tuition-subsidy application process. He said parents are resorting to taking out loans, because finances are tight when annual tuition for a family with three children is about $35,000 per year.

Jerrold Landau, a software developer with three children in day schools and one who has not yet started school, was particularly critical of the federation's loan proposal. "All that's going to do is ensure that parents are behind the eight-ball for life. It's going to put them into debt for life."

Epstein said he didn't think the loan program "in itself" is enough. "The recommendations that have to do with funding are recommendations that together would help."

The possibility of a loan program was also investigated about six or seven years ago, Epstein added, but at the time it "didn't seem feasible."

If government funding became a reality, as in other provinces, tuitions would be "grossly reduced," he said.

Tuitions "cannot be lowered without some kind of support from the government," stressed federation spokesperson Howard English.

Eighty per cent of the cost of tuition goes to teacher salaries "and salaries are not going down anywhere soon," Engel noted.

The committee has looked at how to reduce other costs, such as having schools join forces to purchase items such as computers and utilities.

But it hasn't yet been determined how the $100-million endowment fund would be used, English said.

Part of the answer will become obvious when some people give money to the fund for specific purposes, Engel said.

But, he added, "hopefully we'll get as much unrestricted funds as possible."

Toronto Heschel School principal Gail Baker – who was otherwise positive about the report – said that, from a philosophical standpoint, a community middle school, such as the one proposed, would be a mistake. She believes that "a lot of research bears it out."

She said her own school would be "greatly" affected by a new community middle school. "We have a particular philosophy and way of teaching that follows from JK to Grade 8."

Some parents removing children from day schools 'because they can't afford it'

Baker – like other administrators and parents interviewed for this article – had not seen the report itself, only the online summary. The full report had not been posted on the federation website when *The CJN* went to press.

Mark Smiley, educational director of Associated Hebrew Schools – a three-campus "community" school, of which one campus is a middle school – said the proposed community middle school "may be the federation's plan to merge the middle schools of all the northern CHAT-feeding schools."

Although he said he is excited that "the community is trying to get its hands around the critical dilemmas that are facing the day schools" and "enhancing the accountability" of day schools, Smiley added that he's "perplexed" about the creation of a new school that would "not increase the number of students in the northern day schools.

"Also," he noted, "I did not see in the report any answer to or support of day schools with open-door policies that are currently receiving only 50 cents on the dollar to help with financially assisted students."

Paul Shaviv, director of education at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, said that, "in general, we're delighted to see that Jewish education, and particularly the day schools, are remaining the centre of UJA Federation's concerns. We particularly welcome the education endowment fund proposal."

Although Shaviv said that tuition assistance still remains "the major need for the foreseeable future," he noted that one area the report could have addressed was a tuition reduction for children of day school teachers. Also, he said, housing assistance for teachers is something that "private schools in major urban areas are increasingly" doing.

Winnipeg initiative helps local foster children

By REBECA KUROPATWA
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — Individualized handmade quilts are now being given to every foster child placed by Jewish Child and Family Services (JCFS) in the city.

"Many kids in foster care come to us with nothing," says Randee Pollock, adoption and foster care co-ordinator at JCFS. "The quilt-giving idea gives them something to start out with, something they can call their own."

The innovative program, called Cover Our Kids with Care, started with an idea from JCFS foster mother Debbie Pinsky and her sister Karen Hornby, who believed that having their own quilts might make the foster child experience easier for children of all ages.

JCFS currently has 16 foster children, Pollock says, and "each quilt is unique, for each individual child or youth in the program. There are babies, school age and adolescent kids – all with different personalities and tastes. Quilts are

Randee Pollock, left, and Merrill Shwaid display the first-ever JCFS quilt for a child in the foster care program.

something very intimate and comforting for kids, something they take to their beds at night.

"One boy," Pollock adds, "wanted to take his quilt with him to school, but decided not to, so that he wouldn't lose the specialness of it."

Material, batting, thread and more are donated by fabric stores and manufacturers as far away as Montreal, Pollock says.

The quilters are also a very special group, says Merrill Shwaid, public relations co-ordinator at JCFS.

"The quilters really care about what they are doing for the kids," Shwaid says. "It takes them three hours just to pick out the material, pattern and design of the quilts. They are a tightknit group, unto themselves... passionate about this project, knowing the quilts are going to children – each stitch is made with love."

In addition, she says, the quilts show how the community has come together to work on this project. "Many people collaborate on making them – from those who have never sewn before to those who are expert quilters."

The project's quilters come from a group called the Manitoba Prairie Quilters Guild, Shwaid says. Some of the quilters who regularly work on the projects are Bev Binder, Karen Hornby, Cecile Montgomery, Yvonne Kok and Islay May Garroni, and they "share a tight bond."

She says "food is always involved in quilt-making get-

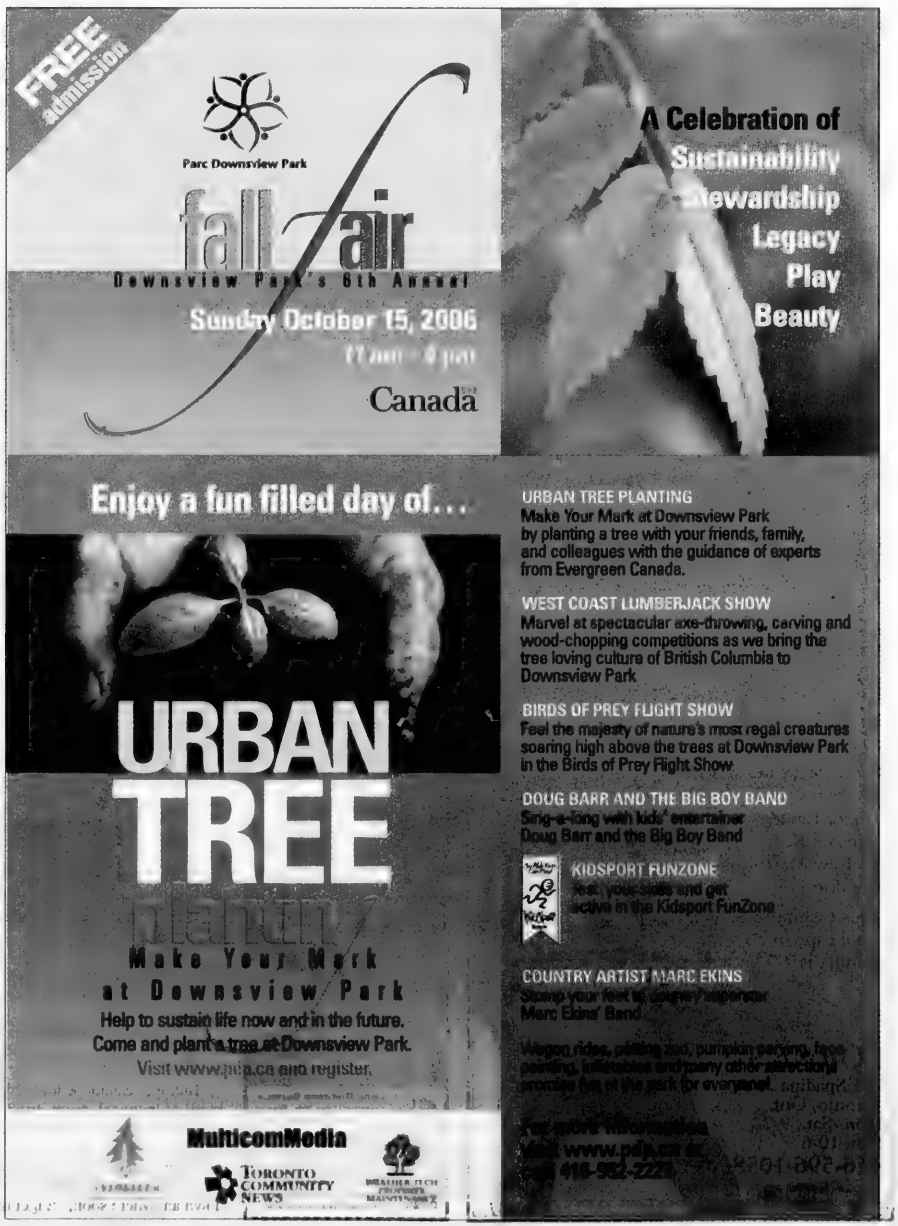
Quilts being given to foster children

togethers. All of the quilters have very busy day-to-day schedules already, yet they make time for this. It is a 'feel good' activity for kids who need and use the quilts. The quilts are special to the kids. It is a win-win project for everyone."

JCFS, Shwaid says, "encourages people to fund the quilting initiative, but also to support the foster children, making it possible for them to fully participate in extracurricular activities such as sport and summer camp, and Jewish milestones, like bar and bat mitzvahs."

A donation of $18 provides one square of a quilt. It costs about $1,000 to make an entire handmade quilt.

For more information about the Cover Our Kids with Care program, contact Randee Pollock at 204-477-7430, or e-mail jcfs@aspercampus.mb.ca.



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Coast to Coast

Dawson victim continues to improve

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Members of the Jewish community have been coming forward to express their solidarity with the family of Leslie Markofsky, the most gravely wounded of the 20 people injured in the Sept. 13 Dawson College shooting spree.

People who know him describe him as a friendly, highly intelligent young man, and an avid golfer with a very promising future.

Although the condition of Markofsky, 22, had reportedly stabilized and "continued to improve" last week, he remained in critical care and was the only Dawson victim still in hospital.

Markofsky continued to be treated at Montreal General Hospital's intensive care unit – according to news reports, he was in a medically induced coma – as physicians decided how to deal with a bullet lodged in his brain. Another bullet was removed from his brain soon after the shooting.

At Congregation Beth Tikvah in Dollard des Ormeaux, where his family lives, Rabbi Mordecai Zeitz said his shul has received scores of e-mails from all over the world as the result of a request he made Sept. 17 to hundreds of people on the shul's e-mail list to pray for Dawson victims, including Markofsky, and to send a refuah-shleimah on his behalf.

The Markofskys aren't members of Beth Tikvah, but Rabbi Zeitz serves as a chaplain at the Montreal General Hospital and has visited with the family there.

"It is a very private affair, and they want their privacy as any family would whose child is gravely injured," he told *The CJN*. "We need to use the power of prayer and hope to see success in the new year."

The Markofskys are members of Congregation Beth-El, whose spiritual leader, Rabbi Ronnie Cahana, has also paid a visit to the hospital.

A prize-winning business student now attending Concordia University, Markofsky happened to be at Dawson for an "icebreaker" pizza lunch with incoming business students when Kimveer Gill began his lunch- hour rampage. Gill killed himself after he was shot by police and his capture was imminent.

According to Robert Soroka, a Dawson business professor who has known Markofsky for several years and coached him on a student team that won an inaugural Business Development Bank of Canada competition for CEGEP business students last February, Markofsky was among the "top one per cent" of students he has come into contact with.

Also on the team was Markofsky's sister, Lauren, who graduated with her brother from Dawson last spring. But contrary to previous reports, she is 20 years old and not his twin.

In a team group photograph taken at the awards ceremony, Markofsky can be seen grinning from ear to ear, with his equally beaming sister only steps away.

"I don't remember ever seeing him without a smile on his face," Soroka told *The CJN*, citing Markofsky's school presentations as among the best he has seen.

Soroka was in his fourth-floor office when the shooting began, and he said that everyone "felt terrible" at the news that Markofsky was among those wounded.

Another acquaintance, former Montrealer Jordan Berson, 35, said he taught Markofsky chess when Markofsky was a boy at the Hebrew Foundation School (which is attached to Beth Tikvah), as well as at the Lakeshore Chess Club and Westpark Elementary School.

"I remember a very bright kid," said Berson, who now lives in St. John's, Nfld. "It was a real shock to hear what happened. As soon as I heard the name, I knew who it was."

Torah High enrolment exceeds expectations

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The Ottawa chapter of National Council of Synagogue Youth (NCSY) recently launched its own version of Torah High, an after-school program for high school students.

Enthusiasm about the program was evident when students, parents and friends gathered for Torah High's opening barbecue on Sept. 17.

The program, which follows the success of a similar one in Toronto, aims to bring together Jewish teens, regardless of affiliation or level of Jewish education. Offering both credit and non-credit courses as well as a place for social interaction, Torah High is located in a strip mall within walking distance of Sir Robert Borden High School in the city's west end. Students from other schools travel there by taxi.

Classes are held in a room furnished with comfortable couches, a 52-inch flat-screen television, an Xbox, computers and a foosball table. To make the program accessible, tuition and transportation are free. It is funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and private donations.

"We were motivated by the demographics showing a decline in involvement in the Jewish community of high school students and young adults," said Kathi Kovacs, chair of NCSY Ottawa.

"That was worrisome, and we felt that the ideal would be that all Jewish teens attend a Jewish high school but for many youth that just hasn't been an option. The community seemed to be ready for a change and seemed to be looking for new ideas and ventures."

Continued on page 25

Student teachers learn about the Holocaust

By LAUREN KRAMER
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — On an ordinary fall day recently at the University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus in Kelowna, 100 student teachers shuffled sleepily into their lecture hall for morning classes.

Only this day would be different as their lecturers were Vera Schiff, a Holocaust survivor, and Carson Phillips, director of the Holocaust Teacher Training Program.

"Sometimes the teachers know nothing about the Holocaust when they walk into the room," said Phillips, whose four-year-old program is funded by UIA Federations Canada and the Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario. "For many students, this is the first time they've met a Holocaust survivor."

For the first time last month the Holocaust Teacher Training Program gave educational workshops at British Columbia colleges. Sessions were held at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops and the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George as well as at UBC. About 400 student teachers took part.

While a daylong workshop cannot hope to teach the students everything there is to know about the Holocaust, it does provide a foundation upon which they can build their own knowledge and gives them instruction on methods of teaching the Holocaust.

"The biggest impact we've had is in the number of teacher candidates we've been able to reach," says Phillips. "We started with 1,000 teachers a year, but in total now we've reached about 6,000. As a result, there's a definite increase in the amount of Holocaust education that's happening at the classroom level."

The Holocaust Teacher Training Program is provided free to colleges and universities across Canada. In the beginning, Phillips had to call the colleges to tell them about the program, but these days word has spread and the educational institutions are contacting him.

At UBC-Okanagan, Vicki Green, an associate professor in the faculty of education, said the program "was extremely beneficial for the 140 student teachers, as the oral history with the insight of time augmented with documents, photographs, DVD recordings and other narratives create a context for student teachers to locate their experience."

After the program, students were thoughtful, reflective and pensive, she added. "Some were overwhelmed by the experience of meeting Vera Schiff, who created such an intimate environment that her teaching was powerful and memorable for the student teachers. They are so bombarded with media that it was an experience to be in a very quiet room listening to an exceptional speaker recount historical events in a personal context for them."

Green said she would have no qualms about recommending the Holocaust Teacher Training Program to other educators. "The curriculum materials are excellent, the workshop presenters are exceptional and the message given is unforgettable.

"The likely aftermath of the program will be a sharing of the students' experience with family, friends and neighbours," she added. "Student teachers will be more knowledgeable and sensitive when teaching the Holocaust in schools, will investigate issues on their own and be more aware of Canada's role in international affairs."

Beth Pye agreed. A teacher at Loughborough Public School in Kingston, Ont., she has attended every Holocaust workshop her school board has hosted. "I feel there's not a day that goes by that I don't link something to the Holocaust in some small way," she said. "It's not in the curriculum, it's not something we cover… but you find ways to put it into the curriculum."

After learning about the Holocaust, students in Pye's grades 7 and 8 classes wore paper clips on their clothing all winter in the 2005-06 school year. The clips were a way for them to identify with the Jews' suffering in the Holocaust, especially after the students learned that Norwegians in Nazi Europe had worn paper clips to demonstrate their support for Jews who had to wear yellow armbands.

"They wore them all winter, and I just sat there like a bawling fool," Pye told the *Kingston Whig-Standard*.

Phillips regularly receives correspondence and e-mails from teachers telling him about their classroom Holocaust education projects.

"These workshops are one way of ensuring that the Holocaust remains at the forefront for teachers to study and teach about," he said.

Torah High courses filled beyond capacity

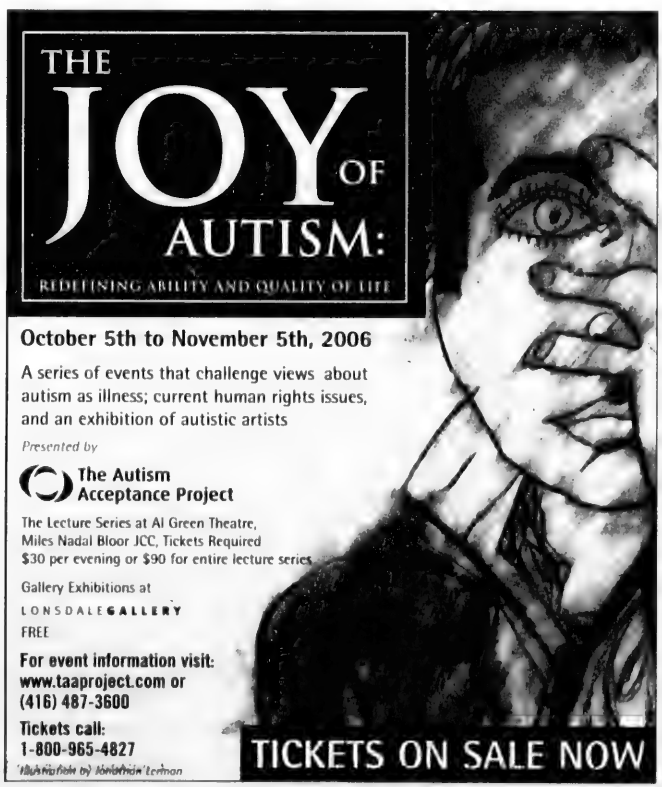
Continued from page 24

She and Ottawa director of NCSY, Bram Bregman, worked on bringing Torah High to the community. They enlisted Rabbi Yehuda Simes, a local educator, to be its director.

"I really believe that this is a prototype that could be used anywhere," said Rabbi Simes. "These are kids in public schools who still want some connection with Jewish education, if it is done in a warm and welcoming, non-threatening way."

Initial enrolment of more than 40 students has exceeded all expectations, and the two courses that are offered, which began on Sept. 11, quickly filled to beyond capacity. "The participation level is fantastic," said Rabbi Simes, "and we have had to offer each class twice, so we are working every day."

Students can take a philosophy course that gives them a Ministry of Education high school credit, as well as a mitzvah action course (MAC) that allows them to accumulate their compulsory 40 hours of volunteer work for a credit. MAC meets four times a month – three meetings to discuss the importance of a mitzvah and one in which to perform the mitzvah. The class votes on the mitzvah they will undertake.



Winnipegger seeks to link Israelis living in Canada

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Five years ago, Ron East's career path was radically altered when the Israeli-born elementary school teacher was assaulted by a trespasser on his school's playground.

A resulting head injury caused some brain damage. He was hospitalized for a long time, and while he has largely recovered, the Winnipeg resident still has problems with his memory.

Despite the trauma he has experienced, East retains a positive outlook on life. Over the past couple of years, he has found new purpose. He has found happiness with a new wife, Shirley, and he's looking forward to becoming a father for the first time.

But with a return to teaching not in the cards, he's turned his energies to building Canada Sheli, a social networking group for Israelis in Winnipeg and across Canada that he founded earlier this year.

East came to Winnipeg with his family in 1982 at age 11. (His father, Yoram, was a high-ranking Israel Defence Forces officer in southern Lebanon who has established a reputation here as a journalist and commentator on Israel and the Middle East.)

"When we came here, there were perhaps 200 Israelis living in Winnipeg," East said. "There was an attempt made in the early 1980s to form an organization for Israelis living in Winnipeg, but it fell apart because of too much factionalism."

East went back to Israel in 1988 to serve in the military, returning to Winnipeg in 1992.

With the rapid growth of Winnipeg's Israeli population over the past couple of years – East estimates there are now about 800 Israelis living here, due to Manitoba's liberal immigration policies – East felt there was a need for a new group offering activities and programs in Hebrew.

"Nobody was doing anything here," he said.

Earlier this year, East met with Rami Kleinmann, the Jewish National Fund's longtime shaliach in Winnipeg (who is now also the national shaliach for Canada). A hallmark of Kleinmann's work has been to reach out to groups beyond the local Jewish community.

"We were talking about the need to reach out to Israelis living in Canada," he said. "I volunteered to be the organizer."

Canada Sheli began in February as a Hebrew-language monthly newspaper that East put together. The free paper was distributed to Winnipeg Israelis at places they are known to frequent.

"People started calling and asking about events for Israelis," East said. "So we started organizing joint programs with the JNF and other community organizations."

A singalong in the spring attracted about 80 people. East and Canada Sheli also organized the first pro-Israel rally here after Israel's war with Hezbollah broke in July.

A couple of weeks ago, the group hosted popular Israeli talk show host Eitan Danzig, who staged a show in Winnipeg. His guests included former IDF intelligence officer Avi Shachar, who now lives in Toronto, as well as Ehud Davidson, the mayor of Kfar Saba who spoke about the state of war preparedness in Israel, and Israeli Arie Lavy, a Winnipeger who was a prisoner of war in Egypt for several months after the 1973 war.

"We have started a weekly soccer program on Sundays and a monthly Israeli movie night," East said. "We also have another singalong planned."

The newspaper has spun off a weekly e-newsletter that has nearly 1,000 subscribers. While most live in Winnipeg, East said the e-newsletter has subscribers across Canada, and even in Europe.

Through Canada Sheli, East is also using the Internet to raise money for IDF soldiers. "Our blue-ribbon campaign has raised close to $1,500 worldwide," he said.

East has also become a one-stop information source for new Israeli arrivals to the city. He invites them to his home and introduces them to people around the community. He also helps them do such things as get cellphones, open bank accounts and lease cars – help, he said, that goes beyond what's provided by the Jewish Child and Family Service.

His next goal is to establish Canada Sheli branches in communities across Canada. While Toronto's large Israeli community is well established, he said, Israelis elsewhere would benefit from Canada Sheli's activities.

He praised Kleinmann, Shelley Faintuch of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and Tamar Barr of the city's Rady Jewish Community Centre for supporting Canada Sheli.

"I used to chase the money like most people," East said. "But since my brain injury, I have come to realize that it's not about the money, but rather what you are passionate about. My passions are Israel and brain injury awareness. [He also runs a brain injury awareness organization called My Brain Matters.] These past two years have been the most beautiful two years of my life."

Only paid Mazel tov announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come - first served basis as space allows.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words maximum. Send your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., #205 North York, ON. M3B 3K4
or email them to:
cblackman@cjnews.com

Mazel tov to Jack & Lori Ponte on the birth of Maya. Grandparents, Isaac & Sandy Dassas, Albert Ponte and Esther Bengio. Great-grandparents, Tillie Bomal, Alegria Bengio.

Mya announces the arrival of her sister Brooklyn. Brooke is welcomed by parents Stacey & Richard, and grandparents Fran & Rick Goodman, Millie & Ben Lax.

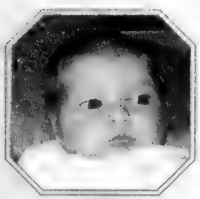
Mazel tov Tatyana & Mark Mendelson on your recent wedding. Congratulations and best wishes from your friends.

Sam & Lil Burke, happy 60th anniversary. Celebrating together a marriage of cherished love and mutual respect. Love from all your children and grandchildren.

Mazel tov to Kevin on your bar mitzvah on Oct. 7. Best wishes and lots of love from your grandparents Imi & Popsi Blitzer.

Dorothy & Sheldon Levinson, Fran & Barry Rishikof announce the arrival of their granddaughter, Julia, in Ottawa. Parents, Karen & Rob, sister Sarah and great-grandmother Marjorie Rishikof.

Rosalee, daughter of Anna Korolnek & Rabbi Selig Korolnek to David, son of Hilda & Irving Pisarek on June 25 at Beth Emeth Synagogue.



Dafydd Ezra was born June 12 in London, England. Overjoyed parents, Jeffrey & Nicola Rubinoff, and brother Joseff. Grandparents, Renee & Marv Rubinoff, Ray Jones.

Mazel tov Jordana Stier who graduated with a BA honour of distinction at University of Toronto. Love, Mom & Dad, Brandon, and grandparents Bella & Manfred.

Danielle & Jeffrey Glucksman announce the birth of Nathanial Theodore on May 30. Proud grandparents are Ruth & Barry Rebuck, Nurit & Izhak Glucksman.

JNF
Say it with Trees
"In Loving Memory"
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
416-638-7200

What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

CJN DATING
MEET YOUR MATCH
www.cjndating.com
powered by JMATCH
JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

What's New deadlines: Monday, Oct. 23, is the deadline for the Nov. 2 issue and Monday, Oct. 30, is the deadline for the Nov. 9 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Oct. 5

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Beth Emeth Synagogue Leadership Development Institute is a certified academic program that provides the opportunity for personal and professional growth and the development of leadership skills, which can be applied to any life scenario. Led by professionals, the program is open to anyone who feels they can benefit from intensive leadership training. Topics include leadership, conflict resolution, negotiation, mentoring, public presentations and self-preservation. Classes begin tonight and meet monthly on Thursday evenings 7-9 p.m. For information and registration, contact **Rosalie Shadlyn**, 416-633-3838.

Monday, Oct. 9

RUN/WALK FOR TAY-SACHS

Join the "Run for the Kids," a 5-km run/walk and 1-km run in support of the Canadian Association for Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Inc. This annual race in Oakville is a family event but also caters to the serious runner and is a certified 5-km run. Free refreshments and complimentary massage and chiropractic adjustments before and after the race provided. Prizes for pledges starting at $50 through $750. Event begins in front of the Oakville Public Library at Lakeshore Rd./Navy St. 10 a.m.-noon. Register at www.runningroom.com, info at www.catsad.ca.

COUNTRY SINGLES EVENT

Orthodox singles, 30s and 40s, are invited to enjoy Sukkot at the country estate of **Jackie** and **Larry Garber**. Enjoy guided hiking or just relax, games room, kosher dinner, campfire and fireworks. 4-9:30 p.m. Cost, $80 donation to the Westmount Community Shul. To reserve, contact Oct9th@JackieCollier.com.

Tuesday, Oct. 10

LUNCH AND LEARN

Beth Tikvah Lunch and Learn features *Ever Again,* a film about anti-Semitism in Europe today, produced by the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Lunch 12:15 p.m. Screening 12:45 p.m. $12 prepaid reservation, call 416-221-3433, ext. 352. $15 at the door.

DINNER & GOLF PROGRAM

Join Beth Emeth Brotherhood for their opening dinner and golf program with guest speaker **Drew Keller**, from Golf Town, and learn about the latest trends in golf. Hors d'oeuvres 6:30 p.m., dinner 7 p.m., free golf program 8 p.m. $18, non-members $23. Call 416-633-3838 to reserve.

NUTRITIOUS JEWISH DIETS

Beth David Sisterhood presents **Aviva Allen** and **Sheri Rapp** speaking on "Nutritious Traditional Jewish Diets." 7:30 p.m. Guests $5 at the door. 416-633-5500

Wednesday, Oct. 11

ENHANCING YOUR HEALTH

Weizmann Women and Science presents a day of presentations on achieving and maintaining emotional, nutritional and physical health. Speakers include **Ilan Chet**, president, Weizmann Institute, on "Who Is Afraid of Genetically Modified Foods?"; **Dr. Fay Sliwin**, medical director of the Health Watch Clinic, Women's College Hospital, on "Maintaining Health in Midlife"; and psychologist **Steven J. Stein** on "Emotional Intelligence." 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Beth Emeth Synagogue. $100. To RSVP, contact **Sheri Federman** at 416-733-9220 or sheri@weizmann.ca.

MAH-JONG, RUMMIKUB

Beth Emeth Sisterhood invite men and women to spend every Wednesday afternoon playing mah-jong and rummikub, 12:30-3:30 p.m. The donation of a toonie goes

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Advising Your Aging Client:
Prevention of Financial Exploitation of the Elderly and the Role of the Professional

A seminar for lawyers, accountants, financial planners and doctors

Wednesday, October 18, 2006
7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Guest Speakers:
Susan Heakes, BA, LL.B
Partner at Heenan Blaikie LLP

Linda Jackson, MSW, RSW
Director of Social Work and Community Services at Baycrest

Presented by
Baycrest — Enriching Care, Enhancing Knowledge, Enlightening Minds
Baycrest Foundation

$20.00 per person
(Breakfast included)

Registration:
Nicole Goldstone
416-785-2500,
ext. 2015

Loftus Hall
Apotex Centre,
Jewish Home
for the Aged

Baycrest
3560 Bathurst Street
Toronto ON M6A 2E1

Treasures in Jewish Literature

THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES LAPINSKY
by Karen X. Tulchinsky, set in Toronto, is the story of a womanizing, world-champion boxer whose life unfolds against the backdrop of the Depression, the Christie Pits Riot and World War II.
Short listed for the Toronto Book Awards 2004.

Presented by
Celine Kessler

Tues., Oct. 31 – Afternoon session
Refreshments: 1 p.m. Program: 1:30 p.m.
Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst Street
$15 at the door (Kashruth observed COR)

Wed., Nov. 1 – Evening session
Program: 8-10 p.m. Refreshments
Reena Battle Centre, 927 Clark Avenue West
$15 at the door (Kashruth observed COR)

For information and registration, contact 416-635-2996 or www.jewishtoronto.com/treasures

Copies of the book available from the Jewish Public Library

Presented by the Jewish Public Library, part of the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage of UJA Federation, the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (afternoon session) and the Schwartz/Reisman Centre (evening session)

JCC — UJA Federation — Schwartz/Reisman Centre

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toward their Torah Fund. For information, call **Ruth Sherman**, 416-638-2233.

LIFE AFTER HEART DISEASE

Food critic and senior editor at the *Globe and Mail*, **Cecily Ross**, reads from her book, *Love in the Time of Cholesterol*, a heartfelt, funny and informative memoir about life after heart disease, complete with heart-smart recipes. Q &A to follow the reading. North York Central Library, Room 1, 7 p.m. Free. Register at 416-395-5639 or www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Other News

SUKKAH ON ICE

Beth Tzedec Congregation's Generation Hutzpah hosts "Sukkah on Ice." Watch the Leafs-Devils game, drink Scotch and eat. Thursday, Oct. 12, 7:15 p.m. $15. RSVP to 416-781-3514, ext. 47, by Monday, Oct. 9.

TEMPLE SOCIAL CLUB

Actor, singer and artistic director of the Ashkenaz Festival, **Mitchell Leonard** entertains at the opening fall program of the Temple Sinai Social Club. Thursday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. $5, guests $7. RSVP **Wilf Ross**, 905-764-7475

ORAYNU ONEG SHABBAT

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism hosts "A Taste of Torah and Heaven," an Oneg Shabbat celebrating Sukkot and Simchat Torah with a potluck dinner. Friday, Oct. 13, at 7 p.m. Non-members welcome for a nominal fee. 18 Wynford Dr. RSVP to 416-385-3910 or info@oraynu.org/.

CLUB FOR THE BLIND

The Hebrew Club for the Blind and Visually Impaired of Greater Toronto holds its next meeting Monday, Oct. 16, at the Bathurst JCC, Room 211a. New members welcome. If you need a ride or for information, call **Bess Lokach**, 905-508-2892.

WOMEN AND MITZVAH

Rabbi Jennifer Gorman speaks on "Women and Mitzvah" at Beth Tzedec Sisterhood's opening meeting and dessert reception, Tuesday, Oct. 17. Reception 6:30 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. Reserve by Oct. 10 at 416-781-3511.

HOSPICE TRAINING

The Circle of Care and Jewish Hospice Programs offer a hospice training program. The program requires a commitment of a weekly visit of at least two hours and completing a 30-hour training course. The organizations provides in-home visits to individuals with life-threatening illnesses and relief for their caregivers. Course begins Oct. 19. Call **Gaye Duncan**, 416-635-2860, ext. 462 to register.

HIGH-ABILITY LEARNERS

Parents of gifted/high-ability learners are invited to "Gifted Education in the Regular Classroom: Reflecting Upon Parent and Teachers' Roles," an evening of networking and information gathering facilitated by **Joanne Foster**, gifted education consultant for Tikun Chaim, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education. Thursday, Oct. 19, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building. For information, contact **Debbie Gladstone**, 416-631-5835.

GETTING TO SLEEP

The Wellness Library at Baycrest Hospital is hosting a free information session on "Getting a Good Night's Sleep." Whether you are not able to fall asleep, wake up too often, don't feel well rested when you wake up in the morning, or simply want to improve the quality and quantity of your sleep, join psychiatrist **Mortimer Mamelak** at Baycrest's Sleep Disorders Clinic and **Amy Clements-Cortes**, Baycrest music therapist on Wednesday Oct. 25, 2-3:30 p.m. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 3374 to register.

GIFT SHOP SALE

Beth Emeth Synagogue Judaica Gift Shop "After the High Holy Days Sale" takes place Wednesdays 9 a.m.-noon and Sundays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-633-3838

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com.

For the following programs, call **Diane**, ext. 246, for information and registration.

• Eight-week social skills groups for children who have difficulty making and keeping friends. Ages 6-8 begins Tuesday, Oct. 17. Ages 9-11 begins Thursday, Oct. 26.

• Eight-week adolescent social skills groups, Ages 12-14, Wednesdays beginning Oct. 25. Ages 14-17 Thursdays, beginning Oct. 26.

For the following programs call **Shawna**, ext. 215, for information and registration.

• Today's Woman, a six-session group for women who want to make a change in their lives and wish to discuss issues relevant to them. Discussion topics include time and stress management, building self-esteem, assertiveness and improving communication skills. Begins Thursday, Oct. 12, 7-9 p.m.4600 Bathurst St.

• When You're About to Separate; What to Tell the Kids, a workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation. Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the Promenade Mall, #313, 6:30-9 p.m.

• Widow/Widower 65+ Bereavement, a six-session daytime group for men and women who have recently lost a partner or spouse. Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1:30-3 p.m. 4600 Bathurst St.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer or for more information about these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafés: Newcomers to Canada practise speaking English in a casual friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Interested participants or volunteers should call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

Youth Groups: Programs for newcomer children and teens. Both Canadians and newcomers get community service hours for participation in our teen group. For more information, call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

JUMPStart: If you have a networking or job opportunity in the skilled labour market for a newcomer, connect to our JUMPStart program by calling **Elisa**, ext. 28.

FOR SENIORS

Club Chaverut Seniors will see *High Society* at the Shaw Festival, Thursday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m. Transportation included. To reserve, call **Miriam**, 416-638-1417.

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Wednesday, Oct. 11, Tuesday, Oct. 24; Sunday dance, Oct. 15, 29; Mahjong, Mondays 12:30-3:30 p.m. and Tuesdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; Conversational Hebrew, Wednesdays 10 a.m.-noon; Bridge, Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem,** 905-731-7748, or **Malka,** 416-631-5574.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Creative Writing Class with **Sylvia Warsh**, 12 weeks, Friday, Oct. 6, to Dec. 22, 9-11 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. $40, non-members $80. For information, call ext.105.

Dr. Ben Schlesinger lectures Tuesdays, Oct. 10, 17, 24. 10-11:30 a.m. $2, non-members $4.

Open Computer Lab, drop in, $1.50/hour or $10/10 hrs. Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Beginner Computer Lesson on Sunday, Oct. 16. Learn how to use a mouse, e-mail and surf the web.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Chol Hamoed two-day Sukkot program at the BJCC – full day of fun and educational programming for kindergarten and up. Tuesday, Oct. 10, and Wednesday, Oct. 11. Registration required. To register call ext. 390.

Fall Luncheon, Tuesday, Oct. 10. Tickets $5.

Classes for children up to six years old include cooking, music, infant bonding and Hebrew, as well as CPR and parenting classes at the Family Place@ The Jewish Discovery Museum. Call ext. 390 for details.

The Family Resource Centre in the Promenade Mall has parenting workshops and programs for children up to age 5, including Daddy and Me, *Ema* (mother) and Me, Music Mavens, Kids Yoga, Hebrew Singalong and Jewish Story Time. Call 905-882-8509 or visit www.thefamilyresourcecentre.ca.

Kolel begins fall courses and one-night events Oct. 23 at the BJCC. Visit www.kolel.org or call ext. 235.

The Koffler School of Music presents The Travellers with a retrospective of **Pete Seeger**, Tuesday, Oct.24, and **David Broza**, Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, call ext. 228.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

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SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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ב"ה

Stacey Louise Baer
(Jan. 18, 1971 - Oct. 11, 2004)

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Obituary

Longtime educator 'was respected by all'

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Shani Kurtz, a stalwart of Jewish education in Toronto, died recently in Israel of pneumonia after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. She was 77.

Kurtz was born and raised in New York, and earned her BA in education at City College. Later, she got her PhD in education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE).

After preparing for life in Israel at a Shomer Hadati model farm in New Jersey, she made aliyah and worked teaching kindergarten in Kfar Darom, a kibbutz in Gaza. There, she met her husband Yumi (Benyamin). After two years, the couple moved to Toronto.

Kurtz taught Grade 1 Hebrew for many years at Eitz Chaim Day School. Her daughter-in-law, Debbie, who spoke for the family, said she "felt that she could teach every child to read Hebrew – even when the parents had given up."

Shani Kurtz

In 1971, she organized and headed the first Task Force on Jewish Education. Until her retirement about 10 years ago, she served as an educational consultant to what is now UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education.

She also founded and was a professor in the Jewish education program at York University, where she arranged and supervised students' teaching placements.

Kurtz was a founding president of Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women. *CJN* columnist Rebecca Nadler, another Mekorot founder, said that Kurtz "strove for excellence in Jewish education for men and women."

After spending her summers in Jerusalem attending various women's institutes, she felt there was a need for such an organization in Toronto, Nadler said.

Kurtz never lost her zest for learning and teaching, and she continued to take courses and give shiurim until very recently, Nadler added.

Even when she became ill and had to use a walker, Debbie Kurtz said that her mother-in-law "was always running. Her doctor said she should slow down – she refused. The week before she died, she went to her grandson's bar mitzvah, where she had to climb up and down 30 steps.

"She lived life to the fullest."

While Shani Kurtz "put a high priority on intelligence and had little patience for narishkeit," Nadler said, she nevertheless was always comfortable talking about everyday topics, such as her recipe for cholent, which she was happy to share.

Nadler and Debbie Kurtz described her as "a lady," saying that she always dressed beautifully and insisted on having manicures, even while in the hospital. As well, her table was always set with china and crystal.

She loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and they all loved her, Debbie Kurtz said. "She made sure she was an integral part of their daily life. She was so proud of all of them. She spent hours on the phone with each of them."

Although she had owned an apartment in Israel for some time, it was only two years ago that she moved there permanently.

"She loved Israel, and she loved living in Israel," said Debbie Kurtz. For years she belonged to the Ilana chapter of Emunah Women and worked hard to raise money for Israel.

She was very close to the members of the chapter and to her other friends.

"She was a good friend, and a good relative – she kept the family together," her daughter-in-law said.

Asked to sum up her mother-in-law, Debbie noted that "she had friends across the Jewish spectrum. She was respected by all, and she respected all."

Shani Kurtz was predeceased by her husband Yumi. She is survived by her three children, Yitzhak and his wife Debbie of Toronto; Hindy Flom and her husband Chaim, and Reva Friedman and her husband Alan, in Israel; her brothers Rabbi Avraham Gross of Israel, and Eli Gross of New York; and 19 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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Israel to welcome descendants of 'lost' Jewish tribe

By DINA KRAFT
JTA

TEL AVIV — A group of 218 people from a remote mountainous corner of northeastern India who claim descent from one of the lost biblical tribes will be immigrating to Israel as recognized Jews for the first time.

The aliyah of members from the Bnei Menashe community to Israel is a turning point, said Michael Freund, founder of Shavei Israel, which assists "lost Jews" seeking to return to the Jewish people.

"This is a major historical event, because these members of a lost tribe of Israel, after 27 centuries of wandering in exile, will at last be coming home," he said.

News of the planned arrival in November of 218 Bnei Menashe, who have already undergone official conversion in India, was made public last week after it was leaked to the Israeli daily *Yediot Achronot*.

The government decision to bring the 218 to Israel followed months of bureaucratic wrangling in which Israel's Interior Ministry and Absorption Ministry balked at plans to bring them here, Freund told JTA.

Advocates have been working for years to convince Israeli authorities that the Bnei Menashe were indeed long-lost Jews who had returned to the faith. They hope this group will pave the way for others in the community to also make aliyah.

The group of immigrants went through conversion courses and were approved for conversion by rabbinical judges sent to India last year by Israel's Sephardi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar.

Rabbi Amar has declared Bnei Menashe "descendants of the Jewish people" and has been working to help facilitate the aliyah of those who want to live in Israel.

To date, many of the some 1,000 members of the community who arrived in the country as tourists and later converted to Judaism became citizens and live in West Bank settlements. Some also lived in settlements in the Gaza Strip until last year's Israeli withdrawal.

The decision to place them predominately in settlements has drawn criticism. Their advocates say the move was not a political but a practical decision. They say the settlements were among the only communities in the country willing to financially help the Bnei Menashe who arrived in Israel and had to spend their first year studying for conversion, without much time to hold down jobs.

Tzvi Khaute, 32, lives in the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba, on the outskirts of Hebron, where the largest number of Bnei Menashe reside. He welcomes the government decision to bring more of his community to Israel as Jewish immigrants for the first time.

"It really is a dream come true," said Khaute, who studies in a yeshiva part time and works for the Shavei offices.

The group that is scheduled to arrive in November will be living for the first year in absorption centres in the northern towns of Carmiel and Nazareth Ilit.

Some 7,000 Bnei Menashe live in the northeastern Indian states of Mizoram and Manipur. They trace their descent to the tribe of Menashe, one of the 10 tribes expelled from ancient Israel by the Assyrians.

They claim their ancestors wandered eastward toward China, then eventually settled to the south in what is now northeastern India and nearby Myanmar.

Most of the community converted to Christianity at the turn of the 20th century. In recent decades, some have returned to the Judaism their ancestors practised for centuries, including observing Shabbat, keeping the laws of kashrut, practising circumcision on the eighth day of a baby boy's life and observing the laws of family purity.

The Jewish Agency will be facilitating the absorption of the Bnei Menashe into Israel.

Squandering Israel's credibility

Commentary

By EVELYN GORDON
Jerusalem Post

One of the most disturbing things about Israel's political culture is the ease with which governments squander credibility. This is a resource far more precious than money, because once gone, it can never be replaced. Yet time after time, governments have sacrificed long-term credibility on the altar of short-term interests.

Consider two recent examples. One was the government's decision earlier this month to trim the budget by slashing the number of Falash Mora allowed to immigrate from Ethiopia from 300 to 150 a month – thereby reversing last year's pledge to double the quota, from 300 to 600.

This decision will obviously cause humanitarian distress, both for the Falash Mora waiting in overcrowded camps in Ethiopia and for the relatives awaiting them in Israel. It also contradicts the Kadima government's alleged concern for demography – the declared reason for its proposed unilateral withdrawal from most of the West Bank. Some 20,000 immigrants of Jewish descent, who are eager to rejoin the Jewish people and willing to convert, would clearly be a demographic asset.

But what makes the decision particularly outrageous is that when the cabinet originally voted to double the quota, it asked American Jews to raise $100 million to finance the Ethiopians' absorption. Then-prime minister (and Kadima founder) Ariel Sharon even appealed personally to U.S. Jewish leaders when he visited New York last year. And American Jewry responded: the United Jewish Communities have thus far raised $70 million for this purpose. "We suspended the rest of our activity and focused on this campaign," a senior UJC official told the press.

Now, American Jewish donors and fundraisers are furious. The UJC even took the unusual step of publicly accusing the government of reneging on its promises.

And the negative consequences are obvious. "We're dealing with a deep problem of trust here," the UJC official said. "Next time we come to ask [donors] for money, they might think twice." Left unsaid, but equally obvious, was the corollary: next time an Israeli government requests assistance from American Jewish organizations, these groups might think twice about soliciting their donors.

Over the years, Israel has asked for – and received – American Jewry's financial help on many vital projects. And it will undoubtedly want such help again in the future. But for the sake of an extremely short-term interest – cutting the budget without upsetting political allies – the government has squandered its credibility with American Jewish donors, thereby making it harder for Israel to tap this resource in the future.

The second example is the government's handling of the settlers evacuated from Gaza last summer. Last week, *Ha'aretz* published a summary of the state of resettlement efforts 13 months after the pullout, and nine months after Ehud Olmert became prime minister – not for those settlers who resisted the evacuation, but for those who acted "responsibly" and co-operated with the government. The bottom line: construction on permanent housing has yet to begin in even one of the 18 locations earmarked for resettling evacuees.

In Nitzanim, which is slated to house hundreds of families who signed agreements with the government before the pullout, no work at all has been done. In Ashkelon, where 150 families agreed to move prior to the disengagement, the government has not even finished buying the land for their promised houses. In Mavki'im, where 24 families agreed to relocate before the withdrawal, work has not even begun on the infrastructure, let alone the houses. And these are not the worst cases: several planned communities do not even have approved master plans for construction – a process that can take years.

This conduct is clearly immoral: having evicted these families from their homes to serve its own policies, the government has an ethical obligation to at least keep its promises on resettlement.

But quite aside from morality, the sheer stupidity of such behaviour is mind-boggling. After all, this government campaigned on a platform of kicking an additional 80,000 Jews – 10 times Gaza's number – out of their homes, and it therefore has a clear interest in encouraging co-operation rather than resistance.

Instead, by breaking its resettlement promises to the Gaza evacuees, the government has virtually guaranteed that any future evacuation will meet with far fiercer resistance than the Gaza pullout did. Because if you are going to be a homeless refugee regardless of whether you co-operate or resist, why would anyone choose to co-operate?

It would be comforting to think that such behaviour is unique to the Olmert government. Unfortunately, previous governments have been no better.

Ehud Barak's government, for instance, opted to betray our ally, the South Lebanon Army, by fleeing Lebanon overnight in May 2000 rather than risk Israeli soldiers' lives to secure an orderly retreat. It did not even give SLA members and their families 24 hours' notice in which to pack their belongings; they had to flee with whatever they had on hand, which left most of them penniless refugees.

And there are far too many other examples – such as the decades of budgetary discrimination against the Druse, the one Israeli Arab community loyal to the state. In all the above cases, Israeli governments sacrificed a long-term interest – credibility with friends, allies and even its own citizens – for short-term financial or military convenience.

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Israel takes fresh look at Golan

By URIEL HEILMAN
JTA

JERUSALEM — With criticism of the handling of this summer's war in Lebanon continuing to mount, Israel's military elite is struggling to deal both with the war's political fallout and its implications for military strategy.

As they ponder the threats to northern Israel, these strategists are thinking not only about Hezbollah, but about the questions this war raises for Israel's other northern front: Syria.

Specifically, does the rocket-based strategy Hezbollah adopted in the war make the Golan Heights more indispensable than ever in a potential conflict with Syria? Or does the enemy's reliance on missile technology detract from the importance of territorial buffer zones?

"There are those who claim that because of the long-range weaponry, the importance of the Golan is diminished. It is not annulled, but it is diminished," said David Hacham, an Arab affairs adviser in Israel's Defence Ministry. "And there are those – also experts, both sides are experts – who say that the importance of the Golan, as a base of departure for attack, is unparalleled."

"Personally, I believe the Golan is something that cannot be relinquished," Hacham said. "Even if there is a war and they use long-range weaponry, and they hit Tiberias and even Tel Aviv, this does not convey the importance of the Golan. Because if you want to launch a counterattack, it is a lot easier to go from the Golan into Syrian territory than if you are in Lebanon."

Captured from Syria during the 1967 Six Day War, the Golan is widely considered vital to the security of northern Israel. The plateau overlooks most of the country's north – which southern Lebanon does not – and from 1948 to 1967 Syrian gunners used their perch on the heights to shell the kibbutzim and small towns of the Upper Galilee.

Israel's conquest of the Golan pushed hostile Syrian forces back behind a United Nations-patrolled ceasefire line, brought valuable water sources under Israeli control and gave Israel a place from which to monitor the Syrians. At its highest point, the Israeli part of the Golan is more than 7,000 feet, with the Syrian capital within view.

The threat of missiles from nearby enemy states is not new to Israelis. Former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein famously deployed Scud missiles against Israel during the first Gulf War in 1991, to little material effect. But the thousands of Katyusha rockets fired by Hezbollah during this latest war – and the physical and psychological damage they wreaked – has many Israelis reassessing the state of their security.

Israel Defence Forces officials refused to be interviewed for this story. But a former chief of the military's northern command, Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levin, told JTA that the war in Lebanon had made the Golan more important than ever.

"You have to get faster to the heart of the threat, which in this case would be Damascus," Levin said. The war, he explained, "strengthens the idea that you have to be in a position where you can inflict significant damage to the threatening state as quickly as possible."

A former deputy head of the Mossad spy agency, Levin now is an executive at an Israeli security company called Suspect Detection Systems.

Faced with a future in which missiles may be the primary medium of attack, some Israelis say the key to security is not holding onto the Golan but rather ceding it to Syria in exchange for a guarantee of peace.

On Aug. 21, just after the end of the war in Lebanon, Internal Security Minister Avi Dichter announced, "In exchange for peace with Syria, Israel can leave the Golan Heights."

That assessment elicited outrage from many in Israel.

This week, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert weighed in on the matter after Syrian government officials said they were willing to restart talks over the Golan Heights.

"As long as I am prime minister, the Golan will remain forever in our hands because it is an inseparable part of the State of Israel," Olmert told the Orthodox Israeli newspaper *Mishpacha*. Israel annexed the Golan in 1981.

Many Israelis are reluctant to part with the Golan not only because of its strategic value, but because it's home to nearly 20,000 residents and contains precious water resources, valuable agricultural land, Israel's only ski resort, prized wineries, miles of beautiful hiking trails and scenic vacation villages.

Moreover, the area now has been in Israeli hands for nearly as long as it was controlled by Syria. And as long as Syria represents even a minimal threat to the Jewish state, Israel sees no reason to seek a change in the status quo.

Meanwhile, Syria's position as an international pariah state and terrorist sponsor keeps the pressure off Israel to cede the Golan. The regime in Damascus still supports Hezbollah, hosts the leadership of Palestinian terrorist groups, ignores demands that it allow inspections of possible weapons of mass destruction programs and is on America's list of terrorist-sponsoring regimes. It's also the subject of U.S. sanctions.

That's why Olmert was able to deride both Syrian President Bashar Assad's recent calls for peace and his threats of war. In the past month, Syrian officials have simultaneously rattled their war sabres by saying they won't rely forever on peaceful means to try to recover the Golan, while declaring themselves open for peace talks.

Olmert called Syria's pronouncements "public relations tricks."

For now, it appears, Israel has no interest in putting the Golan on the market.

Lawyer alleges SNCF has been stonewalling for decades

Continued from page 1

During the Nazi occupation, the collaborationist, anti-Semitic and pro-German French government based in Vichy reduced French Jews to second-class citizenship, rounded them up and shipped them to Auschwitz – a concentration camp in Poland – via Drancy.

All in all 75,000 Jews, of whom some 24,500 were French nationals, were taken to Auschwitz through Drancy during the Vichy period.

Only about 2,500 returned.

SNCF, formed in 1938 after France's five main railway companies were amalgamated, transported Jews in cattle cars and invoiced the state for third-class tickets.

In the Lipietz case, SNCF argued that it was pressured by the Nazis to co-operate.

But a court in Toulouse ruled that SNCF neither made an effort to protest the transports, nor treated their Jewish passengers humanely.

This past June, the court in Toulouse ordered SNCF to pay 62,000 Euros (about $88,500 Cdn) in reparations to the Lipietz family.

Bitton bases his claim on two grounds.

"SNCF did nothing – ever – to try to stop or slow down the process and save lives. SNCF was under Nazi pressure, true. But SNCF had a margin for manoeuvre in its treatment of Jews."

Heartlessly crammed into SNCF wagons where they could hardly move or breathe, Jewish deportees went without water and food for days, Bitton said.

"Some people died en route to Auschwitz. There are no statistics as to their numbers, but many died."

If the case reaches trial, Bitton intends to ask the courts for 150,000 Euros ($211,000 Cdn) for Jews who perished on the way or in Auschwitz, and 75,000 Euros ($105,000 Cdn) for survivors.

Bitton said that SNCF has been stonewalling for decades.

"For 40 years, they refused to open their archives, and therefore, survivors were unable to determine SNCF's role."

During the 1990s, SNCF relented and released a batch of documents. SNCF then asked a panel of historians to study its role in the Holocaust.

Their voluminous report, issued in 1996, prompted survivors in the United States to launch the first lawsuit against the railway, but it failed.

Although SNCF officials were never put on trial for their complicity in the deportations, the management was summarily dismissed after World War II, according to Bitton.

Asked whether he is hopeful regarding the outcome, Bitton said, "We expect justice to be done. As one of my clients told me, 'What I want is justice, to make sure this company pays for its wrong-doing.'"

Bitton is not alone in his efforts. Several lawyers in France, representing many more plaintiffs, are pressing SNCF and the French government for a compensation package.

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Plantiff wants railway to admit guilt

"It's not the money," said Norma Nadir. "I'm looking for some admittance of guilt. That's what the whole family is looking for."

Nadir (not her real name), a Toronto woman who prefers to remain anonymous, is speaking on behalf of her 85-year-old mother.

Nadir's British-born mom, having lost 13 relatives during the Holocaust, has joined 19 Canadian families in a worldwide lawsuit against France's national railway company, the Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français – known as SNCF – and the French government.

Nadir's lawyer in Paris, Avi Bitton, claims that SNCF, mostly owned by the government, was responsible for shipping her relatives to the Auschwitz concentration camp, where they perished along with more than one million Jews.

Her mother's uncle, aunt and cousins, as well as their children, were deported to Poland.

Five of the deportees were citizens of Poland, while the rest were French nationals.

Nadir contacted Bitton several months ago after he placed ad in The Canadian Jewish News.

Before signing on with Bitton, she had been doing research into her family tree and had tried to get in touch with lawyers in the United States who had filed a similar lawsuit. She had also attended a Holocaust memorial ceremony in France.

She has no doubt whatsoever that SNCF is guilty.

"The railway had the responsibility of putting together the passenger lists, and they billed the Vichy government for the fares. They were very aware of what they were doing."

Is she confident Bitton can win?

"Quite honestly, I don't know, but we hope that Bitton's expertise will prevail."

She does not expect immediate results.

"My guess is that it will be a long, drawn-out process in the courts. But we're willing to wait. We already have been waiting for over 60 years."

— *S.K.*

Canada Center in Metullah trying to recover

By LIONEL GAFFEN
Jerusalem Post

METULLAH — The Canada Center reopened its doors to the public after the war in the north ended, but the conflict left deep scars on the home of Israel's only Olympic-size ice rink.

Two major facilities, the heated swimming pool and, more significantly, the main skating rink, were still closed two weeks ago, although the pool opened before the Rosh Hashanah weekend.

In addition to being a tourist attraction, the rink is the training and playing area for all indoor winter sports in Israel, including ice hockey, figure skating and speed skating.

The national ice hockey team has been forced to use a smaller rink in the centre.

"We've started hockey practices once again, but the space is very limiting," said Sergei Matin, the president of the Israel Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF). "Many of the youths who were taking part in the program last year have returned. The junior national team will be leaving the country for a two-week tour of North America on Oct. 8, in order to give them proper ice and training time with other teams.

National ice hockey team using smaller rink

"The senior and junior national hockey leagues will begin official play on Oct. 27, and hopefully the main ice will be reopened by then."

Alan Maislin, the chair of the IIHF, was less upbeat. "It's very disappointing that the main rink hasn't reopened, and it will have an impact on the success of the northern Israel hockey program," he told the *Jerusalem Post* from Montreal.

The greatest impact of the closure has been on the Israel Ice Skating Federation (IISF), which handles all competitive figure skating and speed skating.

For athletes to continue their training, the IISF was forced to spend a significant amount of its funding on sending skaters to training camps overseas.

"We sent seven figure skaters to a training camp in Slovenia from July 27 to Aug. 23," said IISF secretary general Carol Hasday. "As well, we sent a coach and seven short track speed skaters to a training camp in Slovakia from Aug. 3 to Sept. 15.

"Genia Krasnopolsky and a chaperone [were] in Moscow from Sept. 6 to 19. [He then went] to the junior Grand Prix in Romania. Sergei Kotov, Israel's senior international male skater this year, is... in Hungary until Sept. 27, in order to prepare for the season-opening tournament in Obertsdorf, Germany, at the end of the month."

IISF chair Boris Chait is frustrated by the delays in reopening the Canada Center facilities. "We contend that the management and the directorate of the Canada Center have been irresponsible since the end of the war over the failure to reopen both the heated pool and in particular, the Olympic-sized rink," he said in an interview.

"In order to continue the training of some of our athletes, we were forced to send them overseas. The worst part for them was that when they returned, they faced a closed ice rink and couldn't continue training at all.

"Due to the situation, we have had to cancel two junior Grand Prix tournaments so far this season, and it's as though the entire training camp was completely wasted. You can't have skaters staying idle off the ice for weeks at a time, which is what happened on their return.

"I feel that the Canada Center should have set an example to the entire northern community and should be showing the world that we're back in business as usual," he added. "A great deal of money is provided by the Ministry of Sport in order to have the main ice rink open."

Shmulik Ben-Shachar, the manager of the Canada Center, did not know when the full-size rink would reopen. "As far as the main skating rink is concerned, while we will make necessary repairs at this time, I can't give you a date when it will reopen to the public," Ben-Shachar said. "The small rink [which is one-third the size of the main rink] is sufficient for the use of the general skating public... We don't have the funds necessary to maintain the large rink."

Ben-Shachar noted that the Canada Center regularly relies on a variety of sources to maintain its operations and it still does not break even.

"The Canada Center is running at a substantial annual deficit, and this is after receiving money from the various institutions that provide money for ice use, including the Ministry of Sport, the Israel Ice Hockey Federation, the Israel Ice Skating Federation, etc.

• "United Israel Appeal [Canada], who helped build the Canada Center, has not supplied funds for its ongoing maintenance since 2005. I hope that the Ministry of Sport will come to the decision to pay for the difference in cost in order for the main ice rink to open."

Menachem Kali, the new chair of the Canada Center directorate that took office at the beginning of July, disagreed. He said UIA Canada does continue to support the centre.

"It's too soon for me to make any comments about the Canada Center, but UIA Canada is still providing funding to the Canada Center."

Israel Briefs

More Microsoft investment

Microsoft will make its sixth investment in Israel's technology market with an agreement announced last week to buy Ra'anana-based startup Gteko Ltd. The acquisition price was not disclosed, but sources close to the transaction estimated the price tag at around $100 million (US).

New northern commander

Israel appointed a new military commander for its Lebanese and Syrian fronts. The Defence Ministry named Maj.-Gen. Gadi Eizenkot, a former military operations chief, to head its northern command. Eizenkot replaces Maj.-Gen. Udi Adam, who resigned earlier this month amid charges that he mishandled Israel's offensive against Hezbollah. Others claimed he was a scapegoat. Israel's failure to crush the Lebanese militia has stirred concern that Hezbollah's patron, Syria, could also go to war in a bid to regain the Golan Heights.

Interpol Europe accepts Israel

Israel was accepted last week into the European branch of Interpol, the international police agency. The acceptance came five years after Israel made its original request. A spokesperson for the Israeli police, Mickey Rosenfeld, called the move "a breakthrough," saying that 70 per cent of Israel's international police operations occur in Europe.

Four life sentences for convicted murderer

A member of Shvut Rachel, in the West Bank, who shot and killed four Palestinians in an attempt to scuttle Israel's pullout from the Gaza Strip last summer, was sentenced to four life sentences by the Jerusalem District Court after being convicted early September on four counts of murder. Asher Weisgan, 38, who had subsequently called for the assassination of former prime minister Ariel Sharon, had been found mentally fit to stand trial by a psychiatrist who examined him under court order.

from JTA and Jerusalem Post

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Michael Jay Broyde

THE US AND THEM DISTINCTION IN JEWISH COMMERCIAL LAW: AN EXPLANATION

Tuesday November 14th, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Moot Court, Chancellor Day Hall, 3644 Peel Street

Michael Broyde is a Professor at the Emory University School of Law and Projects Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory. Among his books are: The Pursuit of Justice: A Jewish Perspective on Practicing Law (2006), Human Rights and Judaism (1997), and Divorce and the Abandoned Wife in Jewish Law (2001). He has published numerous other monographs and scholarly articles on subjects ranging from military conduct to stem cells in the light of Jewish law. He is a dayan - judge - on the Beth Din of America, the leading rabbinical court in the United States.

WINTER LECTURE

Suzannne Last Stone

RABBINIC PERSPECTIVES ON HISTORICAL JUSTICE: BETWEEN REVENGE AND RECONCILIATION

Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

Moot Court, Chancellor Day Hall, 3644 Peel Street

Suzanne Last Stone is a Professor of Law at the Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University and Director of its Program in Jewish Law. In 2004-2005, she was Visiting Professor of Talmudic Civil Law at the Harvard Law School. She is Visiting Professor at the Columbia University Law School for 2006-2007. Her publications include: "In Pursuit of the Countertext: The Turn to the Jewish Legal Model in Contemporary American Legal Theory," (Harvard Law Review) and "Feminism and the Rabbinic Conception of Justice," (in Women and Gender in Jewish Philosophy, 2004); she currently has two books in progress: Jewish Law and Legal Theory: A New American Perspective, and Jewish Law and the Irrational, a study of the talmudic transformation of formally irrational modes of gaining knowledge into a system of legal rationality.

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Hungarian Jews worry after protests

By DINAH A. SPRITZER
JTA

PRAGUE — Peace has been restored to Budapest after violent anti-government protests tinged with anti-Semitism, but some Jews, particularly the elderly, worry about the impact of the turbulent political climate on Hungary's Jewish community.

"Older Jews feel worried, even threatened. They saw some men on the television wearing the old Hungarian Nazi uniform," said Ferenc Olti, a banker and longtime Jewish activist.

Demonstrations in the capital against Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany broke out last month after a speech he gave to his Socialist Party in which he said he and other party officials had lied to voters "morning, evening and night" and had "done nothing", was made public.

Earlier this month, the country's economic forecast had to be revised downward as the country's budget deficit ballooned to 10.1 per cent of GDP, the highest in the European Union.

Protests, led by a few thousand right-wing extremists and soccer hooligans, became violent last week, with attacks on the state television station and some 200 arrests.

Many of the protesters wore fascist symbols. One was reported to have saluted Hitler, while others expressed support for the Arrow Cross, the wartime Hungarian party that murdered thousands of Jews during World War II. One protester reportedly displayed a sign that read "Jews to Auschwitz."

Later, there was a peaceful demonstration of about 40,000 in front of the Parliament seeking the prime minister's resignation.

It was the largest public protest since the unsuccessful 1956 Hungarian revolution, but shortly afterward only a few hundred people were picketing the Parliament Building in Budapest.

Gabor Szanto, editor of *Szombat*, a Hungarian Jewish magazine, said, "Jews were afraid something would happen to them over Rosh Hashanah, but there was no incident, so things have calmed down."

Senior right-wing opposition leaders are still pressuring Gyurcsany and his government to resign, however. Whether the protests and political instability continue will largely be determined by the results of municipal elections, which coincided with Yom Kippur Eve.

If there is a win for incumbent Budapest Mayor Gabor Demszky, a supporter of the prime minister, further protests are doubtful, analysts say. But if Demszky loses what is a tight race to his right-wing opponent, the prime minister's critics will feel emboldened, demonstrations may begin anew – and the risk of anti-Jewish propaganda cannot be counted out.

Szanto, however, said many on the right do not want the stain of anti-Semitism on their campaign.

"There were some phrases uttered by protesters at the earlier demonstrations, like 'dirty Jews,' but it was very rare. When it happened, other protesters shouted they didn't come here to listen to this," he said. "I heard that one of the protesters read the names of 50 politicians and journalists, some of whom are Jews, who 'should be made to disappear,' but such incidents were very rare," he said.

A protest leader who opposes the prime minister called Szanto "and told me that I should inform him of anti-Semitic activity by demonstrators so that it would be stopped," Szanto said.

Several observers interviewed by JTA said that although the main right-wing opposition party in Hungary, Fidesz, is not anti-Semitic, it has some anti-Semitic members and is supported by several media outlets that have printed anti-Jewish editorials.

Women pray in a tent outside the Parliament Building in Budapest during the rioting last week. [RNS/Reuters photo]

The vast majority of the estimated 100,000 Jews in Hungary support one of the two left-oriented parties in the prime minister's coalition, Szantos estimated.

Olti, 57, does not take comfort in the dwindling number of protesters. Unlike Szanto, he argues that the expression of anti-Jewish feelings is tolerated and even encouraged by Fidesz.

"During the larger protests, Fidesz parliamentary members spoke under the Hungarian Nazi flag. They said nothing against it, even though it was next to them," Olti said.

Zsuzsa Fritz, director of the Balint Jewish Community Center in Budapest, agrees that the elderly are worried, even though the demonstrations have tapered off. Anti-Jewish aspects of the initial rioting brought back memories of the 1956 insurrection against Soviet rule, Fritz said. The 50th anniversary of the failed revolution is next month.

"The prisons were emptied. Then criminals, including many fascists, joined with the student movement against the Russians. They went around hanging Jews. People blamed Jews for the Soviet oppression because there were some well-known Jews in the Communist party leadership," she said.

But a Hungarian Jew in her early 30s didn't see what the fuss was about.

"I don't feel anti-Semitism on the street. The extremist rightish people don't protest against the Jews and any Jewish interest," Agnes Szalai wrote in an e-mail. She lives in Prague but was back home in Budapest for the Jewish holidays.

"Everybody was shocked what has happened on the street on Monday and Tuesday night. But now everybody lives as they lived before – in the morning the people go to work, [then they] go for lunch. During the day, the city is full of people. In the evening, the youngsters go to watch films, go for dinner with there friends and enjoy the nice weather," she continued. "That's all what I can see. It is not revolution, just because some crazy people preach in front of the Parliament."

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Paper trail implicates Khartoum in genocide

Continued from page 1

government for an international force to intervene, as though they are part of the solution, when in fact, they are the source of the problem.

UN humanitarian aid head Jan Egeland made this disparaging statement recently: "I cannot give a starker warning than to say that we are at a point where even hope may escape us and the lives of hundreds of thousands could be needlessly lost."

Some 26,000 government soldiers and the regime's proxy militia, the Janjaweed, have relaunched widespread attacks in Darfur, which many fear could reignite the systematic murder of African Sudanese that has not been seen since the early days of the genocide.

Humanitarian aid groups have continued to withdraw and curtail operations as they have been attacked. The Darfur Peace Agreement, signed in May, outlined the steps to be taken to achieve peace in the area. But little of it has been implemented, and African groups continue to be marginalized. Only one small faction of the anti-government rebels, under the leadership of Mini Minawi, signed the accord. However, Minawi then proceeded to attack larger rebel factions in order to entrench his power base. Clearly, the situation is about to spiral out of control without a robust international intervention.

On Aug. 31, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1706 authorizing at least 17,000 multinational troops with a strong mandate to protect civilians and humanitarian aid workers and disarm both sides. Twelve members of the Security Council voted in favour, while China, Russia and Qatar abstained. However, there is one troubling stipulation in the resolution. The government of Sudan has been "invited to consent" to such a UN initiative.

It is unlikely that the response will be a cordial and embracing RSVP. Based on rumblings from Khartoum, the government of Sudan categorically rejects any kind of international intervention – even though the undermanned and ill-equipped African Union Force that is trying to help stop the violence in the area has a feckless mandate. It also realizes it is unable to provide security to a region as large as France and has asked for help.

Thus the UN forces sanctioned by the Security Council must either wait for Sudan's unlikely acquiescence or the mission will proceed non-consensually, if at all.

It was with this mind, in an unprecedented show of solidarity, that rallies were held on Sept 17 in more than 40 countries around the globe. A Day for Darfur implored the international community to deploy the necessary forces without further delay.

In Canada, rallies or events were held in Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal, Toronto and Halifax. The unspeakable suffering of Darfuris resonates with Canadians and has led to the organization of a larger coalition called Save Darfur Canada (www.savedarfurcanada.org). Canadians want to make ending the carnage in western Sudan a foreign policy priority.

A Canadian Unity Statement, signed at the time by more than 50 faith-based, humanitarian and human rights groups, calls on Canada to use its diplomatic clout to ensure that the international force is deployed as soon as possible. Reports out of Ottawa indicate Canada could offer 300 to 400 soldiers, a squadron of CF-18s to enforce a no-fly zone and a digitalized communications network, all without jeopardizing the mission in Afghanistan.

If Canada is to lead and ask other countries to ante up, its credibility will be enhanced if it offers some soldiers and essential logistics to a peacemaking mission. Canada and the international community need to ensure that humanitarian aid levels are maintained. Security must be guaranteed to permit safe passage of this vital aid, with unhindered access to all who are in dire need. Finally, all elements of the Darfur Peace Agreement must be vigorously implemented, including the disarming of the Janjaweed.

The timing of the Sept. 17 rallies was not just linked to the critical situation in Darfur. It also coincided with the first anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of the doctrine of the Responsibility to Protect. This historic initiative was spearheaded and sponsored by Canada. It states unequivocally that if a sovereign nation is unable or unwilling to protect its innocent civilians from extreme harm, the international community must intervene.

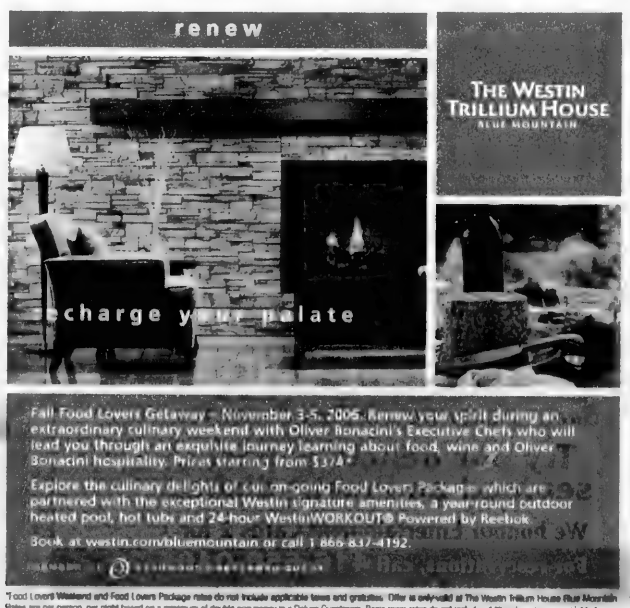
It is unconscionable that the international community negotiates with, panders to and "invites consent" from the Khartoum regime that is responsible for egregious crimes against its own people.

Can one imagine a scenario in which Allied troops about to enter Germany in 1945 sought permission from Hitler and his odious regime to liberate the concentration camps there?

Jewish groups and individuals have been in the vanguard to end the unmitigated suffering in Darfur. Although never genuinely invoked, "Never again" resonates within our community. "Never again" can no longer remain a euphemism of lost opportunity to end genocide. It must become bold words in bold print that lead to bold action – a promise made and a commitment kept!

This is a watershed time for the world to act morally. Thousand of African lives hang in the balance. The theme of the Sept. 17 rallies proclaimed: "Protect Darfur now – time is running out!" If not now, then when? For if we fail this time, have we not failed, once more, the test of humanity?

Norman Epstein is co-chair of Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan.



On Campus

Jewish online weekly launches on October 6

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The *Jewish Student Weekly*, a new online publication for Jewish students, produced by Jewish students, is getting set to launch its first issue tomorrow, Oct. 6.

The U.S.-based "e-newspaper," which aims to connect Jewish students with the wider Jewish community, was developed by Adam Finkel, a University of Michigan student in response to recent surveys that suggest Jewish youth are becoming less interested in exploring their heritage.

"I was on a birthright israel trip and I really felt a sense of Jewish community. I came back and started reading surveys about young adults and about how they were disengaged," Finkel told *The CJN* in a phone interview from Ann Arbour, Mich., referring to the findings in a Hillel International study about American Jewish youth and another one titled *Grande Soy Vanilla Latte with Cinnamon, No Foam: Jewish Identity and Community in a Time of Unlimited Choices*, conducted by Reboot, a New York-based network of Jewish creative initiatives.

Finkel, 20, a third-year undergraduate, said he was motivated to engage Jewish young people who are becoming less involved in all things Jewish.

He approached the American Union of Jewish Students (AmUJS) with the idea to produce a free electronic weekly publication, and he got a small grant from Hillel International to fund the initiative.

Finkel is publisher of the paper, which students can download and print out, and has a network of about 20 volunteer student writers. He predicted that the $250 Hillel grant will cover the cost of e-mail marketing and maintaining the website, and will be enough to keep the weekly going for the next few months. He said he's working on finding advertisers.

"The *Jewish Student Weekly* is trying to keep the momentum of [the feeling of] Jewish community from birthright and other Jewish programs, and also to engage students," Finkel said.

According to the website, the weekly will "promote a generation of active, philanthropic and knowledgeable" Jews, and will help them "remember the sacrifice and strength of our past, to reflect on shared values of our teachings, respond to modern threats to our existence, and to repair the world because we can."

"We hope to feature news stories about issues affecting the Jewish community and human interest stories about young Jewish adults and what they are doing, how they are contributing to society."

He added that at the core of the web publication would be stories and features about issues that are relevant to the Jewish community at large, but he hopes to balance current events with lighter topics that would attract youth.

"For example, we have an article written about fall fashion: what is hot at Hillel for the fall, maybe what people were wearing during the High Holy Days," Finkel said.

"The typical Jewish student wouldn't be interested in reading just about what is going on in Jewish news, so we're trying to branch out into what a student would want to read. They like *People* magazine. They like human interest stories about their community and their peers."

He said he hopes that this publication – which is already beginning to attract a handful of Canadian students from York University and the University of Toronto who have visited the website and expressed interest in writing for the weekly – will influence his peers to start other Jewish-themed initiatives.

In an attempt to create some buzz for the student-run project, AmUJS is running a "Pimp My Shmata Contest." The student who offers the best suggestion of a student to profile wins an American Apparel fleece jacket.

For contest rules, or to register for the *Jewish Student Weekly*, visit www.jewishstudentweekly.com.

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The appointment may only be made after Tuesday, October 3, 2006 and must be made on the *Appointment of Voting Proxy* form, available in the Clerk's Department. The form must be certified by the City Clerk and is to be taken to the voting place by the elector appointed. The Clerk's Department will be open Monday to Friday to receive and certify the Appointment of Voting Proxy forms during the following times:

Tuesday, October 3, 2006 to Monday, November 13, 2006 (Voting Day)
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADVANCE VOTING DAYS

Saturday, November 4, 2006 and Sunday, November 5, 2006
NOON to 5:00 p.m.

Monday, November 6 to Thursday, November 9, 2006
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

QUESTIONS?

To find out more about who can vote by proxy and who may be appointed a voting proxy, please call the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504.

JOHN D. LEACH, City Clerk & Returning Officer First Published: October 1, 2006

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Ce document est disponible en français auprès du bureau du Secrétaire de la ville de Vaughan au 905-832-8504 ou bien sur le site Web de la ville à www.vaughan.ca

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SUKKAH SEMINAR: **After building a sukkah in the school library last week, some of the Grade 8 boys at Netivot HaTorah Day School led sessions with younger students about the laws of Sukkah, the Arba Minim and the art of Sukkah decoration. Pictured are Grade 8 student Dovi Katz, standing, and Grade 2 students, seated from left, Josh Eisenstadt, Gabriella Rosenblum, Ilana Zinman, Eric Anhang, Elisheva Margolis and Jonathan Somogyi. [Rebecca Ansel photo]**

Healthy, delicious dishes for Sukkot

By NORENE GILLETZ
Special to The CJN

Jewish food is not traditionally known for its healthy qualities and is often perceived as heavy and loaded with fat – "a heart attack on a plate!" British cookbook author and alternative health expert Michael van Straten believes that this reputation is largely based on our limited knowledge of the food of northern and eastern Europe.

In his latest cookbook, *The Healthy Jewish Cookbook* (Kyle Cathie Ltd.), van Straten takes us on a fascinating culinary journey from the Mediterranean to Persia, Asia and the Far East. His recipes reflect the food of the Diaspora prepared by Jews who spread themselves around the world and developed their own cuisine unique to the countries they inhabited, yet still followed kosher requirements.

Van Straten's recipes emphasize the use of healthy ingredients, with small amounts of animal fat and protein. Many dishes are filled with grains, nuts, fruits and vegetables. There are over 100 recipes, created to reflect the tremendous variety of Jewish food. As a student, he would adapt his mother's Ashkenazi recipes so that they contained less fat and more nutrient-rich foods. Family photos add a delicious touch of nostalgia to this heartwarming book.

Van Straten writes, "As long as there are children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who talk about their parents, aunts and uncles and pass on the family recipes from generation to generation, they will always be with us."

In the book, he includes a description of the major Jewish festivals. He explains that Sukkot is the Jewish equivalent of the harvest festival.

"Traditionally, Jews build a covered shelter outside where, for a week, all meals are eaten," he writes. "The roof should be made of evergreen branches like laurel, ivy, leylandii or any other suitable plant material, and the walls could be plywood, plastic sheeting, canvas or any other temporary material, though some part of the roof must be open to the sky. The building of this sukkah is very much a part of the festival."

Here are some delicious dishes from around the world that will travel well from your kitchen to your sukkah!

CHICKEN IN ORANGE SAUCE

Jews have been cultivating citrus fruits since biblical times. They became experts at growing these fruits, which they took to ancient Rome, Spain and the rest of the Mediterranean. The citron or etrog, which looks like a very large lemon, is an essential part of Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles, which celebrates the produce of vineyards, fields and orchards.

6 plump chicken thighs, skin removed
juice and finely chopped peel of 2 large oranges
2 tsp. ground turmeric
1 tsp. black pepper
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
7 oz. chicken stock
3 large sprigs of tarragon

Put the chicken pieces, orange juice and peel, turmeric and pepper into a large bowl. Stir well to coat the chicken and leave covered in the fridge for at least 2 hours or overnight.

Heat the oil in a large flameproof casserole and gently saute the onion and garlic until just starting to soften. Take the chicken pieces out of the marinade, add to the casserole and brown all over, turning frequently. Tip in the marinade and stock and bring to a simmer. Add the tarragon. Simmer, covered, for about 45 minutes or until the chicken is tender. Serves 6.

Health Note: Oranges are widely used in Jewish cooking, and this low-fat recipe has the benefits of protein, vitamins and essential oils from the orange skin as well as the cancer-fighting properties of turmeric.

VEGETARIAN CHOLENT

Cholent, a slow-cooked casserole, gets its name from the medieval French "chaud" (hot) and "lent" (slow). Since it is forbidden for observant Jews to light a fire, turn on an oven or strike a match between the hours of sunset on Friday and sunset on Saturday, cholent is a common dish for Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Indian, Greek, Russian, Polish and British Jews.

The British and American versions owe their origins to eastern Europe, where cholent was eaten to keep out the bitter cold of winter. Just the thought of this massive pot of fatty meat, beans, marrow bones, dumplings, potatoes and even chicken fat is enough to cause a heart attack. This is the very worst of Jewish cooking.

In the villages of eastern Europe, housewives took their pots filled with the ingredients for cholent to the baker. The cholent pots went into the ovens when the last bread came out on Friday afternoon. At the end of the Sabbath, the pots were collected and taken home for the evening meal.

The meatless version below is much closer to that eaten by poor Jews who couldn't afford meat; cholent became lethal only with affluence. This makes a lovely, warming dish to serve in the sukkah.

Brazilian bean salad as seen in *The Healthy Jewish Cookbook* (Kyle Cathie Ltd.)

2 tbsp. olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
8 oz. pot barley
6 oz. canned butter beans, drained (other beans can be substituted)
2 tbsp. chopped flat-leaf parsley
2 tbsp. flour, seasoned with 4 grindings of black pepper
about 12 oz. old potatoes, unpeeled but thinly sliced
about 3½ cups vegetable stock (or a good quality stock cube or bouillon powder dissolved in boiling water)

Preheat oven to 350. Heat the oil in a large flameproof casserole and gently saute the onion and garlic until softened but not brown. Add the barley, beans and parsley.

Sprinkle the seasoned flour over the contents. Layer the potatoes on top and pour over the stock. Cover with a lid or aluminum foil and cook for 50 minutes. Serves 4 to 6.

Health Note: This recipe may help to lower cholesterol, reduce blood pressure and protect your heart and circulatory system.

BRAZILIAN BEAN SALAD

Quinoa is not a grain but the seed from a very distant relative of spinach. Cultivated for more than 5,000 years in South America, it was a staple food of the Incas. It is now increasingly popular in Europe and America.

14 oz. quinoa, well-rinsed and drained
18 oz. french green beans, topped and tailed
salt
1 tbsp. pumpkin seeds
1 tbsp. sesame seeds
3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
juice of 1 lemon

Toast the quinoa in a dry frying pan, stirring continuously for 3 to 4 minutes. Put it into a large saucepan, cover with 1¼ pints cold water, bring to the boil, cover and simmer until translucent, when the germ spirals out of each grain (about 15 minutes), adding extra boiling water if necessary. Drain if necessary and leave to cool.

Boil the beans in lightly salted water until al dente – about 2 minutes. Refresh in cold water and drain. Mix together the quinoa and beans and sprinkle with the pumpkin and sesame seeds. Drizzle with the olive oil. Pour on the lemon juice to taste. Serves 4 to 6.

Health Note: Quinoa is extremely rich in iron and potassium, and also contains B vitamins, zinc and magnesium. Unlike most grains, it provides almost complete protein (as well as being delicious to eat).

Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For information about any of these, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at http://www.gourmania.com

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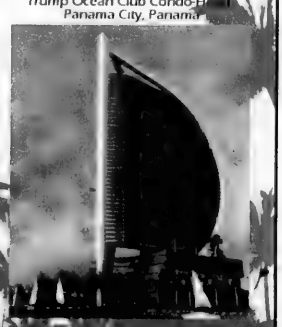

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

BROCA'S QUEEN ESTHER MOSAICS ON VIEW IN TORONTO

An extraordinary and award-winning series of mosaics by Vancouver artist **Lilian Broca** goes on view in Toronto this week.

Broca's "Queen Esther Series, the Hidden and the Revealed" focuses on the heroine of the Purim narrative. Various pieces in the series have won prestigious awards at exhibitions around the world in recent years.

Broca's exhibit can be seen at Columbus Centre, Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery, 901 Lawrence Ave. W., Oct. 5 to Nov. 7. Vernissage, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m. 416-789-7011, ext. 245. Works can be viewed online at the website www.lilianbroca.com.

* * *

Chernobyl Charity: Tango Fire, a lively import from Argentina coming to Toronto this month, offers a breathless history of the tango from its red-light origins to the present. Thanks to a donation from Toronto-based billionaire industrialist **Alex Schnaider**, proceeds from the show are being donated to the Children of Chernobyl, a charity that assists youngsters with birth defects or stricken with cancer as a result of the Chernobyl disaster.

Co-founders of the charity include **Steven Spielberg** and his sister, **Nancy**, who as the current honorary chair, will attend a gala following the final performance here. Winter Garden Theatre, 189 Yonge St. $60-$70. Oct. 21 and 22. 416-872-5555, www.ticketmaster.ca or www.tango-fire.com

* * *

Jazz Singer Times Five: The Toronto Jewish Film Society presents The Jazz Singer Marathon, in which it screens five versions of *The Jazz Singer* in one day. Included are the 1927 version with **Al Jolson**; the 1953 version with **Danny Thomas** and **Peggy Lee**; the 1959 with **Jerry Lewis** and **Molly Picon** (a rare TV special); the 1980 version with **Neil Diamond** and **Lawrence Olivier**; and a special free bonus version from *SCTV* (1981) with **Eugene Levy** and **Al Jarreau**.

University of Toronto professor **Andrea Most** introduces the 1927 version; other speakers include **Shlomo Schwartzberg** and **Stuart Hands**. $8 per screening, $25 for all five. Nadal JCC, Al Green Theatre, 750 Spadina Ave. Sunday, Oct. 29, 1, 3:45, 6, 7 and 8 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 0

* * *

Chai Tea: The stories of three men come together in *What a Wonderful Place*, a recent film from Israel that offers a glimpse of the effect of foreign immigrant labourers on the lives of three Israelis. The film, which won three Israeli Academy Awards including one for best picture, is presented as part of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival's Chai Tea and a Movie series.

Sheppard Grande, northeast corner of Yonge and Sheppard. $15 or $50 for series of four films. Sunday, Oct. 22. Tea at 4 p.m., film at 5 p.m. 416-324-9121. www.tjff.com

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The 2006 Canadian Festival of Spoken Word is an annual celebration of poetry fit for the stage rather than the page. Workshops, seminars and nightly "poetry slams" feature spoken-word poets, slick rhymers, storytellers and monologuists, including Jewish poets **David Silverberg**, **Robert Priest** and **Matthew Glick**. Silverberg is also co-producing the festival, which runs Oct. 11 to 14 at various venues. 416-312-3865 or www.worldolympics.com

• **The Koffler School of Music** presents **The Travellers**, celebrating the life and music of folk legend **Pete Seeger**. Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. $30 ($35 at the door). Tuesday, Oct. 24, 8 p.m. 416-636-1880, ext. 228. E-mail kofflermusic@bjcc.ca.

• Play great klezmer arrangements with **Eric Stein**, mandolinist, cimbalist and member of **Beyond the Pale**. All instruments welcome. Offered in partnership with Worlds of Music Toronto. Stein's 10-session Klezmer Players' Workshop starts Tuesday, Oct. 10, at the Nadal JCC and costs $150 (members) or $200 (non-members). 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 111; www.mnjcc.org

Queen Esther Revealing Her True Identity. One of Lilian Broca's mosaics on exhibit in Toronto.

• The Civic Light Opera Company presents the first Toronto production of the **Lerner and Lane** musical *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*. $20-$17.50. Fairview Library Theatre, Oct. 12 to 28. 416-755-1717, www.CivicLightOperaCompany.com

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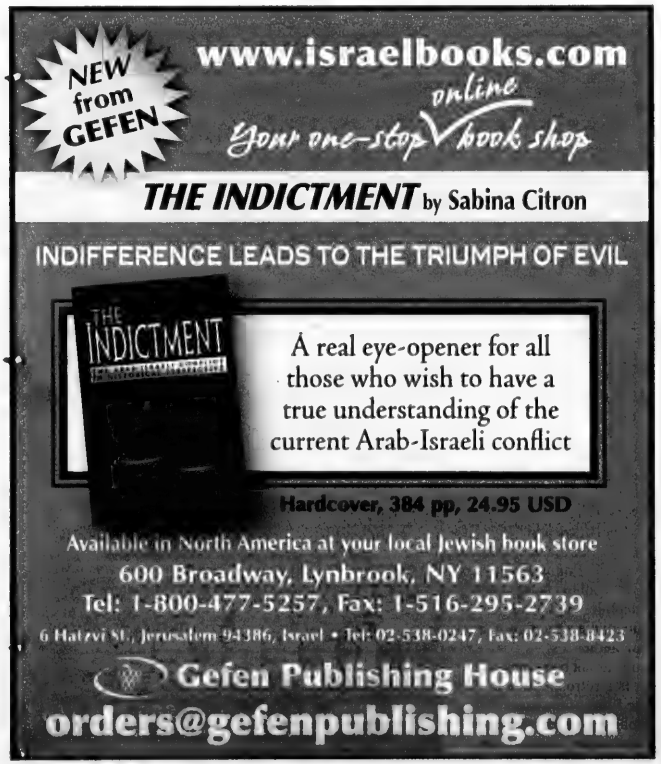
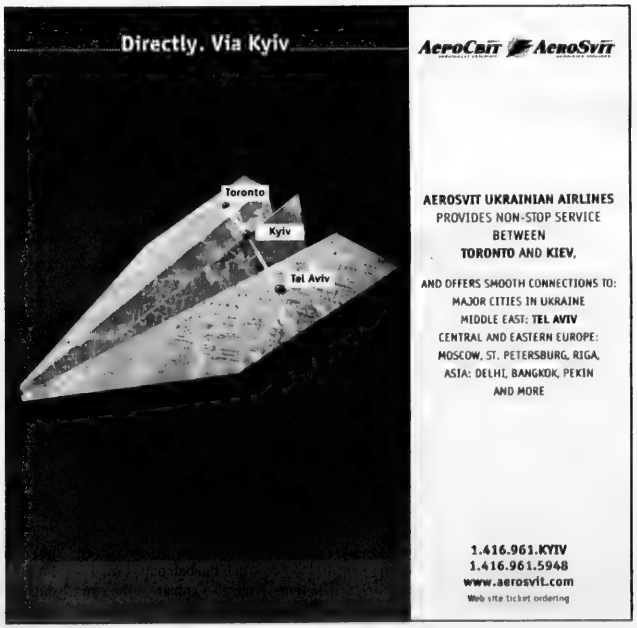
Correction: Bonnie Burstow, author of *The House on Lippincott*, a novel reviewed in these pages two weeks ago, is not a child of Holocaust survivors as the review indicated.





A tribute to composers who survived Nazism, the Holocaust

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

German and Jewish composers who were driven into internal and external exile by the Nazis are the subject of a weekend of concerts and lectures at the Royal Conservatory of Music on Oct. 14 and 15.

Music in Exile will be held at the Glenn Gould Studio in the Canadian Broadcasting Centre on Front Street.

The concerts will be performed by the Artists of the Royal Conservatory, a resident ensemble of the conservatory.

Simon Wynberg, the artistic director of the Artists of the Royal Conservatory, said that *Music in Exile* comes on the heels of a 2003 Music Reborn series that examined the lives and music of Jewish composers and musicians murdered during the Holocaust.

Of *Music in Exile*, he said, "Many émigré composers, who previously enjoyed the esteem, influence and security of belonging to German and Austrian institutions, faded from view once they left, and much of their music sank into oblivion after their deaths."

Kurt Weill

Yet the composers who survived Nazism and the Holocaust suffered through a second period of discrimination after the war.

Their traditional works were rejected by "a modernist and unforgiving music establishment," he added.

The purpose of *Music in Exile* is to expose them to a new generation of music lovers and restore their reputations.

"We hope that their musical spirit, craftsmanship and ability to engage and entertain make a clear case for the reassessment and more regular inclusion."

The program is divided into four parts.

The first segment, Inner Migration, turns on three anti-Nazi German composers who stayed in Germany during the Third Reich and were persecuted by the regime. They are Karl Amadeus Hartmann (1905-1963), Heinrich Kaminski (1886-1946) and Walter Braunfels (1882-1954).

The second part, Mahagonny Songspiel, is a tribute to Kurt Weill, the most successful émigré composer.

It also includes the Canadian première of *Through Roses*, a musical drama featuring Canadian actor Saul Rubinek and eight soloists.

The third program is a showcase for the works of three émigré composers who fled Nazi-occupied Europe and settled in the United States – Alexander Zemlinksy (1871-1942), Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco (1895-1968) and Alexander Tansman (1897-1986) – and one composer, Philipp Jarnach (1892-1982), who exiled himself on a remote island off the German coast.

It is performed by students from the Glenn Gould School and members of the Artists of the Royal Conservatory.

The fourth program concentrates on the music of composers Mieczyslaw Weinberg (1919-1986), Karl Weigl (1881-1949) and Tansman.

German musicologist Albrecht Dumling will deliver a lecture on German composers who remained aloof from the musical scene during the Nazi era.

Brett Werb of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will speak about the 1943 American musical pageant staged by writer Ben Hecht to raise awareness of the mass murder of European Jews by the Nazis.

Lectures are free. Concert tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for seniors and students.

For more information, call 416-408-2824.

France honours Cinemania founder Teitelbaum

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Maidy Teitelbaum, the woman who has brought French-language films to ever larger anglophone audiences in Montreal, has been recognized by France for her promotion of the arts.

Teitelbaum was decorated as a knight of the Order of Arts and Letters in a ceremony in Paris last month, joining an illustrious worldwide fraternity of distinguished writers and artists of all kinds, and those who have made outstanding contributions in the cultural field.

Maidy Teitelbaum

Teitelbaum is the founder and director of the annual Cinemania film festival, which screens the best of new French feature films with English subtitles. She has almost singlehandedly created a unique niche in Montreal's busy calendar of film festivals.

The great majority of the films are from France, and they run the gamut from dramas and comedies to mysteries and thrillers.

She created the festival in 1995, launching it in the midst of the bitterly divisive referendum campaign on Quebec sovereignty, hoping to do her small part to bridge the language groups. The first edition was five days. This year's runs 11 days, from Nov. 2 to 12, and screens about 25 films.

The ceremony took place at the sumptuous Cercle Interallié, a private club on the rue Faubourg Saint-Honoré, near the Elysée Palace, the official presidential residence. Set on seven acres in the heart of Paris, the Cercle Interallié was once the mansion of the Rothschilds.

Present were her husband Irv, two children and their spouses and two grandsons.

Each year, up to 200 people are nominated to the rank of knight by the French ministry of culture and communication (higher ranks are officer and commander). The presenter was prominent auctioneer Dominique Ribeyre.

Teitelbaum can now wear the order's eight-armed green-enamelled asterisk trimmed in silver and hung on a green-and-white ribbon on special occasions.

Among the other Quebecers who have been named in the past are Céline Dion, Robert Lepage, Michael Tremblay, Gilles Carle and Phyllis Lambert.

"This appointment was completely unexpected," said Teitelbaum, a petite, energetic woman who always wears black. "I'm extremely moved to have received such a high honour, one that has previously been granted to artists I greatly admire. It's an immense pleasure for me to be recognized for work that I am deeply passionate about, inspiring filmgoers to discover and fall in love with francophone cinema. It's equally an award for Cinemania and its team."

Teitelbaum got the idea for Cinemania from a similar festival that used to run in Sarasota, Fla. At the time, no French movies were English-subtitled in Montreal.

She realized there was a bit of a risk of playing into the stereotype of the anglophone who doesn't know enough French to watch a film in that language, but only the odd person has remarked on that, she said.

Her own French, which she said was "acceptable" at the outset, has improved over the years to the point that she describes herself as "pretty fluent," especially when talking about cinema.

Cinemania is moving this year from the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts into the larger and more majestic Imperial Cinema. Last year, 10,000 tickets were sold, the most ever, and many people had to be turned away because the museum's theatre holds only 300, she said. The restored Imperial has 465 seats on the main floor and can expand to 865 when the balcony is used.

The new venue also enhances the convivial "cine-club atmosphere" Teitelbaum has aimed for. There is room to create a little cafe and a well-known purveyor will supply coffee between screenings.

Teitelbaum's criteria are that the selected films be very good and not have been shown here before with English subtitles. Many are Quebec, Canadian and even North American premieres.

Teitelbaum and her small professional staff, headed by managing director Genevieve Royer, a film critic, viewed up to 100 films. Teitelbaum also goes to the Cannes film festival each year and gorges on movies, forgoing the parties.

She and husband Irv, who plays a strong supporting role in Cinemania, discovered a real gem at Cannes last year: *Va, Vis et Deviens* (*Live and Become*), the story of an Ethiopian boy airlifted to Israel in 1984, who grew up guarding the secret that he is neither Jewish nor an orphan.

Cinemania survives on its box office, catalogue advertising, assistance from the French consulate and corporate sponsors. It gets very little government funding, which has the advantage of allowing the festival to be independent, she said.

But Cinemania is not only about the films – it's got glitz as well.

Each year, noted actors and directors attend. This year's biggest celebrity announced so far is Juliette Binoche, star of the opening night film *Quelques Jours en Septembre*. The film's director, Santiago Amigorena, will also attend. The Franco-Italian co-production is described as a satirical spy thriller set in the days before Sept. 11, 2001, in Paris and Venice. Binoche, who plays a secret agent, has appeared in such films as *The English Patient* and *Chocolat*.

Others who have come in the past include Racquel Bitton, Emmanuelle Beart and Isabelle Huppert, all big names among francophone cinephiles, and pleasant discoveries for Cinemania's predominantly English-speaking audiences.

The full lineup has not been announced, but a highlight is a retrospective of the French-language films of the great Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski to commemorate the 10th anniversary of his death.

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Arts & Travel

The Arctic is becoming a tourist destination

By MYRIAM SHECHTER
Special to The CJN

There are moments in life that are so intense and unique that you want to capture them and keep them bottled as precious memories for the years to come.

I was living such a moment sitting in a small inflatable boat together with 11 travel companions, in the middle of a turquoise ocean, surrounded by thousands of ice chunks sparkling in the Arctic sun like diamonds, and by icebergs, in all possible hues from white to green to deep blue, from opaque to glass-like transparency. As far as the eye could see, it was a painter or photographer's paradise.

We were cruising the High Arctic on a Russian expedition ship, a former Russian research ship, carrying 100 passengers, mostly Canadian, about 40 Russian crew, and an extraordinarily competent expedition crew from Australia and Canada, including explorers, scientists and specialists in Arctic fauna, flora and geology.

This year, the Arctic is one of the hottest (no pun intended) tourist destinations. There are two reasons for this outburst of interest: a historic one and an environmental one. This year is the 100th anniversary of Roald Amundsen's successful voyage through the Northwest Passage and, because of the global warming, both the Arctic's melting glaciers and the potential importance of this future ice-free Northwest Passage are gaining the world's attention.

One of our fellow travellers told me that every Canadian should have a chance to experience the Arctic in their lifetime. I couldn't agree more. The Arctic is like a totally different universe, isolated from civilization, sometimes with no trace of human life for days and days of travel. It is a remote paradise, rarely visited by anyone but the Inuit, stretching from Alaska, through Canada, Greenland and Norway, to Russia.

There are no temples, cathedrals or palaces to tell the history of these peoples, but their millennia-long survival in one of the harshest environments on this planet stands witness to their superlative skills in partnering with nature. Of the many expeditions to find the Northwest Passage or to reach the North Pole, the ones that succeeded tapped into the knowledge and experience of the Inuit.

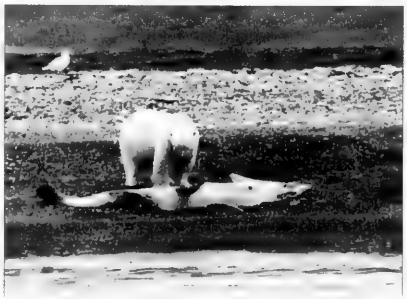
Qaanaaq, an Inuit village close to the northern tip of Greenland, is the northernmost inhabited community on this planet. Many North Pole expeditions started from here, most notably Robert Peary's, who maintained an Inuit wife and children here. Markers in the picturesque local cemetery recall quite a few Peary last names.

In this colourful and prosperous-looking village nestled between Greenland's icecap and the iceberg-covered Baffin Bay, we met a few friendly people who were fairly conversant in English, beside their native Inuktitut (the language of the Inuit) and the official Danish, among them Aleqatsiaq Peary – the local museum's curator – a descendant of the famous explorer.

The Qaanaaq Inuit have modern conveniences, electricity, health care, schools – all provided by Denmark – but they also hang on to tradition, using husky dog teams rather than snowmobiles when hunting.

We had the privilege to be guests of a Canadian Inuit community, Pond Inlet, at the northern end of Baffin Island. Alerted of our visit, the locals presented a show in their cultural centre, with children dressed in picturesque native costumes singing songs in Inuktitut and performing throat singing, an Inuit tradition. As we walked through the village, we noticed a school, a college, a hotel and a hospital. Dune buggies loaded with children were crisscrossing the streets. The inhabitants were eager to chat with us, and posed smiling for our cameras.

The village of Qaanaaq, Greenland, with the expedition ship dwarfed by a huge iceberg.



A polar bear feasts on the remnants of a beluga whale.

We learned a few words in Inuktitut: we found out that *Inuit* means "the people," while one person is an *Inuk*; very useful were *qanuipit* (hello) and *qujannamik* (thank you).

The territory of Nunavut was officially created on April 1, 1999. About eight times the size of England, Nunavut – meaning "our land" in Inuktitut – covers three million square kilometres and has a population of 28,000 living in only 23 communities, including the capital Iqaluit.

On this journey, we also encountered remainders of the hardships that were an integral part of Arctic exploration lore. One of our excursions by inflatable boat took us to Beechey Island, a small spit of land off Devon Island in northern Nunavut. On this desolate and barren land, we visited the tombs of some of the members of the ill-fated British expedition of John Franklin who, totally unprepared for the harsh Arctic environment, was seeking the elusive Northwest Passage. Subsequent search expeditions, looking for Franklin survivors, mapped the whole region, opening the way for Amundsen's 1906 successful passage.

With stunning vistas, teeming animal life, a wealth of history, a people of unequalled resilience and resourcefulness, the Arctic is becoming one of the most desirable travel destinations.

For information on Nunavut: Nunavut Tourism, www.nunatour.nt.ca. For information on Arctic cruising: Quest Nature Tours, www.questnaturetours.com

Girls from Pond Inlet, Nunavut, perform the traditional Inuit throat singing. [Robert Shechter photos]

Travel Talk

By Bill Gladstone

ISRAEL IS CALLING! MANY TOURS AND MISSIONS AVAILABLE

This column is devoted to outlining some of the numerous tours and missions to Israel currently on offer to the community.

* * *

The Kolel Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning is planning two educational tours of Israel, led by Rabbi Elyse Goldstein.

Israel 101 is a special first-timers' tour (or for those who haven't been back in a long time). Travel dates are Jan. 21 to 31, 2007.

The Exodus Tour takes in Egypt first and then Israel, including a visit to the pyramids and then crossing the border by foot to celebrate Passover with a seder in a desert tent. Travel dates are March 29 to April 11, 2007.

A free information night takes place Oct. 26 at the BJCC, 4588 Bathurst St., the Israel 101 tour at 7:30 p.m., the Exodus Tour at 8:15 p.m. For details, please contact Rabbi Goldstein, 416-636-1880, ext. 472 or www.kolel.org

* * *

Rabbi Gary Zweig, formerly of the Kiever Synagogue, is planning a third group tour to Israel, lasting 14 days including a two-day stopover in Prague. Travel dates are Dec. 24 to Jan. 7, 2007.

Geared for first-time visitors to Israel, the itinerary includes a visit to Mount Hermon and various places in the north, as well as Jerusalem and the suburb of Ramat Beit Shemesh, where a reception is planned with former Toronto couples who have made aliyah.

By popular demand, the tour also includes two days in Eilat. The tour is being co-ordinated with Gila Yefet of YYZ Travel. For details, please contact Rabbi Zweig, 416-977-3502.

* * *

Shura Ha-Din, the Israeli Law Center, offers the "Ultimate Mission" to Israel, Nov. 6 to 13. Doctors, attorneys, accountants, programmers and other professionals from around the world are expected to participate in this intensive eight-day exploration of Israel's struggle for survival and security after her war against Hezbollah.

The mission includes briefings by Mossad officials, Shin Bet commanders and Israel Defence Forces intelligence officers, an inside tour of the security fence and secret intelligence bases, tours of the Lebanese front-line military positions and the Gaza border check-points, and much more. In short, this is not your usual tourist view of Israel but a highly specialized eye-opener for people who consider themselves knowledgeable about the Middle East.

For details, please visit the website http://israellawcenter.org

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Honest Reporting's Leadership Mission to Israel is set for Nov. 14 to 20. If you wish to join a high-level group committed to defending Israel worldwide, attend exclusive briefings with Israeli newsmakers and military experts, receive training to act as Israel's ambassadors, and much more, please visit the website www.honestreporting.com

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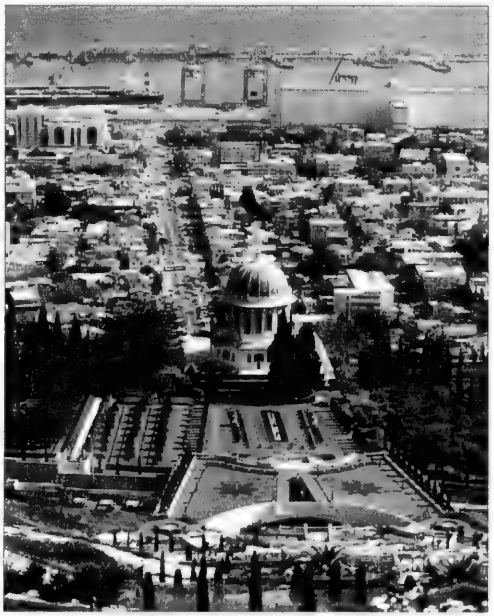


The Baha'i Gardens in Haifa. [IGTO photo]

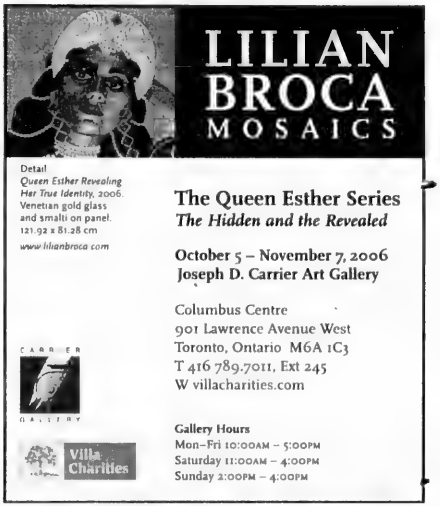
Soon after the recent conflict on Israel's northern border, the city of Haifa bounced back to "business as usual" and is again buzzing with visitors, Israel's Ministry of Tourism reports.

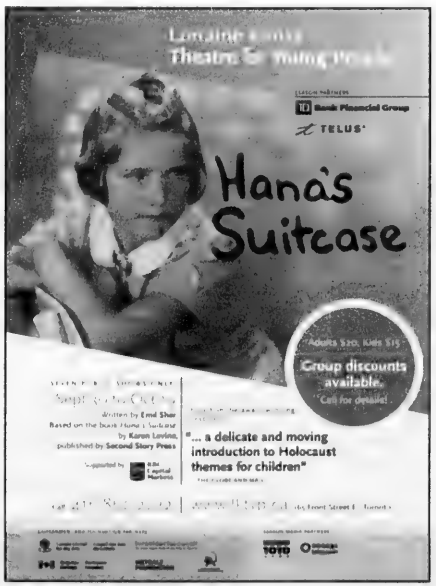
Chief among Haifa attractions is the splendid and immaculate Baha'i Gardens, consisting of 18 monumental terraces that soar 750 feet high. Intricately planted and decorated with flowers, topiaries, sweeping lawns, manicured cypress trees and stone peacocks and eagles, the terraces are all connected by creamy stone staircases and gurgling water channels, and dotted with ornamental fountains.

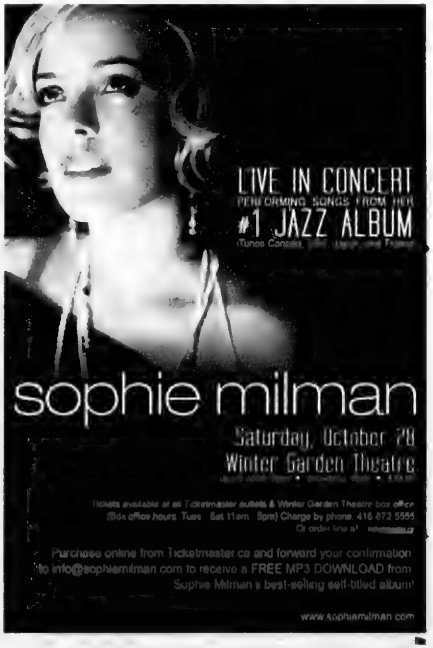
Half-way up the Carmel slope, the golden-tiled dome of the Shrine of the Báb has long been Haifa's most instantly recognizable landmark. The golden shrine houses the grave of Siyyid Ali-Muhammad, the "martyr-herald" of the Baha'i faith.

Haifa's German Colony, a region of 85 red-roofed houses dating from the 1870s, is one of the city's hottest neighbourhoods. The restored main boulevard of the colony, Ben-Gurion Avenue, descends from the entrance of the Baha'i Gardens to the seaport (Israel's largest). The limestone-paved street is decorated with wrought-iron lamps, flowers and elegant traffic circles. The houses with their tranquil gardens, porches and porticoes hold dozens of restaurants, cafes, bars, boutiques and clubs, that are lively by day and thronged by night.

Haifa's many other attractions include the Technion (Israel's MIT) set on a 300-acre campus, the National Maritime Museum, the Mané Katz Museum, the Tikotin Museum of Japanese Art, the Museum of Clandestine Immigration, the Haifa Zoo, the Carmelite Monastery and Stella Maris Lighthouse, and Elijah's Cave. For further information, please visit the website www.goisrael.com.







CJN Profile

Noah Richler paints a literary portrait of Canada

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

For journalist Noah Richler, the topic was a natural fit. "I fell back on what I knew best – writers," he said. "I had grown up in a family of writers, had worked with novelists and then had written about them for a lot of my working life."

Richler was talking about his new book, *This Is My Country, What's Yours? A Literary Atlas of Canada*, which was published by McClelland & Stewart last month.

A cultural portrait of contemporary Canada as seen through the prism of some of its most celebrated novelists, short story writers and storytellers, Richler's book is based on the supposition that fiction is the surest way to plumb the depths of a country as culturally and ethnically diverse as ours.

Richler, the first books editor of the *National Post* and a former British Broadcasting Corporation producer, spent two years travelling around Canada gathering data, during the course of which he interviewed some 100 authors.

They form something of a who's who of Canadian literature and include luminaries like Margaret Atwood, David Bezmozgis, Austin Clarke, Barbara Gowdy, Ann-Marie McDonald, Rohinton Mistry, Alice Munro, Michael Ondaatje, Carol Shields and Jane Urquhart.

Akin to a literary travelogue, and a homage to Canadian writing, Richler's 476-page opus has garnered enviable reviews. As the *Globe and Mail* reviewer gushed,"The book is quite simply wonderful, exquisitely structured and fabulously written."

Richler, whose late father, Mordecai, was both an icon and gadfly of Canlit, approached the topic from a highly personal point of view.

"Inevitably, the choice of authors in a venture like this is going to be subjective. There is a top tier of Canadian authors, read not just here but all over the world, that one cannot in good faith ignore. There are others who wrote specific books or whose frame of mind was interesting to me.

"And there are others whom I would have liked to interview but found no reason to, and others I just did not get to because there comes a time in the creative undertaking when the mind moves on and says, 'Okay, enough research time, time to do some writing now.'"

Richler, who has been promoting his book on a Canada-wide tour, first sold the idea to Doug Gibson, then the president of McClelland & Stewart, in the spring of 2002, less than a year after his father died.

"I had written about 60,000 words of a novel in the months preceding his death, but after he passed away, the humour went out of me – the humour for a novel, at least."

Eager "to propel himself out of grief," Richler also sold the concept to Adrian Mills, then the vice-president of English language radio at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. *A Literary Atlas of Canada* became a 10-part series on *Ideas*, and was broadcast again recently.

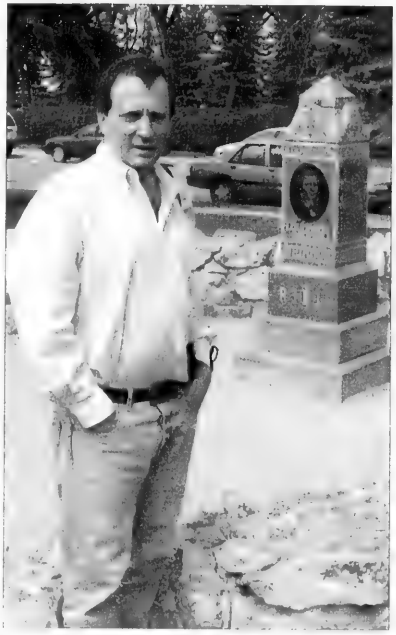
Richler was encouraged to pursue the project by none other than Atwood, the author of a 1972 book titled *Survival: A Thematic Guide to Canadian Literature*.

"We were having lunch after the publication of her novel, *Oryx and Crake*, and she remarked that books like *Survival* have their moment on the stage, and that now, some 30 years later, it was time for another fresh look at the very different situation of stories in Canada. That's what I believed, certainly."

Asked if he likes any particular writer in *This Is My Country*, he said, "This is not the point of the book. It is not and was never meant to be a list of whom to read. I had many moving experiences as I gathered the material, but these memories are entwined around my admiration for what all writers do."

In general, the stylistic dimensions of a novel are of most interest to Richler. "I believe that the moral lessons of novels are mostly familiar, and as I am in agreement with them – lessons about our common humanity, our courage in the face of adverse circumstances and so on – what is interesting to me and most people who read fiction is the language and style of a writer, and the picture a novel may paint of a place or time that is not my own."

He never feels obliged to a book he is reading. "If it is not compelling, I drop it. And frankly, I think that a lot more novels would be read if readers didn't feel guilty about not finishing novels that do not hold them. We have a gamut of novels for all tastes. Let's enjoy them."



Noah Richler at Riel grave, St. Boniface MB

Born in Montreal and raised in London, England, Richler returned to Montreal for a year in 1968 when his father accepted a teaching position at Concordia University, known then as Sir George Williams University.

"We came back in 1972 and stayed," he said. "I went to high school in Montreal, travelled for a while and then studied classics and archeology at McGill."

During his travels in Canada, he was a prospector in the Yukon, a member of an oil exploration crew and the manager of a theatre company.

"It was very easy to get a job, and I would arrange my exams and choose my courses so that I could be the first one to leave Montreal for Calgary or wherever I was going. It was very easy to make a pile of money and to see the country, and I made a point of doing both these things."

He added, "The gift of Canada as a teenager, young man and even the middle-aged one I am now is that it is a nation of extraordinary variety, and rawness, in which it is possible to pitch in and participate."

Richler has also visited Israel several times and was once a volunteer on a kibbutz in the Negev. Now he wants to learn to read and write Hebrew.

After returning to Britain yet again, Richler studied politics and economics at Oxford University, produced features and documentaries for the BBC, including a series titled *Young Israelis*, and wrote for publications such as the *Guardian*, *Punch*, *Granta* and the *Daily Telegraph*.

In 1998, he found himself back in Canada once more. "I missed my brothers [Daniel and Jacob] who had remained here, and the Canada I knew so well through work. And I missed my father, whose influence on me was huge. So I came home, and when the *National Post* telephoned me, that was my opportunity."

Richler had been at the *National Post* for two years when the publisher, Conrad Black, took a dislike to him. "He was not used to employees who were not sycophants. I was removed as books editor, but Ken Whyte, then the editor, made me the literary columnist, and I enjoyed that. But Matthew Fraser, the subsequent editor-in-chief, was insufferable and uninteresting and an egoist, and so I quit."

Since then, Richler has also hosted CBC's *Richler on Radio* and contributed political travel pieces and literary articles to *Maclean's*, *The Walrus* and the *Globe and Mail*, among other publications.

Currently, he is finishing an essay on the Ontario landscape painter John Hartman, whom he describes as "a very talented and special artist."

He and his wife, Sarah, a publishing house president, and their two children, Sophie and Nathalie, divide their time between Toronto and Digby Neck in southern Nova Scotia.

"It's an exceptionally beautiful part of the country," he said, "and the house is a wonderful place to work."

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Breakthrough in diabetes prevention reported

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A McMaster University medical researcher is the co-principal investigator of a major new study that suggests drug therapy can curb Type 2 diabetes.

Hertzel Gerstein, a professor in both the departments of medicine and clinical epidemiology and biostatistics, presented his findings in the latest edition of *The Lancet*, the British medical journal, and at a meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes in Copenhagen last month.

In the study, some 5,000 people in 21 countries at risk of contracting Type 2 diabetes, which generally develops in adulthood, took the drugs ramipril or rosiglitazone for three years.

"The trials showed that a drug used and approved to treat diabetes, rosiglitazone – which is sold under the brand name Avandia – can also prevent or delay diabetes when given to people at high risk of future diabetes," Gerstein said in an interview.

Gerstein, who was born and raised in Toronto and now lives in Hamilton, said Avandia is not the only anti-diabetes drug available today.

"There are several ways of treating diabetes, and Avandia is one of them."

But in the study, individuals who took Avandia, which is marketed in Canada by GSK, reduced their chances of contracting diabetes by two-thirds.

Asked whether drug therapy through Avandia is a magic bullet, Gerstein said, "There is no quick fix."

People at risk should consult their doctors and be aware that Type 2 diabetes affects those with a strong family history, those who are overweight and those who have problems with glucose absorption during pregnancy.

Dr. Hertzel Gerstein

He said potential sufferers of Type 2 diabetes should increase their physical activity – to about 30 minutes per day – and try to lose weight, especially around the abdomen.

"If that is not sufficient, then drugs may be considered in consultation with a physician."

Gerstein said that Avandia, while having been approved for treating diabetes in Canada, has not been approved as yet for diabetes prevention.

He estimates that two million Canadians have Type 2 diabetes, and even more are at risk of getting it.

Diabetes is a burden on the economy. As Gerstein put it, "The Canadian Diabetes Association estimates that diabetes costs Canadian taxpayers more than $12 billion per year."

Suggesting that diabetes has morphed into a global epidemic, Gerstein warned, "Diabetes is a common chronic disease that is rapidly increasing. People with diabetes are at high risk for future health problems.

"We are now identifying a growing set of approaches to reduce or prevent the risk of diabetes. This includes dietary and lifestyle approaches. But the clear results of our medical trials mean that there is now another proven approach that can be added to this growing list."

Kimel family donates new MRI to Toronto hospitals

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

A new system of magnetic resonance imaging, a gift from Toronto's Kimel family, is being tested as a treatment for bone metastases, cancer that has spread to the bone from other parts of the body, when other pain relief methods have failed.

Bone is the third most common organ to which cancer spreads, after the lungs and liver. In cases of breast cancer, bone is the second most common place that cancer spreads to.

A patient in Toronto, with lymphoma and prostate cancer that had spread to his bones, was able to stop taking all pain medication after a three-hour MRI treatment.

Similar studies are taking place at Sheba Medical Center in Tel HaShomer, Israel, St. Luc Hospital in Montreal, Charité Hospital in Berlin and between 30 and 40 other sites around the world. To date, 15 patients have been treated with the same positive results as in Toronto.

Dr. David Gianfelice, associate professor, abdominal/interventioning radiology at Mount Sinai Hospital and the University Health Network, is leading the research here. He said pain from bone metastases is the most common cause of cancer pain. Current treatment options, which include analgesics, chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, radiation, surgery and radio frequency ablation, have significant side effects, he noted, and also these treatments are not always effective.

Magnetic-resonance-guided focused ultrasound (MRgFUS) uses the ExAblate 2000 computer system to work. The MRI machine accurately visualizes the cancer and aims focused ultrasound waves at the tumour to destroy it. With this procedure, the physician can continuously monitor and then adjust the treatment, so that only the cancer – and none of the adjacent tissue – is affected.

The patient can even return home the same day, and there are no side effects. Gianfelice said the MRgFUS has been used in Montreal since 1998 for breast cancer, and has been approved by the FDA for use with uterine fibroids in the United States.

Warren Kimel said his father, Manny, who was in the textile industry, was surprised that Mount Sinai Hospital didn't have an MRI machine, especially since he was told that the CAT scan machines were old and not too efficient. "He was pleased that he could help bring the hospital into the modern age."

Because of the high cost of the MRI machine, his father couldn't provide it without help from his children, Kimel said. It took five to six years to purchase the technology.

Radiology services are now provided jointly by Mount Sinai hospital and the University Hospital, Toronto General Hospital site, but the equipment is at TGH.

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A novel from the early days of Canadian Jewish literature

***The Rich Man* by Henry Kreisel, McClelland & Stewart.**

By NORMAN RAVVIN
Special to The CJN

Although a good deal of ink has been spilled in pursuit of the great American novel, Canadians are less confident about such discussions.

Musings in pursuit of the great Canadian Jewish novel are that much scarcer, though we might point to Mordecai Richler's *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* as the most read, Leonard Cohen's *Beautiful Losers* as the most audacious, A.M. Klein's *The Second Scroll* as the most learned, and Adele Wiseman's *Crackpot* as the closest thing in the tradition to a full-fledged feminist novel.

Norman Ravvin

But Henry Kreisel's *The Rich Man* may be the most undeservedly neglected. Published in 1948 by McClelland & Stewart in Toronto, it predates all of the above (Klein's book is nearest to it in age, having appeared in 1951 from Knopf in the United States). The appearance of Kreisel's debut novel marked the first appearance of a Jewish-themed novel by a Jewish author from a mainstream Canadian publishing house.

Kreisel became a Canadian writer in a challenging and indirect way. Born in Austria, he fled the Anschluss for England with his family. There, he was interned as an "enemy alien" as part of the British government's hapless effort to show attentiveness to a would-be fifth column on the home front.

With his father, Kreisel was sent to Canada, where he spent more than a year in Allied-run internment camps in the New Brunswick woods. Though the elder Kreisel returned to England to be reunited with his wife, Henry Kreisel was determined to become an English-language Canadian writer and managed to meet a well-off Jewish patron who sponsored him upon his release.

In one of those remarkable transformations that newcomers to this country continue to undergo, Kreisel excelled at Toronto's Harbord Collegiate and went on to English studies at the University of Toronto. By the time he was seeing *The Rich Man* through the press, he was teaching at the University of Alberta, where he would remain for the rest of a fruitful academic career.

The Rich Man deserves to be seen as the inaugural book in a trend that now characterizes a good deal of our writing: a literate newcomer from a vastly different cultural background brings a keen outsider's eye to the challenge of mining the peculiarities of Canadian social and cultural life.

The Rich Man opens in 1935 with a singular portrait of Jewish immigrant existence in Toronto's garment district. Its exemplar of that time and place is Jacob Grossman, who has worked for decades as a presser in a Spadina-area sweatshop. With his children grown, his wife dead, and a few hundred dollars saved, Grossman decides to return to visit the family he left behind in Vienna. With this narrative turn, Kreisel sends his readers on an investigation of prewar Jewish Europe that was little-recorded in English-language fiction. Kreisel, with his fresh Canadian sensitivities alongside a storehouse of European knowledge and language (including German and Yiddish) had the tools to develop his characters' inner lives. Like Kreisel's own life, *The Rich Man* straddles a variety of languages, cultures and geographies.

Aspects of Kreisel's approach strike the reader as particularly modern for their time. His prose is lean and straightforward. Much of his novel's action is motivated by dialogue, and his set pieces evoke mood economically. The two young Canadian writers of the late 1940s who worked in a similar vein are Norman Levine and Mavis Gallant. Like them, Kreisel is uninterested in melodrama or romantic, lyrical writing for its own sake. His fictional tableau, when it reflects the predicaments of its time, is ironic in the subtlest ways. Though he (and we) know the disaster that will befall Europe within five years, he is unwilling to treat his characters as history's dupes.

The Rich Man is not written as if the Holocaust was predetermined, nor does it present Jewish life before the war as a kind of desperate mistake. In fact, it is the Canadian Jacob Grossman – a free man with the right passport in his jacket pocket – who finds himself trapped in circumstances of his own making.

The Rich Man has been out of print for a number of years, and Kreisel is not well-remembered outside the city of Edmonton, where he laboured in a wide community of writers and scholarly colleagues. His novel's reappearance allows us to broaden our perspective on Canadian Jewish literature. At the same time, it returns an early Spadina to our literary life and marks the beginning, in English, of an immigrant literature in Canada.

Norman Ravvin chairs the Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies. His books include the novel Lola by Night *and the essay collection* Hidden Canada: An Intimate Travelogue.

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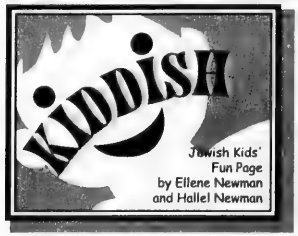

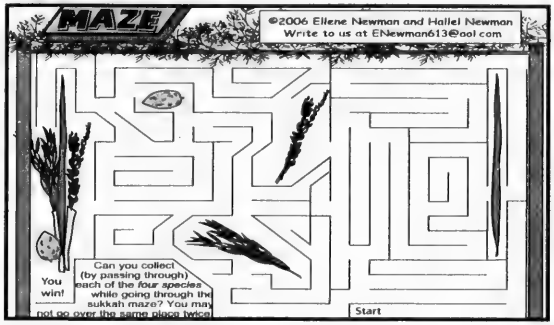

The Esrog

based on a true story

*The week-long festival of Sukkot (also pronounced Sukkos), comes shortly after Yom Kippur. There are two major mitzvot of Sukkot. The first is to "dwell in a sukkah" — i.e., eat one's meals and spend time in a temporary structure with a roof of leaves. The second is to hold the "four species" together: **lulav** (palm branch), **etrog** (citron, a fragrant citrus fruit), **hadas** (willow branches), and **aravot** (myrtle branches). The four species represent all the different kinds of Jews in the world coming together as one.*

The forests surrounding the small town of Berditchev were ablaze with the vibrant hues of autumn. Sukkot was in the air, and the people of Berditchev wasted no time preparing. A cacophony of sawing and hammering filled the busy streets, as makeshift sukkahs sprang up everywhere. The joy was palpable. Only one thing was missing.

"How can we do the mitzvah of lulav without an etrog?" sighed Rabbi Levi Yitzchok, the Rebbe of Berditchev, for the umpteenth time.

His Chassidim nodded, dumbly. There was not an etrog to be found in the entire city.

The Rebbe sent messengers everywhere, inquiring after an etrog, but there were none to found. Until…

"Rebbe!" came an exultant cry." We found an etrog!"

"What? Where?"

"It belongs to Yankel, a merchant passing through town. And it's such a beautiful etrog, too!

"So what are you waiting for? Buy it, quickly!"

The messenger dashed out, 20 other Chassidim at his heels.

Everyone waited anxiously.

Over an hour passed.

Finally the messenger returned, emptyhanded.

"He's not taking money for it. No matter what we offer, he just insists that he's bringing this etrog home with him to his family. And he lives in Tarnopol, three days away. There's no way this etrog's going to be in Berditchev this Sukkot, he says."

The Rebbe was crestfallen.

"Please ask him to come to me," he finally said.

Yankel the merchant entered the Rebbe's humble dwelling, surrounded by throngs of Chassidim who had congregated to see what would happen.

"Reb Yankel," entreated the Rebbe, "if you agree to sell me your etrog, you will be able to use it too. I'm buying it for the whole city to use. Please, do not deprive us of this important mitzvah."

In spite of the immense pressure, Yankel adamantly shook his head.

"Well in that case," offered the Rebbe, "what do you say to this? I'll buy the etrog in exchange for the heavenly reward I will get from doing the mitzvah with it."

Whoa, thought Yankel. *Everyone knows what a tzaddik Reb Levi Yitzchok is. The reward in heaven for even just one of his mitzvot is really something special.* After a moment of contemplation, he announced, "It's a deal!"

The Rebbe and the Chassidim rejoiced, and after sending a message to his family, Yankel made arrangements to stay in Berditchev for the holiday.

Sukkot night, all of Berditchev gathered in the synagogue for holiday prayers. When the service finished, everyone wished Reb Levi Yitzchok a *Gut Yom Tov* before returning to their homes. Yankel followed his host home, anticipating a festive holiday meal, but when they reached the sukkah his host said, "We don't have room for you tonight."

"What?" demanded Yankel.

"I'm sorry. "See if you can eat somewhere else."

Stunned and offended, Yankel went the neighbours' sukkah, but received the same response: "We don't have room for you."

He tried the next sukkah. No luck there, either.

It was getting late. Yankel trudged from sukkah to sukkah, his stomach growling, but nobody took him in.

This is an outrage! he fumed. *I thought Berditchev was famous for hospitality!*

He knocked on the door of another sukkah. They were already eating dessert, but he was desperate.

"Excuse me, could I possibly join you…"

"Sorry, no room."

Yankel finally lost it.

"Do you know who I am?" he demanded furiously. "Because of **me**, you're going to be able to do the mitzvah of lulav and etrog tomorrow. **I'm** the one who sold it to your Rebbe!"

"Exactly," replied the man, cryptically.

"You mean… you don't mean…" gasped Yankel.

Three minutes later, he was pounding on the door to Reb Levi Yitzchok's sukkah.

The door swung open. The sukkah was illuminated by the bright festival candles. Colourful decorations festooned the walls. The scent of the fresh pine needles above mixed with the tempting aroma of the waiting holiday food. The Rebbe stood by the table, lost in a spiritual reverie. The sight was awe-inspiring.

But Yankel was too livid to be awe-inspired.

"What's the big idea? You're upset that I bought your heavenly reward so you have the whole city lock me out like this? Don't you know it's a mitzvah to eat in the sukkah tonight?

"Of course," replied the Rebbe, "and you are quite welcome to join my family for the holiday meal – if you agree to sell me back the heavenly reward I sold you, that is."

Yankel paled. *Give it up? And be stuck here in Berditchev away from my family for nothing? On the other hand, it's a mitzvah to eat in the sukkah tonight.* Lost in thought, he deliberated. He knew what he had to do.

"It's a deal," he muttered.

The Rebbe beamed. "You see," he explained, "after I bought the etrog, I realized something. Not everyone deserves heavenly reward. Who knows if you are worthy of receiving it?

"But now I see that you are willing to give up that which was so precious to you. Willing to give it up just so that you could do a mitzvah. Indeed, you deserve the heavenly reward you have bought. You have earned it. Welcome. It is our pleasure to have you join us in our sukkah for tonight."

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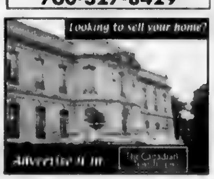

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Sports

Observant hockey player on fast track to NHL

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Benjamin Rubin has the combination of speed, size and mean wrist shot that any hockey coach looks for.

But perhaps only a former superstar like Patrick Roy would accept the condition that 17-year-old Rubin has insisted on throughout his rise through the sport's ranks: he will not play or practise on Shabbat or the Jewish holidays.

Roy has given a big break to Rubin, who comes from an Orthodox Montreal family, in making him a member of the Quebec City Remparts, the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League team, which he co-owns, manages and coaches.

It means that the 6-foot-1, 185-pound left-winger will play only about half of the 70 regular season games. He also won't be eating with the team; he brings his own kosher food.

The QMJHL is part of the Canadian Hockey League, historically a fast track to the NHL for players under age 20. The Remparts are one of the best teams, winners of last season's Memorial Cup, junior hockey's most coveted trophy.

Rubin is guarded about his ambitions. "It's everyone's dream to play in the NHL, but right now I just want to play and see how it goes."

Rubin, who graduated in June from Hebrew Academy, where he was an outstanding basketball player, has jumped to the QMJHL from the Midget AA Montreal Maroons.

Rubin was not drafted: he is what is known as a walk-on. Two people who saw Rubin's potential persuaded Roy, former goalie for the Montreal Canadiens and Colorado Avalanche, to give the lad a tryout at camp. They were Johnny Esposito, father of the Remparts' star centre Angelo, a friend and teammate of Rubin's up through the ranks, and car dealer Sam Eltes, well-connected in the sports scene, who in his youth was a promising athlete and is observant himself.

Montrealer Alan Maislin, president of the Israeli Ice Hockey Federation, said Rubin impressed former Canadiens coach and Israeli national team coach Jean Perron at the federation's hockey school in Metullah last summer. "He said this kid has the tools to go all the way. He's big, he plays mean, but he's also got 'the head,' the right mental attitude that it takes."

Maislin thinks Roy deserves a lot of credit for accommodating a Jew who is shomer Shabbat, a concession that is probably without precedent in any team sport at this level. "Roy is making a major sacrifice… This means Rubin must be a special player."

And the fact that this is happening in French Canada cannot be ignored, Maislin feels. "Benjamin is getting wonderful press in the French media. This is great for the Jewish community."

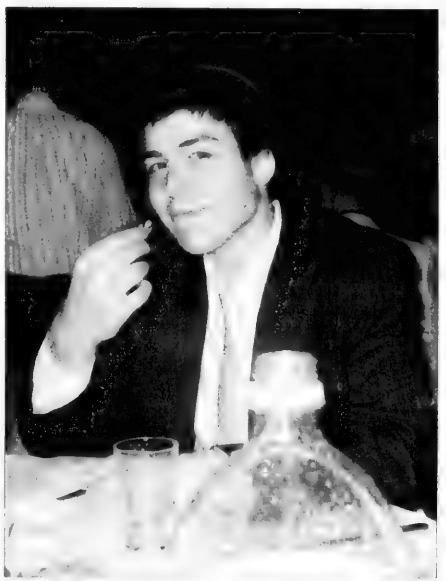
Rubin is the second of the four sons of Maggy and Michael Rubin, both architects who specialize in synagogues, and grew up in Snowdon. His father, a serious hockey fan, realized Benjamin had extraordinary ice skills when he first got him on skates at age 3. Benjamin started playing prenovice hockey at 4½.

He has encouraged Benjamin to go as far as he can in hockey. While not wanting to make any assumptions, the elder Rubin admits he's already pored over the NHL schedule to see how many games are played on Shabbat, and come to the conclusion that is "conceivable if not probable" that an observant Jew, who is a valuable enough player, could be drafted.

The reason Benjamin skipped Midget AAA is that officials balked at letting him keep to his restricted schedule, his father said. He's deeply grateful to Roy for showing "rare courage," but does not think he is doing Benjamin a favour. "Roy recognizes that Benjamin is so good that it's better to have him part-time than not at all."

Rubin is hoping that when Benjamin becomes an adult, he will continue to put his religious convictions ahead of ambition. "I would be hurt if he doesn't, but I won't disown him."

Rubin has given much thought to whether he has steered his son in the right direction. "Some have told me it's a dead end, not for an Orthodox boy. Others that I should not suppress a God-given talent."



Benjamin Rubin

Rubin's two younger sons, Elan, 15, and David, 12, are also playing organized hockey and show promise.

Since coming to training camp in August, Benjamin has been living with Quebec City's only rabbi, Dovid Lewin, the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Israel Ohev Shalom, and his wife, Devorah, who is expecting their first child. The Jewish community is very small; the congregation has 90 members.

Rabbi Lewin, a Lubavitcher who arrived from France five months ago, says he didn't know anything about hockey before but has come to appreciate the game from watching Rubin play.

When the rabbi showed up at the Colisée Pepsi, the Remparts' home arena, for an exhibition game against the Chicoutimi Saguenéens, people came up to him to ask if he was "Monsieur Rubin."

Rubin instantly became a curiosity in the local media, with stories focusing on his adherence to Orthodox Judaism and Roy's concession. "Quebec people don't know anything about Judaism," Rabbi Lewin said. "They see someone with a beard and black hat and they think I must be his father."

The rabbi has become something of an armchair coach already. "I think Patrick Roy is a very smart guy. He understood how good a player Benjamin is, and made a compromise."

Rubin, who studies social sciences at Champlain-St. Lawrence, an English-language CEGEP, is a little overwhelmed by all the attention. "Everyone asks me about what kosher means, what the religion is about, don't I feel bad about missing games. But they are very accepting. And the league has been really, really helpful."

Rubin speaks French well, having spoken it with his mother, who is of Moroccan origin and not as hockey-mad as her men.

At time of writing, Rubin – No. 15 – had already racked up points in two exhibition games against the Chicoutimi Saguenéens, scoring a goal in the first, and getting an assist in the second.

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Star reporter promotes high school athletes

By Eli Shupak
Special to The CJN

David Grossman didn't have it easy growing up in the west end of Toronto, but with his determination and will to succeed, he forged a career in journalism that has spanned more than a quarter-century with Canada's largest newspaper.

Grossman, the *Toronto Star*'s high school sports reporter since 1980, grew up on Queen Street and recalls the days when he would come home with broken glasses and bleeding noses as the target of anti-Semitic slurs. It was far from a typical Jewish upbringing for a kid in Parkdale in the late 1950s whose friends were predominantly living in North York and Forest Hill.

He quickly learned the value of a dollar and credits his 92-year-old mother, Sally, for keeping him on the right track.

"What I'll always remember from my mother was to work hard, set your goals, treat people the way you want them to treat you, and always strive forward," said Grossman, 55. "No doubt, if it wasn't for her, there is no way I'd be where I am today."

While he wasn't the best when it came to academics, Grossman – who attended Hebrew school twice a week, commuting by two streetcars and a bus – was hooked on sports.

But he knew there was no way he was going to be a professional athlete, so he figured the next best thing was to write about athletes and talk about them.

In addition to writing for the *Star*, Grossman has hosted a high school sports talk show Sunday mornings on the Fan 590 Radio for the past 15 years. It is the only radio show of its kind in the country.

Back in his days at Parkdale Collegiate, the *Globe and Mail* would pay him 50 cents to call in a score. He would get home from Hebrew school, make half a dozen phone calls to coaches, report the scores to the paper, and within an hour have everything accomplished. He would then turn his attention to his homework.

"It was quite pleasant when the cheques started coming in the mail," recalled Grossman, who shortly thereafter began reporting scores to the *Toronto Star*, as well as to the old *Toronto Telegram*. "When the games started to pile up, so did the money. Fifty cents was a lot of money back then."

Later, a summer job became available with the *Globe*. With his foot in the door as a copy boy, Grossman got to fill in for someone and cover a high school soccer game.

It was memorable, not only because it was the first time he had his name in the paper, but because the game's only goal came as a result of a player kicking the ball in the air and the wind blowing it back into the net.

From there, Grossman decided he wanted to go to Humber College's journalism program. He maintained his links with the newspapers, as well as radio and TV stations while pursuing his diploma.

Shortly after graduating, he received a full-time job offer, the first of his life. Humber was looking for an information officer and they had found their man. Grossman did the job for a month or two before being appointed director of college relations.

After four years at Humber, Grossman became a civil servant, wearing a jacket and tie during the day while working with the provincial government, then putting on a pair of jeans and becoming a reporter for the *Star*.

He worked for the province for 24 years in a number of jobs, including his last one as director of communications with the parole board, prior to taking a pension and leaving in 2004.

During his time with government, Grossman was involved in writing the provincial freedom of information and protection of privacy act. He also worked on a number of other special projects and received letters from three different premiers of three different parties in appreciation of his work.

Since he started writing for the *Star* in 1980, the award-winning reporter has penned more than 10,000 stories on high school sports, and while the opportunity to cover professional sport has presented itself, Grossman has insisted on working with teens.

"I have been able to help hundreds and thousands of kids get recognized, and that makes me feel good," he said. "I felt that somewhere down the line, someone gave me a break and I'd like to give the kids a break – give them back what someone gave me."

David Grossman

While he said that working 16-hour days over two decades was very demanding, he enjoyed the jobs he did with the different ministries and has yet to miss a day at the *Star* for health reasons.

Grossman said his ability to manage time effectively is the reason he has never missed a deadline.

"It always seemed to work out, even when I had my doubts," said Grossman, who was often referred to as a magician for the way he was able to juggle his responsibilities.

"It was difficult working on an assignment that required a communication plan, a speech, and maybe a news release for a cabinet minister and there's an important football game to get to."

While Grossman was establishing himself in the working world in the early 1980s, tragedy struck when he was in Ottawa on assignment for the government. During a fire in his house, his three-year-old son Mark suffered burns and died three months later.

"That's something you never forget," said Grossman, who now lives in Thornhill. "It's always in the back of my mind, seven days a week.

"That's something that could change the lives of people very easily. I've had to work very hard with the support of a lot of people and a wonderful family who knew, respected, and gave me the devotion and love to continue doing this."

His wife, Carol, is an elementary school teacher, and their daughter, Marissa, is following in her footsteps, currently working toward her master's degree. The couple also have a son, Ari, a sports information co-ordinator at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont., and another daughter, Yonit, who is in her last year of high school.

Last year, Grossman was appointed to the board of Maccabi Canada as communications co-ordinator, a position that hadn't existed in the past. He went to the Maccabiah Games in Israel last year and was proud to promote Jewish athletes as they competed in the world's third-largest amateur sporting event.

He plans to return to the next Games in 2009 with his family in tow.

"Now that I've gotten up in years, I feel bad that I didn't spend more time with the kids when they were younger," he said. "There was time with them, but not enough. Maybe that'll be a chance for my wife to meet me, and my kids to spend time with me."

POMEGRANATE CHICKEN WINGS

3 lbs. chicken wings
1/2 tsp oil
2 tsp minced garlic
1 c pomegranate juice
1 c cranberry juice
1/3 c sugar
2 tblsp cider vinegar
3 tblsps pomegranate seeds

Rinse wings, drain and cut apart at the joints. Salt to taste. Place in a single layer in a large nonstick pan. Bake in a 400°F oven until brown and crisp, about 45 min. turning pieces occasionally.

In a medium nonstick pan, over high heat, stir oil and garlic for 2 to 3 min. Add pomegranate juice, cranberry juice, sugar, and vinegar. Stir until sugar dissolves, bring to boil; boil about 15 min. Drain and discard fat from chicken wings. Pour pomegranate sauce over wings and turn pieces. Bake until sauce thickens and sticks to wings, about 12 minutes, turning often.

Garnish with pomegranate seeds.

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BEAUTIFYING KIRYAT SHMONAH: Some 70 local high school students joined in the effort to create an art forest in the park in Kiryat Shmonah, Israel. The undertaking was the initiative of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, and the young artists displayed their talents under the guidance of artists and art students of the youth wing of the Israel Museum. The town in the Upper Galilee panhandle was hit by constant barrages of Katyusha rockets during the recent war with Hezbollah. [Israel Museum photos]

URBAN WRITER | WILL RETURN

Guest Voice

Tree of life

By SUSAN ROTH

A couple of months have passed since we returned from Israel. We arrived home safely on July 14 after a traumatic and mind-altering experience.

We were ending a two-week stay in Safed, where we were visiting our son, daughter-in-law and grandson, when the unthinkable happened. While sitting in our son Jay's home in the afternoon of July 13, all of a sudden, we heard a massive explosion that was very close by. I was on the phone with a friend at the time and she just screamed, as the explosion was even closer to her.

We all knew that something dreadful had happened, and we decided to take shelter in the basement. We flipped through radio stations to try to find out what was going on. Then, moments later there was another explosion. At that point, luckily, our son Jay's friend, Yaacov, came over and suggested that we all take cover in his "safe house." It was a welcome invitation.

We grabbed a few baby items and some food and started running up the street when a siren started blasting. At that point, we ran into someone's open door and took shelter in a walk-in cupboard. Oddly enough, a young woman from Toronto whom we had never met before was also taking cover there.

After our brief stay in the cupboard, we felt we needed to move on to a safer environment. We gathered our courage and our few belongings and ran to the "safe house," a two-room underground apartment in a 600-year-old building that had windows on the front of the building only, making it more resistant to the impact of Katyusha rockets.

There were about 20 of us staying in this two-room apartment. We could hear explosions at random intervals. It was hard to assess where they were falling and the constant barrage was terrifying, to say the least. We tried to talk in order to take our minds off the situation. Then, at about 9 p.m., we heard and felt the most horrific, panic-inducing explosion. It was obvious that this one had fallen very close by. The whole apartment shook, dust was flying, and we were all shaking and terrified.

Later that night, we found out that a Katyusha had fallen about 10 feet from the wall we were sitting in front of. The next day, we learned that we had a very special tree to thank for our survival. A rocket had fallen in the garden behind the house we were in, but its path had been blocked by a large overgrown cedar tree. If that tree hadn't been there, the Katyusha would have hit the wall near where we were sitting.

It's interesting to note that the people in the apartment building next door had petitioned the municipality for two years to remove the tree because it obscured their view. Thankfully, their request was denied. That overgrown tree actually became our "tree of life."

It's ironic that some people in Safed took this overgrown, unsightly tree to be a nuisance. There's an interesting analogy to be drawn. We are told that in *Bereshit*, Adam chose to eat from the "Tree of Knowledge" because its fruit was visible and external, whereas the "Tree of Life" had only bark, which did not look enticing to him. Who knows? Maybe it, too, was ugly and overgrown, like our own tree of life.

There are many stories of miracles that happened during the war. For those who don't believe in miracles, our story may not impress them. But sometimes, unusual experiences force us to look at life in a different way.

I truly believe that this war has made many Israelis approach life differently. There's no turning back when you've been exposed to the unthinkable: a threat to your very existence.

A friend of mine from Safed, who fled northern Israel with her family during the war, e-mailed me the following remarks: "The war has changed life for us in some ways. Most people I meet admit to feeling different inside. Hard to say what, but for me there is a sense of vulnerability, a real fear for the safety of Israel, which I never felt before, but when you are forced to flee your home the existential threat that has always existed becomes much more tangible and frightening. With that, though, comes a greater appreciation for our life in this incredibly special, holy and beautiful land – a deep cherishing of the now and a resolution to enjoy as much as I can in every moment that I am blessed with here."

Let's hope and pray that the beauty of Safed – with its ancient synagogues, winding streets and gorgeous vegetation – will be restored to its prewar glory as soon as possible. And let's also hope and pray that the people of Israel will regain their strength and overcome their feelings of fear and vulnerability.

Susan Roth lives in Hamilton, Ont.

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This Week
National

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Israeli troops leave Lebanon

By DAN BARON
JTA

ISRAEL-LEBANON BORDER — Israel's war with Hezbollah ended much the way it was waged – unpredictably, and with a good deal of self-doubt.

"It's over, Mom," one soldier muttered into his cellphone as he crossed back from Lebanese territory at the Israeli border village of Zarit before dawn Oct. 1.

One of his comrades jauntily clutched an Israeli flag. The rest abstained from ceremony, boarding buses ahead of the sleepy ride back home or to their bases.

The lack of fanfare was a departure from Israel's last Lebanon withdrawal, in 2000, and its 2005 pullout from the Gaza Strip.

Back then, journalists were encouraged to turn out en masse for the departing tanks and troops and the locking of border fences. This time around, the manoeuvres seemed almost furtive.

UNIFIL empowered to use force against Hezbollah

"Our priority is security for our forces, of course, but I won't deny that no one felt a great need to trumpet this withdrawal," one Israeli source said.

"There is a sense that the war began and ended, somehow, out of our control."

The observation appeared to be confirmed by the afternoon of Oct. 1, when the United Nations announced – contrary to Israeli declarations – that the withdrawal was not quite complete. Some soldiers remained in the northern half of Ghajar, a village bisected by the Israeli-Lebanese border but whose residents claim allegiance to neighbouring Syria.

"I expect that they will leave this area in the course of the week, thus completing the withdrawal in line with Resolution 1701," said Maj.-Gen. Alain Pellegrini, commander of the UNIFIL peacekeeper force in southern Lebanon.

He was referring to the UN Security Council resolution of Aug. 14, which halted Israel's month-long war with Hezbollah on the promise that peacekeepers and Lebanese troops would take over and police the Iranian-backed militia's former strongholds.

Israel later confirmed that it had not left the Lebanese half of Ghajar. Israeli officials said they would leave Ghajar once security arrangements are complete.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert gave the order last Thursday for the IDF to remove a fence it installed on the Lebanese side of Ghajar because it was not built in coordination with UNIFIL and not authorized by the security cabinet. Israel Radio reported that the government planned to put up a new fence in the area to keep Hizbullah at bay.

On Oct. 2, a Hezbollah leader said violence could resume if Israel did not leave Ghajar and Shebaa Farms, a portion of the Golan

Continued on page 41

Memories honoured

Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz, above and left, visited the military cemetery in Tel Aviv last week to pay homage to the memories of soldiers who died defending Israel during the Yom Kippur War in 1973.
[*RNS/Reuters photos*]

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Elie Wiesel receives honorary British knighthood — see page 43

The News in Brief

CANADA

Interfaith Unions Up

OTTAWA — The percentage of Jews in interfaith unions rose from nine per cent in 1981 to 17 per cent 20 years later, a higher rate of increase than for the country as a whole, a new Statistics Canada report shows. The study, released last week, said the national rate increased from 15 to 19 per cent. It also showed the percentage of Catholics in such conjugal unions increased from 12 to 16 per cent, and from 14 to 21 per cent among Protestants. The rate among Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs dropped over the same period, because many arrived between 1991 and 2001 and they retained strong ties to marital customs of their homelands, StatsCan said.

Gift Funds Exchange

WATERLOO, Ont. — A $500,000 gift from high-powered business couple Gerald Schwartz, CEO of Onex Corp., and Heather Reisman, head of Indigo Books and Music, will establish a new academic and research exchange program in computer science between the University of Waterloo and the University of Haifa. The donation, to be spread over five years, will annually fund more than a dozen exchanges involving faculty, as well as undergraduate and graduate students, at both schools, UW said in a statement.

WORLD

Citizenship Revoked

PITTSBURGH — A U.S. District Court in Pittsburgh revoked the citizenship of an ex-Nazi concentration camp guard. The court acted Sept. 29 against Anton Geiser, 81, of Sharon, Pa., a guard at Sachsenhausen and other wartime camps. He came to the United States from Austria in 1956 and became a citizen in 1962.

Israel Helps Muslims

ABUJA — Israel helped build a mosque in Nigeria. *Yediot Achronot* on Sept. 28 quoted Israel's ambassador to Abuja as saying his mission donated cement for a mosque for the Fulani, a Muslim tribe. The Israelis became friendly with the Fulanis when several tribesmen attended an agricultural course run by the embassy.

Soldiers Sentenced

ROME — Two ex-German soldiers were sentenced to life in jail Sept. 28 by an Italian miltary court for complicity in murdering civilians. Herbert Stommel and Joseph Scheungraber led their engineering corps unit in a two-day massacre in Falzano di Cortona. They were ordered to pay compensation to the town and to the victims' families.

Spike In Attacks

COPENHAGEN — There were as many attacks on Danish Jews in the first half of 2006 as in all of 2005, the *Kristeligt Dagblad* newspaper reported. Most attacks have been on people going to shul or children heading to school.

Cemetery Desecrated

MOSCOW — Jewish and Muslim tombstones were vandalized with painted swastikas in a cemetery in central Russia last week in what's believed to be the largest act of cemetery vandalism in post-Communist Russia. Vandals damaged some 150 Jewish and Tatar gravestones in Tver, about 100 miles northwest of Moscow. Police blamed neo-Nazi skinheads.

Mayor Cleared

LONDON — The suspension of London's mayor for comments seen as anti-Semitic will be overturned, a British judge said. Justice Andrew Collins made his comments regarding Ken Livingstone on Oct. 6 after a two-day hearing at the High Court of London. Earlier this year, Livingstone was suspended from office for four weeks by the Adjudication Panel of England for "bringing his office into disrepute" by comparing a Jewish journalist to a concentration camp guard. The suspension was stayed pending the outcome of his hearing.

Ex-Canadian PMs Join Call For Peace Talks

BRUSSELS — Former Canadian prime ministers Jean Chrétien and Kim Campbell, as well as former foreign ministers Lloyd Axworthy and Barbara McDougall, have joined more than 130 other former world leaders in calling for an international conference to try to revive Mideast peace efforts.

Their Oct. 4 declaration urges that the venture be led by the so-called Quartet – the United States, Russia, the United Nations and the European Union – with the participation of the Arab League. It comes after Israel's conflict with Hezbollah and its military foray into Gaza this past summer.

Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, ex-Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev and ex-Israeli foreign minister Shlomo Ben-Ami were among others who signed the declaration. It was organized by the International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based non-governmental organization.

"Everyone has lost in this conflict, except the extremists throughout the world who prosper on the rage that it continues to provoke," the leaders said.

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Peter Munk makes $18.5M donation to Technion

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The belief that he can contribute to peace in the Middle East by helping the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology is what fuelled gold magnate Peter Munk's recent $18.5-million to the school, which makes him the largest total Canadian contributor to the institution.

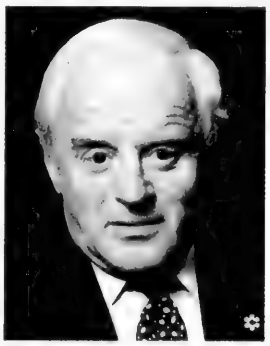
In 1999, Munk – whose uncle Nicholas Munk was a founder of the Canadian Technion Society and whose grandfather was involved in the school's creation – donated $5 million to the Haifa-based school. Another $2 million came from TrizecHahn Corporation and Barrick Gold Corporation, companies that Munk built, and $4.5 million was raised at a dinner in his honour. Other donations of his to the Technion total just under $1 million.

"My old family connection also fits in with my overall thinking of how best we can help Israel and the whole region [by creating] new jobs, new enterprises," Munk told *The CJN* in a phone interview last week. "[This most recent gift] will create benefits, hopefully, and contribute to peace."

In 1948, Nicholas Munk brought his Hungarian-born nephew, then a penniless 17-year-old, to Canada, where he studied electrical engineering at the University of Toronto.

Munk's most recent gift will establish the Peter Munk Research Institute at the Technion. Its funds will be used for scholarship grants and chairs for "advanced scientific breakthroughs" in several fields of pure and applied science, Munk said.

Earlier this year Munk, 78, gave $37 million to Toronto General Hospital, the largest single gift ever to a Canadian hospital. In 1997, he and his companies donated $6.4 million to the University of Toronto, enabling it to create the Munk Centre for International Studies, directed by Janice Gross Stein.


Peter Munk

Following those two donations, Munk said, he wanted to "do something for the Jewish cause." After much research, he concluded that the Technion is his "favourite project" in Israel.

He made a point of saying, however, that he considers the Technion to be a "secular" cause. "The Technion is not known for being religious," Munk said, noting that it has a reputation as the "MIT of the Middle East," in reference to the prestigious Massachussets Institute of Technology.

"I think technological breakthroughs are a forte of Israel, and as such can create enormous impact in a country short of resources," said Munk, who added that he favours "focused" donations.

Although the Israeli arm of his charitable foundation considered donating to other worthy causes, "If we want to have peace, we have to have prosperity," Munk told *The CJN*.

The Technion was thus his preference, "maybe because I'm a businessman, maybe because I'm an engineer."

Just last month, Seymour Schulich – chair of Newmont Capital Ltd., the merchant banking division of one of the largest gold mining companies in the world – also made a major donation to the Technion, giving $20 million (US) to fund the school's faculty of chemistry, which now bears his name. Schulich's donation is likely the largest single donation by a Canadian to an Israeli university.

The timing of the two donations was coincidental, said Arnold Recht, immediate past president of the Canadian Technion Society, who facilitated Munk's gift.

Recht met Munk in 1997 and has become a personal friend despite a 20-year difference in their ages. "He is tremendously focused, he's a very caring individual, and he has a zest for life," Recht said.

Proceeds from the 2006 JNF Toronto Negev Dinner will be directed primarily to the 4,000 square meter ***Edward and Fran Sonshine Beit Eshel Historical Site Restoration*** - an active, dynamic centre for heritage and environment education, focusing on leisure time activities.

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Underneath the news radar

From the editor's desk

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was in the Middle East last week on a whirlwind diplomatic tour.

Her publicly stated reason for the trip was to lend support to the moderate forces in the area. There were undoubtedly non-publicly stated reasons for her trip as well. The United States and Israel have a great many issues of common concern and sharing intelligence is vital for the security of both countries.

We can only speculate whether the subject of Iran arose during her meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert or Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni. It undoubtedly did. As the presidency of George W. Bush winds down, the sense of urgency of dealing with the nuclear ambitions of Tehran heightens.

Because of this, there is a great deal of interest on the part of the American administration to try to show, at least, if not actually achieve, some movement toward agreement between Israelis and Palestinians.

Thus, last Wednesday, Rice met with Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas, whom she counts among the region's moderate forces. Meeting with Ismail Haniyeh, the Palestinian Hamas leader, was out of the question.

As the cameras and tape recorders were whirring and clicking, the secretary of state did her best to affirm and to buttress her host's diplomatic stature for the benefit of his Palestinian and wider Arab constituency.

"The U.S. is very concerned about the plight of the Palestinians. The Palestinians need a government that can provide for their needs," she told the media with an unsubtle nod in the direction of her host.

To her credit, Rice did not avoid the subject of the disqualification of Hamas to be that government, for she also emphasized "the importance of meet[ing] the conditions of the Quartet." She was referring to the need for the PA government (led by Hamas) to recognize Israel, forswear violence and honour the agreements already signed with Israel.

To date, however, Hamas has refused to meet these conditions. Haniyeh does not concede Israel any national entitlement. Western funds to his government have therefore dried up. The Palestinian economy suffers as a result.

In Ramallah, with Abbas at her side, Rice expressed sorrow that much of the Palestinian people lacked basic supplies for the holiday month of Ramadan.

"I promised Chairman Abbas to double our efforts to improve the living conditions of Palestinians," she said emphatically.

Later that day, she met with Olmert, who told her that Israel would help Abbas "create a better environment" for the Palestinians to try to return to peacemaking.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni

Israel would soon open the Karni commercial crossing into the Gaza Strip, as well as the Rafah crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, for the month-long Muslim holiday of Ramadan.

To Olmert's credit as well, he categorically rejected Abbas' request, as communicated through the American secretary, to release Palestinian prisoners.

"With all my desire to help, I will not agree to release Palestinian prisoners before Gilad Shalit is returned to Israel," Olmert told Rice.

All the while Rice was meeting with Abbas, Olmert and others, Hamas and Fatah gunmen were engaged in what might be aptly termed, a low-level civil war.

Last Thursday, for example, armed men shot and killed a senior Fatah member in the southern Gaza town of Rafah, while in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahia gunmen critically wounded a member of Hamas.

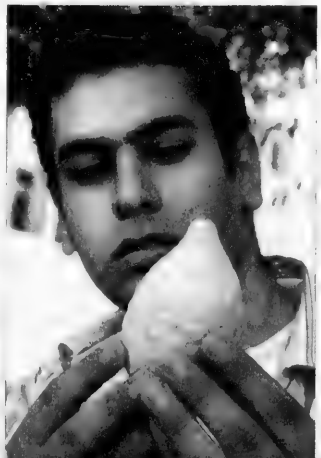
Violence had escalated throughout the week. *Ha'aretz* reported some 14 people had been killed in Gaza and the West Bank (as of last Thursday). More than a hundred had been injured. "It was the worst week of internal bloodshed since the Palestinian Authority was created in 1994."

The Palestinian-versus-Palestinian violence seemed to have flown under the radar screens of the mainstream press last week. Most of the violence went unreported. It begs the question, however, whether Israeli-versus-Palestinian violence would have also been similarly unreported.

Human Rights Watch, an NGO not generally know for an understanding or empathetic attitude toward Israel, was so alarmed by the rapidly distintegrating situation among the Palestinians that it "called on the leaders of Palestinian factions and Palestinian government officials to bring an immediate end to the lawlessness and vigilante violence."

If peace with Israel is Abbas' true strategic objective, he will soon have to do what he has refused to do and was urged to do months before. He will have to disarm and disengage Hamas. But the wily Palestinian leader has, to date, shown no desire to do so. His abject refusal to do so speaks the most penetrating truth about his real desire to advance the peace process with Israel.

– MBD



CLOSE INSPECTIONS OF A FINE KIND

The Israeli markets were full last week with people closely inspecting lulavim and etrogim before their purchase in preparation for the holiday of Sukkot.

[Israel Sun photos]

Greater Toronto Area

Jihadists seek to rule the world: *JPost* editor

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Jihadists aspire to rule the world and convert non-Muslims to Islam by the sword, the *Jerusalem Post*'s deputy managing editor and weekly columnist said here recently.

In a fiery speech at Holy Blossom Temple on Sept. 26 that was sponsored by the conservative Canadian Coalition for Democracies and garnered standing applause, Caroline Glick suggested that Islamic radicals want to achieve their objective by toppling Arab regimes, destroying Israel and banishing the western presence in the Middle East.

"This is their vision. This is what they teach their children."

Glick, a former officer in Israel's armed forces, blasted jihadists as totalitarian "Islamo-fascists" who seek "to enslave humanity."

She said Israel is on the front lines of this battle.

Saying that Islamic fundamentalists value death over life, she warned that global jihad is a force that cannot be appeased through negotiations.

"They're fighting to the death, and nothing we can give will satisfy them."

Glick said that jihadists will exploit every means at their disposal, and that they use the West's open, democratic societies to their advantage.

"The enemy is not far away. It's here," she said in a reference to the recent arrest of 17 Canadian Muslims accused of plotting terrorism.

Glick praised Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper for understanding the precepts of jihad ideology.

Saying that Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah represent but three faces of radical Islam, Glick accused Iran of using terrorist organizations to advance its regional interests.

In combating jihadism, the West must strike a balance between preserving civil liberties and maintaining security, Glick said.

She said that the Palestinian national movement is connected with the jihadist plan to build a caliphate, a global Islamic empire.

Disputing claims that Israel's occupation of the West Bank breeds Palestinian violence, she dismissed such notions as "garbage."

Glick also took issue with the assertion that some Palestinians want to live in peace with Israel.

In another poke at the Palestinians, she said, "We're surrounded by genocidal lunatics who want to destroy us."

She had harsh words for Israel's performance in the recent war in Lebanon and for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's handling of the conflict.

The Israeli government was not interested in eradicating Hezbollah, and should have fought until it defeated its enemy, Glick said.

"We just lost that war," she said. "We should have won it."

Branding Olmert's government as "weightless" and the worst in Israel's history, she said it is simply incapable of defending the country's interests.

She charged that Kadima, Olmert's centrist political party, stands for nothing except retaining power.

Israel is beset by a leadership crisis, she said, but added that Israel has "good, solid leaders" in Benjamin Netanyahu, the head of the Likud party; Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet dissident and ex-Israeli cabinet minister; and Moshe Ya'alon, the former chief of staff of the Israel Defence Forces.

Glick, who made aliyah from the United States, urged Jews to immigrate to Israel.

"We can assume more Jews will come, because Israel is a good and reasonable place to live."

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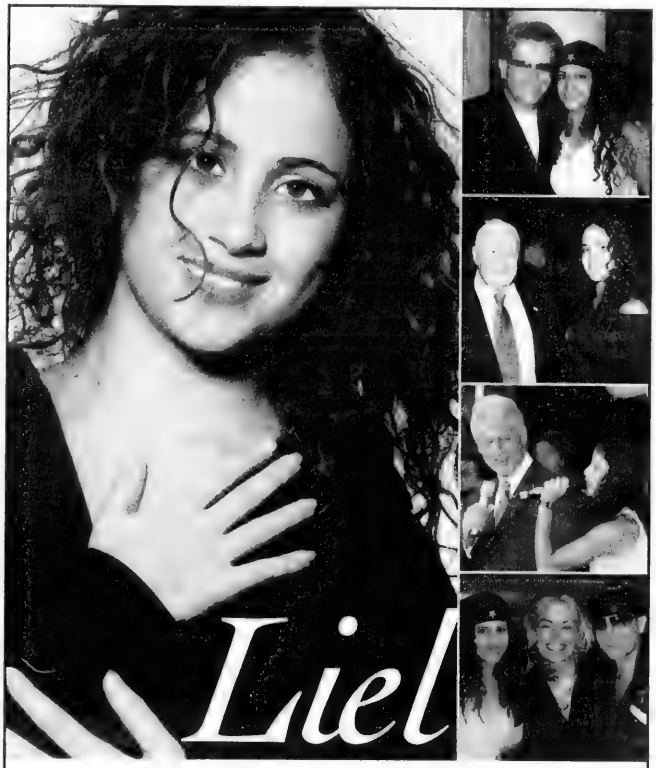

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Consul general works to promote the 'real Israel'

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

In the three years that Ya'acov Brosh has been Israel's consul general to Toronto and Western Canada, it has been his business to make sure that Canadians forge a connection with the State of Israel.

The Haifa-born consul general – who joined the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1987 and served as the director of the Palestinian Autonomy Division and the Jordan, Syria and Lebanon Division – said powerful and influential Canadians know very little about Israel.

"What they hear from the media are all these things that generally give them a horrible message. The general message is that Israel is a bad place to be… They know nothing about Israel, about what we call 'real Israel.' Real Israel is very vibrant, very normal, very developed and so on," said Brosh, who served two terms as minister counsellor at the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, from 1992 to 1994 and 1996 to 2000.

He said that before he moved to Toronto in 2003 to assume the position of consul general, he dealt mainly with Middle Eastern issues and knew very little about Canada.

"About Canada, I knew what most Israelis know. You have a lot of water, it's a big country, it's beautiful. I believed in the deception that you have bears," Brosh said with a grin, describing his disappointment after spending two weeks in British Columbia searching for bears and resigning himself to the fact that it must be nothing more than a tourist gimmick.

While preparing for the job, he decided that although the political relationship between Israel and Canada was not problematic, it could be better.

"When we compare Canada to Europe, [Canada's relationship with Israel] was always better. It wasn't better than Australia at the time, certainly not better than the United States, but better than most of Europe. Of course, now the political relations are much warmer," he said, referring to Prime Minister Steven Harper's support for Israel.

Ya'acov Brosh

Throughout his term, Brosh has focused on improving political and economic ties by exposing Canadians to Israel by sending delegations to Israel.

In January 2005, 21 heads of various faculties at six Canadian universities – York University, Ryerson University, University of Saskatoon, University of Manitoba, McGill University and Bishop's University – spent a week in Israel, visiting Israeli institutions.

He said the goal of sending the delegation was to encourage Canadian universities to offer courses related to Israel that go beyond the Middle Eastern conflict.

He acknowledged that professors at Israeli universities are a good authority on Middle Eastern studies, and he is not against schools implementing courses on the subject, but he wants Canadian faculties to know that there is more to Israel than the conflict, that it is a normal, developed country.

"When you send people like professors, these are people who will tomorrow speak in front of classes. These are people who will educate the next educated generation of Canada," Brosh said, adding that visiting Israeli universities was an eye-opening experience for some of the delegates, who have since created stronger ties with Israeli schools.

For example, York, which already had a good relationship with Israeli universities, developed a program with Ben-Gurion University that enables Canadian students to benefit from its medical school program and Israeli students to benefit from York's law school program, he said.

Last year, the consulate, in co-operation with the CEO of Mount Sinai Hospital and the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), sent another delegation, of 12 CEOs of medical centres from all over Canada, to visit Israeli hospitals and meet with Israeli doctors who are experienced in the field of trauma care.

He said that when the the delegation returned, he asked the participants to write a one-page report about their impressions.

"Beyond the niceties… one sentence that was repeated in most of the letters was that if it was not for that trip… they would never have thought about considering Israeli products," Brosh said.

"And it was so enlightening because now they are aware of how developed Israel is and what wonderful products they have to offer…These delegations are not just educational but economic."

He said that often, professionals work with Israeli products and don't even know they originated in Israel.

For instance, Given Imaging Ltd., an Israeli research and development company, recently produced non-evasive technology that is used to diagnose gastrointestinal tract disorders by having the patient ingest a pill-sized camera. The single-use, video colour-imaging capsule glides naturally through the digestive tract while transmitting 50,000 images to a portable data recorder.

Continued on page 28

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Greater Toronto Area

Toronto boasts largest delegation of shlichim

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

The fact that Toronto has the largest delegation of Jewish Agency shlichim (emissaries from Israel) worldwide indicates that the Jewish community has a meaningful desire to connect with Israel, says Rabbi Natan Kandler, the educational shaliach here.

Rabbi Kandler, who co-ordinates the 33 schlichim teachers – there are 45 shlichim in total – also works with schools, supplemental programs, youth movements and synagogues.

"A strong connection with Israel is best done with emissaries who bring a face [of Israel] to the country [they come to]," he says.

Liane Sela, the new regional director of the Israel Aliyah Centre, says shlichim build bridges in the community.

"We work with everyone from preschoolers to youth movement members and university students, to those who make their own decision to move to Israel.

"[It is the mutual goal] of all shlichim to make Israel the meeting point of the community," she says.

Itai Ziedenberg, a shaliach with Hashomer Hatzair, a social youth movement that also runs Camp Shomria in Ontario, says that in the past, shlichim used to present a "flat" picture of Israel.

"We now understand that Israel has a lot of contradictions. The fact that we can now engage with Israel yet still criticize it, is a significant change. The reality is not flat, we can disagree and still be engaged."

Dafna Regev, in a new position, works with students at York University, University of Toronto and Ryerson University. "My goal is to make Israel more familiar and more interesting by offering them a different way to look at the country.

"[Instead of just politics] I'm trying to teach them about Israeli art, culture and society. By meeting me, they're seeing a young Israeli [who is just like them]."

Jewish Agency's shlichim in Toronto include, from left: front row, Rabbi Natan Kandler and Lian Sela; back row, Dafna Regev, Itai Ziedenberg, Eitan Grinspun [Carolyn Blackman photo]

Rabbi Kandler says that aliyah is an important part of the Jewish Agency's agenda, "but identity is no less a major component. Affiliation with Israel is complex. Most of our information comes from the media, but we believe that as educators, it is our task to introduce Israel as a multi-layered country.

"We want to give people a sense that Israel is not necessarily a war zone. It is a vibrant country that has outstanding achievements. We want people to look at Israel in a long-term way, not just as an emergency response."

Sela, who has a background in public relations, says she took her current position after seeing an ad on the Internet about marketing the idea of aliyah.

"We want people to see that they can move to Israel, not only for Zionist reasons, but because they will have the opportunity for a good life. It is a small country, but it is full of options."

Also involved with Israel programs such as kibbutz ulpan (where people learn Hebrew and work on a kibbutz), Magen David Adom and Partnership 2000, a partnership between the Diaspora and underdeveloped areas of Israel – youth from the Toronto community volunteered in Eilat – Sela says she "met young volunteers who were in Israel all summer, and they said they 'somehow' felt different there. Engaging with Israel is not always logical; it can be very emotional.

"The partnership with Eilat and Toronto gives young people the opportunity to become part of a community building itself."

Israel is a unique place, Sela says. "Israelis suffered greatly from the war [this past summer] but they have all moved on."

Having worked in public relations, she says, she finds it exciting to be working at something so close to her heart. "I'm marketing my country, and I'm working with people's lives.

"When someone comes to see me about making aliyah, I always ask 'why?' I'll never say no, because they're entitled to come home, but I will let them see the reality. I'll make sure they have the correct picture."

As a group, the shlichim don't necessarily share the same views, says Rabbi Kandler, "but we do have a fascinating common denominator. We work on mutual projects and we meeting at least on a monthly basis.

"We all also value the ongoing contributions of the Toronto Jewish community [to Israel]."

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Harper takes stand based on principle

It shocked the delegates from the 53 member states of la Francophonie who had gathered last week for their annual summit in Bucharest. In truth, it even shocked many Canadians. Prime Minister Stephen Harper, speaking on behalf of Canada, would not accede to an attempt by Egypt to have the gathering endorse a political declaration expressing sympathy only for the Lebanese civilian victims of last summer's war.

The Egyptian proposal was not adopted. The chair of the proceedings withdrew it, because Canada's refusal to rubber-stamp the proposed propaganda effectively vetoed it. Resolutions, statements and declarations at la Francophonie require consensus approval to become official statements of the organization.

"The Francophonie cannot recognize victims according to their nationality," Harper told the world. "Obviously, Canada believes that the resolution has to be balanced and that we should recognize the victims in both Lebanon and Israel. I don't think an international organization with the breadth and scope of la Francophonie would want to do anything other than to make sure that victims are recognized regardless of their nationality."

There could hardly be a pithier, more concise expression of so important a truth. Indeed, after Harper gave voice to it, Switzerland found its own courage and supported his position.

Harper's statement caused tempers to flare and delegates to fume. Many of them were offended and expressed deep personal umbrage that this Canadian leader, a first-time Francophonie participant, had deigned to interject his conscience into their lofty, though morally stilted, proceedings.

In the end, compromise language was found for the organization's statement on the war. "In deploring the tragedy in Lebanon and its dramatic consequences for all of the civilian populations, we call for a total cessation of hostilities and a return to calm in Lebanon."

Imagine! How novel it is that la Francophonie actually deplores the consequences of war for *all* civilians.

The Egyptian representative undoubtedly assumed his proposal would pass as yet another in the very long list of business-as-usual, innocuous, anti-Israel declarations on the Middle East conflict. But he didn't count on Harper's refusal to conduct political business as usual. He didn't realize there was a leader at the summit for whom fairness toward Israel is a matter of deep abiding principle. Harper deserves the thanks of Canadians. He has done what so few Canadians – or other western leaders, for that matter – have done in the past, when the "great majority," to use French President Jacques Chirac's phrase, chose a patently discriminatory, immoral course against the Jewish state.

Harper has stared down the bully. In the process, perhaps he has shown others how they could also do so in the future.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

The assassination of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat led to concern about the future of the 1977 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Sadat's successor, Hosni Mubarak, linked honouring the treaty commitments with Palestinian autonomy.

Editorials & Letters

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Auschwitz transports

Here is a bit of supplementary information to Sheldon Kirshner's article "Canadians seeking French redress for Auschwitz transports" (*CJN*, Oct. 5).

Your readers may not have realized that the Lipietz brothers, who have received a judgment in their favour from an administrative court in Toulouse, were never deported to Auschwitz 62 years ago, but rather from that city to the Gare d'Austerlitz in Paris. So far as the Auschwitz transports are concerned, as Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld has pointed out, the Germans took over complete responsibility for the trains once they left French territory.

At issue, then, is the extent to which the French National Railway Company (SNCF) was in control of the situation – i.e. calling the shots – for deportation convoys. This is what the plaintiffs in the case contend. The defence argues that the Germans, and to a lesser extent the French government, were calling the shots. The Toulouse administrative court's judgment hardly touched on this. We'll see how the appeals go. Importantly, the Toulouse judgment was issued by an administrative court, which refused to credit the plaintiff's charges of crimes against humanity, but rather decided – with very little supporting argument – that the SNCF was responsible for having committed a "faute de service." Presumably, if the Lipietz brothers had been sent in third-class carriages, they would not have succeeded with this court.

Unsurprisingly, many French Jewish leaders do not support these lawsuits that seem to many of them and their non-Jewish compatriots to extend the bounds of Holocaust responsibility beyond what seems legally or historically reasonable. French historians, so far as I know, are apoplectic. Reasonable people will disagree about these matters, of course, but your readers should at least know that there is a difference of opinion.

Michael R. Marrus
Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor of Holocaust Studies
University of Toronto

* * *

Ashkenaz Festival (1)

I am wondering what Rabbi Dow Marmur actually listened to at this year's Ashkenaz Festival ("Epitaph for Yiddish," *CJN*, Sept. 28) It seems to me he has only read the brochure, not very carefully at that, or he would have noticed that nobody performed *My Yiddishe Mama*, or other typical nostalgic Yiddish songs. The festival's name is, after all, "festival of new Yiddish culture" and they mean it!

Ashkenaz is a great example of the fact that Yiddish is still a language of new creative works. This year two new Yiddish recordings (both based on new Yiddish poetry) were released at the festival – Theresa Tova's CD, *You ask me why… Tova Sings Beyle* and Brian Katz's and my *Pashtes*. As well, *A Gesheft*, the first all-Yiddish film made in New York in 50 years, had its Toronto premiere there.

Rabbi Marmur is equally dismissive and uninformed when claiming that Yiddish lovers as a whole are not religiously inclined, which, while true for some, is not true for others.

Why position Judaism and Yiddish culture as enemies? I see them as two sides of the same coin that are for me both essential expressions of my Jewish identity.

Lenka Lichtenberg
Toronto

* * *

Ashkenaz Festival (2)

I am at a loss to understand Rabbi Dow Marmur's obvious bias against the joyous Ashkenaz Festival and what it stands for – apparently after no more than a glance at the printed program!

Whether or not Yiddish survives after suffering the annihilation of our people in Europe, its suppression in Israel and the toll of assimilation elsewhere is not the point. What is important and should bring pride and pleasure to every Jew is the preservation and appreciation for Jewish history along with the astounding cultural output of Yiddish authors, playwrights, composers and artists during the golden age of our people in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Samuel W. Levy
Côte St-Luc, Que.

* * *

Looking for the Kaufman family

I am trying to trace relatives of my grandmother, Annie Kaufman, born in Stepney, London, in 1880. She was the daughter of Rose and Joseph Kaufman. There were lots of siblings – possibly as many as 19 survived. Recently some photographs, taken in Toronto, have come to light.

One photograph is of Dorothy Rose Kaufman, aged 11 weeks, and another, taken in 1938, is of Dorothy at approximately seven to eight years old, in the garden in Toronto's High Park, with her mother, Minnie.

There are several photographs of a man, presumably Dorothy's father, who we think is Annie's brother – possibly Philip Kaufman. There is also a photograph of Dorothy, Minnie and another man, in an army uniform, who we think is another brother, possibly Godfrey Kaufman, who went to live in the United States.

If anyone knows this family, I can be e-mailed at joyce_ockrant@yahoo.co.uk.

Joyce Ockrant
Maple, Ont.

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Perspectives

Philanthropy: what is our obligation?

By MORRY J. WEISS

This article is a cri de coeur to prospective Jewish philanthropists.

The author focuses on the key role of Jewish education – mostly childhood education – in fostering Jewish identity and affiliation. Though he cites U.S. statistics, they are nevertheless instructive for Canada.

Jewish communities across the country are struggling with the skyrocketing costs of Jewish education. The situation is especially pressing in Ontario, where, unlike other jurisdictions, the province denies funding to religiously based private schools.

There have been many examples of generous donations by individuals and families to Canadian Jewish educational institutions. A number of chairs in or related to Jewish studies have been endowed at our universities.

There have also been very significant donations by philanthropists to nominally Jewish institutions, for secular educational purposes, such as the recent donations to the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa by Seymour Schulich and, as reported in this issue of The CJN, *by Peter Munk.*

But the many individual acts of generosity and kindness to date, alas, are not enough to make significant inroads into the incessantly and rapidly increasing costs of Jewish education.

Indeed, in Toronto, UJA Federation has recently announced its intention to create a $100-million education endowment fund as a partial response to meeting the many urgent needs of Jewish education.

Thus, we provide this recently written reflection on the necessity to more frequently link Jewish philanthropy with Jewish education.

– The editor

Yeshiva University recently received a gift of $100 million (US) from its staunch supporter, New York City industrialist Ronald P. Stanton. This magnificent gift is cause both for celebration and for thoughtful reflection on the nature of Jewish philanthropy today.

Generosity, as embodied in the broader concept of tzedakah, is a fundamental Jewish value. The ethical obligation and communal responsibility to give propels and shapes our response to people in need, both in the Jewish community and in the wider world.

Morry J. Weiss

As chairman of the board of trustees of Yeshiva University, North America's oldest and most comprehensive educational institution under Jewish auspices, I speak for all my colleagues in expressing our gratitude to Stanton. As the father of four Yeshiva University graduates, I look forward to seeing how this gift will further enhance and enrich the educational experience awaiting our grandchildren.

But at the same time, I can't help wondering why there aren't more people like Stanton? In recent years, we have all read about mega-gifts by Jewish contributors, multimillion-dollar donations to institutions that serve the community at large: cultural centres, medical foundations, educational establishments, charitable organizations, etc. These are wonderful gifts that represent the best of Jewish philanthropy. Yet, why are we not regularly reading about gifts of such magnitude to Jewish institutions.

"American Jews have achieved levels of wealth unprecedented in our history," writes Michael H. Steinhardt in an essay, *Priming the Pump of Jewish Philanthropy*. "The problem is that we no longer give much to Jewish causes."

Steinhardt calculates that perhaps 20 per cent or less of Jewish giving goes to Jewish causes. Of the $5.3 billion in mega-gifts given by America's wealthiest Jews between 1995 and 2000, only six per cent went to Jewish institutions. Among those Jews who do give, only 11 per cent donate more than $1,000 to Jewish causes.

It's been well documented that in North America, the greatest threat to the Jewish people is the loss of our identity from apathy, inertia and, most importantly, ignorance of our own heritage. Education, like tzedakah, is also central to Jewish values. But I would say that education deserves primacy of place.

Numerous studies show a direct correlation between Jewish childhood education and Jewish identity as an adult. One of the most emblematic of these studies is the 2004 report by Steven M. Cohen, *The Impact of Childhood Jewish Education on Adults' Jewish Identity*, published as part of the United Jewish Communities Report Series.

According to Cohen, only 16 per cent of those who received no Jewish schooling felt that being Jewish was "very important," compared to 51 per cent of those who had at least seven years of supplementary school and 86 per cent of those who had at least seven years of day school.

More than two-thirds of people who received no Jewish education married someone of another religion, while 96 per cent of those with at least seven years of Jewish day school married another Jew. Synagogue membership, observance of religious rituals and attachment to Israel all showed a similar pattern.

"Rises in the level of childhood Jewish schooling are almost always associated with increases in adult Jewish identity years later," Cohen concludes.

Fortunately, at Yeshiva University, young people can continue investing in their Jewish education as a key part of their higher education.

Education is not just the cornerstone of a Jewish identity but the skeleton of our ethical system. Without knowledge of our heritage, without learning how to bring the teachings of the Torah to daily life, how can we ensure that we live – and give – both generously and wisely?

Many influential and insightful people before me have sounded this same call – and, like Stanton, have put their money where their mouth is. Nearly three decades ago, businessman Joseph S. Gruss, in partnership with what became the UJA-Federation of New York, founded the Fund for Jewish Education and the Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Life Monuments Fund, which together provide health and life insurance benefits for Jewish teachers, most of them in day schools in the New York area.

The Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE), founded in 1997, brings together multiple philanthropic partners from around North America to strengthen Jewish day schools in North America. Individual visionaries like Max Fisher in Detroit, George Hanus in Chicago, Mort Mandel in Cleveland, and Leslie Wexner of Columbus, Ohio, are among others who have committed their energies and a good part of their fortunes to Jewish education. These men and women and the foundations they created or support are models for the rest of us.

I'm especially excited by Stanton's donation to Yeshiva University, not only because it is the largest single gift ever in North America in support of Jewish education and Jewish life, but because of its innovative nature. As a "revolving" fund, the Ronald P. Stanton Legacy provides the initial assets for specific growth initiatives with the stipulation that those assets will be replenished when named gifts for these programs are received from other benefactors.

It is my strongest hope that this legacy will not just serve as seed money for projects that benefit Yeshiva University but that it will also sow the seeds of tzedakah more widely throughout the entire Jewish community and in Israel. My dream is that we will all work together to raise the bar for ourselves and others so that Jewish education can further enhance and enrich Jewish life.

Morry J. Weiss is chairman of the board of trustees of Yeshiva University.

Morah Liora Levy's junior kindergarten class at Netivot HaTorah Day School in Toronto got in the spirit of Simchat Torah by singing songs, marching around their classroom and waving their hand-made flags in anticipation of the holiday. It is to help maintain the viability of Jewish education of all stripes and affiliations that the author pleads for more philanthropic involvement from the community. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

Opinions

Why Israel is so central

Within most Jewish communities, it's recognized that support for Israel is one of the principal forces that drives advocacy, as well as educational and cultural programming, and, not least of all, fundraising.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

I was stunned, therefore, when I was recently told by one of our local Jewish leaders that I should not assume that everyone in our community was as ardent a Zionist as I was. And while I regarded the remark as something of a backhanded compliment, I was nonetheless troubled by the derisive tone in which it was delivered.

Could it be, in fact, that the centrality of Israel, which has long been so integral to the Jewish agenda, is beginning to erode? Could it be that, particularly in the Diaspora, new and competing priorities are slowly weakening a once inviolable relationship?

Part of the answer may lie in the very definition of Zionism or, at least, in its modern interpretation.

A plausible enunciation of the aims of Zionism was adopted by the World Zionist Organization in 1968. Since then, and despite other iterations that have captured more or less the same tone, the essentials of that earlier consensus are still regarded as the key reference for most ongoing debates on Zionist values.

The first component of the 1968 document, later known as the Jerusalem Program, calls for "the unity of the Jewish people and the centrality of Israel in Jewish life." Not surprisingly, there have been differing perceptions of the notion of "centrality," some of them nuanced, some more definitive.

What would seem to be important, though, is that regardless of how centrality is viewed within particular segments of our community, there is nonetheless room for broadly integrating it within an overall conceptualization of Zionism.

At the very least, centrality can be framed as an expression of positive attitudes toward Israel. Within a more general context, it can be seen to underpin a Zionist ideology that reflects an all-encompassing approach to the problems of the Jewish people.

In advancing this paradigm, historian Gil Troy goes much further, stating that "modern Zionism needs to be radical, subversive, visionary, inspiring, provocative, evocative and relevant." In a compelling 2003 essay titled "I am a Zionist," he vibrantly articulates his Zionist philosophy and why he is drawn to it. "I am a Zionist," he affirms, "because I am a Jew – and without recognizing a national component in Judaism, I cannot explain its unique character."

Perhaps this is how I should have responded to my friend in Hamilton – who seems somehow to have missed the point that unless we, as Jews, all commit to being Zionists, ardent or otherwise, we will have lost the very essence of who we are and what we should be striving for.

Startling revelations from on high

I've had several opportunities in recent months to journey the length and breadth of Israel by helicopter. Helicopter flights are becoming an increasingly popular component of the tourist experience for those who can afford them. Not only is it possible, by economizing on travel time, to squeeze more into a single day, but there's simply no better way of getting a real feel for the lay of the land.

Ross Culiner in Jerusalem

The big vistas from overhead give a very different picture from the one gained through incremental, sideways-looking eyefuls of Israel at ground level. And speaking for myself, I was astonished, despite my close familiarity with this country, at the incredibly rich and compressed diversity of landforms, land uses, climatic zones, and historical treasures that unfolds before your gaze.

Every few minutes the scene changes absolutely: a barren Judean Desert sidles right up to dense hilltop forests, sheer precipices drop into the brutal flatlands of the Jordan Rift, the towering, snow-capped peaks of the Hermon plummet into the luscious fertility of the Hula valley, and urban jungles peter out into gorgeous patchwork embroideries of cultivated fields. And in and among all this are world-class antiquities sites.

But there are other sensations that accompany a wide-ranging bird's-eye perspective, and some of them left my Canadian traveling companions a little uneasy.

When one bears in mind that visiting Jewish tourists (and to a significant degree Israeli Jews as well) consciously avoid substantial sections of the country, this should come as no great surprise. Generally speaking, most of us restrict our itineraries, lodgings and movements to a carefully circumscribed selection of hotels, tourist attractions and those parts of the largest cities and countryside that we feel safe and good in. Only very occasionally do we venture beyond the perimeter fence of a Jewish geography. Almost always, we stick closely to the main highways and roads, thus getting only a censored, tunnel-vision view of the land.

A helicopter flight opens up the hitherto unexplored hinterland and border areas to our view, and it can be a revelation.

For one thing, the vantage of height brings into clear focus the extreme fragility of Israel's predicament. No sooner is one airborne from Tel Aviv on the seashore, for instance, when the hills of the West Bank, clear across the other side of the narrow waistline of the state, loom into view. The entire width of this national heartland – a thin, 10-mile wide sliver of land where a good two-thirds of Israelis live and work, where the bulk of the industrial and financial potential is situated – is grasped at a single, effortless glance. What one sees is a lowland network of urban conglomerations locked between the sea on one side and big Palestinian West Bank population centres, places such as Tulkarm and Kalkilya, on the other.

So tight are the quarters that your pilot must take great pains never to deviate significantly from the straight and narrow path of this air corridor through which flows the lifeblood of a nation, lest you rapidly find yourself out over open waters, or overflying hostile territory and in potentially deep trouble.

Yet another, more startling revelation awaits you, too. Although supposedly 80 per cent Jewish in its population, Israel, over great swathes of its already miniscule territory, is actually quite Arab in character. The statistics are deceiving. Spitting distance inland from Tel Aviv and Netanya, mere minutes into the flight, clusters of very sizeable Israeli Arab villages, towns and small cities constitute a prominent presence in the landscape below. The Jewish population, one easily detects, huddles tightly together in large and dense urban blocks, while the more rural Arab population is scattered far and wide over much of the surrounding countryside.

Up north in the Galilee, these same distribution patterns are even more conspicuous. The five or six Jewish cities aside, the overall impression is of a prevalent and perhaps predominant Arab presence. Groves of olive trees, the mainstay of the Arab economy, stretch, in places, out to the horizon, and certainly well beyond the mental horizons of what many of us perceive to be a Jewish state.

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We'll survive, but what about the West?

"Will there be an Israel in 2020?" This question wasn't posed by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad but by Peter Osnos, a well-known and influential American journalist, publisher and pundit. He was responding to another columnist, Richard Cohen, who wrote that Israel's establishment in 1948 was a well-intentioned mistake, "creating a nation of European Jews in an area of Arab Muslims." Cohen urged Israel to adopt a low profile and rely on diplomacy, rather than force, to preserve its remaining international legitimacy.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

These myths notwithstanding, Israel became a sovereign state because Jews realized that there was no alternative in the fight for national survival. (In November 1947, the United Nations gave Israel some welcome moral support, but not much more.) And the same drive will preserve Israel as a sovereign Jewish state, equal in status to Muslim, Christian, Hindu and other nations.

In 1947, the pundits predicted that Israel would be crushed by a massive Arab demographic advantage, hostile armies and a hopelessly small economy. Six decades later, Israel's Jewish population has grown by a factor of ten, to more than six million, while the shekel is stronger than the U.S. dollar and the Israeli military is dominant, despite some limitations.

At the same time, Osmos has finally recognized the obvious – that Arab violence is not the result of a territorial dispute for which a negotiated solution can be found, but from the fact that "hundreds of millions are taught to despise." He goes on to note that the "rage of the Middle East is intractable as other world conflicts are not… it is no different now than it was at the time Israel was created in 1948." But this rage only succeeds when it is left unanswered. In Egypt, the price of war and the fear of total destruction led to mutual deterrence (what some call "peace"), and eventually the same will happen in Syria, Lebanon and even Iran. The leaders of these countries are violent, but they're not suicidal.

In this context, it's important to counter the misleading pessimism about Israel's future that grew out of images from Lebanon, and the conclusions that Israel met its match in the form of Hezbollah fighters armed by Iran. Despite some operational errors (found in every military force) and the current leadership crisis, Israel ended the war with far fewer casualties than were expected, and with a more favourable strategic relationship with Hezbollah. Osnos' assertion that "nothing works anymore for Israel" is facile and wrong – more proof that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

Instead, his question about survival should be pointed elsewhere – toward Europe and the West. Will London, Birmingham, Paris, Brussels, Rotterdam, etc. become satellites orbiting around a dominant Muslim empire – in other words, part of Eurabia?

Al Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden and the wider global jihad movement proclaim their goal of rebuilding the Islamic empire during its glory days, up to Spain (Andalusia) and beyond. The terror attacks of 9/11 and the terror attacks in London, Madrid, Paris and elsewhere were not motivated by events in Israel or the plight of the Palestinians. It's not only Israel that, to quote Osmos again, is "surrounded by countries and movements that at worst are sworn to its destruction and at best merely despise it."

After 2000 years of stateless exile, persecution and mass murder, the Jewish people have no options other than to use force in self defence – and the Arabs generally understand this. Occasionally, they need to be reminded that Israel is prepared to use what has been called "disproportionate power." To quote Osmos again, "when security and dominance of its borders are at stake, Israel suspends the pleasantries. The image of Israel in the rest of the world focuses on that ferocity."

In contrast, the dominant western response to Islamic terror is compromise, dialogue, apology and calls for understanding. This form of political correctness won't work against the violence of mass terror and calls for global jihad. The question for Osmos, Cohen and other pundits is whether the West will recognize the need for a more ferocious response in time for it to survive.

The Kirshner File

Israel faces uncertainty after Lebanon withdrawal

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Israel completed its withdrawal from Lebanon on Oct. 1, thereby fulfilling a key provision of United Nations Resolution 1701, which ended Israel's 34-day war with Hezbollah in mid-August. On the eve of Yom Kippur, under the cover of darkness, the last of Israel's troops crossed the border in an armoured column, leaving southern Lebanon in the untested hands of the puny Lebanese army and the beefed-up United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL.

But Israel's departure left several vital issues unresolved and did little to calm bitter recriminations inside Israel over the conduct of the war, its purpose and its outcome. No sooner had the Israeli army withdrawn than Hezbollah's deputy secretary general, Sheikh Naim Kassem, warned that warfare could resume if Israel remained in two contested areas in Lebanon: Shebaa Farms and the divided village of Ghajar.

Shebaa Farms, on the southwestern slopes of Mount Hermon, was captured by Israel from Syria during the Six Day War. Lebanon did not claim Shebaa Farms until Israel unilaterally withdrew from southern Lebanon in May 2000 after a 22-year occupation. The United Nations certified Israel's withdrawal, classifying Shebaa Farms as Syrian territory. But Lebanon and Hezbollah insisted that it was Lebanese, and Syria cynically concurred.

Piously presenting itself as the guardian of Lebanese sovereignty, Hezbollah exploited the dispute to attack Israeli fortifications in Shebaa Farms and shell settlements in Israel itself. For six years, before the second war in Lebanon erupted on July 12, Hezbollah stirred up trouble in southern Lebanon with the complicity of Lebanon's weak, pro-Syrian government.

And now, following an inconclusive war in which 116 Israeli soldiers were killed and towns in the Galilee were subjected to daily rocket barrages that claimed the lives of 43 civilians, damaged thousands of buildings, sent one million Israelis into bomb shelters and paralyzed the local economy, Hezbollah is once again threatening to unleash the dogs of war over Shebaa Farms and a less prominent issue, Ghajar, whose northern half Israel controls.

Hezbollah's threat may be merely bluster, but who knows? Hezbollah has repeatedly proven that it is ready to take up arms, no matter what the cost, and the recent war is an example of its brinkmanship. Thanks to Hezbollah's recklessness, 1,200 Lebanese civilians were needlessly killed and much of Lebanon's infrastructure was wrecked. So would Hezbollah fight a second round for the sake of Shebaa Farms and Ghajar? Perhaps.

It is indeed an open question how far Hezbollah will go in pursuit of its fiery rhetoric. But Israel's prime minister, Ehud Olmert, clearly wants a political solution. He has stated that if the Lebanese side fulfills its obligations under UN Resolution 1701, he would be prepared to discuss the status of Shebaa Farms. One can assume that Olmert would also be willing to put Ghajar on the table. But Olmert's apparent flexibility is conditional on Hezbollah's willingness to release Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, the Israeli reservists who were abducted on July 12 and whose kidnapping touched off the war, and on the disarmament of Hezbollah.

The imprisonment of Goldwasser and Regev is a serious humanitarian issue and belies Olmert's solemn promise to secure their freedom. But the disarmament of Hezbollah, as demanded by the UN in two separate resolutions since 2004, may well determine whether Lebanon can be stabilized once and for all. Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon nearly two weeks ago was, in fact, delayed by this issue.

Israel had intended to withdraw prior to Rosh Hashanah. But in negotiating the rules of engagement with UNIFIL, Israel discovered that the peacekeeping force, headed by France, had no intention of disarming Hezbollah. The French general in charge, Alain Pellegrini, declared that UNIFIL's role was to assist the Lebanese army, not to disarm Hezbollah or even to prevent future attacks. Three days after the war came to an end, Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, issued a similar comment: "I don't think there is an expectation that this force is going to physically disarm Hezbollah."

It appears that Israel has reluctantly accepted this limitation on UNIFIL's powers, banking on the hope that a UN arms embargo will make it impossible for Iran and Syria to resupply Hezbollah. But even here, Israel has cause for concern. Pellegrini has said that UNIFIL will not deploy along Lebanon's border with Syria, but will instead rely on the Lebanese army to choke off the flow of weaponry to Hezbollah and on Syria to respect the embargo. Last week, Syria's president, Bashar Assad, pledged to be vigilant in patrolling the border and urged the UN to have "faith" in Syria's putative commitment to comply with the embargo. But there is no guarantee that Syria – a conduit of Iranian rockets to Hezbollah – will follow through.

Fuad Siniora

Lebanon's attitude on Hezbollah's disarmament is problematic as well. Fuad Siniora, the prime minister, has said that no steps will be taken to defang Hezbollah as long as Israel occupies even an inch of Lebanon. The Lebanese defence minister, Elias Murr, has been blunter: "The army is not going to the south to strip Hezbollah of its weapons and do the work that Israel did not."

As for Hezbollah, which held Israel to a draw in the fighting, it is as defiant as ever. Boasting of its "great, divine, historic and strategic victory" over Israel, Hezbollah's secretary general, Hassan Nasrallah, said last month that it will never relinquish its arsenal of weapons. At a rally in Beirut on Sept. 22, he said that Hezbollah – which fired approximately 3,800 Katyushas at Israel during the war – still has about 20,000 rockets at its disposal. This means that Hezbollah can still inflict pain on Israel should it decide to do so.

Due to the uncertain situation, Israel continues to launch surveillance flights over Lebanon, all in the face of UN opposition. Israel's position is that it will maintain the overflights until Resolution 1701 is fully implemented and Lebanon is pacified.

As these events play out, Israel finds itself embroiled on the home front. Olmert, having admitted that there were failures in managing the war and supporting the civilian population, has established a committee, headed by retired judge Eliyahu Winograd, to investigate the conflict. But critics have called for a more independent state commission with greater power, like the 1974 Kahan Commission that examined the Yom Kippur War.

Apart from Olmert himself, critics have focused their attention on two central figures: Amir Peretz, the neophyte defence minister, and Gen. Dan Halutz, the chief of staff. Critics charge that there was an overreliance on air power and a hesitancy to commit a substantial number of ground troops to the battle. They also believe that Israel lacked sufficient intelligence about Hezbollah's capabilities and did not allocate enough funds to develop a defence system to counter Katyushas. Efraim Inbar, a professor of political science at Bar-Ilan University, wrote, "A series of strategic follies resulted in an unsuccessful war for Israel. Most of Hezbollah's military presence in southern Lebanon could have been destroyed. Unfortunately, Israel's political and military leadership had no clear concept of what victory over Hezbollah entailed."

Israel might have been able to cripple Hezbollah, but Israel's casualties would have been been horrendously high had it seriously tried. Even if Israel had totally demolished its military assets in the south, Hezbollah could have fired long-range rockets at the Galilee from sites north of the Litani River.

For all its mistakes and miscues in waging this war, Israel did chalk up two successes. In wreaking devastation on Lebanon, Israel re-established its deterrent posture, though many radical Arabs now claim that Israel can be beaten and exterminated. In addition, Israel deprived Hezbollah of its bases close to the northern border area and forced Lebanon and the international community to police it. This arrangement may yet collapse, like previous truces, but in the meantime, southern Lebanon is quiet and Hezbollah holds its fire.

Israel, however, fell far short of achieving one of its primary war aims – separating Lebanon from Hezbollah. The Lebanese government still regards Hezbollah as a vaunted liberation force, as does the rest of the Arab world. Further, Israel is no closer to forging a historic rapprochement with Lebanon. On Aug. 30, Siniora defiantly said that he would refuse to engage Israel, and that Lebanon would be the last Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

Even Syria, Israel's arch enemy, has a more positive approach to peace than Lebanon.

Last week, in an interview with a Spanish newspaper, Assad said that Israel and Syria would need six months to sign an agreement, provided that Israel agreed to relinquish the Golan Heights.

But in a new year's message, Olmert curtly dismissed the idea of a withdrawal, saying that he intended to retain the Golan as "an integral part of the state of Israel."

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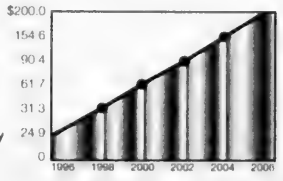

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Imagine all Jewish lawyers disbarred - it happened in 1933

Holocaust Education Week returns to GTA November 1 to 9

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

It's virtually impossible to imagine today, but when Hitler rose to power in 1933, all Jewish lawyers were disbarred reducing the entire German legal system to a travesty.

On Wednesday, November 1, opening night of the 26th annual Holocaust Education Week (HEW), sponsored by the UJA Federation Holocaust Centre of Toronto, former Ontario premier Bob Rae will discuss how the Nazis twisted the idea of the rule of law.

The event kicks off HEW at 7:30 p.m. at Toronto's Beth Tzedec Congregation. This year's HEW, which includes more than 100 programs, will be available to a wider audience than ever before with events taking place in many small towns across – and outside the Greater Toronto Area, from Kingston to Sudbury.

According to Holocaust Centre chair, Lorraine Sandler, this year's event is, unfortunately, very timely in light of the anti-Israeli sentiment still pervasive in today's world.

"The recent Hezbollah terrorism perpetrated against Israel, and the vulgar and venomous rhetoric that emanates from Iran is evocative of vitriol heard in 1938. Our antennae are alert," said Sandler.

Holocaust Education Week runs from November 1 to 9.

Bob Rae

Other programs of note include *The Gold Train* (November 2, 7:30 p.m. at Toronto's Beth Radom Synagogue) which will investigate the mystery of what happened to 29 box cars of Nazi-confiscated paintings, artwork and gold. En route from Budapest to Germany, the U.S. army seized the train in Austria but its whereabouts remains unknown.

The Journey that Saved Curious George (November 5, 4:30 p.m. Beth Sholom Synagogue) will unravel the mystery behind the famous monkey's Jewish roots and how the experience of his creators in escaping the Nazis is reflected in the Curious George stories.

HEW concludes with a special program called *We Remember And Honour* which focuses on members of the legendary Viennese Jewish sports club, Hakoah, which the Nazis shut down in 1938. Fortunately, with the help of their coach, the swimmers all managed to escape before the war broke out. Sixty-five years later, a documentary film called *Watermarks* was made, featuring the members of Hakoah's legendary women's swim team. On Thursday, November 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Thornhill's Shaar Shalom Synagogue, Greta Stanton, the diving champion featured in the film, will share her memories of that time and the impact of that film on her and her teammates, some of whom she had not seen since 1939.

"We are confident that the lessons taught during HEW will help change the world for the better," said Joan Shapero, co-chair of HEW, with Steven Albin.

"It is education that will combat the various forms of intolerance that regrettably still persist in our world," added Albin.

For more information on Holocaust Education Week, please call 416.631.5689 or visit www.holocausteducationweek.com

Partnership with Eilat opens Toronto doors for Israeli students

By A.M. SEGAL
UJA Federation

Three Israeli students – a Jerusalem-born Jew, an Arab Christian and a Russian immigrant – have come to Toronto to live and work together for several weeks.

Considering their varied backgrounds and the fact three is quite often a crowd, you may not expect the trio to hit if off. But from day one, that's exactly what they've done.

"It's been very interesting and a completely new experience, a real expedition," related Yitzchak "Itzik" Sachs, the group's Jerusalemite.

The expedition Sachs refers to is a unique internship program for students pursuing a business degree focused on tourism and hotel management at the Eilat campus of Ben-Gurion University. UJA Federation of Greater Toronto provides scholarships to many students on the campus through its partnership with the Eilat-Eilot region.

Sachs, 26, Elena Gavrilov, 26 and Steve Hanhan, 22, are the three students piloting the program in Toronto.

(l-r) Itzhak Sachs, Elena Gavrilov and Steve Hanhan. The three Israeli students are learning the secrets of the hospitality industry in Toronto.

After arriving in September, the interns have been learning the tricks of their trade at the Pantages Suites Hotel & Spa and Cosmopolitan Toronto Hotel, where they do everything from working the front desk, to sales, to attending hotel management seminars with experts from the field.

The program was able to take shape after the owner of the Pantages and Cosmopolitan hotels and chairman of the UJA Federation-affiliated Israeli Forum, Gil Blutrich, learned about the desire to bring Israeli students to Toronto.

"When he was asked to have interns in the hotels, Gil didn't even want to hear the details – he said absolutely," said Galya Sarner, UJA Federation's liaison with Israeli-Canadians in Toronto.

In addition to the practical work experience for which they are paid, the students earn credits towards their business degree.

The internship is part of a broader UJA Federation initiative to encourage Israelis to study in Eilat, Israel's southern resort city whose economy relies heavily on tourism.

"We've struck a partnership with the Eilat campus of Ben-Gurion University to try and make it as attractive as possible for students to choose Eilat," said Adam Minsky, director of Israel and overseas programs for UJA Federation.

"So with this particular program, we're showing students that if you choose Eilat, you'll get perks. The overall idea is to develop Eilat into a university town."

Sachs' inclination to intern in Toronto stemmed from a yearning to experience hotel management in an entirely different setting – the boutique hotel in a multicultural city.

"In Eilat, all the hotels are on the beach. So the experience is about the sun, sea and sand," he said. "In Toronto, these particular hotels are boutique hotels, which is a new niche in the hotel industry that's completely different from what we're used to in Israel. And the second thing is that in Toronto, you have all sorts of different people from all over the world."

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

Campus Report

Hillel students practice tikun olam

Campus Report is a new feature of Jewish Toronto designed to keep readers up to date about the ongoing campus initiatives of Hillel of Greater Toronto, which is supported by UJA Federation.

By JAIME REICH & DEVORA SCHWARTZ WAXMAN

Pirkei Avot, The Ethics of Our Fathers, teaches us that, "you are not required to complete the task, but neither are you free to neglect it (Pirkei Avot, 3:19-20)". Despite hour long line ups at the campus bookstore, adjusting to new class schedules, piles of reading, part time jobs and trying to have a social life on top of all of that, Hillel's students have not forgotten about those who are less fortunate and have made the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, a top priority through Hillel's Tzedek/Social Justice Program.

Tzedek Hillel is off to a great start this year with the launch of several new ongoing volunteer opportunities, and the Hillel at U of T tutoring program for King Edward Public School students. New programs include a Hillel at York Homework Club in partnership with Jewish Family and Child Service, and a partnership between Jewish Women International (JWI), Tanenbaum CHAT and Hillel of Greater Toronto. Hillel students will be trained by JWI to facilitate workshops for high school students at both Tanenbaum CHAT campuses to educate teenagers about how to recognize and confront dating abuse.

Hillel of Greater Toronto students rolled up their sleeves in Mississippi in January following Hurricane Katrina to help the community rebuild. The Hillel students will be returning to the South again this year to continue their voluntarism efforts.

Tzedek Hillel will be on the move again this year. Plans are underway for a return trip to the Gulf Coast to continue rebuilding efforts following last year's devastating hurricane season. Hillel is also looking into a volunteer program in partnership with Hillel Uruguay over reading week, to build homes for those who cannot afford suitable housing. In the spirit of rebuilding, several Toronto area students will travel to northern Israel this winter to participate in Hillel International's Rebuild the North program. To end this exciting year of travel, Tzedek Hillel is looking into an extended trip to Central America in the spring in partnership with American Jewish World Service.

Jaime Reich is vice-president of Hillel at York University and Devora Schwartz Waxman is director of Tzedek/Social Action Programs for Hillel of Greater Toronto.

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Israel, Iran and US election are hot topics on Washington Fly-In

Charles Krauthammer, David Frum among those to address Torontonians

By REBECCA SOBERMAN
UJA Federation

From Israel to Iran to U.S. domestic politics, the analysis from noted experts was plentiful and intense for participants on UJA Federation's recent one day fly-in to Washington D.C., chaired by Irwin Michael and Andrew Sheiner.

At the Canadian embassy, David Frum, acclaimed author and former speech writer for US President George Bush, shared what he called "well informed speculation" that Iran will pause its 'nuclearization' and stop its support for insurgency in Iraq, while the US will oppose global sanctions against Iran and draw down its forces in Iraq.

Also at the embassy, Middle East analyst Dr. Aaron David Miller, Public Policy scholar at The Woodrow Wilson Centre said that further territorial disengagement by Israel cannot be unilateral, but should be based on a reciprocal agreement in order for the peace process to move forward.

(above) Pulitzer Prize winning columnist Charles Krauthammer (l) with Washington Fly-In Co-chair Irwin Michael.

David Frum addresses Fly-In participants.

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, the only Jewish female member of the U.S. Congress, described her proposed legislation to prohibit discrimination in life insurance policies based on foreign travel plans. Wasserman Schultz's application for extended coverage had been rejected by her own insurance company when she listed Israel as a possible travel destination. She is pushing for the bill to be passed in Congress, after passage of similar legislation in 10 states.

The day continued with a visit to the Israeli embassy where Lieutenant Colonel Ayal Bar-On explained Israel's defensive tactics during the war with Hezbollah this past summer and showed footage from the war proving that Hezbollah hid behind civilians.

The concluding speaker, respected columnist, Dr. Charles Krauthammer, praised George Bush as "the best president for Israel since Harry Truman."

"He is a man with a commitment to Israel and to democracy," said Krauthammer.

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 By The Numbers:

- Total Gifts To Date - $60 million
- Israel Emergency Allocation - $17.5 million
- Number of Gifts to Date – 13,000

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 is funding the urgent psychological and financial needs of northern Israeli residents caused by thousands of terrorist rockets. The campaign is also supporting crucial social and educational services in our own community.

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Toronto woman helps war's four-legged victims

People and animals assisted by generous donations

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA Federation

When Senta Hodes-Gilbert, a lifelong lover of animals, read about the hundreds of pets abandoned when their owners were forced to flee northern Israel for safer areas of the country during the recent war, she was distressed. "The people had to leave and couldn't take their pets with them," said Hodes-Gilbert. "They were in a terrible hurry to escape the rockets, thinking they might return in a little while, but of course that didn't happen, so the animals were just petrified, didn't know where their owners were, and the rockets injured and killed them."

So, in addition to her considerable donation to UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 that will be directed to helping the people of northern Israel, Hodes-Gilbert made a $25,000 gift to help the war's four-legged victims.

According to Hakol Chai, an organization dedicated to preventing and relieving animal suffering in Israel, the task now, expected to take months, is "to reunite animals placed in foster homes with their families, and to find homes for those without families or whose families cannot be located." Money is needed to cage, fence, and feed the animals in the meantime, as well as to provide veterinary and maintenance care.

A female bear rests at the entrance to the bomb shelter in Haifa zoo after many of the animals were released out of the shelters at the start of the war between Israel and Hezbollah to protect them from rocket strikes. The war resulted in the deaths of countless animals, both wildlife and pets left behind by families fleeing the war-zone in Northern Israel. (AP Photo/Muhammed Muheisen). (inset) Senta Hodes-Gilbert

Hodes-Gilbert, now in her eighties, was first introduced to animal causes in Israel in 1973. She was at a construction site, marveling over the buildings being erected "out of the ashes of Auschwitz" when she caught site of three donkeys - one pregnant - each with a "huge sack full of boulders on each side of the belly." The foreman ignored her complaints, but the experience prompted her to research animal welfare organizations in Israel, eventually leading her to the Jerusalem animal shelter, which she has supported ever since. She is involved as well with animal welfare in Canada. A vegetarian, Hodes-Gilbert attributes her love of animals to her parents, who belonged to a humane society in Germany and taught her from a young age "to be kind to animals because they also have feelings." Her appreciation for animals has grown throughout her life, and she is now an advocate of their therapeutic abilities. "Pets, especially for lonely people, are very comforting. They are something to love and to take care of," she says.

Hodes-Gilbert speaks enthusiastically about the Jewish tradition of compassion towards animals, citing as an example the requirement to feed one's pets before oneself. "There are two pages in Encyclopedia Judaica of rules that Jews have to protect animals... I'm so proud of the laws that we promulgated so long ago."

The gift by Hodes-Gilbert helped boost the UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 total to $60 million with $17.5 million designated for Israel's emergency needs.

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Greater Toronto Area

Hana's Suitcase brings young audience to tears

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

Review

If you're not sure how to tell your children about the horrors of the Holocaust, then there's someone here to help. Actually, there's an entire group of people – actors in an excellent performance of *Hana's Suitcase* who tackle this difficult topic with just the right amount of humility and compassion and do it in a way that children can understand.

Hana's Suitcase, originally a documentary by CBC producer Karen Levine, recounts the true story of two Japanese children and their teacher who go halfway around the world trying to find the owner of a piece of luggage that was donated to a Holocaust museum in Japan. Their search not only introduces them to Hana Brady, a 12-year-old girl who died in Auschwitz, but the students and their teacher learn about the Holocaust and what Jews, and more specifically, Jewish children went through.

In order to show the story of the search and of Hana's life, writer Emil Sher has written what seems like two plays that occur onstage simultaneously. As the Japanese children – who are played by twentysomethings – talk about how they're going to find out who the suitcase belongs to, Hana – played by Jessica Greenberg – appears on stage, walking around, sweeping and, basically, being a kid in prewar Europe. Although we see Hana during the first act, we don't hear from her.

The second act finally lets the Brady family tell their story. After Fumiko Ishioka, the teacher and museum curator, finds out Hana has a brother living in Toronto, she writes him asking to tell her what happened to his family during the Holocaust. George Brady writes back, and as Fumiko reads the letter, Greenberg and Paul Dunn, who plays the World War II-era George, relay Hana's life to the audience.

If that sounds pretty straightforward, that's because it is. Unlike *The Diary of Anne Frank*, in which we learn about the Holocaust through Anne's life in the attic, *Hana's Suitcase* basically spells out what happened to the Jews in World War II, and what happened to Hana. For adults, a lot of the dialogue will sound forced and the story line is fairly predictable, but children who aren't familiar with the Holocaust will be hooked early on.

The play is helped by some solid performances. Dale Yim plays Akira, an eager but hyperactive kid who can't sit still for a minute, and Ella Chan plays Maiko, Akira's more reserved and intellectual friend. Despite being young adults, the two play convincing students (well, at least the children in the audience will think so), and effortlessly push the story along. Greenberg is great, too, as she successfully gets across how confusing life must have been for children during the Holocaust.

Although this play is geared toward kids, it's still moving. Save for a few comedic moments (albeit juvenile ones), this is a deeply emotional play that had many of the children in the audience crying by the end. That is a testament to the play's directness – without leaving any details to the imagination, the younger audience members will easily pick up on how devastating Hana's story is. Of course, it's tough to hear a room full of kids cry, but this play is important for children to see, as Sher and director Allen MacInnis don't sugarcoat a thing.

Hana's Suitcase runs until Oct. 19 at the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People, 165 Front St., Toronto. For tickets and showtimes, call 416-862-2222.

שיאר ענינו

גידי קורן וחברים

"אבי אבי"-חֶסְקָה על אגם קפוא

הסרט "אבי אבי" הוצג בהצלחה גדולה בפסטיבל הסרטים היהודי של טורונטו באביב של 2006 בפני אולם מלא רבים מיכם לא השיגו כרטיסים לסרט החשוב הזה שעוסק בישראלים החיים בטורונטו, ועל כן ההקרנה החוזרת ב JCC של בלור וסְפָּדִינָה (750 ספדינה, מרכז מילס טאדאל) היא ידיעה משמחת ביותר. זהו סיפורם של שני ישראלים העונים לשם אבי- אבי- זיו אב הציור ואבי לב במאי הסרטים . כדברי אבי לב-תן לשני ישראלים שנפגשים עשר דקות והם ימצאו כמה אנשים ששניהם מכירים מהארץ. בְּמקרה של אבי ואבי-העבר המשותף מחזיר אותם לבריכת גן הדסה האגדית של תל אביב השנה של שנת החמישים ולהיכרות משותפת עם העלמה מגן הדסה.

אחד הקטעים הקשים של הירידה מהארץ הוא הפחד והבושה להביט לתופעה בעיניים ולדבר עליה בכנות. זהו לדעתי חוזקו של הסרט-אבי לב הבמאי, ואבי זיו- אב גיבור הסרט, מדברים על השהות בחר"ל והירידה במבט ישיר, בפתיחות ובכנות בלתי רגילות. שניהם מתנענעים לישראל של פעם, אך במסעם לארץ הם אינם מוצאים את ישראל שהשאירו שם. מה לעשות-זה דינם של מי שעוזבים בית-שום דבר לא נשאר איפה שמשאירים אותו, חוץ מהזכרונות.

ב 28 באוקטובר תיערך הקרנה חגיגית של הסרט בשעה 8 בערב, ואחריה יתקיים דיון מרתק על הישראלים והירידה בהשתתפת הקונסול קובי ברוש.

הפוסטר של הסרט מראה את אבי ואבי חוזרים בְּחֶסְקָה על אגם קנדי קפוא, וסיסמתו היא:

"ישראלי בניכר הוא כמו
חֶסְקָה על אגם קפוא".

מומלץ בחום. רוצו.

חשבון נפש

בישראל עושים חשבון נפש נקב על אירועי מלחמת לבנון השניה, ובעיני רבים נראה המבצע הצבאי ככישלון, וכולם מחפשים אשמים. הרשו לי לשתף אתכם בדעתי בעניין:

יד על הלב: גם אם אריק שרון היה מנהל את המלחמה, ומנופז היה שר ביטחון שלו ורבין הרמטכ"ל- הם לא היו מצליחים לחסל את הטרוריסטים במלחמת יְבשה. אף צבא בעולם עד לא ניצח טרוריסטים, ראה עיראק, אפגניסטן, צ'צ'ניה. טרוריסטים שמתחבאים בין נשותיהם וילדיהם , שחיי משפחותיהם לא שיחם בעיניהם כקליפת השום-אף כוח בעולם לא יַמנע אותם מלשים פצצה על הסַף. השיטה היחידה למיקוי דרום לבנון הן פצצת מצרר בשטיח שלא היו משאירות אבן על אבן, ותלך שהיה עולה בחייהם של אלפי אזרחים, תחלך שהעולם המערבי לא היה מסכים לו בשום מחיר.

אז מה עושים? יש הרבה פטפוטים אבל אין פיתרון. זה אכן מצב מתסכל, אך לא לכל מצב מתסכל יש תשובה, ולא לכל מצב שאין לו תשובה יש אשמים.

לדעתי האישית מה שהישראלים עושים עכשיו זה מה שילד קטן עושה כשהוא מתוסכל מאוד-הוא מרביץ לאמא שלו ולפעמים גם מקלל אותה, כי היא בטח אשמה. אבל ששאר בינתי.

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MEMORIAL SERVICE: The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem held its annual community memorial service at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Earl Bales Park on Erev Yom Kippur. The ceremony included prayers, candlelighting and laying wreaths at the monument. Among the dignitaries in attendance were city councillors John Filion, Howard Moscoe and Michael Feldman, as well as York Centre MP Ken Dryden, Thornhill MP Susan Kadis, Etobicoke-Lakeshore MP Michael Ignatieff and Trinity Spadina MP Olivia Chow. Vaughan city councillor Alan Shefman is seen carrying a wreath.

[Carolyn Blackman photos]

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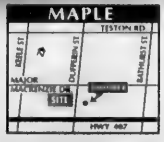

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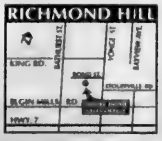

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B'nai mitzvah add to rite through twinning program

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

David Weiser says his first "mitzvah" on becoming a bar mitzvah earlier this year was to keep alive the memory of a little boy named Willy.

Speaking on Sept. 26 at the second annual dinner for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah of Remembrance "Twinning Program" run by UJA Federation Holocaust Centre of Toronto, Weiser said his June 17 bar mitzvah at Beth Torah Synagogue was "the most amazing experience," and that he believes being a "twin" made it much more meaningful.

Weiser is one of 84 teens who have gone through the program since its inception in 2002. Of those, 39 participated this year. All the students paired with Holocaust survivors who served as mentors and helped educate them about the children who perished in the Holocaust and never had the opportunity to celebrate their own bar or bat mitzvahs.

Weiser's "twin" was born in Holland, where Weiser has relatives. His mentor, Ronny Sweering, is a non-Jewish photographer in Amsterdam. As a nine-year-old in 1942, Sweering befriended Willy, an 11-year-old Jewish boy in hiding in the basement of his (Willy's) aunt's house, across the road from Sweering's.

Sweering visited Willy every day and gave him two white rabbits "to keep him from being lonely," Weiser said.

Willy and his aunt and uncle were taken away by the Nazis when Sweering was in the hospital for emergency surgery following an ear infection, Weiser said.

Willy, who would be killed in Auschwitz on his 12th birthday, gave the rabbits to Sweering's mother as he left.

George Scott and Ilana Walters light a candle in memory of children murdered in concentration camps. Inset, David Weiser.

Sweering, who Weiser said is "a hero" to him, travels to schools in Holland with his wife, who wrote a book about his wartime experiences, to educate young people about the Holocaust and the dangers of prejudice.

"It's not an easy thing being a 'twin,'" said Eleanor Getzler, chair of the program, citing hours of research and learning about "a very painful part of our history."

But, she told *The CJN*, "I can't emphasize how important this is."

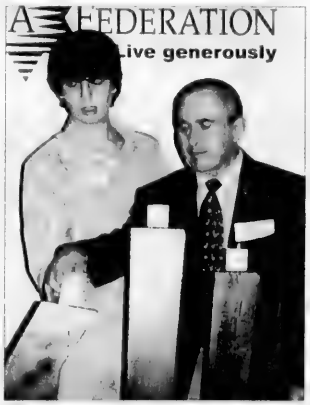
"You are the witnesses to history, because in 30 years or so when my peers are not around and the survivor speakers are not around, you will be the voices… of these incredible stories," Lorraine Sandler, chair of the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, told the youngsters at the event, which included a candlelighting ceremony to commemorate children of the Holocaust and their rescuers.

Remembrance, "painful as it maybe, [is] our source of determination, courage, strength and – above all– hope for the future," said mentor Peter Silverman, a former partisan whose parents and three brothers perished in 1941.

Mentor Julie Farago told *The CJN* that sharing her memories has not been easy, but that it's easier than it would have been 30 years ago.

Lisa Pinkus, the daughter of mentor Nate Leipciger and mother of Jordana, who participated in the program, told the group that as a result of the program, her whole family had a chance to learn about her late aunt.

"The deaths were a terrible tragedy, but it would be a worse tragedy if we didn't remember who they were in their short lives.



Max Saunders, left, and Max Peters light a candle in honour of righteous rescuers who hid Jewish children.
[Frances Kraft photos]

"The story of one person helps us understand that [the six million Holocaust victims represent] one person, six million times."

Participants in the program are mostly from Toronto and the surrounding area – where more than two dozen synagogues have supported the program – but there is one participant from Winnipeg, who found the program online.

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Terraces OF BAYCREST
Baycrest

NCSY celebrates 10 years in Thornhill

By DAVE GORDON
Special to The CJN

Pool, pizza, web surfing and movies may not appear to be much more than typical fun for teenagers, yet these are some of the things that one organization offers so that high schoolers can get better connected Jewishly, and meet other Jewish teens.

It's been 20 years since the National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY) opened in Toronto, its first branch in Canada, in a small office space near Baycrest, with Rabbi Glenn Black taking the reins as the regional director of NCSY Canada six years later. The Thornhill location opened a few years after.

This month, NCSY will celebrate its 10th year in its Thornhill location, a 4,200-square-foot recreational area at the corner of Bathurst Street and Steeles Avenue.

This location has given NCSY the impetus to make some giant strides in getting teens involved with Judaism, as has the opening of an Eglinton branch three years ago and six other locations in the Toronto area where they offer the free Torah high school. The Torah high school is a fully accredited after-school program that offers Hebrew-language and Jewish studies courses.

"Moving to Steeles and Bathurst was one of the best moves NCSY ever made," says Rabbi Black. "It's because the community was and is shifting north. When we moved to that corner, it wasn't as prominent, and it didn't play such a significant role in the Jewish community. We were almost there first, before the kosher restaurants, schools and shuls. We took a centre that was in fact too big for our needs, but now it's too small."

Touting itself as the largest Jewish youth organization in the country, NCSY offers programming that combines social, educational and spiritual perspectives. Black says that NCSY Canada was the first to have a place for kids to hang out, play pool, watch movies, use an on-site Internet café, order in pizza and hang out with Jewish kids.

"We opened up a drop-in centre, and that was also revolutionary. It's a free Jewish social club," says Rabbi Black.

The centre also hosts a homework club, where high schoolers can help junior high kids. Also offered are bar/ bat mitzvah programs. The UJA Federation of Greater Toronto recently conducted a continuity study that said that NCSY reaches over 27 per cent of 16,000 Jewish high schoolers in the Greater Toronto Area.

Although it is called the National Conference of Synagogue Youth, recent trends in the past 10 years have shown that teens are no longer found in synagogues, but found in public schools and private non-Jewish schools. "Really, in truth, it is now 'the national conference of school youth.' We've seen that to be a trend," says Rabbi Black.

Rabbi Binyamin Pinkus, director of senior programming, says NCSY is trying to attract new teens through a wide spectrum of programming. "We're just trying to get the word out to as many kids as we can, as fast as we can, because we all know about the ominous intermarriage rate," he says.

"We're trying to bring in as many unaffiliated teens as possible. We need to try new things, new tactics."

One of those "new things" NCSY is doing lately is buying up a third of the house for the upcoming Matisyahu concert at The Docks, on Oct. 22. "We are always looking for things that will reinterest secular and unaffiliated Jews in their [Jewish] roots, and Matisyahu is one of those bridges," says Rabbi Pinkus. "Connecting to kids who are otherwise estranged from Judaism might influence these kids to make Judaism relevant to their lives as well. A religious Jew as a rock star might get their attention. After all, we live in the iPod generation."

Besides concerts and classes, NCSY also programs major conventions, retreats and trips. Recently, it held a leadership Shabbaton conference at the Minsker Shul in Toronto's Kensington Market. In mid-November, NCSY's trip to New York hopes to attract 300 participants. Soon afterward, a ski trip will be in the works, as well as a trip to California.

In the last three years, Jewish Family and Child Services has been sponsoring a social worker to come in Monday nights and hang out with kids, or be there to talk about personal issues if they need to. Though many have walked through NCSY's doors inspired, Rabbi Pinkus recalls one story of a young Russian girl who went to public school and led an unaffiliated life, and became Jewishly aware as a result of NCSY. She lived with her father, who remarried a non-Jew, and who did not support her choices to bring Judaism in her life.

"Every holiday was a struggle," says Rabbi Pinkus, "During the High Holy Days, her family gave her a hard time. Yet she worked hard, and did her homework and tests in advance so she could celebrate the Jewish holy days."

Rabbi Pinkus recalls being told about her visit to a Jewish bookstore thinking: "I'm going to fill my house with these things because it's not what I had when I grew up."

Seen at the NCSY end-of-year graduation & dinner this past June is, from left, Ita Yunger, NCSY staff member and Free Torah High instructor, and Debbie Granatowicz, active NCSYer.

Herb and Joyce Green have established an enviable record as prominent members of our community with deep roots in the support of Jewish education, welfare and particularly with an enduring love of Israel. They have been in the forefront of many events and campaigns in support of Israel and local organizations.

Jerry Rosenfield has served for over forty years as a Principal and as an Educational Consultant of several Jewish Day Schools in Greater Toronto, including Associated Hebrew Schools for 34 years, Yeshivas Nachalas Zvi and, most recently, Bnos Bais Yaakov High School. He is active in the Community as President of the Toronto Branch of Mizrachi and as Parnas/Chairman of the Religious Committee of Congregation Bnai Torah.

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MIZRACHI

Beth Avraham Yoseph doubles its rabbinic staff

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

New assistant was born in Brantford, Ont.

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation (BAYT) has an assistant rabbi for the first time in its 25-year history.

Rabbi Chaim Yosef Ackerman, who took on the position Sept. 1, is focusing on the young adult segment of the 800-family congregation in Thornhill. He will also share responsibility for pastoral duties and life cycle events with Rabbi Baruch Taub, who has led the congregation since its inception, when it consisted of 13 member families.

Rabbi Ackerman, a 29-year-old father of four children aged two to seven, served most recently as spiritual leader of Congregation Torat Emet in Queens, N.Y.

He has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Touro College in New York and completed a certificate program in teaching at the Merkaz Lehachsharat Morim – Centre for Teacher Training in Queens.

Although he was raised in Baltimore, Rabbi Ackerman was born close to Toronto, in Brantford, Ont. His father, Rabbi Yitzchok Shmuel Ackerman served the small Jewish community in Brantford for a brief stint in the mid-1970s. The senior Ackermans now live in New York, where the elder Rabbi Ackerman does counselling and his wife Helen is a social worker.

The BAYT's Rabbi Ackerman is a former aspiring journalist who co-edited his high school yearbook and still "does a little bit of writing."

His life took a different direction, however, as he pursued post-high school studies in Israel, mostly at Yeshivat Chofetz Chaim in Jerusalem, where he spent three years.

Continuing his studies at Yeshivat Chofetz Chaim in New York, where the soft-spoken rabbi received his smichah, he realized that he loved being able to help people and interact with them on a daily basis. Also, he said, he has "an ability to listen" and he finds it fulfilling to serve people as a rabbi.

Rabbi Ackerman – who taught Jewish history, parshah and Jewish thought for three years at Shevach High School, an Orthodox girls' school in Queens – is putting his teaching skills to use in his new position, giving evening daf yomi classes and speaking at one of a half-dozen or so Shabbat morning minyanim at the shul.

Soon he will begin teaching beginner and intermediate Hebrew as part of the National Jewish Outreach Program's "Read Hebrew America/Canada" literacy campaign, as well as giving classes in the synagogue's "BAYT Medrash" Jewish learning program, and classes on Jewish thought on Shabbat afternoons.

In an article in the synagogue bulletin, Rabbi Taub was quoted as saying that Rabbi Ackerman is "an accomplished *talmid chacham* (Torah scholar) and possesses sterling *midos* (qualities)." He added that he is certain that Rabbi Ackerman's presence would "enhance the Torah development of our community immensely."

Rabbi Ackerman said he and his wife Menucha, who was born in Israel but raised in the United States, didn't find it hard to leave New York. "We're natural-born out-of-towners," he said, adding on a more serious note that they had always aspired to "more suburban living... We're very excited. We didn't need the hustle and bustle of New York City."

Among the things that appealed to Rabbi Ackerman about moving here was the "diversity under one roof" that he has found at the BAYT.

Referring to Shabbat afternoon youth groups that cover the Orthodox spectrum from Bnei Akiva (the youth arm of the religious Zionist Mizrachi movement) to National Conference of Synagogue Youth under the auspices of the Orthodox Union, to Pirchei and Bnos, which are associated with Agudah (a haredi movement), Rabbi Ackerman said, "they are not just functioning, they're really doing beautifully... It's very unique and beautiful that such a congregation can embrace all streams of Orthodoxy."

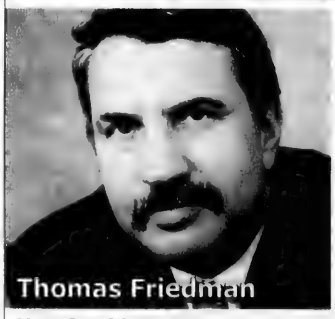
Rabbi Chaim Yosef Ackerman

The Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Fall 2006 Lecture Series at Holy Blossom Temple

In Exile or at Home?

Reflections on the Jews, Israel and Anti-Semitism in an Uncertain World

Even after enduring and surviving several millennia, even at a time of statehood and prosperity, Israel and World Jewry struggle for a place among the nations in an unbalanced and precarious world. What will be now as genocidal Islamism is on the march? Does the West care and how will it respond? Four leading observers will reflect on these unavoidable questions. *All lectures begin at 8 p.m.*



Mon. Oct. 30

Three-time Pulitzer Prize winner Thomas Friedman is the author of many books, including *From Beirut to Jerusalem* and *The World is Flat.*

Introduction: Heather Reisman

Mon. Nov. 13

Director, editor, host and researcher, Barbara Amiel has written for every major publication in Canada and is a columnist for *Maclean's* magazine.

Introduction: Robert Lantos

Mon. Nov. 20

Malcolm Hoenlein is the Executive Vice Chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He is perhaps the foremost spokesperson for Diaspora Jewry.

Introduction: Rabbi Moshe Shulman

Mon. Nov. 27

One of Israel's leading political commentators and a respected expert on Arab affairs, Ehud Ya'ari is an Associate Editor of *The Jerusalem Report.*

Introduction: Hershell Ezrin

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For a complete list of the offerings of our 2006/2007 Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Centre for Jewish Learning Calendar of Events, download a copy online at *www.holyblossom.org* > Publications > Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Centre. Doors open at 7 p.m. for Holy Blossom Temple members and Friends of Holy Blossom Temple with Advance Seating Cards, and at 7.30 p.m. for members of the greater community. Admission is free. To find out how to become a Friend of Holy Blossom, please call Shannon Tramer, at (416) 789-3291, ext. 227, or visit our Web site at www.holyblossom.org > Membership > Become a Friend of Holy Blossom.

Caregivers learn about survivors' special needs

By MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Seniors Scene

As Holocaust survivors age, they may have unique needs and exhibit behaviour that presents challenges for their caregivers.

For instance, as a result of traumatic experiences in concentration camps, some survivors are prone to hoarding food.

To help caregivers understand the reasons for such behaviour and learn strategies to cope with it, an educational session was held recently for staff at Comfort Keepers, a company that provides professional caregiving services across Canada.

"Holocaust survivors have their own unique aging needs, so we wanted to make sure our caregivers were addressing those needs," said Laurie Saunders, co-owner of Comfort Keepers, which provides in-home care, as well as assistance to people in hospitals and long-term care facilities.

Saunders enlisted the expertise of Rabbi Ronald Weiss, director of chaplaincy services at Jewish Family & Child Service, who gave an in-depth seminar and training session to a group of about 30 caregivers from Comfort Keepers.

"We helped them understand where the survivors were coming from as a result of their Holocaust experiences and gave them specific tips to hopefully engender a positive outcome," Rabbi Weiss said.

For example, Rabbi Weiss informed the caregivers that the Nazis frequently shouted or spoke very loudly to concentration camp prisoners.

Consequently, hearing loud voices may trigger flashbacks for survivors.

"Whenever caregivers speak to someone having a flashback, they have to be mindful to speak softly and in a compassionate voice... This will help calm them, " Rabbi Weiss said.

The rabbi also noted that certain odours and noises, such as the scent of antiseptic or the sound of a dog barking, can also prompt agitated behaviour.

Gaining insight into these triggers will help caregivers appreciate and be more sensitive to survivors' behaviour, the rabbi said.

Some other situations that are occasionally troublesome for elderly survivors include being in a dark or confined space.

"Darkness and confined spaces can be frightening," Saunders said. "So leaving lights on and ensuring the door isn't shut when someone is in a room is a good coping strategy."

Both Saunders and Rabbi Weiss stressed that these situations can become more intense for survivors who have dementia and Alzheimer disease.

The rabbi also taught the caregivers about Jewish customs and beliefs, and he showed a video that provided a history lesson on the Holocaust and a discussion on caring for survivors today.

"The video is very effective," Rabbi Weiss said. "It gives a historical context and then shifts to the professional health care mode today with scenes at a long-term care facility."

Saunders said the seminar was practical and helpful.

"The caregivers now understand the context of why some survivors act in a certain way, and that understanding will enhance the bond between our caregivers and their clients," she said.

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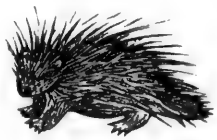

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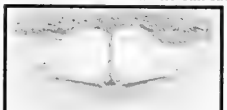
Jewish Life

Sukkot: the season of our rejoicing

By RABBI ZUSHE SILBERSTEIN

On Sukkot, we are commanded to leave our homes and live in small huts. Our sages explain the rationale for this mitzvah, stating that the huts recall the Clouds of Glory that protected the Jews during their journey through the desert after their exodus from Egypt.



Rabbinic Reflections

What is the point of the resemblance? The sukkah huts must be frail structures, unable to provide real support against the elements. In such a dwelling, a person is dependent on God. That is precisely the message of the Clouds of Glory. They encompassed the Jews entirely as they proceeded through the desert, protecting them and clearing all the obstacles in their path. Similarly, in our own individual journeys through life, no matter how strong our situation appears, we are living in frail huts, dependent on God's protection and guidance.

Sukkot is "the season of our rejoicing." One might think that knowing that we are dependent only on God would produce an attitude of uncertainty and nervousness. After all, everyone likes to feel that they are standing on firm ground and that they are in control of their future. Nevertheless, in truth, the knowledge that we do not control our future and that everything is in God's hands is the most satisfying and joyful message we can have. For man is by definition limited and there are limits to the good that he can fathom. God, by definition, is unlimited and can provide man with a good far greater than he could possibly conceive of on his own.

Following Sukkot is Simchat Torah, when we rejoice with the Torah. The previous Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Joseph Isaac Schneersohn, would explain that the name Simchat Torah means "The happiness of the Torah." The Torah is happy and wants to dance, but since it has no feet of its own, it can't. A Jew takes the Torah in hand and becomes its feet. This completes the process that we began on Rosh Hashanah. On Rosh Hashanah, we dedicated ourselves to God with homage to His sovereignty, and on Simchat Torah, we rejoice in the fact that we have merged our own identities with that of the Torah.

In a personal sense, that means we allow the Torah to define who we are and what we want to do. This is the greatest happiness, knowing that we have placed our personalities – not only our fate (as on Sukkot) – in God's hands and that He will help us grow and develop in the most complete way possible.

The celebrations of Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are a foretaste of the ultimate celebrations that will accompany the coming of the Mashiach, when, "crowned with eternal joy," we will proceed to Eretz Yisrael in the ultimate Redemption.

All of the stages of Divine service of the High Holy Days will be experienced at that time: Mashiach will be a king and he will lift us to a level of spiritual awareness that will evoke complete devotion to God. This in turn will inspire tshuvah, sincere regret over any misdeeds that we performed and more importantly, a desire to identify with the fundamental Godly spark that lies at the core of our being. And there will be the great joy and satisfaction of seeing this all become manifest.

At present, our experience of spirituality is primarily intellectual, and there are rare times when we can also lift our feelings above the material and sense these concepts, but in the era of Mashiach, all of this will be actual. The concepts that today we accept on faith and appreciate on the level of thought will then be experienced as tangible reality.

Rabbi Silberstein is spiritual leader of Chabad Chabanel – Young Israel of Val Royal in Montreal.

That 'other' Jew? He's not me!

By ELLIOT MALAMET

At the core of the thought of the French philosopher Emmanuel Levinas is the idea of "the other," usually pertaining to either the infinite other, God, or simply to the human being who is not us. Levinas not only delves into the responsibility we have to understand and embrace the other but also on the way we often maintain our own sense of identity by harshly casting out others through methods of exclusion and the creation of hierarchy.

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The Next Generation

Two recent incidents reminded me of Levinas.

In a classroom discussion at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto about strategies contemporary Jews use to confront or negotiate with modernity, a student of mine – a very nice kid, by the way – blurted out that, in his estimation, haredi Jews are "out of touch with reality." His summation was grounded in the perception that many haredim have no place for television or the Internet in their lives, and they shun certain kinds of western social obsessions.

Suffice it to say, though not haredi myself, I found this comment very troubling. So, on the heels of this remark, I proposed the following choice to several of my classes: if you could marry only one or the other of the following, whom would it be: a haredi Jew or a gentile? I asked the students to seek out their parents' response, as well as to answer the question themselves.

The results of this impromptu poll were noteworthy. Of a sample of approximately 80 students, the findings were remarkably consistent. More than 90 per cent of their parents opted for them marrying a haredi Jew, even knowing that this would entail a radical shift in the child's religious observance. But when the students offered their own answer, more than 80 per cent preferred, in this scenario, to marry the gentile.

Around the same time, I had a separate conversation with a haredi man I know who said, that truth be told, many secular Jews basically lead their lives as de facto gentiles and that he doesn't relate to them at all. When I asked if he had ever invited such Jews to his Shabbat or Yom Tov table, he answered in the negative, saying that he didn't want to expose his family to those kinds of pernicious influences.

I don't have any quick analysis of these disparate, yet related, incidents, but I can't shake the feeling that they're fuelled by a sense of total otherness – and perhaps even revulsion that both my student and my haredi companion mutually feel. They gaze at the other – from a distance — and can't see themselves mirrored in any way. But ironically, if you were to speak to either one alone, you would find shared characteristics – a fundamental decency, kind hearts and a sense that both are trying to learn and grow as people.

The demonization of the other is not particular to any one faith community or ideological position. Pierre Rehov, a French filmmaker whose upcoming film *Suicide Killers* examines the pathology of such individuals, notes that currently, certain Muslims believe that theirs "is the only true religion and there is no room, in their mind, for interpretation."

We as Jews would be well served to draw wise conclusions from this tragic state of affairs, perhaps most poignantly in relation to ourselves.

Jewish Life

Thanksgiving and Sukkot

This year the Canadian observance of Thanksgiving occurs during the Sukkot festival. Both holidays, despite evident differences, partake of similar concerns and values.

Thanksgiving, like Sukkot, offers us a true perspective on our possessions. It serves to remind us that they are given to us in trust, to use not only for our own pleasures and gratification but also in the service of others. Gratitude at its highest goes beyond counting blessings. It involves sharing blessings. It talks not only of indebtedness to be acknowledged but also of debts to be discharged. It takes us beyond saying thanks to giving thanks.

Books
Bernard Baskin

This, after all, is what we really mean when we say "much obliged." We mean that we are much obligated, we have incurred a debt that we are duty bound to repay. What is involved is not generosity but common honesty.

Did you ever as a child come home bursting with some good news only to find the house empty, no one there to hear and share it? What a letdown! The keen edge of joy is dulled if we have to keep it to ourselves. Thankfulness serves that same purpose of adding to the meaning and blessings of what we have received. If there were no one to thank, life would be poor indeed.

If we can't be thankful for what we receive, we should be thankful for what we escape. A wise woman has expressed this thought in the following words:

Today, upon a bus I saw a girl with golden hair./ She seemed so glad, I envied her, and wished that I was half so fair./ I watched her as she rose to leave, and saw her hobble down the aisle./ She had one leg and wore a crutch, but as she passed – a smile./ Oh God, forgive me when I whine: I have two legs and the world is mine./ Two legs to take me where I go,/ Two eyes to see the sunset's glow,/ Two ears to hear all that I should know./ Oh God, forgive me when I whine;/ I'm blessed indeed, the world is mine.

Some years ago Rabbi Robert Kahn delivered a sermon titled "Leftover Turkey." His main point was that the joy of a thanksgiving family gathering is usually followed the next day by a menu that is likely to be cold sliced turkey, turkey salad or turkey hash. He went on to say that life has something of this quality.

So often our joy is followed by sorrow, our days give way to night, our happiness succeeded by problems, and for every turkey we enjoy, there is leftover turkey the day after. One day our home is full of childish laughter and the joys of growing up, and then off they go to college, to marriage, and the house is quiet and empty and our hearts are lonely!

One day we are young and healthy and full of the sap of life, and the next, it's the doctor's office or the hospital, and we must live out our lives with aches and pains and sometimes much worse. One day we sit hand in hand with those we love, and the next, they are snatched away and we are left with only our memories to warm the hearthstones of our hearts.

When life is kind, when the sun shines warmly and everyone around us shares our love, it's not hard to smile and be cheerful, but when the darkness comes at midday, or when the days get short and the weather turns rainy and cold, when all we have is leftovers, what then, what then?

Life is not all leftovers. To have leftover turkey for dinner tonight, you had to have turkey yesterday. Life has its ups and downs, its triumphs and defeats, its sweetness along with its bitterness. Let us savour the golden days when the sun shines; let us enjoy the laughter when it fills our homes; let us rejoice in the health we have; let us be happy in the freedom and peace in which we live. For it is in the joyful times of life that we store up the memories and the hopes with which to face its sorrows.

In this spirit and with this sure knowledge, let us be prepared for both sunshine and rain, for joy and pain, hoping that one day there will be a universal Sukkot, in which humankind will come of age, and history be fulfilled.

Hoshanah Rabbah

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

You start the evening by enjoying a festive meal that includes a couple of kreplach. The next morning, you make seven circuits around the synagogue, lulav and etrog in hand. And then you perform a ritual unlike any other during the Jewish year: you take some willow branches and give the floor a good thwacking. Although Hoshanah Rabbah may sometimes be overlooked on the trek from Sukkot to Shmini Atzeret, the mystical day plays an important role reminiscent of Yom Kippur. **[http://tinyurl.com/k2kuj]**

According to the Virtual Jerusalem site, the reason for striking the floor with those willow branches is "hidden to all but a few." **[http://tinyurl. com/p3td9]** Rabbi Yisroel Miller quotes from the holiday text, which says that causing the leaves to fall away symbolizes "the falling away of the sparks of Divine Judgment; and we cast it away as an end to the Days of Judgment." For an explanation of just what that really means, see Rabbi Miller's essay *Beating the Branches*. **[http://tinyurl.com/z7s7v]**

Although Hoshanah Rabbah is considered a special day, it does not share the same work prohibitions as other Jewish holidays. That's why you can watch an online video taken of the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach as he conducted a two-hour Hoshanah Rabbah service at New York City's Congregation Kehilath Jacob. (The video quality is not great but is still well worth viewing.) **[http://tinyurl.com /hhyj5]**

You can get a very different feel for the day by listening to a Yemenite congregation reciting the central, hypnotic refrain of the day, "Hoshanah. Ana HaShem Hoshiah Na" – please save. Please, God, save now. **[http://tinyurl.com/k4adc]**

Earlier, I mentioned that the reason for beating the hoshanahs is hidden to all but a few. Well, the folks at Ohr Somayach don't seem to be in the know, but that hasn't stopped them from giving us a Top Ten List of the *wrong* reasons for hitting hoshanahs on the floor. A sampling: to punish the floor; to punish the synagogue janitor; because speaking to the floor isn't giving us water; and because hitting our heads against the floor is too painful. **[http://tinyurl.com/z6d9d]**

On Hoshanah Rabbah, the chazzan wears white and chants prayers using Yom Kippur tunes. The Ohr Somayach site quotes a midrash in which God says to Abraham, "I will give your descendants a special day for forgiveness: Hoshanah Rabbah. If they are not forgiven on Rosh Hashanah, then let them try Yom Kippur; if not, then Hoshanah Rabbah." **[http://tinyurl.com/nj5lb]**

Yom Kippur and Hoshanah Rabbah have something else in common – kreplach. In honour of both holidays, we eat those triangular pockets of dough with meat or other stuffing. As Robin Treistman explains, "the word, 'kreplach' is Yiddish and is said to be derived from the Hebrew names of the holidays on which this food is eaten: before or after Yom Kippur (K), Hoshanah Rabbah (R) and Purim (P). These holidays are connected to one another because they involve some sort of striking or beating: on Yom Kippur we beat our heart in prayer; on Hoshanah Rabbah we beat willow branches and on Purim we beat (and blast and cream and clobber) Haman." **[http://tinyurl.com/hm2zw]**

All three holidays share another theme – atonement. Because of divine atonement, we were saved during the days of Mordechai and Esther. On Yom Kippur eve, we recite the *Viddui* – confession in expectation of our atonement. And "on Hoshanah Rabbah we have high hopes that such atonement has been granted." **[http://tinyurl.com/jym2f]** The Nishmas site suggests that judgment (symbolized by meat) is clothed in kindness (symbolized by the dough). **[http://tinyurl.com /h5lvh]**

Now that you know the reason, you can take your pick of 13 kreplach recipes in the Jewish Food Archives including beef, chicken liver, kasha and cheese. **[http://tinyurl.com/fgggs]** If you still haven't had your fill, the RFCJ Recipe Archive includes ones with spinach and shiitake mushrooms. **[http://tinyurl. com/6ms5n]**

As the day winds down, we bid farewell to Sukkot and prepare to usher in Shemini Atzeret. But before that, don't forget to wish family and friends the special greeting of the day: a *gutten kvittel* (Yiddish) or *pikta tava* (Aramaic), literally, may you merit "a good note" of God's judgment. **[http://tinyurl.com/jxteh]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com

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Central
LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK
NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING
OPEN TO PUBLIC
Tuesday, October 24, 2006
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Reena (Cafeteria)
927 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill
AGENDA ITEMS TO INCLUDE:
Chairman and CEO Reports
Board Committee Reports
Integrated Health Services Plan Approval
Other Business
Agenda is subject to approval or amendment at the meeting.
Meetings of the Central LHIN Board of Directors are normally held on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Future meeting notices, agenda and minutes will be posted on the Central LHIN website at: www.centrallhin.on.ca with additional copies available at the meeting.
Board members will be available after the Board meeting to meet with members of the public.
Refreshments will be provided.
Ontario

UJA Federation announces nominees

Leslie Gales, nominations committee chair for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, has announced the nominees for the board of directors and individual representatives to council.

Elections will be held during UJA Federation's annual meeting on Monday Nov. 27, at 7:30 p.m.

In accordance with the by-laws, the governance consists of a council, a board of directors and an executive committee. The board of directors will be elected by the members of the council; the executive committee will be elected by the board of directors from among the directors. No nominations can be made from the floor during the annual meeting. However, any member of the Jewish community may be placed in nomination by complying with the following by-laws:

"Only members of the federation who have made a financial commitment to the United Jewish Appeal in respect of the previous year, and are in good standing with the United Jewish Appeal, shall be eligible to serve as an individual or group representative on the council.

"Any 20 representatives may nominate any individual member of the federation for election to the board of directors and the positions of chair and vice-chair, provided that: (a) any one individual representative may nominate not more than three nominees for election to the board of directors; (b) such nominations shall be in writing and accompanied by the written consent of the nominee; and (c) such nominations shall be delivered to the federation at least 21 days before the annual meeting of council.

"Any seven members may nominate any individual member of the federation for election to the council provided that: (a) any one member may nominate not more than three nominees for election to the council; (b) such nominations shall be in writing and accompanied by the written consent of the nominee; and (c) such nominations shall be delivered to the federation at least 21 days before the annual meeting of council."

Nominated for chair of the board is David Engel and vice-chair of the Board is David Koschitzky. Nominees for the board of directors include: Natan Aronshtam, Jodi Bager, Barbara Bank, Austin Beutel, Lesley Binstock Offman, Peter Cohen, Stephen Cole, Richard Diamond, Sheldon Disenhouse, Peter Ekstein, David Engel, Sherry Firestone, Leslie Gales, Leo Goldhar, Sheldon Goodman, Toddy Granovsky, Alison Himel, Marshall Kesten, Warren Kimel, David Koschitzky, Joseph Lebovic, Glennie Lindenberg, Baila Lubek, Steve Mayer, Berl Nadler, Neil Nisker, Morris Perlis, Elan Pratzer, Greta Reiss, Ariella Rohringer, Honey Sherman, Randy Shiff, Eileen Silver, Ted Sokolsky, Richard Venn, Mark Waldman, Alan Winer, Elizabeth Wolfe, Henry Wolfond, Liora Yakubowicz, and Cecile Zaifman.

The following individual representatives are to be elected for a two-year term, 2005-2007, to the federation council: Lorne Abony, Cheryl Appleby Jackson, Sandra Atlin, Marlene Axmith, Arna Banack, Tobie Bekhor, Marc Benjamin, Donald Bennett, David W. Brown, Sandra Brown, Vicki Campbell, Robert Cherniak, Jack Chisvin, Karen Chisvin, Jeffrey I. Cohen, Roz Davidson, Yale Drazin, Anita Ekstein, Susan Fenwick, Bernard S. Fishbein, Abe Glowinsky, Brian J. Goldberg, Jill Goldberg-Reitman, Jeffrey Goldfarb, Harry Gorman, Shawna Granovsky, Abraham J. Green, Louis I. Greenbaum, Judy Gwartz, Michael Halbert, Susan J. Harris, Genya Intrator, Lynn Kirshin, Leslie M. Klein, Henry Koschitzky, Stanley Kugelmass, Ruth Ladovsky, Judy Libman, Howard Lichtman, Thomas Lobel, Agi Mandel, Pamela S. Medjuck, Howard Meyer, Eleanor Mintz, Paul G. Morton, Jeffrey Olin, Gilbert Palter, Elliott Peranson, Gerald Richler, Gerald Ross, Sheila Rother, Alan M. Sandler, Michael Serruya, Laurie Sheff, Marlene Sklar, Arthur Stern, Raymond H. Stone, Kenneth M. Tanenbaum, Cyrel Troster, and George Wasserstein.

In addition to the individual representatives listed, each group member of the federation shall be entitled to two representatives on the council (group representatives). Any group member which has membership in good standing in excess of 100 people residing in the Greater Toronto Area shall be entitled to one additional group representative on the council. "Group" means any charitable, educational, social, cultural, religious or recreational agency, organization or congregation, unincorporated or incorporated (without share capital) whose activities are carried out primarily in the Greater Toronto Area (including the main Greater Toronto Area branch or division of national organizations), having a Jewish membership of at least 25 people, or such other agency or organization which may be accepted by the directors.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is in the process of completing a corporate reorganization for the purpose of better aligning its corporate structure with its operations and governance model. As part of this reorganization, we have incorporated a new not-for-profit corporation. At the annual general meeting, the members of the federation will be asked to approve the continuance of federation's operations under the new corporation. A by-law, similar to the federation's constitution, will govern the operations of the new corporation.

Members interested in reviewing this by-law may request a copy by calling 416-635-2883, ext. 306, or by e-mailing rgoldberg@ujafed.org.

If you have questions or comments prior to the annual general meeting, please call the federation's general counsel, Mark S. Anshan, at 416-631-5834, or contact him by e-mail at manshan@ujafed.org.

BLACKMONT
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Paul Litman, MBA CFP, Investment Advisor is pleased to present a dinner seminar featuring fixed income expert Hank Cunningham.

Selecting the right fixed income alternative can result in a better portfolio, lower investment costs and, ultimately, more money. Hank Cunningham, Sr. Vice-President, Blackmont Capital and author of *In Your Best Interest, The Ultimate Guide to the Canadian Bond Market*, will discuss how you can use Canadian bonds to achieve superior portfolio performance.

Date: Thursday, October 19, 2006
or
Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: **Centro Restaurant & Lounge**
2472 Yonge Street, Toronto
Complimentary valet parking

RSVP: By Friday, October 13, 2006 to Caroline Najjar at (905) 968-1911 or cnajjar@blackmont.com

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Greater Toronto Area

WELL WISHERS: As part of a school-wide commitment to tikkun olam projects, Grade 1 students Rachel Brooks, left, and Rachel Perlmutar of the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School make get-well cards for patients at Mount Sinai Hospital. With them is Joanne Fine Schwebel, Mount Sinai's director of volunteer services.

The Canadian Jewish news

CONGRATULATIONS

In honour of your marriage, The Canadian Jewish News is pleased to present you with a 6 month subscription.

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Date of wedding _____

Location of wedding _____

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Subscription will begin two weeks after receipt of information.

If you wish, please enclose a photo - we'd be honoured to publish it in an upcoming issue.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Agi & Paul Laszlo and Clara & Greg Nisan are happy to announce the marriage of their children Vicky & Barry on Aug. 6.

Mazel tov to Jessica & Avery Zeidman who were married July 6 at Adath Israel Congregation.

Mazel tov on the marriage of Esther Ponte & Robbie Stern. Proud parents are Aliette Ponte and Pam & David Stern.

Mazel tov to Karyn Pellatt on her engagement to Benjamin Caron. Delighted parents are Frances & Ralph Pellatt and Felice & Issie Caron (all of Montreal).

Marc, Debbie and sister Madeline announce the arrival of Aidan Baker on Aug. 23. Grandparents, Michael & Marilyn Shupak, Mena Shupak and Michael & Ellen Baker.

Mazel tov Fred & Merav on your marriage. Elated parents Henry & Rosette Cowen, Marc & Alice Levy. Joined by brothers, sisters and grandchildren.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos (25 words or less) and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

What's New deadlines: Monday, Oct. 16, is the deadline for the Oct. 26 issue and Monday, Oct. 23, is the deadline for the Nov. 2 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Oct. 12

TEMPLE SOCIAL CLUB

Actor, singer and artistic director of the Ashkenaz Festival, **Mitchell Leonard** entertains at the opening fall program of the Temple Sinai Social Club. 7:30 p.m. $5, guests $7. RSVP **Wilf Ross**, 905-764 7475.

JNF WINTER IN ISRAEL

An information evening and slide presentation on Jewish National Fund and Canadian American Active Retirees' 2-7 weeks in Israel that includes community service, study, JNF forest work, special events and touring. Leaves Toronto Jan. 17. For participants age 50 and over. 7:30 p.m. For details, call **Toba**, 416-638-7200, ext. 23.

R. HERSHEL SCHACHTER

Mizrachi Torah Seminars presents a shiur by **Rabbi Hershel Schachter**, rosh kolel, Yeshiva University, for Tikkun Leil Hoshanah Rabbah, 8 p.m. at Congregation Bnai Torah. 416-630-9266

Sunday, Oct. 15

FAMILY SUKKOT FESTIVAL

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism hosts a family Sukkot celebration. 10 a.m. St. Andrew's JHS, 131 Fenn Ave. All welcome. RSVP to 416-385-3910 or info@oraynu.org/.

SUKKOT CELEBRATION

The Winchevsky Centre hosts a community celebration of Sukkot, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at 585 Cranbrooke Ave. 416-789-5502

HAMMERIN' HANK

Jerry Ziedenberg speaks on "Hammerin' Hank: The First Jewish Player of the National Baseball Hall of Fame" at Temple Kol Ami's free lecture. 8:15 p.m. at the Israeli Source, 60 Doncaster Ave., #1.

Monday, Oct. 16

OSTEOPOROSIS GROUP

Seniors living with osteoporosis can register for "Power," a 7-week wellness program of exercise, nutrition and education that runs on Monday afternoons at the Wagman centre, 55 Ameer Ave. Classes begin today. $70. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 2588, for information and registration.

JOY AND FULFILMENT

Robin Preboy, certified life coach, will discuss bringing joy and fulfilment into your life at the general meeting of Nagillah chapter of Jewish Women International, singles 55+. 7:30 pm. 866 Sheppard Ave. W. Guests $3. For info, call **Helen**, 416-638-4326.

JEWISH GENETICS

Congregation or Shalom and Temple Israel of London, Ont., present **William Chodirker** on "Jewish Genetics: Who Is Related to Whom?" 7:30 p.m. in Anna Leff Youth Centre.

Tuesday, Oct. 17

WOMEN AND MITZVAH

Rabbi Jennifer Gorman speaks on "Women and Mitzvah: The Keepers of the Flame" at Beth Tzedec Sisterhood's opening meeting and dessert reception, 7:30 p.m. RSVP by Oct. 12 at 416-781-3511.

CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl gives a lecture in the series On the Brink of a New Millennium: Conservative Judaism – Whence, What and Whither titled "On the Brink of a New Millennium: What Conservative Judaism – The Role of Halachah." 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation. 416-781-3511

CHUG HATANACH

Dr. Eva Dessin leads a study

Continued on page 25

5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Renewing Our Spirit
Self, Family, Nation
In memory of Nathan Noteh Krauss z"l
Saturday Night Nov. 4, 2006 • 8:15 - 10:30pm
Sunday November 5, 2006 • 9:00am - 5:00pm
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, 470 Glencairn Avenue
TORAH in MOTION
Confronting the Challenges of Modernity

SPEAKERS

Malka Addato, Graduate Talmud Program for Woman, Yeshiva University.
Rabbi Chaim Brovender, Dean, Ohr Torah Stone Colleges.
Rabbi Daniel Feldman, Rebbe, Yeshiva University.
Dr. Adam Ferziger, Associate Director, Graduate Program Contemporary Jewry, Bar-Ilan University
Rabbi Pinchas Hayman, Pioneering expert in Talmud education.
Dr. Samuel Heilman, Professor of Sociology, Queen's College, NY.
Rabbi Francis Nataf, Educational Director, David Cardozo Academy, Jerusalem
Mindy Ribner, Founder and Director of Bert Miriam.
Rabbi Dr. Marvin Schick, President of Jacob Joseph School, NY
Rabbi Gil Student, Author of Hirhurim Musings blog

TOPICS INCLUDE

• Engagement and Disengagement: The Future of Religion in the Land of Israel
• Blogs: The New Frontier of the Jewish Community
• Sliding to the Right: The Shift in Contemporary Orthodoxy
• Embarrassing Others in Public: Jewish Ethics and the Protection of Dignity
• Brother or Other: Orthodoxy and the non-Observant Jew
• The Art of Torah Greatness: How Rav Yitzchok Kirzner z"l Transformed my Life
• Can Jewish Education Save North American Jewry
• Orthodoxy Encounters Modernity: An Honest Dialogue on the Issues that Face Us
• What is Jewish Meditation? An Exponential Workshop
• The Decline of the Generations: The State of the Debate
• Method or Madness: The Impact of Education on the Willingness to Think
• The Bigger Picture: Using Art to Inspire Service of God in Religious Education
• Religious Censorship in the Information Age
• Competing Needs: Prioritizing our Charitable Dollars

Full conference price $40 (lunch included) • After October 30th - $50 • Sponsorships start at $250
Saturday night only or any Single Session - $15 • Tim Pass holders $10 (for lunch) Please Pre-register

Thank you Shaarei Shomayim Congregation for hosting this program

For more information and to register: www.torahinmotion.org

Torah in Motion October Schedule

Sunday Morning Learning
In conjunction with Netvot HaTorah Day School
Weekly program begins October 22, 2006
9:00 -11:00 am
(Shachant & Breakfast 8.00 am, with Starbuck's coffee)
Netvot HaTorah Day School, 18 Atkinson Avenue

October 22 & 29
Earthy and Heavenly Love:
Poetry and Metaphor in the Bible.
Rabbi Eric Levy, Menahel Ulpanat Orot.
• $10. TiMPass holders Free

G-d, Ethics and Religion

Monday nights October 30 - December 4, 2006
Or Chaim Yeshiva, 159 Almore Avenue

7:30 pm Chaim Klein, CHAT
Jewish Ethics: Religious or Moral roots.

8:35 pm Rabbi Michael Skobac, Jews for Judaism
Thinking About G-d.

• $36 per course TiMPass holders Free

The Ethics of Terror:
How Judaism looks at War and Global Conflict

Sunday October 29, 2006 8:00 pm
Shaarei Tefilah Cong. 3600 Bathurst St., Toronto

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Congregation, Montreal.

• $10 TiMPass holders Free.

The MaTaN
Mother and Daughter Bat-Mitzvah Program

Fall session begins Wednesday November 1, 2006
Or Chaim Yeshiva 159 Almore Ave
7:00 - 9:00 pm (10 weeks)
Led by Miriam Bessin

Our popular Bat-Mitzvah program, designed to give young woman and their mothers an opportunity to learn and grow together. Centred around the theme The Jewish Woman Throughout The Ages, the program presents Jewish heroines, through textual sources, who are role models that embody positive attributes young women can emulate

Mother and Daughter Post Bat-Mitzvah Program

Monthly, Begins Monday October 23, 2006
Women, grades 7-8 and their mothers
Led by Rebecca Winter

An exciting program for post-Bat Mitzvah girls and their mothers to explore aspects of interpersonal mitzvoth from a Torah perspective. Texts will be provided in Hebrew and English No charge

For more information or to register
www.torahinmotion.org
416 633 5770
TORAH in MOTION

What's New

Continued from page 24

group in a discussion of the Book of Ruth, introduction and Chapter 1. Beth David Congregation at 8 p.m. All welcome.

SUITE FRANÇAISE

Adath Israel Sisterhood Book and Film Review series with **Heather Cassel** begins the new year with a review of *Suite Française* by **Irene Nemirofsky**. 8 p.m. 416-635-5340

LIVES OF THE SAGES

Temple Har Zion offers Midrash from the Lives of the Sages with **Rabbi Jordan Cohen**, a 4-week course studying narrative midrashim that explore incidents in the lives of the early rabbis, 200 BCE-200 CE. 8 p.m. Non-members $5 per session. 905-889-2252

Wednesday, Oct. 18

POMEGRANATE GUILD

The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles meets to learn "More Than Just Scrapbooking," including how to add new dimensions to your work with fabric beading and stamping. With **Terry Winston**. 8 p.m. at the Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. For info, call **Anna** at 416-638-3342 or e-mail info@pomegranateguild.ca.

Other News

THE JOY OF AUTISM

The Autism Acceptance Project hosts The Joy of Autism: Redefining Ability and Quality of Life, a series that challenge views about autism as illness. It presents "Empowering Parents: Peace, Education and Opportunity for Autistic People," Thurs. Oct. 12, 7.p.m.; "Autism in the Media: Sorting Fact from Fiction," Mon. Oct. 16, 7 p.m. Both at the Al Green Theatre. For tickets, contact 1-800-965-4827 or visit www.taaproject.com.

HIGH-ABILITY LEARNERS

Parents of gifted/high-ability learners are invited to "Gifted Education in the Regular Classroom: Reflecting Upon Parent and Teachers' Roles," an evening of networking and information gathering facilitated by **Joanne Foster**, gifted education consultant for Tikun Chaim, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education. Thursday, Oct. 19, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building. For information, contact **Debbie Gladstone**, 416-631-5835.

PATINKIN IN CONCERT

BBYO Presents **Mandy Patinkin** in concert on Saturday, Oct. 28 at Massey Hall. Following the concert there will be a private reception with Patinkin. Patrons $250-$1,000, prime seating $150. For tickets, call the BBYO office, 416-398-2004.

DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA

Join the BAYT Sisterhood for a women-only evening of simchah dancing, salsa dancing and more, Saturday, Oct. 28, 8:30 p.m. $20 if registered before Oct 20, $25 at the door, students $10. Light refreshments will be served. For registration, call the Sisterhood hotline, 905-731-0351.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

The Florence Melton Mini School is open for registration. Call **Loretta** at 416-667-1717 to find out how you can visit a class before you register.

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation offers the following classes: Basic Hebrew Reading and Understanding the Prayers: A Crash Course with **Nechama Motzen**, Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Oct.18-Dec. 20; Yiddish Conversation with **Les Train**, Mondays, 8:30-9:30 p.m. Oct. 16-Dec. 18; Simchah Dancing for Women and Girls with **Avital Derman**, Sundays, 10-11a.m. Oct. 22-Dec. 17. For fees and registration, call 416-789-3213.

Beth David Congregation offers classes beginning Oct. 16. Hebrew and Torah study classes with **Hana Werner**, Monday evenings: Hebrew for Beginners, 7:25-7:55 p.m., and "Did You Know? Torah Study," 8-9 p.m.; and with **Rabbi Edward Goldfarb**, Mondays, 10-11 a.m., Yiddish Literature and Language Studies. For registration and fees, call 416-633-5500.

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study offers a number of courses beginning in October: "The Mussar Path to Personal Growth" with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, Thursdays, 9:45-11 a.m. Oct. 19-Nov. 9 at Ulpanat Orot, 45 Canyon Ave.; "More Surprising Women in the Bible," with **Ilana Sober**, begins Monday, Oct. 23 and continues for eight weeks, 9:30-11 a.m. at Netivot Hatorah Day School and 8-9:30 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Men and women welcome. For information and registration, contact 416-877-2050 or www.mekorot.ca.

The Committee for Yiddish, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto offers the following Yiddish classes beginning Oct. 22: Beginners and Beginners Plus; Intermediate/Advanced Class; Yiddish Conversation; Children's Yiddish Class. For information and registration, contact 416-635-2883, ext. 185 or yossel@ujafed.org.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 31

SPEED-DATING EVENTS.

Aish HaTorah offers a number of speed-dating evenings: Wednesday, Oct. 25, women ages 32-38, men 35-42; Sunday, Nov. 19, women 22-28, men 25-32; Sunday, Dec. 10, women 26-32, men 30-36. Locations given at the time of registration. Call **Aliza** at 905-764-1818, ext 316, or visit speeddating.com to register.

RESPITE PROGRAM

The Bernard Betel Centre Volunteer Respite Program is accepting new clients, seniors who are recovering or ill at home, and new volunteers to dedicate 2 hours a week to clients while caregivers take a break. For respite or to volunteer, call **Sharon Chapnick**, 416 225-2112, ext 118, or e-mail sharonc@betelcentre.org.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna**, ext. 215, for information and registration.

When You're About to Separate – What to Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation. Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the Promenade Mall, #313, 6:30-9 p.m.

Widow/Widower 65+ Bereavement: A 6-session daytime group for men and women who have recently lost a partner or spouse. Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1:30-3 p.m. 4600 Bathurst St.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tzedec Congregation Haverim Programs presents **Seymour Epstein**, traveller and educator, on "From Couscous to Caviar: Morocco to Siberia." Monday, Oct. 16, 1:30 p.m. $2. 416-781-3511

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Oct. 24; Sunday Dance, Oct. 15, 29.; Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem,** 905-731-7748, or **Malka,** 416-631-5574.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Dr. Ben Schlesinger delivers a lecture on "Sexuality and Aging," Tuesday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m.

Duplicate bridge, Wednesdays beginning Oct. 18, 6:30-9:30 p.m. $5. Call ext. 105 to register.

"Seasons of Iron" literary luncheon with **Sylvia Warsh**, Wednesday, Oct. 18, $12, non-members $15.

Spend the Day at Betel Thursday, Oct. 19, with "Stories from the Heart" at noon, "Fun with Yiddish," at 1 p.m. and "Nafy" Naftolin's Komedy Kabaret, 2:30 p.m.

Spend Sundays at Betel: Programs include Pilates or stretch and strengthen, computer. New session begins Oct. 22.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Friday Afternoon at the Movies, Oct. 13 and 27, 1-3 p.m. in the volunteer lounge. Call **Monica**, ext. 2297, further details.

The Annual All-Day Bus Trip will be to Port Perry on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. $15, non-members $25. For information, call **Mara**, ext. 2275.

The Wagman/Terrace Choir is starting its new season and is looking for new members. The choir's repertoire includes music from the 1920s and Hebrew/Jewish music. Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the music room. For information, call **Mara**, ext. 2275.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Kolel begins fall courses and one-night events Oct. 23 at the BJCC. Visit www.kolel.org or ext. 235.

55-plus annual variety show, Tuesday, Oct. 24. Tickets on sale.

The Koffler School of Music presents The Travellers with a retrospective of **Pete Seeger**, Tuesday, Oct. 24, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, call ext. 228.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org

Tickets on sale for Jazz at the J, – Ron Davis' Sayonara Concert Thursday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. $20.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Are you an older adult who wants to make a difference? **SPRINT, Senior Peoples Resources in North Toronto,** needs volunteers to visit isolated seniors in their homes. Training and support provided. For information, call **Ellen Houser**, 416-481-6411, ext. 351.

Hospice Thornhill needs male and female volunteer drivers to take clients to medical appointments. A few hours a month required. Call **Kay Holker**, 905-764-0656 or e-mail kholker@bellnet.ca.

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OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

David Acker	Sep 22/06	183 Queen Street, North
Bina Glowinsky	Sep 23/06	100 Canyon Avenue.
Sheldon Vanek	Sep 23/06	205 Wynford Drive.
Sadie Miller	Sep 23/06	1166 Bay Street.
Betty Zelver	Sep 26/06	5935 Bathurst Street
Bercu Schiller	Sep 25/06	495 The West Mall
Chaim Kuper	Sep 25/06	66 Waterloo Avenue
Max Kirshenblat	Sep 25/06	22 Fallingdale Crescent
Frances Wall	Sep 26/06	3560 Bathurst Street
Harold Abramovitz	Sep 27/06	4005 Bayview Avenue
Leo Schiff	Sep 28/06	22 Norfinch Drive
Pearl Soloway	Sep 27/06	149 Steeles Avenue, East
Feiga Gorbatski	Sep 28/06	205 Cummer Avenue
Percy Goodman	Sep 27/06	7700 Bayview Ave
Fay Goldstein	Sep 28/06	541 Finch Avenue, West
Anna Bluestone	Sep 30/06	37 Warwick Ave
Joe Bershon	Sep 29/06	494 Avenue Road

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Elbaz, Joseph	Sept. 25/06	Private
Benchetrit, Messody	Sept. 26/06	1085 Steeles Ave. W.
Geller, Jacob	Sept. 26/06	48 Kingsbridge Circle
Spektor, Abraham	Sept. 27/06	Private
Wagman, Sidney	Sept. 27/06	2045 Finch Ave. W.
Spoliansky, Riva	Sept. 27/06	6101 Bathurst St
Ogrodnik, Michael	Sept. 29/06	Private
Fisher, Martin	Sept. 29/06	10 Wingreten Court
Sorger, Simon	Sept. 30/06	Private
Heber, Esther	Sept. 30/06	17 Palm Dr
Rose, Pearl	Sept. 30/06	3600 Bathurst St.
Blumberger, Sandor	Sept. 30/06	Private
Furmanski, David	Oct. 1/06	Private
Mendelson, Rachel	Oct. 2/06	Salford, England

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

Sigmund Korn	Sep 28/06	96 Elise Terrace

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Who left us on Shabbat Rosh Hashana 5767
May the families be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Feature

Shortening the length of shul services: a modest proposal

By MURRAY TEITEL

Guest Voice

On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, with the end of the shul service nowhere in sight, I looked at my watch and casually observed that it was 1:10 p.m. and about three quarters of the congregation had already gone home.

About an hour and a half earlier, the rabbi had started his sermon. Among the issues he would eloquently touch upon in the next 45 minutes there figured prominently the one about shul-goers who only show up on the High Holy Days and never come on Shabbat. I'm sure all of you, wherever you attended, heard some variation on that theme.

Rabbis give various reasons for the lack of regular Shabbat attendance which, for the most part, have to do with "defects" in their congregants. For instance, rabbis will say, congregants aren't spiritual, but are more interested in fulfilling temporary gratifications such as playing golf or water skiing, or they can't read Hebrew so they can't follow the service, etc.

It doesn't occur to these rabbis that many of the people who don't come regularly understand the prayers perfectly well, don't have cottages, hate golf and would like to come to shul. The reason they don't come is that the services are just so long and so *geshlept* that they can't sit through them. This lack of attendance will only get worse as a new generation of worshippers with *Sesame Street*-length attention spans takes (or doesn't take) its place in the pews.

This lack of attendance will only get worse

I love asking gentiles about the first time they attended a bar or bat mitzvah. They get invitations asking them to join the parents at services beginning at 9 a.m. and, being nice, polite, punctual, considerate gentiles who would never be disrespectful to anyone, they actually arrive at 9 a.m.! Of course, they are the only ones there. The gentiles can't imagine that there are people on earth would actually have religious services that last three hours. Who knows how many times they've been mistakenly counted as part of a minyan? The Jewish guests, knowing that the service will last until at least 12:30, time their arrivals accordingly.

Why do you think we have a kiddush after shul? Because if it weren't for that herring tidbit on a Tam Tam cracker *mit a shtikel* honey cake, Bathurst Street on a Saturday afternoon would be littered with Jews who collapsed trying to make their way home after sitting through a 3½-hour service.

Services don't have to last that long. Shortening them would not be disrespectful to God. I, myself, had an epiphany about this at age 18, when I spent Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with my uncle and aunt in Hibat Zion, Israel, a village inhabited by mainly Orthodox Jewish farmers and their families who took worshipping God very seriously. Yet even on Yom Kippur, we were out before noon.

Shabbat attendance would greatly increase if services ended at 11 a.m., or 11:15 if there is a bar or bat mitzvah (because it takes 15 minutes to throw candies at them, listen to their five minute dvar torah – funny the way strict time limits are imposed on the kids but no one else – and present them with their *The Jewish Book of Why* and JNF pin).

How can this be achieved? Through strict time limits. Cantors should be permitted no more than four minutes for Musaf *Kedushah*. Ask any congregant whether she prefers to sing along communally to a tune that's been around since my Talmud Torah junior congregation days or listen to a cantor *dray* on and on, and she will tell you the former.

Rabbis should be permitted a maximum 10-minute introduction to the Torah portion, and they should deliver their sermons after the service is over. Those who want to leave should be allowed to do so without being made to feel guilty, even if they are off to play golf, because it's better that they come to shul and miss the sermon than not come at all.

Those who leave before the sermon would not get kiddush, but those who stay for the sermon or a learning session should be treated to a deluxe one with scotch, Israeli wines, party sandwiches, potato kugel or cholent and Israeli dips in addition to the herring tidbits, Tam Tams and honey cake – because, God knows, they will have earned it.

Murray Teitel is a lawyer in Toronto.

Jewish 'ambassador' urges religious role in peace process

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The Orthodox rabbi who is mandated to act as world Jewry's "ambassador" to other religions told an international conference here that political leaders in the Middle East have made a "fatal and tragic error" in not recognizing the religious dimension to the conflict.

"There is a tendency to see religion as part of the problem and, therefore, to have nothing to do with it… They say you religious people keep away, you only make problems and mess things up," said Rabbi David Rosen, president of the Jerusalem-based International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, the umbrella organization that represents Jews in their relations with other religions

"But that is a fallacy. It fails to understand how profound religious identity is to the people involved. It can't be ignored. If we don't want religion to be the problem, we have to make it part and parcel of the solution."

Rabbi Rosen was speaking a plenary session of World's Religions After September 11: A Global Congress, a five-day conference that drew 2,000 participants from 35 countries, representing more than 20 faiths and practices.

He noted that in 1993, when Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and then-Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin shook hands on the White House lawn, "there was not one identifiable Palestinian Muslim religious figure or identifiable Israeli Jewish religious figure there."

The exclusion of religion from the Oslo process may have led to the dangerous "religionization" of the renewed conflict that he said has taken place over the past six years. Religion is now being exploited to exacerbate the situation, when it could have been harnessed as a constructive force, Rabbi Rosen suggested.

Today, religious extremists are the ones who are being heard, he said. Political leaders should give moderate religious voices a place in the search for a solution, he said.

"Our spiritual identity should be seen as a blessing and not a curse. After 9/11, I think there is a glimmer of understanding of that," he said.

Rabbi Rosen was an initiator of the Alexandria Summit, held in Egypt four years ago, the first time Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders came together to approach the Middle East from an interfaith perspective. It had the endorsement of "two enemies" Arafat and Ariel Sharon, as well as the blessing of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, whom Rabbi Rosen described as having been "hostile" to introducing any religious element until then.

The British-born Rabbi Rosen, a former chief rabbi of Ireland, said it's rare to find an Orthodox rabbi engaged in interreligious activity at any level, and that he is "the subject of a great deal of criticism within my own community."

Among his many achievements is being a founder of Rabbis for Human Rights. "I'm criticized not because I care about Arab human rights, but because I'm working together with Reform rabbis," he said.

"This is the type of internecine nonsense that we have to move beyond. Sometimes I'm asked why I'm spending so much time with non-Jews. Well, it's often much easier and nicer… It's an easier task to be a foreign minister rather than a minister for home affairs."

He does see some progress, however. "We managed to involve the whole spectrum of Orthodox rabbis and even ultra-Orthodox rabbis at the international conference of rabbis and imams [held in Seville earlier this year]. Many had never before met a person of a different faith."

Rabbi Rosen believes that people of different religions have no choice but to dialogue, and that the three Abrahamic religions, and most Eastern religions, call upon their adherents to be "merciful and compassionate."

He conceded that this is easier said than done.

"When people feel wounded, it is more difficult for them to be compassionate. The answer is to treat them with more compassion, in order that they overcome their woundedness and sense of alienation," he said.

He stressed that everyone in the Middle East sees themselves as a victim. "The Palestinians feel vulnerable to Israeli power. Israelis feel vulnerable in a sea of Arab hostility of which the Palestinians are fifth-columnists," and the Arab world feels demeaned and threatened by western culture and the failures of its own leadership.

"Everyone is waiting for the other side to take the initiative."

Rabbi Rosen said the people of the region must overcome the "zero-sum mentality" that support for one's own group or partisan position requires insensitivity to others.

While it's true that the Torah gives Jews title to the land of Israel, Rabbi Rosen said, it does not confer the right to suppress the rights of others. "That is against the fundamental principles of the Torah," he said.

A democratic and Jewish state is not a contradiction, he argued. "In fact, if it was not democratic it could not be Jewish. The Torah makes clear that every person is made in the divine image and affirms the dignity of each person."

Despite the ongoing conflict, Rabbi Rosen noted that interfaith activity is flourishing in Israel. He is a founder of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel, which embraces about 70 organizations involved in interfaith relations. He said there should be more outside support for these activities.

Rabbi Rosen is also an international president of the World Conference of Religion for Peace, which incorporates 15 religions in over 50 countries.

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Clinton to speak at Ottawa JNF Negev Dinner

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Former U.S. president Bill Clinton will be the keynote speaker at Ottawa's 2006 Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner in honour of Stephen Victor.

The sold-out event will be held Nov. 8 at the Westin Hotel.

Victor, a prominent lawyer, has a long history of civic involvement in both Ottawa's Jewish and general communities.

Born and raised in the city, he has always been proud of his heritage and happy to do whatever he could to help his people.

"I wear my Jewishness on my sleeve. It is an important part of my persona, and since my early teens, I recognized the importance of Israel to the survival of the Jewish people and I believe, therefore, in a very strong Israel," he said.

"Israel must be supported by the Jewish people in the Diaspora in order to maintain the strength of the Jewish people and the strength of Israel."

A Camp B'nai Brith alumnus, Victor was its youngest-ever camp director at age 24. Since then, he has held numerous leadership roles in the community, serving as president of Ottawa's jewish community centre; president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa and chair of United Jewish Appeal of Ottawa. Nationally, he was chair of the Canada-Israel Committee and national president of Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Victor has also served as chairman of the Ottawa Heart Institute's foundation board. Dr. Wilbert Keon, a former head of the institute, said that Victor's "tremendous social conscience" has "kept him involved and active in a number of charities and with people in need."

At Victor's request, proceeds from the 2006 Negev Dinner will be used to establish the Stephen and Gail Victor Botanical Garden at Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus.

"This project combines both of my passions," Victor said. "I am able to raise money for a project at the Mount Scopus campus for one of the passions in my life, Hebrew University, and also to support an organization [JNF] which reclaimed the barren land."

He said that the "garden will be an oasis of tranquility in a turbulent Middle East" and "will be there permanently, to show that the Jewish people will not be moved, that the State of Israel will be there forever."

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Brosh reflects on time in Canada

Continued from page 6

"[The technology] is not American, but I believe that they regard it as American. The company has two factories, one in Atlanta and one in Israel. So, they probably sell it as an American product," Brosh said.

Brosh also spoke about his involvement with the newly formed Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce, an organization meant to encourage Canadians to invest and trade with Israel, a country that, according to the World Economic Forum Report, has the 15th strongest economy in the world. In fact, Israel was ranked one place higher than Canada.

He said that given the strength of both economies, there is no reason why the United States invests 27 times more in Israel than Canada does, and he hopes the new chamber will help boost Canada's disproportionate rate of investment.

Although some of the consulate's initiatives were pushed aside to deal with the Israel-Hezbollah war last summer, he said he is confident that, with the continued financial and administrative support of CIC and other Jewish organizations, he will fulfil his responsibility of exposing Canadians to all that the country has to offer.

Brosh said the consulate was instrumental in bringing Maccabi Tel Aviv to play the Toronto Raptors basketball team last year.

He explained that two years ago, New York's consul general met with NBA Commissioner David Stern to speak about bringing the Israeli team to play in North America. Brosh got in touch with Larry Tannenbaum, the chairman of the board of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Ltd., which owns the Raptors, and Tannenbaum agreed to host the team in Toronto.

In the end, Maccabi Tel Aviv played only in Toronto and Florida, and both games were arranged by the Raptors' management.

"We were so proud because... no other consulate could arrange it. All over North America, there are eight consulates and we're the only consulate that did it," Brosh said, adding that the team is returning to play the Raptors in Toronto this month.

He said that with these initiatives, he doesn't expect the average Canadian will disregard all the negative images about Israel projected by the media, but he hopes that when Canadians do think of Israel, they will think of the positive contributions Israel has made to the world as well.

"We want to deepen these relations and ... strengthen Israel, not by giving donations so much, but by really being there and investing there," he said adding that not everyone has the means to invest.

"But if you go as a tourist, you are investing. You're putting money in the hotels and you are helping to create jobs, [stimulate] the economy. It also enriches you as a person. [Israel] is not something virtual or spiritual. It is a state – and it is a good place to vacation."

Coast to Coast

Book takes lighthearted look at Alzheimer disease

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — It may be hard to imagine that there's a lighter side to Alzheimer disease, but an Ottawa woman dealing with her mother's illness has found it and she's found an innovative way to help others to see it, too.

Barbara Schulman and her two longtime friends Beverly Grostern and Donna Lorden have recently published a book titled *Dancing in the Elevator: A Compilation of Anecdotes about Life with Alzheimer Disease*, a collection of stories gathered from 11 contributors, including caregivers, spouses and family members of Alzheimer patients.

"Often you think you are alone when going through things, [but] these stories have aspects which people will identify with and find comfort from… there are ways to look at it in a more positive perspective," Schulman said.

The title for the book comes from its first story, Schulman's own, which describes a difficult day of medical appointments with her mother that ended with her mother's spontaneous dance in the elevator to her apartment, having completely forgotten the stressful events of the day.

Having shared her experiences for years with her friends, Schulman decided it might be a good idea to share them with others. Grostern and Lorden enthusiastically agreed to help, each bringing her own skills and strengths to the project: Lorden enjoys writing, while Grostern became the project's fundraiser. All the costs of producing the book were covered by donations, with the goal of donating all proceeds to the Alzheimer Society of Ottawa.

"As our work unfolded, we all brought certain strengths to the book… there was a lot more work than we ever anticipated, but it was a natural way to progress… each of us had her own respective responsibilities. We also supported each other," Schulman said.

"It was really a labour of love and a learning experience and lots of fun for all of us," said Grostern. "We were so impressed with how other people came forward and offered their skills… when they heard there were jobs to be done."

So many people came forward with stories that the trio had difficulty choosing only 11 and felt they had enough material for a second book. Only two contributors wished to remain anonymous. Although the stories are light and often humorous, they don't poke fun at a serious subject.

"All of the stories were very respectful," Grostern said. "They get a laugh but not at anyone's expense."

In addition to raising money for the Alzheimer Society, the secondary goal of the book is to raise awareness about the disease. The slim, attractive book features a forget-me-not flower on its cover, the symbol of the Alzheimer Society.

The women are now focusing their energies on publicity and selling the book, which was recently launched at the annual general meeting of the Alzheimer Society of Ottawa. It's available in Ottawa bookstores and online at www.alzheimerottawa.org. In addition, Schulman and Grostern, both former Montrealers, travel frequently to Montreal and say they'd be happy to deliver books there. Grostern can be reached at 613-729-0561.

BBYO FALL CONVENTION: Teens from the Greater Toronto Area BBYO gathered at Camp Northland for their annual convention last month. While enjoying unseasonably warm weather, members participated in leadership training. Clockwise from top are Melanie Nayer, Cassie Feder, Josh Lankar, Mica Goldstein, Ian Talker, Jamie Glassman and Adam Ehrent.

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Record number of students visit Holocaust museum

Asper program set new record this spring

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Asper Foundation's Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program has had a record-breaking year for student and community participation.

The foundation, in partnership with other organizations, sent 800 participants from 18 cities – the largest number in the program's history – to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. this spring. More than 4,000 students have visited the museum since the program began in 1997.

"We successfully increased our national reach by 60 per cent over last year," said Jeff Morry, the Asper Foundation's senior program manager. "Our program is now being offered in 78 cities and communities across the country."

In the program's first year, Grade 8 students from the Winnipeg Jewish community's Gray Academy visited the museum. The program was then expanded to Jewish Grade 9 students attending other city schools and later to allow Grade 9 students in the general population in Winnipeg and across Canada to participate.

The program aims to promote tolerance and to sensitize Canadian high school students to the consequences of racism. A significant portion of the costs are borne by the Asper Foundation.

In 2004, the Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program received an award from the Canadian Human Rights Commission in recognition of its creative means of advancing and protecting human rights and working to address racism in our communities.

Before students visit the Holocaust museum, they take a course, given over 18 hours, on human rights and the Holocaust, with emphasis on American history, the civil rights movement and human rights in the world today.

Students are required to volunteer in their communities when they return from Washington. The final component of the program is a graduation ceremony.

"Canadians strongly believe in upholding the rights of people in our own country and around the world. This is evident from the impressive growth in this special program across Canada," said Babs Asper, co-founder of the Asper Foundation.

The Asper Foundation is spearheading the establishment of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, which was inspired by the impact of the Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program. The museum is projected to be the largest human rights institution and centre for education in the world today.

The program will be expanded in the coming years and will sponsor tens of thousands of high school students and their chaperones from across Canada on visits to the Washington Holocaust museum each year.

The Asper Foundation recently launched a website for its Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program at www.humanrights.asperfoundation.com.

"The site will be a wonderful opportunity for past and present program students, families and administrators/chaperones across the country to share their thoughts in password-protected chatrooms and post photos, and for people to get general information on the program," Morry said.

TARTS FOR ISRAEL: Grade 8 and senior kindergarten students at Leo Baeck Day School's Holy Blossom Campus went on a trip last month and picked hundreds of apples that the Grade 8 students later used to bake apple crumble tarts. Some 200 of the tarts were later sold in a "sell-a-thon" that raised more than $1,000 for families in Haifa who were affected by the recent war with Hezbollah.

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(a) accept as members of the Corporation those Members listed in good standing tabled and delivered by the Secretary of the Corporation,
(b) elect Directors,
(c) approve the Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2006;
(d) appoint auditors and authorize the directors to fix their remuneration;
(e) transact such further and other business as may properly be brought before the meeting or any adjournment thereof

Copies of the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report, together with copies of the slate of nominated directors, may be obtained from the Business Office of the Centre until the day of the annual meeting.

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Schulich funds music scholarship, award at McGill

MONTREAL — As an encore to last year's $20-million donation to McGill University's school of music, Toronto mining magnate Seymour Schulich is funding the $20,000 Golden Violin award to encourage promising young musicians.

The annual scholarship comes with a gold-plated pewter violin, valued at $100,000, which Schulich unveiled in a recent ceremony at McGill.

The first recipient of the award is violinist Emmanuel Vukovich, a fourth-year student at the Schulich School of Music, as the school was renamed after the businessman's donation. The ornamental violin will be kept on permanent display in McGill's Marvin Duchow Music Library.

The Golden Violin award is the richest privately funded music scholarship in Canada. Candidates are top string players who are close to completing their studies at McGill and have demonstrated the potential to embark on a successful performing career. Recipients are chosen by the McGill scholarships committee.

Schulich discovered the precious object in the Persian Gulf emirate of Dubai last April.

"When I saw it, I got very excited," said Schulich. "I thought, if you go to a music school and you want to have competition, what could be more appropriate than this violin? My idea was to create an equivalent to the Stanley Cup for music."

Recipients receive a 14-karat gold lapel pin that is a likeness of the violin.

"When Seymour contacted me to pitch the Golden Violin idea, I immediately thought, 'He's done it again,'" said Don McLean, dean of the Schulich school. "What a fantastic, creative way to enhance the profile of the school and to support young people of outstanding musical ability."

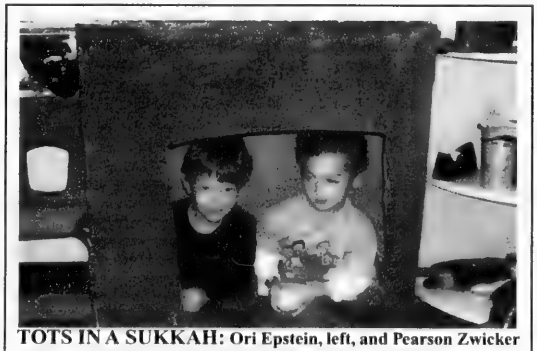
Schulich's $20-million gift was the largest individual donation to a university-based arts program in Canadian history.

It enabled the creation of 40 annual Schulich Scholarships and two endowed chairs, the second of which will be announced at a later date. The first is the Catherine Thornhill Steele Chair, named for a piano teacher and close friend of Schulich, to which violinist Andrew Dawes has been appointed.

As well, $8 million went toward the faculty's new building and its new recording, performing and music research facilities.

"Once again, Seymour Schulich has shown that he is the gold – or perhaps golden – standard for philanthropic innovation in Canada," said McGill principal Heather Munroe-Blum.

Schulich is co-founder of Franco-Nevada Mining Corporation and chairman of Newmont Capital Limited. A McGill graduate, he credits a $1,600 scholarship from U.S. brokerage firm Bache & Co. for helping him earn an MBA in 1965.



TOTS IN A SUKKAH: Ori Epstein, left, and Pearson Zwicker enjoy a moment in the sukkah that they built at Torah Tots.

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Transnistria: 65 years since the deportations

By BARUCH COHEN

Guest Voice

World War II encapsulated the most debased aspects of the human soul. As does every war, it carried the abominable germs of human savagery. The principle victim of its unspeakable cruelty was the Jewish population of Europe.

The history of the Holocaust of the Jews living in Romania, as that of Jews residing in other areas of Europe, encompasses both the perpetrators and the victims.

The Holocaust of Romanian Jews took place in the region of Transnistria. Prior to July 1941, the geographic entity called Transnistria did not exist. No region, province or country had ever carried this name, nor was it to be found on any map.

During World War II, the term Transnistria was coined to refer to a part of Ukraine, a strip of rich and fertile land stretching north from the Black Sea and bounded by the Dniester and Bug rivers. Jewish life had flourished here for several centuries. It was where the mystic Baal Shem Tov brought hope and joy as he wandered from one town to the next. It was from this area that Sholom Aleichem drew inspiration for his many literary heroes, including *Fiddler on the Roof* Tevye the Milkman. Odessa, Transnistria's largest city and one of Eastern Europe's richest Jewish cultural hubs, brought the world such famous Jewish personalities as Chaim Nachman Bialik, Achad Ha'am, Mendele Mocher Sfarim, S.M. Dubnov and Menachem Usishkin, as well as the group of thinkers and writers involved with the distinguished publications *Ha'Shiloach* and *Ha'Olam*.

The territory of Transnistria had been ceded to the Romanian government, led by the war criminal Gen. Ion Antonescu, to be exploited and administered. Beginning in August 1941, Antonescu ordered the deportation to Transnistria of close to 400,000 Romanian Jews from Bessarabia, Bukovina, Dorohoi and other areas. Until April 1944, Romanian Jews were under constant threat of deportation to Transnistria.

During those three years Transnistria would become known as the killing field for Romania's Jews. Although there were no gas chambers in Transnistria, and the killing there wasn't as organized as it was in the immense death factories of Maidanek, Treblinka, Sobibor and Auschwitz, two thirds of the Jews deported there were murdered.

Close to 350,000 Jews were murdered, and the killings were carried out by assassination, massacre, extermination, brutal persecution, torture, plunder, misery, disease and famine. The killing methods were extremely various and included almost everything an evil human mind could conceive.

But the suffering endured by the Romanian Jews was not due to German pressure. The massacres were carried out by soldiers and officers of the Romanian forces. The death marches throughout northern Bukovina and Bessarabia, the internment camps of Edinetti, Secureni, Vertujeni and Marculesti, as well as the deportations of the summer and autumn of 1941, were authorized by the Romanian army and approved by higher civil authorities.

In 1944, when Romania was liberated by the Soviet Union from Antonescu's fascist government, approximately 300,000 Jews living within Romania's borders, as well as roughly 68,000 Jews residing in nearby regions, had managed to survive. This was truly a Jewish miracle.

The survival of these populations was a result of various factors. The most significant, I believe, are the following:

- Romania was not under German military occupation.
- Romania's national economy could not function without the necessary services of Jewish merchants and businesses.
- Romanian leaders were of fickle temperament and character.

The Soviet army's swift attack on Romania in March 1944 eliminated the danger surrounding Transnistria and saved Jewish lives. The physically and emotionally weary survivors of the Transnistria killing field were finally free.

Zachor! Remember!

As writer Aharon Appelfeld, a survivor of Transnistria, has explained, "after the war, the first strategy for many survivors was oblivion, an attempt to escape the past, the camps, the ghettoes, the tortures, the humiliation – but I realized that without my past, what am I? Without the dimension of my past, life would be only on the surface."

We must resist letting our past be forgotten. The more we understand and remember our history, the better our future and the futures of our children and subsequent generations will be.

While the name Transnistria may only have been coined in the last century, its memory will now forever be remembered. Paying the price for endless and terrible suffering of hundreds of thousands of Jewish lives, the memory of Transnistria will remain as nothing but a horrible chapter in history.

Zachor! Remember!

Baruch Cohen is chair of research for the Montreal-based Canadian Institute for Jewish Research and is a member of the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre.

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Dr. Bendor is Associate Professor at Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University in New York. Dr. Bendor's speech is sponsored by Wurzweiler School of Social Work on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

SUSAN JACKSON

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Coast to Coast

It's a fuzzy line between 'moderates' and 'radicals'

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

In "Western military might won't stop the jihadis" (Sept. 30, *Globe and Mail*) Jeffrey Simpson looks at the status of Al Qaeda on the fifth anniversary of 9/11. He refers to two recent reports: edited portions of a study by the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) of the United States and a paper titled "*Al Qaeda Five Years On: The Threat and the Challenges*," by Maha Azzam. Simpson says Azzam is with Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs, a body that changed its name to Chatham House more than two years ago – an oversight that speaks to Simpson's accuracy elsewhere in the column.

Simpson writes that both studies show that while Al Qaeda has been weakened, "its message remains alive and inspiring in copycat or smaller cells. Jihadists are marginal within the wider Muslim world, both assessments agree. The vast majority of Muslims disagree with the tactics of terror, even if objectives such as humbling the United States or asserting Muslim pride are welcome.

"More worrying is the spread of jihadist views in Western countries among small groups of alienated Muslims."

Simpson also notes: "Al Qaeda and the jihadists hurt themselves by attacking other Muslims, or by killing Muslims in attacks on Westerners."

Thus far, Simpson has accurately summarized both reports. He also rightly observes that, while "the reports don't state this conclusion, they imply support for the idea that the struggle against Islamic jihadism is mostly a debate within Islam itself about the tenets of the faith... It is at heart an intra-Islamic debate that produces a confrontation of Islam against itself and certain interpretations of Islam against other religious and secular faiths."

Accordingly, the best antidote to jihadism is not Western military power, except very occasionally, "but the influence... of more tolerant voices within Islam."

But Simpson's conclusion – which suddenly makes the Israeli-Palestinian dispute appear to be the central problem – is far off the mark.

Simpson cites Azzam as arguing that "the establishment of a Palestinian state with at least some parts of east Jerusalem represents the 'minimum required to win over the moderate faction within the Muslim world.'" However, Simpson deleted from Azzam's original report the following crucial parenthetical remark: "(although no one now asks for the implementation of UN resolution 242.)"

By omitting this reference, Simpson misses the implication of Azzam's point: that even "moderate" (versus "radical") Islamists cannot accept the right of Israel to exist in safe and secure borders – a key requirement of resolution 242.

Simpson also omits what Chatham House's own press release called a key message in Azzam's study: "One of Al Qaeda's most significant propaganda gains is its successful creation of a commonly held view that there is a link between terrorism and regional crises – e.g., Israel-Palestine and Iraq."

Islamists (whether "moderate" or "extremist") do not seek a secular Palestinian state, but rather an Islamic state in the entire region. As Azzam writes, at most, a Palestinian state would satisfy moderate Muslims only "symbolically." (A moderate Islamist, Azzam writes earlier in her report, may be just as "uncompromising" as an extremist; it's just that he eschews violence. Azzam appears to use "moderate Muslim" and "moderate Islamist" interchangeably.)

In "The real Mideast divide" (*Globe and Mail*, Oct. 4), Uri Dromi, director of international outreach at the Israel Democracy Institute in Jerusalem, writes about the real threats facing Israel – from Iran, Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas.

Dromi writes: "Yet, under the surface, Muslims in the Middle East still have serious troubles with each other, regardless of the existence of a Jewish state in their midst."

The intra-Muslim struggle, not Israel, is the central problem today in the Middle East.

Speaking of "moderates" vs. "extremists," while most Western journalists describe the secular Fatah as moderate, and Islamists such as Hamas as extremists, Danny Rubinstein, a longtime and sympathetic observer of the Arab world, warns (in "Unity as a Lifesaver," *Ha'aretz*, Oct. 3) that "[PA President Mahmoud Abbas] and Fatah are not much more moderate than Hamas, while [PA Prime Minister Ismail] Haniyeh and Hamas are not much more extreme than Fatah's supporters."

Makes one wonder what the terms "moderate" and "extremist" even mean in the Mideast context.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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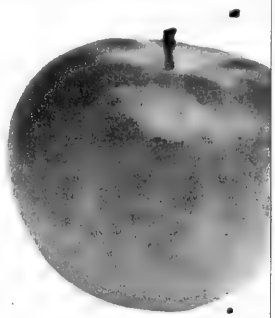

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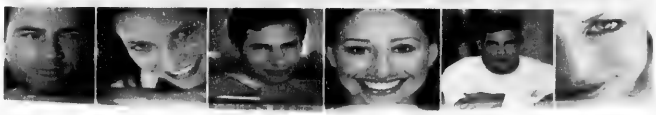

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Coast to Coast

SHAKE, SHAKE, SHAKE: Junior kindergarten students at the Toronto Heschel School – from left, Amit Turner, Annika Zworth, Sarah Klein and Jared Winberg – use their hand-made lulavim to practise the ritual of shaking the lulav in all directions.

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On Campus

Montreal Hillel House gets facelift, new name

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Jack Reitman was never able to finish university. He started at McGill in 1929. Then the stock market crashed, and that was the end of his formal education. The youngest of four sons of Romanian immigrants, he went to work in the family business, which, under his leadership, would become a national clothing store chain.

Reitman, who died 10 years ago, helped young people pursue their dreams throughout his life, said son Stephen Reitman. He also genuinely liked kids, and the family home always had young guests for Friday night dinners.

Stephen, his siblings Jeremy and Sarah Rubin, and their mother, Betty, knew that restoring the historic Hillel House on Stanley Street would be a meaningful way to memorialize the family patriarch.

The Jack Reitman Hillel House, as it has been renamed, was officially dedicated last month. The family was the lead donor for the $2.1-million renovation, which took six months to complete.

Built in the early 1900s, the stately building in the heart of the Golden Square Mile was the home of Montreal *Gazette* publisher Robert White. It was purchased by the Mount Royal Lodge of B'nai Brith, Hillel's original sponsor, in 1944, and has been Hillel House since 1952.

This is the first major upgrading and facelift to the three-storey building and, because it is designated as a heritage site, it had to be carried out within strict municipal and provincial guidelines. Including fundraising and planning, this was a four-year undertaking.

Other major donors are the family of Hillel president Allan Levitt, the Maurice Pollack Foundation and Leanor and Alvin Segal.

Decades of wear and grime have been erased, and the building has been brought up to modern standards. The original beauty is now shown off to advantage: the woodwork, plaster ceiling mouldings, big fireplaces, and stained-glass windows have been repaired or reinstalled. The linoleum in the dining room was removed to reveal the original hardwood floors, and decorative lighting has been added.

The renovations also include a makeover of the nine-bed dormitory on the top floor, an enlargement of the kitchen, and freshening up and refurnishing of lounges, student activity centres, a computer room, the chapel and staff offices. A library has been added with built-in bookcases, study cubicles and computer stations, as well as an outdoor patio.

The heavy front doors and stone steps have been refurbished; there's a new porch, and a third-floor balcony has been added. There is also a new security system, air-conditioning and plumbing.

Hillel student president Moishie Kahan said the reaction of other Hillel leaders in Canada to the renovated house is "wow" and envy that they don't have similar facilities. "Montreal Hillel is seen as a role model and inspiration across the country."

Hillel House provides religious, cultural and social programming to 8,000 Jewish students a year, not only from nearby McGill, but also from Concordia, the Université de Montréal, the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), and Dawson, John Abbott, Marianopolis and Vanier colleges.

Among those bringing greetings at the inauguration were McGill principal Heather Munroe-Blum and Concordia president Claude Lajeunesse, who thanked Concordia Hillel for its valuable contribution to campus life. The guest speaker was Harvard professor Ruth Wisse (McGill '57), a former McGill professor and a founder of its Jewish studies department.

Levitt said Hillel has had a busy season. Over 500 students attended a "back-to-school" Shabbat dinner, raising $7,000 for Combined Jewish Appeal. Hillel partnered with Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights and the Egyptian and Lebanese students associations to hold a convivial Middle Eastern Day at Concordia during orientation week.

Hillel planned a joint Sukkot and end of Ramadan dinner with the Muslim Students Association. It is a sponsor of a lecture by Elie Wiesel at UQAM in November, and is planning a mission to northern Israel to help in the postwar reconstruction.

Wisse noted that in Jack Reitman's generation it was "unimaginable" for Jewish students to have a place near campus where they could observe Jewish customs, and the quota system severely restricted Jewish admissions to McGill.

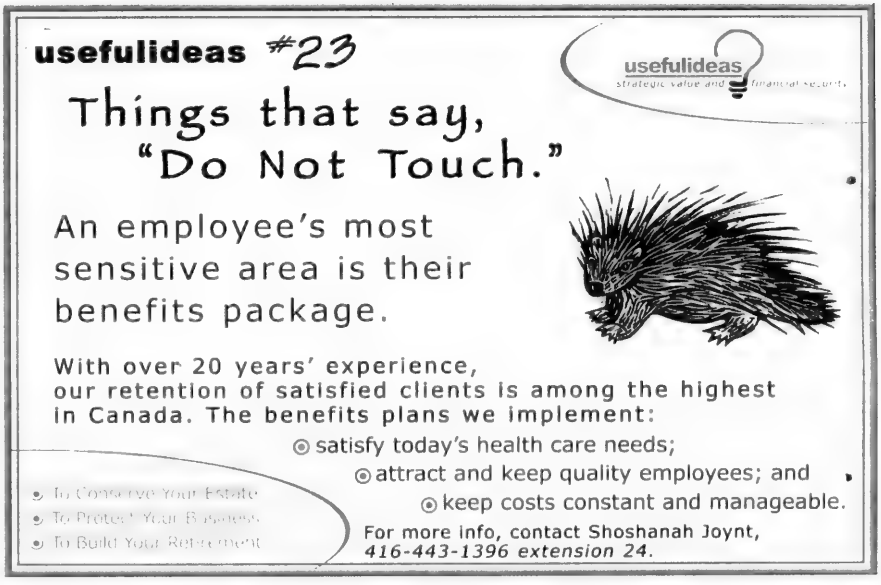
By the time she was at McGill in the '50s those restrictions had eased but acknowledgement of the Jewish contribution to the world in the curriculum, let alone the study of it, was unheard of.

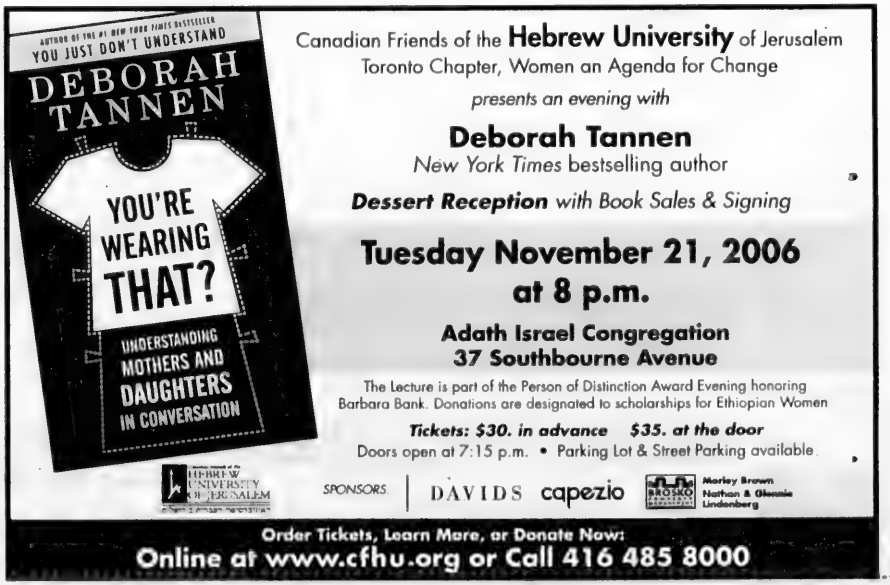
Young Jews got the message that being Jewish was something "homey but provincial, it was not in, it was not chic. Jews were expected to blend into gentile culture. I bought into that. I valued other cultures higher than our own."

But Jewish students today face a more serious challenge, she indicated. Arab and Muslim students are "fomenting hatred of Israel" on campus, she said. "Not all, but enough to change the atmosphere on North American campuses.

"Jewish students today bear the burden of confronting the representatives of thuggish regimes on campus. They must defend not only Israel, but the liberal, democratic, rational world view that Israel embodies."

Hillels, she urged, must have the staff and resources to meet this situation.





On Campus

Darfur Fast raises awareness, money for victims

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

For the second time in two years, STAND, a student-based not-for-profit Darfur advocacy group, asked students all over the world to give up a luxury item for one day last week and donate the money saved to help millions of Darfurian citizens.

Students Taking Action Now: Darfur, or STAND, organized the International Solidarity Fast for Darfur to raise awareness of the crisis in the war-torn region by asking students to abstain from a meal or their daily treat, such as a coffee, and donate the money they would have spent to the cause.

Jonathan Laski, a 22-year-old law student at the University of Ottawa and the media director for STAND Canada, said that this year, 50 American chapters and 12 Canadian chapters are involved in the effort, and campuses including University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario, Queens University and Concordia University are taking part.

Darfur Fast has an international presence as well, with the participation of schools in countries such as Ghana, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

"This is about students saying to other students that this is something you should know about, this is something you should care about and this is something that you should make part of your day," Laski said.

"It's an important event because it does two things. It allows us to be on campus with fellow students, expanding the awareness of what's going on," he added on the morning of the Oct. 5 event.

"We're going to be all dressed up in green, handing out literature on the subject, making a lot of noise and putting up tables around each campus. On top of that, money will be raised to go toward helping the relief effort."

Since 2003, the pro-government Arab militia, the Janjaweed, has attempted to exert control over the Sudanese region. A conflict between African farmers and Arabic nomads escalated into a war between guerrilla groups and the Janjaweed.

To date, hundreds of thousands of people have been murdered and raped, and about 2.5 million have been displaced into refugee camps where the threat of starvation and disease is constant.

Laski said he hopes this event will remind Canadian politicians that they are still not doing enough to protect a people who are unable to protect themselves.

He said that days before the Darfur fast, a dozen STAND members from the Ottawa area attended a parliamentary debate on the topic of the crisis.

"Obviously it was a slight success because we did have prominent parliament and cabinet members speak about Darfur for four hours. At the same time, we say that partisan politics is still playing way too large a role in this," Laski said, adding that the government is failing to comply with the Responsibility to Protect act, which was a Canadian-led initiative.

Part of the money raised in Canada will go directly toward the Darfur Fund, which aims to support humanitarian aid workers on the grounds in Darfur, and part will be used by STAND Canada to raise more awareness and create more programs.

Last year, the North American chapters of STAND raised more than $100,000 in one day, and Laski hopes to exceed that mark this year.

"This year, it's a slightly bigger operation because we have more campuses on board and high schools are participating; so I would say we should be able to exceed that $100,000 mark."

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2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

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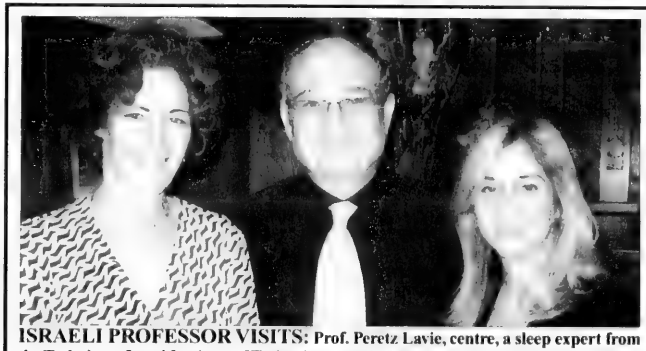

ISRAELI PROFESSOR VISITS: Prof. Peretz Lavie, centre, a sleep expert from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, was in Montreal for the recent World Congress on Sleep Apnea. He also gave the inaugural Dr. Abe Mayman Lecture, sponsored by the Canadian Technion Society, at the home of Drs. Adrian Langleben and Ruth Horn, left. At right is Marilyn Mayman, a daughter of the late Abe Mayman.

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The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre is dedicated to service the community, cultural, educational and recreational needs of downtown Toronto. Its programs and services are guided by Jewish values and are open to all members, regardless of race, origin or religious affiliation.

On Campus

New Jewish course at U of T launches in January

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The University of Toronto's University College will offer a new Canadian Jewish studies course in January in honour of Joseph and Ethel Silver, and their son, Martin Silver.

Linda Silver Dranoff, along with her two living siblings and her brother's widow, decided that the best way to use funds raised in memory of her late parents and brother was to create a course called Canadian Jewish History, to contribute to the general understanding of Canadian Jewish life.

"We wanted to find a place where the funds could have a continuing benefit for people. To my family, the maintenance and appreciation and understanding of Jewish life was important, and we just felt that this was one way of doing it. The university had no course in Canadian Jewish history to our knowledge. It filled the gap," she said.

After speaking to the principal of University College, Sylvia Bashevkin – the first Jew and first woman in that role – about creating a pilot Jewish studies course for the university's Canadian studies program, the Silvers made a donation in April.

Although Silver Dranoff didn't want to disclose the size of the donation, she said it would be enough to hire a professor for the pilot course and to cover the cost of videotaping the lectures and distributing DVDs for continuing educational purposes.

"We hope that [the DVDs] will go to Jewish schools and libraries so that the information that is given in the course will be available in the Jewish community for other educational purposes," said Silver Dranoff, a Toronto family lawyer.

Professor, historian, and author of *Delayed Impact: The Holocaust and the Canadian Jewish Community*, Franklin Bialystok, will teach the second-year undergraduate course.

Although he is not a full-time professor, Bialystok teaches another course at U of T called Holocaust and Memory, a fourth-year seminar at the Mississauga campus, and next semester, in addition to the new course, he'll teach a class on the Jews of Poland, which is also a fourth-year seminar course.

"What I'm going to look at is the course of the history of Jews in Canada right from the beginning until the current, from when there were no Jews in Canada – maybe secret Jews in the time of New France, before the British conquest of North America occurred – to the present," said Bialystok, who is also Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario chair of community relations.

Part of university's Canadian Studies Program

"I'm going to be doing it chronologically, but I'll also look at a number of different themes. One of the themes is the evolution of the community. A second theme is the contributions of Jews to Canadian society, and I'm also going to be exploring the diversity of the Jewish community, especially in the last 40 and 50 years, which I think is really important," he said of the half-year course.

Bialystok also hopes to explore the community's "collective memory of the Holocaust," anti-Semitism in Canada and its effect on Canadian Jews, as well as European Jews who were reluctant to immigrate to Canada because of anti-Semitism.

Bialystok will also try to bring the course up to date by talking about the role of Jewish organizations such as the CJC and B'nai Brith, and the impact of Zionism.

"I'm hoping students will gain an understanding and an appreciation of the variety of ethno-cultural communities in the country. They will also hopefully understand what adjustment and acculturation means in the Canadian context, and of course, the diversity part of it is especially important," he said.

Ken Aucoin, director of development and alumni affairs at University College, said that it will cost about $7,000 to run the pilot course, but the goal is to raise $1.1 million to "permanently endow curriculum content, student awards and guest speakers in Canadian Jewish studies within the Canadian studies program at University College.

"The idea is to promote tolerance and understanding among a broad range of students across U of T. Many students across U of T take Canadian studies courses as their electives and we expect many non-Jewish students will be interested in these courses," Aucoin said.

Silver Dranoff said she is sure that her late parents and brother would be thrilled that a course of this kind was created in their memory.

"My father was focused on the importance of education, and for many years, he was a member of the Bureau of Jewish Education in Toronto and the Canadian Jewish Congress. Education was always very important in our family."

Bialystok is hopeful that this course will contribute to the growth of the field of Canadian Jewish studies including Jewish literature, art and history.

"There is a tremendous opportunity for the exploration of scholarship in this field. This is just the start of what can grow into a wider exploration of Jewish life in Canada."

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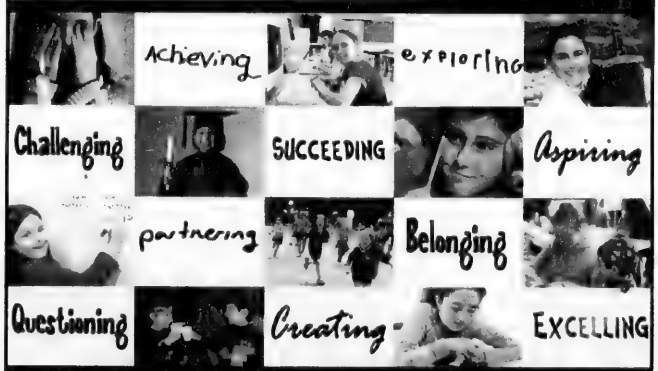

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The ever-expanding fruits of the Land

By WENDY ELLIMAN
IPS

What will most tempt you next time you're in the fruit and vegetable section of your local supermarket? An easy-to-peel, sweet and juicy seedless orange? A guava, free of its overpowering smell? A grapefruit-sized pumpkin that cooks in minutes in the microwave? Or exotic fruits known till now only to the bush-dwelling tribes of Africa and in the jungles of Latin America?

All of these and more are the hope of Israeli farmers and plant scientists who are developing dozens of new species.

"Each successful crop has an economic life cycle," says Yosef Mizrahi, professor of plant sciences at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. "It begins with getting it into the export market. Once launched, it reaps profits until the competition catches up. At this point, the profits will go to those with access to cheap labour, cheap energy and cheap water. In Israel, none of these are cheap. That's why our original crop successes, Jaffa oranges and tomatoes, can no longer compete. To survive, Israeli agriculture must continually seek out new market niches."

Israel is on the cutting-edge of agricultural development, despite its limited natural resources. It has a fertile infrastructure of scientists, extension advisers, farmers and agriculture-related industries, and it is among global leaders in allocating funds to agricultural R&D, with $90 million (three per cent of the agricultural GNP) invested annually.

The raisin-tomato on the vine. This new product is being bottled with olive oil and spices and is beginning to appear in local supermarkets.
[IPS photo courtesy of the Volcani Institute]

Some of that funding goes toward developing new and improved varieties of existing favourites. Israel's Jaffa orange has long since lost out to cheaper competition, but citrus fruit has not been abandoned.

"Citrus is a seasonal fruit and this is where we can find a market," says Yoram Eyal of the department of fruit tree breeding and molecular genetics at the Volcani Institute of Agricultural Research's Institute of Horticulture. "Most of our work is focused on easy peelers that ripen late in the season – which are also, of course, flavourful and low seed or seedless. Israel has developed some 20 to 30 new varieties of citrus, but very few have been commercialized. You can cross-breed for years to get the qualities you want, and then discover the fruit may have too short a shelf-life or some other characteristic that makes it unsuitable. The citrus for which we're best known today is the easy-peeling Orri mandarin, a clementine-like cultivar, marketed as Clemen'Or."

A team led by Eyal's colleague, Yoram Kapulnik, director of Volcani's Institute of Plant Sciences, works with other fruits. They have high hopes for three new varieties they are about to launch.

One is an aroma-free guava. "There are people who like the strong smell of the guava, but many, like myself, really hate it," says Kapulnik. "We've developed an odourless fruit, and have planted the first trees."

Another of his team's new products is the raisin-tomato. "These are cherry tomatoes, dried on the vine," he says. "Existing commercial sun-dried tomatoes are full-sized fruits which have either been sliced to dry in the sun or dried in the oven. The first is not a clean process, and the second dramatically reduces vitamin content. Our product is both clean and healthful. Our raisin-tomatoes are being bottled with olive oil and spices, and are beginning to appear in local supermarkets."

Israel has developed 20-30 varieties of citrus

Volcani's so-called personal pumpkin also has an improved hygiene. "Natural pumpkins are enormous and are sold in slices," says Kapulnik. "We've bred a pumpkin no bigger than a grapefruit and, at the same time, increased its sweetness. It can be left unrefrigerated for weeks. Sliced in half and popped in the microwave, it's a delicious snack."

Rather than claiming a market share by modifying and upgrading existing varieties, Mizrahi and his colleague Avinoam Nerd of the Institute of Agriculture and Applied Biology at Ben-Gurion University are trying to introduce new crops altogether.

"Improving existing crops is like adding light bulbs to a room already fully lit," Mizrahi says. He is working instead with wild plants from around the globe, which he believes can be the crops of the future.

Continued on page 39

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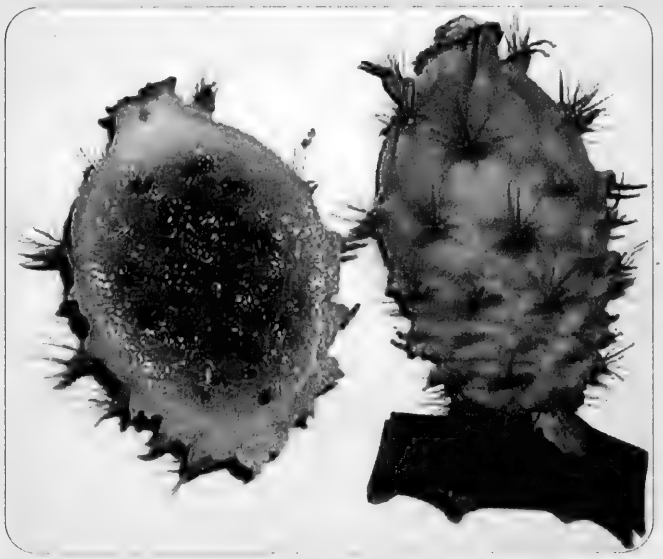

The pitaya (or dragon fruit) – a 'new' fruit created through crossbreeding, is now grown by Israeli farmers. [IPS photo courtesy of Ben-Gurion University]

Wild plants domesticated in Israel

Continued from page 38

"Since 1984, Avinoam Nerd and I have been exploring wild plants neglected by the scientific community," he says. "We've worked with some 45 different species from the African, American, Asian and Australasian continents that have been eaten by indigenous people for generations, testing them in five eco-zones around the Negev desert. Many were domesticated for the first time in Israel, and several, such as the Moroccan argania, for the first time anywhere."

Twenty-two years of investigation have shown that that at least 10 of these plants are potential cash crops of the future, according to the researchers.

"The first 'new' fruit we marketed, following 12 years of work, is the pitaya (sometimes called dragon fruit), a juicy cactus from Latin America with a subtle fruity flavour," Mizrahi says. "Working with dozens of plant technicians and PhDs, we crossbred a variety of pitayas – red, fuchsia, white-fleshed, green-scaled — and produced delicious, superb-quality hybrids. Now grown commercially by Israeli farmers, they are an economic success in Europe."

The pitaya came first because, being cacti, they use one-tenth of the water needed by other plants. Other species, however, are now almost ready for the market as well. The marula, a fruit that grows wild in the southern African bush, has been tamed in plantations on two Negev kibbutzim. Resembling a small, very juicy yellow mango, the sweet, tangy marula can be eaten as fruit, drunk for its juice, or made into ice cream, jello, jam and liqueur. The first commercial crop will ripen this year.

Israeli researchers work with more than 45 plant species from across the continents

Another crop is the Latin American sapodilla, a small egg-shaped fruit whose rough brown skin encloses fragrant reddish-brown flesh with a taste between brown sugar and root beer. A plantation of four-year-old trees on Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael is about to bear its first commercial crop.

Waiting in the wings behind the marula and the sapodilla are six more species at an advanced stage of development, Mizrahi says.

The Ben-Gurion and Volcani teams use the traditional trial-and-error method of crossing and selecting.

"For the time being, we all use this classical approach," Eyal says. "That's how it's done today. But in my laboratory and in labs all over Israel, we're also studying the genes responsible for quality traits. The European market isn't yet ready for genetically modified products, but there's no doubt that transgenic produce lies in the future."

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Brunch ideas for your leftover challah

By SUE EPSTEIN
Special to The CJN

I don't know if you're like me, but I can't bear to throw away leftover bread, especially homemade challah. I put the leftovers in my freezer thinking that I'm going to use them, but somehow or other, it never happens.

But when Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are over, I start going through my freezer and find the little packages of leftover bread and challah – and out come all my bread pudding recipes.

I had never heard of bread pudding when I was growing up in Miami Beach. My grandmother made a "tzibbele kugel" (onion kugel) with her leftover challah, but that was kugel, not bread pudding. It wasn't until I moved to Atlanta as a teenager that I was introduced to the dessert called bread pudding, and I was hooked.

Aside from the varieties of wonderful desserts you can make with your leftover breads, there are also many savoury bread puddings just perfect for a brunch gathering. Try one of them for visitors during the upcoming Shmini Atzeret-Simchat Torah weekend.

A great plus to bread puddings is that recipes don't have to be exact and it's almost impossible to ruin them. If your recipe calls for one type of bread and you only have another type on hand, bread puddings are very forgiving. Don't be afraid to mix different breads together. You can even make a bread pudding in your crock pot!

FRENCH TOAST STRATA

This French toast-inspired dish is delightful enough to impress guests.

1-lb. loaf french bread
1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese
8 large eggs
2½ cups whole milk or half and half
¼ cup maple syrup
1 recipe apple cider syrup (see below) or additional maple syrup

Spray a 9x13-in. baking dish with non-stick spray. Cut bread into 1-in. cubes. Place half the cubes in a prepared dish. Cut cream cheese into cubes and arrange over bread cubes. Add remaining bread cubes.

Combine eggs, milk and maple syrup. Beat well. Pour evenly over bread cubes. Cover and refrigerate for 2-24 hours. Bake at 350 for 40-50 minutes or until centre is set and top is lightly browned. Let stand 10 minutes, serve with Apple Cider Syrup or additional maple syrup. Serves 8-10.

Apple Cider Syrup:
½ cup sugar
1 tbsp. cornstarch
½ tsp. cinnamon
dash nutmeg
dash salt
1 cup apple juice or cider
1 tbsp. lemon juice
2 tbsp. butter

In a small saucepan, stir together sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Add apple and lemon juice. Bring to a boil over medium high heat, stirring. Reduce heat and continue to cook 1-2 minutes longer. Remove from heat and stir in butter. Serve warm over pancakes, waffles or French toast.

CHEESE STRATA

1½ lb. white bread, crust removed
2 lb. grated cheddar cheese
10 eggs, beaten
4 cups milk
1 tsp. dry mustard
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper, preferably white
2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

Cut bread into cubes and mix with cheese. Set aside. Mix together eggs, milk and seasonings. Add bread and cheese mixture and mix well. Let stand for ½ hour.

Preheat oven to 350. Pour strata into 9x13-in. pan set in larger pan of hot water. Bake until brown and puffy, about 45-50 minutes. Serves 8-10.

VEGETABLE CHEESE STRATA WITH MUSHROOMS

2 stalks celery, chopped
1 cup cauliflower florets
1 cup broccoli florets
¼ cup chopped green pepper
3 eggs, beaten
1½ cups milk
1 tbsp. soy sauce
¼ tsp. dry mustard
¼ tsp. pepper
8 slices bread, cubed
1½ cups (6 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese

In a large saucepan, combine celery, cauliflower, broccoli and green pepper; steam until crisp-tender.

In a small bowl, mix eggs, milk, soy sauce, mustard and pepper. Oil a 1½-quart baking dish or souffle dish. In the baking dish, layer ½ the bread cubes, ½ the cheese, and the steamed vegetables. Top with remaining cheese, then remaining bread. Pour egg mixture over layers. Cover and refrigerate 6 hours or overnight. Preheat oven to 350. Bake, uncovered, 1 hour. Serves 6.

City of Vaughan
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2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

PROXY VOTING

WHAT IS A PROXY VOTE?

A Proxy Vote allows any qualified elector to appoint another qualified elector in the same municipality to vote on his/her behalf.

HOW DO I ARRANGE FOR PROXY VOTING?

Call us and we will mail you the prescribed *Appointment of Voting Proxy* form. The person you appoint to act as your voting proxy must complete his/her portion of the *Appointment of Voting Proxy* form and present it **in person** to the Clerk's Department, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan (Maple), Ontario.

The appointment may only be made after Tuesday, October 3, 2006 and must be made on the *Appointment of Voting Proxy* form, available in the Clerk's Department. The form must be certified by the City Clerk and is to be taken to the voting place by the elector appointed. The Clerk's Department will be open Monday to Friday to receive and certify the Appointment of Voting Proxy forms during the following times:

Tuesday, October 3, 2006 to Monday, November 13, 2006 (Voting Day)
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADVANCE VOTING DAYS

Saturday, November 4, 2006 and Sunday, November 5, 2006
NOON to 5:00 p.m.

Monday, November 6 to Thursday, November 9, 2006
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

QUESTIONS?

To find out more about who can vote by proxy and who may be appointed a voting proxy, please call the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504.

JOHN D. LEACH, City Clerk & Returning Officer First Published: October 1, 2006

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

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The chief of staff's warning

By URI DAN
Jerusalem Post

"In a state willing to release 400 prisoners in return for the bodies of three Israeli soldiers – the abduction of an Israeli soldier would be considered a strategic attack."

This was the very clear warning delivered by Chief of General Staff Dan Halutz to the top brass of the Israel Defence Forces Northern Command less than five months before two Israeli soldiers were abducted, and whose fate remains unknown to this day.

The chief of staff's warning in mid-February of this year was based on two facts: Hezbollah's success in contemptuously duping Israel up until the very last moment until the return of the bodies of the three soldiers it had murdered in Oct. 2000; and the warnings and evaluations made in his presence that Hezbollah was planning to once again abduct Israeli soldiers.

It was a special occasion: the first visit to the northern front made by Ehud Olmert after taking over as acting prime minister. Present in the division command post were Commander of the Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Udi Adam, Division Commander Brig.-Gen. Gal Hirsch, along with their assistants and other officers, and they described in minute detail the dangers posed by Hezbollah.

Adam, but not only he, underscored that the most dangerous period when Hezbollah was most likely to attack, including an attempt by them to abduct soldiers, would be in "April to July," because of reasons related to its patrons in Tehran and Damascus.

The chief of staff voiced his warning then. "A thousand Hezbollah militants do not represent a strategic threat to Israel," noted Halutz, but the abduction of a single soldier would represent a "strategic attack."

The acting prime minister was also accompanied by his military secretary Gadi Shamni, and then-defence minister Shaul Mofaz.

In the astounding debate that ensued, even the numbers of the rockets and missiles were reported with what would turn out to be stunning precision in light of what the entire nation later learned during the war – that Hezbollah had many thousands of short-range rockets and a small number of long-range missiles (200 to 250 kilometres) "capable of reaching Caesarea and Hadera."

In other words, more than a month before the elections, the commanding officers on the northern front spelled out detailed cautionary scenarios regarding Hezbollah, its intentions and preparations for war. Any commission that sets out to examine or investigate the minutes of that meeting in the division command post will have to deal with some very difficult questions.

How did it happen that despite the fact that Israel knew everything, it understood nothing?

Bearing in mind the difference in numbers and dimension, this is exactly what happened when Israel was taken by surprise in the Yom Kippur War in Oct. 1973, despite intelligence it possessed about the impending war. At least then, the IDF divisions moved forth in the direction of Damascus and Cairo. In Lebanon, IDF soldiers fought with almost suicidal devotion on the battlefield. As for their senior officers, however, such as division commanders Gal Hirsch and Brig.-Gen. Guy Zur, for example – serious question-marks remain regarding their performance in the war.

The intelligence community and the members of the air force were superbly prepared for the war. But when attempts are made to put spokes in the IDF wheels – as early as the second or third day of the war the Foreign Ministry comes along and proposes "an exit from the war" that has only just begun and is being fought with full force – there you have a recipe for failure.

It's already clear that bringing in the Lebanese army along with the UN to patrol forces along the border with Israel is preparing the ground for the development of the next round of hostilities to be launched by Hezbollah.

It must be remembered that at the time that the IDF, as noted, knew about Hezbollah's belligerent intentions in minute detail, it was already facing the incessant terror offensive of the Qassam rockets launched from the Gaza Strip toward Sderot and the other communities near Gaza.

How then did Ehud Olmert dare to appoint the inexperienced and unqualified Amir Peretz as defence minister during the very period when the IDF top brass and intelligence forces were warning against an additional front opening in the north, as they did during that meeting held in mid-February? The minimum would have been to retain Mofaz, who was more experienced in these subjects than anyone else in the Olmert government, in place as defence minister.

The appointment of Peretz proves that despite the warnings of the chief of staff, not only did those directly responsible in the northern command fall asleep on the job, but among the leaders of the new government, no one took the repeated warnings against Hezbollah with due seriousness. The dangerous hemorrhaging disease among Israel's political and security-military leadership is that everyone knows how to warn, and even to make very precise evaluations, but very few know how to handle the situation itself.

Halutz described Israel's performance as 'mediocre'

Continued from page 1

that Israel won from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War and that Lebanon suddenly claimed after the Israeli withdrawal in 2000.

The UN checked the Lebanese claim and found it baseless, ruling that the status of the area should be decided between Israel and Syria.

Also last week, the United Nations said its peacekeepers in southern Lebanon are empowered to use force against Hezbollah.

The UNIFIL peacekeeper force, which was more than doubled in strength under the UN-brokered ceasefire that ended the war between Israel and the Lebanese militia, published its rules of engagement last week.

"Should the situation present any risk of resumption of hostile activities, UNIFIL rules of engagement allow UN forces to respond as required," the statement said. "UNIFIL commanders have sufficient authority to act forcefully when confronted with hostile activity of any kind."

The UN also said that the Lebanese army, which has deployed alongside UNIFIL in former Hezbollah strongholds, would set up checkpoints and inspect traffic for contraband – an apparent allusion to arms smuggling from nearby Syria.

As day broke Oct. 1 above the orchards and hills of the border, the Hezbollah flags and armed patrols that had been a menacing presence for the past six years were gone. Instead, a Lebanese army helicopter buzzed overhead, and blue-helmeted UN peacekeepers could be seen taking up positions.

"Finally, I can go out with my children without feeling we are being tracked by Hezbollah gunmen," said Eitan Davidi, chair of the Fence Communities Forum. "We won the war."

But there was little Israeli jubilation at the pullout, which coincided with the sombre run-up to Yom Kippur. Israel went to war after Hezbollah killed eight of its soldiers and abducted two in a July 12 raid. The fact that Hezbollah was pushed back from the border fell short of early Israeli promises to crush the militia and retrieve the two hostages.

The loss of 157 Israelis, some of them to thousands of Hezbollah rockets fired across the border, undermined Israel's sense of national security. In a round of media interviews, military chief Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz described Israel's performance during the Lebanon offensive as "mediocre."

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has been at pains to highlight the strategic gains of the war, noting the UN intervention in southern Lebanon and arguing that Israel has boosted its deterrence in the face of Iran and Syria, another Hezbollah patron.

But dissent has reached as deep as Olmert's own cabinet. According to a *Ha'aretz* expose, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, campaigned for an "exit strategy" early in the war. Another cabinet member, Infrastructure Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, predicted that the calm on the Israel-Lebanon border would not last.

"Whoever is banking on us gaining security from the Lebanese army's presence in the south is delusional," Ben-Eliezer, a former defence minister, told Army Radio. "I believe we'll be seeing all the usual sights of a Hezbollah presence very soon."

Kidnapped soldiers healthy, Russian minister says

Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Russian intelligence indicates that kidnapped IDF reservists Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser are in good physical condition, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Oct. 4.

The foreign minister made his comments during a visit by an Israeli delegation, led by MKs Ya'acov Margi (of the Shas party) and Yisrael Hasson (of Israel Beiteinu), to Strasbourg. Goldwasser's wife, Karnit, was also part of the delegation.

The group was joined by Aryeh Ayidor, Israel's ambassador to the European Council, and Boaz Rodkin, the Ministry of Foreign Affair's European section deputy.

According to Lavrov, Russia was making great efforts to gather intelligence on Goldwasser and Regev from Syria and Iran and would pass any information it obtained on to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

The delegation met with the president of the European Council, several parliamentarians, faction heads and other council officials.

During their meeting with the Russian foreign minister, Karnit Goldwasser asked Lavrov to take action to secure the release of the two soldiers.

He reiterated that Russia was involved in UN efforts to bring about the release of Regev and Goldwasser, as well as kidnapped Israeli soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit. He could not, however, elaborate on specific contacts Russia was making.

Karnit Goldwasser mentioned rumours that she had heard the soldiers had been wounded and asked Lavrov to promise he would verify that they had received proper medical care.

Lavrov promised to continue to help, and said he would brief Olmert on the topic during his upcoming visit to Moscow.

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Canadians and Cubans meet on birthright trip

BY JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — When the 11 Cuban members of birthright israel's Canada-Israel Experience (CIE) trip last summer got to their feet to ring in Shabbat with song and dance, the group's 40 Canadian members looked on in awe.

"I think Canadians are a lot more reserved," says Jason Ansel, 23, a participant from Montreal. "It's not that we didn't want to sing and dance – it's just that's not normally how we bring in Shabbat."

This was the first of many cultural encounters group members had on CIE's third annual Canada-Cuba Israel Experience program, which took place this summer, before the start of the school year. For 10 days, young Cubans from Jewish communities around the island toured Israel with young Canadians from Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary, along with 10 Spanish/English/Hebrew-speaking Israel Defence Forces soldiers, who comprised the third component of the special Israel experience program.

"At CIE we want to bring as diverse an experience to birthright israel as possible," says Lorne Klemensberg, director of Israel programs for CIE. "The Cubans add an element to the trip that makes it very dynamic. Cuba is a very unique place with very unique people. It is enlightening for young Canadians and young Israelis to gain an understanding of how Cuban Jews live. At the same time, the Cuban participants gain an understanding that they are part of a much bigger Jewish community. It is a very exciting three-way '*mifgash*' experience."

The idea for the program was born in 2002, when William Miller, a 30-year-old Jewish community leader from Havana, first heard about birthright israel. "We wanted to participate very badly, but because of the economic situation in Cuba we weren't able to pay for our share of the costs," he says.

Each country that participates in birthright israel pays one-third of the cost, with the other two-thirds covered by philanthropic dollars and the government of Israel. That's where Canada stepped in.

The Cuban Jewish community already had a long-standing relationship with the Canadian Jewish community, ever since the United States imposed an embargo against Cuba in 1962. "It is much more difficult for the American Jewish community to help the Cuban Jewish community," says Klemensberg. "That's how it came to be that the Canadian Jewish community ended up 'adopting' the Cuban one."

What started as a Canadian Jewish campaign to send kosher food containers for the High Holy Days to Cuba has blossomed into Canada becoming the Cuban community's primary Jewish lifeline. "Our relationship with Canada is very important to us," says Miller. "Nowhere is this more true than with the funding assistance the Canadian community gives us so that we are able to participate in birthright israel.

Since the first Canada-Cuba Israel Experience program in 2003, a total of 40 Jewish youths from Cuba have had the opportunity to visit Israel.

A group of birthright israel alumni from Cuba came to Canada last September for a leadership course, and last year, a group of 13 birthright israel alumni from Canada visited Cuba. "It was the single most dynamic followup program we have ever had," says Klemensberg.

"It was a really amazing opportunity for both of us," adds Miller. "It is very important for us to show the Canadians the Jewish life that we have in Cuba, and for us to learn about Jewish life in Canada. It's great to learn and share experiences together."

Birthright israel participant Vivian Salomon, 20, from Vancouver, couldn't agree more. For Salomon, the meeting with the Cubans has been the highlight of her Israel experience. "Meeting the Cubans has been really fascinating. They are truly amazing people," says Salomon, a fourth-year psychology major at the University of British Columbia. "I have learned so much from them."

Indeed, there is a lot to be learned about Cuban Jewry, which celebrates its centennial this year. The first official Jewish congregation was founded in 1906. Since then, Jewish life in Cuba has been marked by upheaval after upheaval.

The Jewish population reached its peak of 15,000 just before the revolution in 1959, when Fidel Castro became the country's prime minister. When Castro came into power, approximately 94 per cent of Cuba's Jews fled.

> ***'The Jewish community in Cuba is very special'***

Some were able to move to Israel, thanks to diplomatic efforts of the Canadian government. Then, in the early 1990s, Operation Cigar was launched and within a five-year period, more than 400 Cuban Jews secretly immigrated to Israel, as well.

Around the same time, Jewish life – which like all religious life in Cuba, had been largely restricted for three decades – was jump-started by the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), which since 1992 has sent rabbis and community organizers to help re-educate the existing Jewish population, perform ceremonies and otherwise play an instrumental role in rebuilding Cuba's Jewish life.

Cuba's current Jewish population numbers around 1,500, with the vast majority of Jews – at least 90 per cent – living in Havana. Small Jewish communities also exist in Caibarien, Camaguey, Guantanamo, Santa Clara and Sancti Spiritus.

"The Jewish community in Cuba is very special," says Miller. "Rebuilding it has not been easy, but the work we are doing is very important because we are trying to keep Jewish life alive."

"We work very hard to keep our Jewish traditions in Cuba," adds 21-year-old trip '*madrich*' Amed Ragas, originally from Camaguey. "We lost it for so many years, so we are working hard not to lose it again."

According to Ragas, Jewish observance is still difficult in Cuba. For starters, it is nearly impossible to be kosher, due to the lack of availability of kosher food. "While it's true that we cannot be Orthodox, it's also true that we are a great community. Everybody knows each other and takes care of each other," he says.

He added that the country's youth movement and women's organization, as well as each district's organization, works together in a tightknit network for the betterment of all Cuban Jewry. "I belong to a great people, with our own unique traditions and customs. I am very proud to be a Cuban Jew."

For Ragas, meeting the Canadians has highlighted the importance of his community's efforts. "I think a lot of Canadians take Jewish observance for granted," he says. "Many of them choose an unobservant lifestyle, and this is not a choice for us in Cuba, where we really cherish every possible element of observance.

"On the other hand," he says, "Canadians are very Zionistic. Their connection to Israel is very strong, and this is something that we, being more isolated, lack.

"Where one of our communities is stronger, the other is weaker, and vice-versa. This is how we learn from each other."

This is not to say that Zionism is not a part of Cuban Jewry. "Israel is a great, great country," says Ragas. "I feel like I have a place in this country and this country has a place in me. Being here – especially with the Canadians – makes me realize that I am part of something bigger."

Maria Tavoado-Dila, 22, from Guantanamo, says "it has been very nice to meet the Canadians. We have shared a lot with them. They are very curious about our history and our Jewish experience in Cuba, and they are very open about their lives and their communities in Canada.

"It is amazing being in Israel with them, and to meet Israelis, too. Being with Jews from all over the world somehow makes me feel more Jewish."

The combined Canadian, Cuban group at the Hall of Independence in Tel Aviv. [Jenny Hazan photo]

Maurice Fernandez, 18, from Havana, who is clad in a red and white "Canada" T-shirt and baseball cap, says: "We are really sharing this experience of Israel together. Now the Canadians say they want to come to Cuba to visit us, and we want to come to Canada to visit them!"

The feelings are mutual. "Meeting the Cubans has been this great mix of culture," says Jesse Otto, 24, from Toronto. "We are seeing Israel not just through our own eyes, but from Cuban Jewish eyes, as well."

Ansel says: "We don't speak Spanish and they barely speak English. But the first time we sang in Hebrew, we sang together. It was the first time that we looked at each other and truly understood each other without that translator in the middle.

"I am amazed that such different people from such different places with such different backgrounds can come together with one thing in common: being Jewish," says Salomon. "We are so different in so many ways, but we all agree on one thing: our love for Israel.

Elie Wiesel granted honorary knighthood by British gov't

By JONNY PAUL
The Jerusalem Post

LONDON — Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, the author, academic and human rights campaigner, is to be presented with an honorary knighthood by the British government next month for his services to Holocaust education in the United Kingdom.

Wiesel will be presented with the award by Foreign Secretary Margaret Becket at a special ceremony on Nov. 30, at the Foreign Office in London.

Following the award, Wiesel, who is the vice chair of the Yad Vashem Council, as well as chair of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, will be guest of honour at a special dinner hosted by Yad Vashem UK.

On learning of the award, Wiesel said: "I am grateful for the honour and hope it will help us serve the noble and urgent cause of remembrance."

After surviving Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps, Wiesel has dedicated his life to ensuring that the memory of the Holocaust is never forgotten. He is the author of 36 educational works dealing with Judaism, the Holocaust and the fight against racism.

In 1986 he received the Nobel Peace Prize. He was also awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour in 1985 and established the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity in 1987.

Its mission is to advance the cause of human rights and peace throughout the world by creating a new forum for the discussion of urgent ethical issues confronting humankind.

Possibly one of the greatest post-Holocaust writers, Wiesel has given the world an insight into the horrors of the Nazi regime. His more than 45 books have won numerous awards. His first book, written in 1958, the internationally acclaimed *La Nuit* (*Night*), details his own experience in the death camps and has become arguably the most powerful piece of Holocaust literature ever published and is used as an educational tool in schools across the United Kingdom.

After the war, he settled in France and studied at the Sorbonne. He wrote for French and Israeli newspapers and began his work as a writer. In 1956 he moved to the United States and was naturalized in 1963. He taught at City College, New York and later became a professor of humanities at Boston University.

Jeffrey Pinnick, chair of Yad Vashem UK, said: "Elie Wiesel's life has been dedicated to keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive and we are thrilled that the British government has recognized his unique and far reaching contribution in the UK.

"No other individual has played such an influential role in ensuring that the next generation can learn from the lessons of the Holocaust. Yad Vashem UK feels privileged to work alongside such an inspirational and exceptional individual," he added.

The Yad Vashem UK Foundation's mission is to ensure that the tragedy of the Holocaust is never forgotten, honour the memory of those who perished and to impart the legacy of the Holocaust to shape a more humane future.

The foundation is involved in remembrance and in the field of informal education. It organizes day visits to Auschwitz and works closely with educators at Jewish schools and youth movements across the United Kingdom.

It has just launched its Guardian of the Memory campaign, which seeks to enlist the support of every Jewish person in the United Kingdom, as well as other faiths, to become a guardian of a victim of the Holocaust to ensure that each victim will never be forgotten.

Cop refuses to guard Israeli embassy

By GEORGE CONGER
Jerusalem Post

LONDON — London's top cop has launched an investigation into last week's press reports of a Muslim policeman being excused duty from guarding the Israeli embassy on moral grounds.

Police constable Alexander Omar Basha, a member of the Metropolitan Police's Diplomatic Protection Group, was reassigned after he refused to guard Israel's embassy in Kensington, West London.

Basha told his superiors he objected to the Israeli bombing campaign against Hezbollah in south Lebanon that caused the deaths of over a 1,000 Muslims, and had participated in anti-war protests, the *Sun* reported.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ian Blair promised an "urgent review" of the incident after the *Sun*, broke the story.

In a statement to the BBC, however, the Association of Muslim Police stated Basha had requested reassignment because he had concerns over Lebanese family members and was perturbed guarding the embassy during this summer's 34-day war in south Lebanon.

"This is an issue around the welfare of a particular officer," AMP spokesperson Superintendent Dal Babu said on behalf of the constable, and was not religiously motivated.

Former Flying Squad commander John O'Connor called Basha's reassignment "the beginning of the end for British policing."

"The Metropolitan Police are setting a precedent they will come to bitterly regret. Top brass granted his wish, as they were probably frightened of being accused of racism. But what they've done is an insult to the Jewish community," he told the *Sun*.

Dubbed the "PC PC" (politically correct police commissioner) by his critics, Blair last week backed a proposal calling for consultation with a panel of Muslim leaders before mounting counter-terrorist operations. The Muslim leaders, who must undergo security checks, will advise the police on the potential political consequences of terrorist interdiction raids upon London's Muslim immigrant communities.

The opening of police intelligence briefings to members of the Muslim community comes at the same time as the first reorganization of the security services since the start of the war on terror five years ago. On Oct. 2, the Metropolitan Police announced the merger of the Special Branch and Anti-Terrorism Branch to form a 1,500-man Counter Terrorism Command.

The head of the new force, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Peter Clarke stated the CT Command would "do everything in our power to ensure that the capital becomes an even more hostile environment for terrorists."

"Everyone who has worked in the Met's Special Branch and Anti-Terrorist Branch can justly be proud of their achievements in tackling the terrorist threat over many decades. Whether that threat has come from the United Kingdom or elsewhere, the response has always been robust, and with total respect for the rule of law; this will continue," he said.

Correction

The headline of the column "CHAT participating in archeology dig" (*CJN*, Oct. 5) was incorrect. The possibility of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto participating in an archeological dig in Tel Dor, Israel, was discussed in the column; however, CHAT has decided not go ahead with the project. The *CJN* regrets the error.

Israel Briefs

Group helps survivors

The Claims Conference is making some 12,000 payments of about $250 (US) each to Holocaust survivors affected by Hezbollah attacks in northern Israel over the summer. Details are available at www.claimscon.org.

Meridor next envoy to U.S.

Israel named the former chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Sallai Meridor, as its next ambassador to the United States. Meridor will succeed Daniel Ayalon when Ayalon ends his four-year tenure in Washington, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office said. The handover is expected to take place in January.

Nobel winner at Hebrew U

The winner of this year's Nobel Prize in chemistry is a visiting professor at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The university congratulated Roger Kornberg for his win in recognition of his research into how genes are copied. Kornberg, a professor of structural biology at Stanford University, is also a fellow at Hebrew U's department of biological chemistry.

Outpost expansions alleged

An Israeli watchdog group accused Israelis in the West Bank of expanding outposts "under cover" of the Lebanon war. Peace Now said 31 outposts, built without government authorization, were expanded this summer while Israeli authorities were focused on war with Hezbollah. The Yesha council denied the charge, and accused Peace Now of disgracing the memory of 11 soldiers from the West Bank killed fighting in Lebanon. Cabinet members such as Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Defence Minister Amir Peretz have recently called for a crackdown against building outposts so as to maintain Israel's diplomatic credibility.

Ukrainian leader to visit

Ukrainian President Viktor Yuschenko will visit Israel in early November. Yuschenko, who is expected to arrive Nov. 7, said his country is ready to assist Israel in developing satellites and missiles. "We were among the developers of the Sputnik in the days of the former Soviet Union, and we have a long-range missile industry and much knowledge that we can share with Israel. I am a great believer in relations with Israel," Yuschenko said.

Oil found near Dead Sea

Prospectors have found a small amount of oil near the Dead Sea. Ginko, an Israeli oil exploration company, said the site discovered last week could yield 100 to 150 barrels a day, a small amount, but there were signs of other untapped oil traps nearby.

Minister sees more war

An Israeli cabinet minister said another war with Hezbollah could be imminent. Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, Israel's national infrastructure minister and a former defence minister, said the deployment of UN peacekeepers and the Lebanese army in former Hezbollah strongholds was no guarantee the current quiet would hold. "I predict another war with Hezbollah within months," he told Israel Radio. "We must not take lightly Hezbollah's rhetoric about the Lebanese army's presence in southern Lebanon being no guarantee of security for Israel. We should rehabilitate the Israel Defense Forces and the home front as fast as possible."

New operating orders

Israeli soldiers who feel threatened by Lebanese demonstrators along the northern border will be allowed to open fire in self-defence, a high-ranking officer said. According to the officer, the IDF Operations Directorate formulated new orders for forces stationed along the border. "There are new procedures for opening fire, and if there are demonstrations that endanger soldiers, they can shoot at the feet of the main inciter," the officer said. "If there are circumstances that endanger soldiers, then they can open fire to remove the risk."

Olmert, Bush to meet

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert will meet U.S. President George W. Bush in Washington in November. Olmert, who met in Jerusalem last Wednesday with Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, told a Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations' conference call that he would meet Bush on his way to Los Angeles for the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities, which slated for Nov. 12 to15.

– *with files from JTA*

Books & Authors

Anti-Semitism pervaded Polish society after WWII

Fear: Anti-Semitism in Poland After Auschwitz **by Jan Gross, Random House.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

When Jewish survivors returned to their home towns in Poland after World War II, they were often greeted with undisguised hostility.

"So, you are still alive," their Catholic neighbours would say acidly, dropping unambiguous hints that they should leave immediately, or else.

Jan Gross

Jews at the receiving end of this verbal abuse must have been shocked, the prevalence of anti-Semitism in Poland notwithstanding. Given the fact that 90 per cent of Polish Jewry had been annihilated during the Holocaust, Jews may have expected a kinder, gentler reception.

But this was not to be. A pogrom broke out in Krakow on Aug. 11, 1945, barely three months after the war, and less than a year later, the bloodiest pogrom in 20th-century peacetime Europe erupted in the city of Kielce.

Why did Poles exhibit such murderous animosity toward a people who had suffered so terribly at the hands of their common Nazi enemy?

Jan Gross, a Princeton University historian originally from Poland, grapples with this important question in *Fear: Anti-Semitism in Poland After Auschwitz*. It is a book that is bound to reignite an old debate about the contentious relationship between Jews and Poles.

But Gross is well placed to examine this controversial and still relevant issue. His previous work, *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*, published in 2001, touched a raw nerve in his native land.

Fear, a polemic of fierce, no-holds-barred honesty backed by rigorous research, will doubtless stir debate as well.

He argues that traditional anti-Semitism aside, the upsurge of anti-Jewish animus in Poland after 1945 was essentially caused by two factors. The first turned on the ownership of Jewish property, and the second on Jewish responsibility for the Communist takeover.

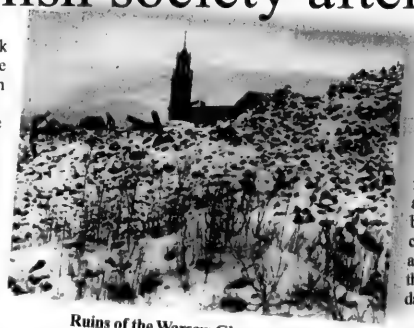
During the German occupation, he writes, Poles "grabbed" as much as they could of material goods left behind by Jews who had either left voluntarily or been deported by the Nazis.

"Jews were also directly murdered by Poles who wanted to acquire their property," he adds. "Mass killings, of which the murder in Jedwabne was but one episode, were accompanied by widespread and thorough plunder of Jewish property."

Occasionally, Jews entrusted their property to what they believed were trustworthy neighbours, only to discover that they could not reclaim it after the war. Poles who had profited from these arrangements were none too pleased when Jews returned to claim their properties, Gross suggests.

The Polish government was complicit in the theft of property, too.

Decrees and regulations issued in 1945 temporarily transferred "abandoned" Jewish – and ethnic German – property to state ownership. Much of this property has yet to be given back to its rightful owners.



Ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto in 1946

The sovietization of Poland, which brought Communist rule to a deeply Catholic nation, was another pivotal factor in fanning the flames of anti-Semitism. Poles who blamed Poland's descent into communism on Jews customarily talked about *zydokomuna*, the supposed link between Judaism and communism.

This accusation was grounded in unadulterated ignorance, Gross says. The estimated proportion of Jews in the Polish Communist Party throughout the 1930s was about 25 per cent. "This would mean that at the moment of [its] greatest popularity, some 7,000 to 7,500 Jews – one-fifth of one per cent of the total Jewish population at the time – were involved," he observes.

Most Jews, however, supported mainstream political parties. "The evidence shows that not only were the overwhelming number of Jews not Communist supporters but the vast majority of Communist voters were not Jews."

During the postwar era, when Poland was under the sway of communism, Jewish Communists held important governmental positions. Yet these deracinated individuals, who had severed their connections with the Jewish community, were gradually removed in a series of purges to improve the party's image in the eyes of ordinary Poles.

The future of these Communists of Jewish origin was perennially uncertain. As Gross puts it, "No matter how far they ascended, they could always be reminded, by friend and foe alike, that they were Jewish."

Anti-Semitism, of course, was not officially part of communist ideology. But in the ideal world envisaged by communism, ethnic identification would be superfluous and Jews would cease to exist as a separate entity.

As Gross points out, Polish Communists failed miserably to eradicate ethnic nationalism. But they fulfilled the dream of Polish racists by creating an ethnically pure state, all but bereft of minorities such as Jews, Germans and Ukrainians.

The Communist party, which expediently recruited prewar fascists to its ranks, achieved this objective by encouraging non-Poles to emigrate and by downplaying anti-Jewish violence in the immediate aftermath of the war.

By the end of 1945, the Jewish population of Poland peaked at 200,000, compared to 3.3 million in 1939. During this unstable period, when Poland was convulsed by a civil war, Jews were regularly attacked. Gross estimates that perhaps as many as 1,500 Jews were killed in such random incidents. Only truly assimilated Jews were shielded from this wave of violence.

The first postwar pogrom, in Rzeszow, took place on June 12, 1945, but it was eclipsed by a pogrom in Kielce on July 4, 1946. Claiming the lives of more than 40 Jews, it was the high-water mark in anti-Semitic violence in Poland. Some 60 Poles were tried for their complicity in the affair, but the Polish government otherwise downplayed it.

Prior to the Kielce pogrom, the primate of Poland, Cardinal August Hlond, was approached at least twice by Jews to issue a pastoral letter or statement condemning anti-Semitism. But he refused. Only the bishop of Czestochowa, Teodor Kubina, spoke up forcefully against anti-Semitism.

Cardinal Hlond's attitude should not have been too surprising. Jan Karski, a sympathetic Polish official who secretly visited the wartime Warsaw Ghetto, wrote in a report submitted to the Polish government-in-exile in London that Nazi policies toward Jews found support in "a broad segment of Polish society."

No wonder anti-Semitism was such a potent factor in Poland after the Nazis had been defeated.

In *Fear*, Gross delineates this phenomenon with fearless precision.

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'You are one thought away from a good feeling'

Life Coach Corner

Judy Siblin Librach

What do the happiest people have in common? Well, they stay positive, no matter what. They have a joyful attitude. They stay in the present moment and stop worrying about what has happened in the past and what is going to happen in the future. They smile a lot and laugh even more. They are in tune with their values. They help others and are kind.

Happiness and kindness often go hand in hand. When you are kind, compassionate and loving to others, you feel good.

As M. J. Ryan states in her book *The Happiness Makeover*, "Wanting to bring happiness or pleasure to someone else rather than from a sense of obligation – feels so good. We experience in ourselves the good feelings of the other person."

So why does happiness elude so many people? What I notice as a life coach is that people become stuck in their thinking. As author James Mann says, "All that you achieve and all that you fail to achieve is a direct result of your own thoughts." Or, as psychologist Sheila Krystal puts it: "You are one thought away from a good feeling."

So how do we change negative, self-defeating thoughts into positive, optimistic and joyful ones?

We can choose to see things in a more positive light. We really do direct our own thoughts, and we can choose the happier feeling by changing the words we say to ourselves.

Joyful people are kind to themselves. They like themselves and are full of hope and optimism. Studies show that optimists live longer. Indeed the Mayo Clinic proved that a rosy outlook can extend your life for up to 10 years.

Also happy people live in the present and enjoy every moment to the full. Haven't you noticed that when you are engaged in something you love, with people you love, and you are just experiencing life simply, like a child at play, you immediately return to that natural state of happiness?

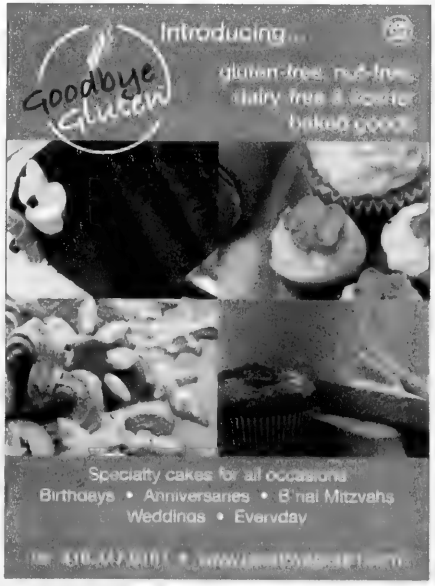
In *You Can Be Happy, No Matter What*, Richard Carlson says, "Perhaps it happened while you were sitting in front of a fireplace, taking a walk or looking at a beautiful sunset – healthy functioning is present whenever you feel wonderful for no particular reason. The important point is that the fireplace or the activity didn't cause your good feeling. What happened was you temporarily relaxed, cleared your mind of concerns and simply took a few moments to enjoy your life."

To create more happiness in our lives, here are some joy boosters that never fail.

- Celebrate your unique gifts and talents. Where do you shine? How can you make the world a better place every day by utilizing those gifts and serving others?
- Always look for the good. It may take some practice at first, but you will will feel happier when you try to look for the good in every situation.
- Make sure you are living your values.
- Surround yourself with positive, optimistic people.
- Don't be attached to the outcome. Stay open to new ways of looking at things.
- Celebrate your family and friends and the people who bring joy to your life.
- Think of things that make you happy and recreate the memory – like laughing with a friend or seeing a gorgeous sunset. The brain can't differentiate between remembering the moment and the moment itself, so you will still experience that rush of good feeling as if it were happening again.
- Appreciate what you have, and don't say, "I'll be happy when I have this or that." Happiness comes from within, from right now. And you can learn with practice to tap into the happiness gene whenever you wish.
- Put love in your heart and be kind to others.
- Laugh and use humour whenever possible.

And finally remember, "Joy is what happens to us when we recognize how great things really are!"

Judy Siblin-Librach is an Adler-trained coach. Website: www.findingyourbliss.com; e-mail: judyelle@ican.net



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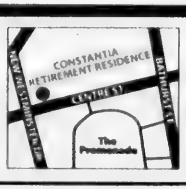

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Arts & Travel

Illusionist's childhood dreams do come true

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Illusionist Brad Ross has been intrigued by magic since he took a class as a preschooler in New Jersey.

Now 25, Ross said that by age 12 he had dubbed himself Mr. Magic, and placed an ad in a Scotch Plains, N.J. newspaper.

"This led to performances at children's birthday parties, local town events and charity shows," said Ross, who is appearing in the Canadian debut of Disney Live's *Mickey's Magic Show*, at the Hummingbird Centre, Oct. 19 to 22.

"From the beginning my goal was to take the audience on a journey of wonder and curiosity; " Ross said in a phone interview while on tour in Las Vegas. Ross is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the Society of American Magicians and the International Magicians Society.

He first visited Las Vegas at age 13 and saw a Siegfried and Roy show. "They amazed me. I had always dreamed of becoming an illusionist, but I never imagined I could be in a show as grand as that."

The attraction of magic, Ross said, was that it was "something I could do that gave me a spot. I am the youngest of three brothers and I felt the need to shine."

Lucky for him, he said, his father, an orthodontist, always encouraged him to do what he enjoys doing. "He wanted me to choose a job that I loved, and believe me, there is nothing greater than waking up and going to the theatre.

"I always remind him that I'm following in the footsteps of Houdini and David Copperfield, two famous Jewish magicians. Like them, I always want to perform magic on a large scale."

Illusion and magic are one and the same, he said, "but just like a cardiologist is a doctor who specializes in the heart, I am a magician who specializes in illusion. I combine music, choreography and lighting to make my show a theatrical production.

"I interact directly with the audience and bring them on stage. When you can invite moms, dads and kids to come on stage and assist, it engages them in the show and gives them an unforgettable experience in magic."

In order to bring magic to as many kids as possible, Ross founded New Jersey's local chapter of Project Magic, a charity program started by David Copperfield, that brings magic to hospitals.

He also headlines at a number of fundraisers for such organizations as the AIDS Foundation, American Cancer Society, Juvenile Diabetes and Make-A-Wish-Foundation.

"I have been given the gift to make people smile and laugh. I want to show people that no matter how hard things get, no matter how scary or dangerous our world becomes, if we take a moment to use our imagination and believe in magic, we can escape to a world where anything can happen."

Tickets are available at 416•872•2262; ticketmaster online or at the Hummingbird box office.

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Arts & Travel

Film documents international diplomatic incident caused by artwork

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

On Jan. 16, 2004, Israel's ambassador to Sweden, Zvi Mazel, created an international diplomatic flap when he physically attacked an unusual art exhibit at the Museum of National Antiquities in Stockholm.

The work, *Snow White and the Madness of Truth*, was by Israeli artist Dror Feiler and his Swedish wife, Gunilla Skold Feiler.

The unconventional installation showed a boat in a rectangular basin, filled with red fluid, carrying a glamorous photograph of Hanadi Jaradat, a Palestinian suicide bomber and mother of two who killed 22 Jews and Arabs in a Haifa restaurant in October 2003.

The exhibit was linked to a forthcoming conference on genocide sponsored by Sweden and slated to be attended by Israel.

When Mazel saw it, he went ballistic. He ripped out electrical wires attached to the exhibit and tossed a spotlight into the basin. Mazel was summoned to the Swedish foreign ministry to be reprimanded, but Israel's prime minister at the time, Ariel Sharon, went out of his way to thank Mazel for having stood up to what he called the rising tide of anti-Semitism in Europe.

Two Swedish filmmakers, Erik Pauser and Thomas Nordenstad, have made a documentary about that event. *Snow White and the Ambassador* will be screened on Oct. 21 at the Goethe Institut as part of the sixth annual Toronto Diaspora Accented Cinema Film Festival.

The nearly one-hour film contains footage of that actual incident, interviews with Mazel and Feiler and news clips of comments, pro and con, from ordinary Swedes.

Mazel accuses the Feilers of glorifying Jaradat, trying to wash away her sin, encouraging mass murder and insulting the memory of Holocaust victims. He adds that the installation is in poor taste, primitive and politically provocative.

In a painfully embarrassing scene, the director of the museum pleads with Mazel to leave the premises. As he departs in a huff, Mazel claims that the installation will touch off "a second Holocaust."

Feiler, a resident of Stockholm who opposes Israel's occupation of the West Bank and considers Israel an "apartheid state," protests that Mazel does not understand the exhibit and crossed a line in attacking his right to express himself.

In further comments, Feiler insists that the fluid in the basin represents the blood of Jaradat's victims and says that, while he understands what motivated her, he does not "accept" what she did.

To round out the film, Pauser and Nordenstad insert snippets of interviews with Swedes who either liked or disliked the exhibit. A Holocaust survivor voices indignation, while another person pronounces it "very moving and thoughtful."

Meanwhile, the Swedish foreign minister rebukes Mazel, while Sharon talks about his antipathy toward anti-Semitism.

Given the wide range of views, *Snow White and the Ambassador* seems balanced. But on closer examination, it is sympathetic to the Feilers and hostile to Israel.

Without a shred of evidence, the filmmakers glibly suggest that Mazel's attack was "pre-planned" rather than simply impulsive. Mazel, rightly, urges the interviewer not to be misled by conspiracy theories.

Pauser and Nordenstad also claim that Mazel "destroyed" the installation. He did nothing of the kind.

As well, they sneak in extraneous footage from a pro-Palestinian film, *Route 181*, and give the Israeli co-director, Eyal Silvan, free rein to say that Israel is a "criminal state."

By injecting this jarring, off-topic partisan political note into the movie, they reveal their real agenda: demonizing Israel and ridiculing Mazel.

The Shvitz documents a vanishing culture

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

The nostalgic hit of the Jewish film festival circuit, including the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, of a number of years ago, *The Shvitz* has finally come to DVD.

The film, largely shot in black and white, describes the joys and pleasures of the old-fashioned steam baths and chronicles the tale of one of the last remaining public steam baths in New York.

This documentary takes the viewers behind the bathhouse doors and looks at the camaraderie of the people who frequented the shvitz on a regular basis. Many of the people who enjoyed going to the shvitz believed strongly in the therapeutic qualities of the steam, while others saw it as an opportunity to get away from the boredom of everyday life and get out of the house and enjoy a little time with their pals.

We see a lot of old timers who have spent decades enjoying the rejuvenating qualities of the shvitz. They lament the decline of these public bath houses and the quickly disappearing culture that enjoyed such simple pleasures.

The director catches the essence of a part of the culture of a previous generation. The immigrants from eastern Europe brought the shvitz with them when they came to America in the late 19th and early 20th century. For many years, going to the shvitz was one of their cherished activities, but now the whole culture is vanishing. There are few places left where the guys can get together to relax, have a few drinks, play cards and enjoy the revitalizing effects of the shvitz.

It's nostalgic and it's a look at another part of our world that will soon be gone forever.

Another film with a Jewish theme was recently released on DVD. *When Do We Eat?* is a comedy with an edge. Some people may find it a bit offensive and the characters stereotyped, but others may find it very funny.

It is the story of a dysfunctional Jewish American family. The father is a child of Holocaust survivors and his children have all gone their own way. One son has become a Chassid; a daughter is a sexual surrogate; while another daughter is gay. The youngest son is into drugs and slips some ecstasy into his father's wine cup before the Passover seder.

The results are often hilarious, as the father, who prides himself on running the fastest seder in the west, tries to keep his family together on this momentous evening for Jewish families.

When Do We Eat? stars Michael Lerner, Lesley Ann Warren and Jack Klugman. I can't give it a full recommendation, because it has a number of flaws, but I certainly found parts of it very funny. Check it out for yourself.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

SABINA CITRON LIKENED TO EMILE ZOLA FOR NEW BOOK ON CHRISTIAN ANTI-SEMITISM

Israeli Knesset member **Natan Sharansky** and other dignitaries and public figures gathered recently at Jerusalem's King David Citadel Hotel for the launch of **Sabina Citron**'s new book *The Indictment*, published by the Israeli company Gefen.

Citron, an Auschwitz survivor and author formerly of Toronto, was lauded for taking a fearless look at Christian anti-Semitism and how it creates a receptive audience for the Arab propaganda war on Israel. **Yoram Ettinger**, the Israeli ambassador to Houston, called her book "a straight shooter, shedding light on western hypocrisy."

Yechiel Leiter, senior policy analyst at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and former chief of staff to **Benjamin Netanyahu**, called *The Indictment* a "tour de force and a courageous effort for justice" and compared Citron to **Emile Zola** in her willingness to speak out.

Citron, who personally pursued Nazi propagandist **Ernst Zundel** in the Canadian courts, now lives in Jerusalem. For more about her book, please visit the website www.israelbooks.com.

* * *

Argentine Film: *Derecho de Familia* (*Family Law*), a recent award-winning film by Argentine director **Daniel Burman**, is scheduled for two screenings as part of this year's Toronto International Latin Film Festival, Oct. 13 through 21.

The 102-minute comedy-drama is the third in a trilogy by Burman on the theme of family relations, Jewish identity and the ever-present city of Buenos Aires. It's being shown with English subtitles at the Royal Cinema, 608 College St. (4 blocks west of Bathurst) on Sunday, Oct. 15, 9:30 p.m. and on Thursday, Oct. 19, 9:30 p.m. $10. www.tilff.com

* * *

The Jew in Film & TV: The Image of the Jew in Film and Television is a six-week course presented by **Shlomo Schwartzberg**, former programming director of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival. The course examines the depictions of Jewish characters in the movies from the first talkie, *The Jazz Singer*, onward, and in television from its inception.

"It will be a fun, provocative and complex look at how Hollywood has seen and portrayed Jews over the years," Schwartzberg said. The course runs at the Nadal JCC, Monday evenings, Oct. 16 through Nov. 20, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The cost is $108 or $90 for members. 416-924-6211, ext. 111. Information only, ext. 606.

* * *

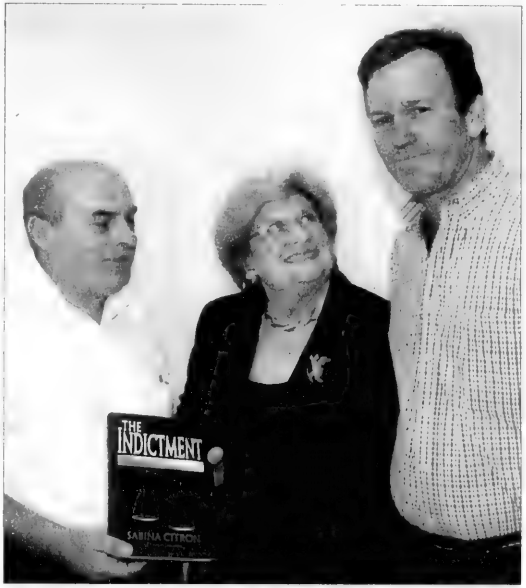
Jason Robert Brown in Concert: Producers **Michael Rubinoff** and **Mark Selby** present an evening with composer **Jason Robert Brown** and his band, the **Caucasian Rhythm Kings**, and special guests. A Tony award-winner, Brown has been called "one of Broadway's smartest and most sophisticated songwriters since **Stephen Sondheim**." Rubinoff describes the evening as "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see Brown in an intimate concert environment." Tickets $50; VIP packages including post-show reception, $125. Monday Oct. 16, 8 p.m. Glenn Gould Studio, CBC Broadcasting Centre, 250 Front St. W. 416-205-5555. www.glenngouldstudio.com

* * *

Music in Exile: Founded in 2002, the ARC Musical Ensemble (Artists of The Royal Conservatory) is "dedicated to exploring and performing works that, through historical circumstance, musical fashion or plain serendipity, have been neglected and marginalized."

ARC explores music of Jewish composers exiled by the Nazis in two concerts at the Glenn Gould Studio, CBC Building, Oct. 14 and 15, 8 p.m. Adults $20.

ARC's Music in Exile weekend also features a lecture by German musicologist **Albrecht Dumling** on the German composers who remained uninvolved with the German musical status quo; and a talk by **Bret Werb** of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on *We Will Never Die*, a huge dramatic pageant staged in America in 1943 by playwright **Ben Hecht** to raise public awareness of the mass murder of the European Jews. Free admission to lectures. Please call 416-205-5555 for details.



Natan Sharansky, left, and Gefen publishing head, Ilan Greenfield, pose with Sabina Citron at the launch of her book *The Indictment* in Jerusalem.

ARC recently released *On the Threshold of Hope*, a CD featuring the rare chamber music of **Mieczyslaw Weinberg**, a musician who fled Warsaw in 1939, spent most of his life in Moscow, and is considered one of the three most eminent Russian composers.

The CD was recorded as part of a three-CD contract signed with Sony BMG Masterworks for international distribution on the prestigious RCA Red Seal classical label. "Recording our first CD has been a wonderful, and artistically very rewarding experience for the entire ensemble," said **Simon Wynberg**, the ensemble's artistic director.

* * *

Travellers in Concert: The Koffler School of Music presents **The Travellers**, celebrating the life and music of folk legend **Pete Seeger**. Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. $30 ($35 at the door). Tuesday, Oct. 24, 8 p.m. 416-636-1880, ext. 228. E-mail, kofflermusic@bjcc.ca.

Conan Doyle enthusiasts meet in Toronto

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

It's "elementary" that Toronto lawyer, author and "bootmaker" Clifford Goldfarb would be centrally involved in organizing the Conan Doyle conference that opens in Toronto next week.

A fan of Arthur Conan Doyle since his youth, Goldfarb is vice-chair of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library and former president of the Bootmakers of Toronto, a national Sherlock Holmes society. His book *The Great Shadow*, a study of Conan Doyle's stories set in the Napoleonic era, was published 10 years ago.

The library's Arthur Conan Doyle Room has the ambience of a cozy Victorian parlour and holds the world's only library collection devoted to the famed British writer, who lived from 1859 to 1930. Since the collection is now 35 years old, the conference will focus on Conan Doyle at 35 when he was at the height of his creative powers.

While the literary detective Sherlock Holmes remains by far the most popular and famous of the Edinburgh-born writer's creations, he also penned science fiction, poetry, histories and historical fiction, including numerous stories relating to the Napoleonic Wars.

"Conan Doyle had a real fascination with the character of Napoleon and the battle of Waterloo," Goldfarb said during a recent interview in the ACD Room. "He once said of Napoleon, 'He was either the greatest hero or the greatest scoundrel who ever lived. Of the adjective alone can I be sure.'"

Conan Doyle's historical fiction includes *The White Company*, a tale of the Crusades: "I think it was the bestselling historical novel of all time, after *Ivanhoe* by Walter Scott," Goldfarb said. He also penned a multi-volumed history of the First Great War, later known as World War I.

An avid spiritualist, Conan Doyle participated in a seance conducted by Louis Benjamin, a local medium, during his second visit to Toronto in 1922. The visiting celebrity was especially intrigued because Benjamin was Jewish, related Goldfarb, who has co-written several papers on Jewish characters and references in the Sherlock Holmes stories.

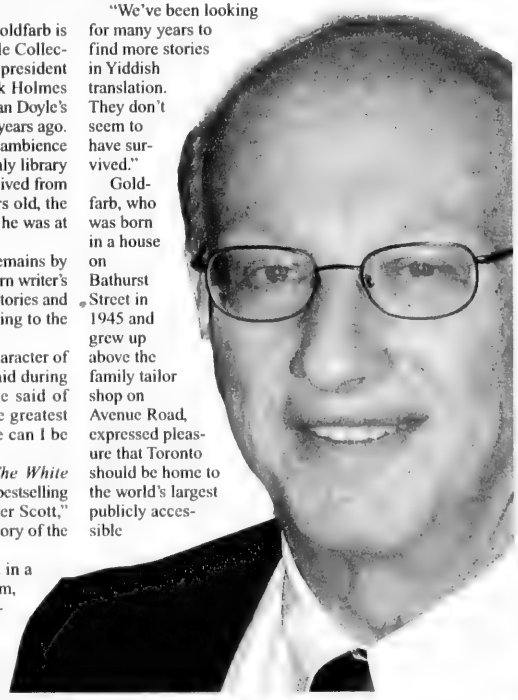
Some years ago, Goldfarb and other enthusiasts, in conjunction with Friends of Yiddish, presented a stage version of scenes from *The Adventure of the Empty House*, one of numerous Sherlock Holmes stories that was translated into Yiddish in the early 20th century. The result – especially hearing the ever-genteel Dr. Watson speak and act with Jewish inflections and mannerisms – was "hilarious," he said.

"We've been looking for many years to find more stories in Yiddish translation. They don't seem to have survived."

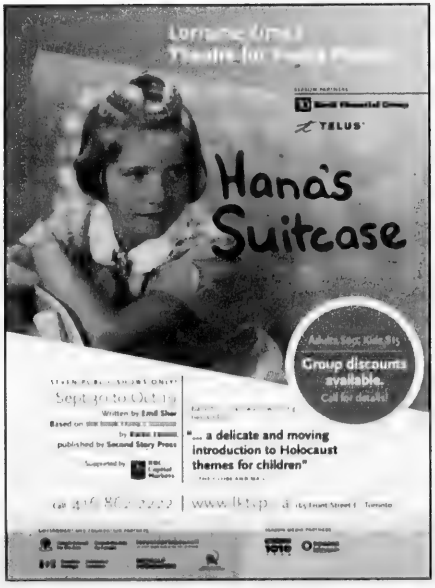
Goldfarb, who was born in a house on Bathurst Street in 1945 and grew up above the family tailor shop on Avenue Road, expressed pleasure that Toronto should be home to the world's largest publicly accessible collection devoted to Conan Doyle. The library is planning a major exhibition of manuscript and other treasures to coincide with the conference.

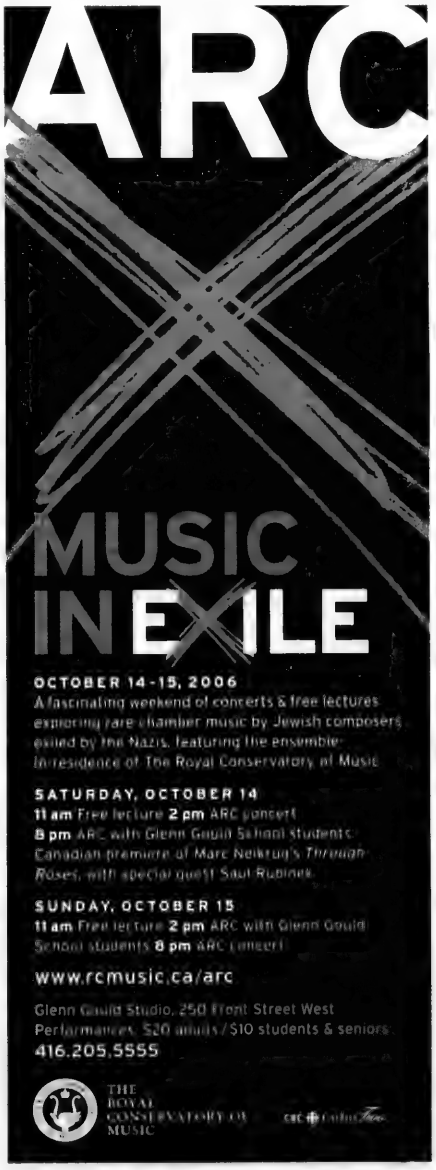
Planned proceedings include a gala banquet, a program of speakers and a panel discussion in which Goldfarb is participating. "The debate is to be whether Conan Doyle can be considered a great author and whether his works can be considered great literature." Free public activities include a historic walk of Victorian Toronto and a screening of the 1979 film *Murder by Decree*.

The conference is slated for Oct. 19 to 22, and enthusiasts have already registered from Japan, Denmark, England, United States and other countries. For more information, visit the website www.acdfriends.org or e-mail ACD35@sympatico.ca.



Clifford Goldfarb





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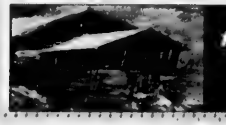

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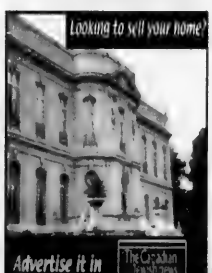

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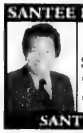

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Ely Matlow recruited by Mount Allison football team

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Special to The CJN

Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) football fans take note – there is a new force to be reckoned with in the league and his name is Ely Matlow.

The Mount Allison University Mounties varsity squad recruited the up-and-coming football prospect this past summer. Nicknamed "The Midget From Hell," the 19-year-old Richmond Hill native has made a name for himself by consistently overcoming his physical stature to become a dominant force on the football field as a defensive specialist.

Matlow is not your typical football player, and he knows it. Standing at just five-foot-six and weighing only 165 pounds, he's not exactly your prototypical, hulking linebacker. "I could very possibly be the smallest kid in the CIS," he says with a chuckle over the phone from his new home on campus in Sackville, N.B.

At first sight, opposing players and coaches tend to write him off as a novelty or at best, a weakness to be exploited on the field. Then they actually play against him and quickly realize that he comes by his epithet honestly. For more than seven years, Matlow has made opposing quarterbacks, running backs and receivers pay for underestimating him.

The Metro Toronto Wildcat's website refers to him as a "team leader… fearless" and possessing "pound for pound toughness." And he only played summer ball for them. Not bad for a little guy from the Greater Toronto Area. It's precisely that ruggedness and determination that caused Mounties' coach Steve Lalonde to recruit Matlow for the team this past summer.

"We watched some tape on him and were very interested," says Lalonde. "Yeah, he's a little undersized, but you can't measure heart. He's got a lot of natural football instinct… things you can't teach to an athlete: attitude, work ethic, vision for the play and leadership. He's a hard worker, probably harder on himself than the coaches are. He strives for perfection all the time [and] we can take advantage of his athletic ability. He's a phenomenal player."

For his part, Matlow saw Mount Allison as the perfect opportunity to bring his game to the next level and help turn around what has historically been a woeful football program (the Mounties are 0-16 over the last two seasons), all while receiving an education at one of the country's premier liberal arts colleges. He is enrolled in the BA program, but has yet to declare a major.

"I wanted to go somewhere with a good program. I heard nothing but good things about the school," he says.

"I love it out here. Toronto is a big city and this is a small town, but people are friendly and welcoming. They're anxious and support us because they think we're going somewhere."

For Matlow, getting to this point was also a journey of discovery. From his first taste of the sport in Grade 8, on Toronto's Northern Secondary school team, Matlow knew that football would be more than just a game for him – it would be a career. What he did not know was just how much the sport would give back to him. "The game has changed my life. I wasn't that into school before," he admits.

"Once football came around, it opened my eyes and gave me new things you don't learn in everyday life. It teaches you how to respect people, how to be a family, a teammate, how to put trust in the guy beside you. I mean, you can't even do that in the real world sometimes." All of which has made believers out of his parents, Magda and Avery Matlow.

"I don't think this is a sport they ever wanted me getting into," quips Matlow, alluding to the fact that his parents may not have thought their nice, Jewish son should pursue this rough-and-tumble sport as a career. It's a sentiment he's heard all too often from the Jewish community and one he hopes to dispel and change.

"I want more Jews to get into this game. There should be tons of us playing football," he exclaims, lamenting the fact that he is the rarity among his game-playing peers.

"I want to walk into a locker room one day where half of the players are Jewish. As a people our mentality is friendlier, we don't want to hurt others." But Matlow urges Jewish parents to recognize all the positive aspects of the sport such as teamwork, character building and responsibility.

"I'd want my kids involved in this game," he says. Though that may take awhile, as he confesses that he remains "happily single."

Ely Matlow

Still, his chances of influencing a new generation of Jewish boys and girls to play the game look good. His coaches and teammates have taken to him quickly and his skills continue to impress. "He'll develop into one of the leaders on the team," predicts Lalonde. "He's a great kid to be around, a great football player… he'll be a key contributor for years to come."

Matlow is just happy for the chance to continue proving himself at ever increasing levels of play.

"There's always barriers with my size," he concedes. "But there's always one coach who believes in me and that's all it takes. Once that one coach believes, the rest of them believe. I needed that one coach to take me under his wing and let me show him what I could do. And that's what [coach Lalonde] did here. I'm thankful for that."

Odds are that pretty soon most of Sackville (and Richmond Hill) will be pleased coach Lalonde did as well.

I resolve to know the stranger

As the great philosopher Socrates once said, an unexamined life is not worth living. The new year is always a good time to examine the past and learn for the future, but this year, I'd like to exchange my usual set of superficial resolutions for something more meaningful.

Sure, it would be nice to start going to the gym again, or to take hold of my Nutella addiction and curb my shopping habits, but instead, I'd rather promise to be honest with myself and be comfortable with who I am, bad habits and all.

But there are some bad habits I'd rather get rid of for good, because not only do they damage who I am as a person, they hurt people around me.

Theses days, with Palm Pilots, wireless connections, MSN and MySpace, it's almost impossible not to stay in touch. But this constant connectedness also gives us an excuse to be too busy to return calls and catch up with old friends. So many times this past year, my answering machine reached its message capacity, and people were not able to leave me a message. It's not because I'm so popular, but because I usually only bother to check my messages about once a week. I've missed important calls from old and new friends, and from family members who have called just to keep in touch, and I'm sure I've insulted them by not calling them back.

This past year, I recognized this bad habit of mine, and since we're supposed to be apologizing for our sins, I'm truly sorry for making people feel as if I've brushed them off. My most important New Year's resolution then is to be a better friend to my family and friends.

But I think I'll also extend this warmth to strangers.

When I was a kid, I was accused of being almost too sensitive to other people's feelings. But now, not so much, and I regret that.

Maybe living downtown has hardened me against people who beg for money or people who live in hardship. Being sensitive to others is not as much about giving money to every panhandler as much as it is about sharing a smile with everyone, no matter what path they've walked on.

My brother-in-law taught me this lesson and I hope I never forget it.

Over dinner one night, he told my sister and me of a man he has come to know over the years simply by saying hello to him each day as he passed him on the street.

My sister and I questioned him, and almost ridiculed him, about being used by this stranger.

"So what?" he said. "What have I lost?"

He was right. He hasn't lost a thing. My sister and I, on the other hand have lost something. We lost our compassion.

Therefore, this year, I promise to connect with strangers, whether it be by volunteering or by simply being open to a conversation. No more avoiding eye contact because from now on, my eyes will be wide open to everyone.

I can't say exactly when I became such a social snob, but maybe my final resolution should be to rearrange my priority list and not let things such as work overwhelm me. Sure, at this age, we're all working hard to advance in our careers, but this is also the time in our life where we're shaping our values as adults. Let's get it right.

At this time of year, Jews are supposed to reflect and repent. As a young Jewish woman, reflection, recognition and repentance is the best goal I can set for myself – not only during the High Holy Days but all year round.

Israeli Couscous with Roasted Butternut Squash

1 lemon
1 1/2 lb. butternut squash, peeled, seeded, cut into 1/4" dice (may be microwaved for 10 min. to soften)
3 tblsp olive oil
1 lg onion, chopped
1 3/4 c Israeli couscous

1 cinnamon stick
1/2 c pine nuts, toasted
1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
1 c chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
1/2 c golden raisins

Preheat oven to 475°F. Halve lemon; scoop out flesh, keeping both flesh and peel; discard seeds. Cut enough peel into 1/4" dice to measure 1/4 c. Put lemon flesh in a sieve over a bowl; press with back of a spoon to extract juice. Toss squash with 1 tblsp oil and salt to taste in large shallow baking pan; spread in 1 layer. Roast in oven 15 min . or until just tender; transfer to large bowl.

Cook onion in 1 tblsp oil in heavy skillet over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, until just beginning to turn golden. Add to squash. Cook couscous with cinnamon stick in large pot of boiling salted water 10 min.; drain in colander (do not rinse). Add couscous to vegetables; toss with 2 tblsp oil to coat. Add lemon peel/juice, parsley, nuts, raisins, ground cinnamon, salt to taste. Toss to mix well.

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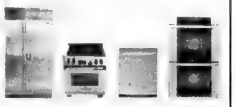

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About Life

Dear Ella,

I've recently started a new job as a salesperson at a car dealership. I've always worked in sales, but selling cars is a new field for me, and I'm enjoying it.

The only problem is that one of my colleagues is driving me nuts, and being the new kid on the block, I am uncomfortable saying anything. We have weekly meetings in which we share stories and try to motivate each other, as well as review new products and concerns. There's one guy, Arnie, who always has a better story, a better suggestion, a better joke, or a better anything! Arnie needs to have the last word, no matter what we're talking about. I feel like leaping across the room and shaking him sometimes. Other people seem to be used to it, and although they don't like it either, they seem to put up with it.

I like this place and don't want to leave, but this guy is driving me crazy.

Needs the Last Word

Dear Needs the Last Word

After reading your letter, I couldn't help feeling a little sorry for Arnie. I can imagine how irritating his behaviour is, but it's obvious that there's more here than just one-upmanship.

Arnie is insecure, immature and obviously a little clueless. He is starved for attention, acceptance and respect. It sounds like he wants to belong so badly, that he has overplayed his hand and created the opposite effect. There is probably a lot of eye-rolling among the sales team every time he comes up with a topper to a story.

A good sales team is the heart of a successful company, Salespeople in general have very distinct personalities. To succeed, they have to be bright, competitive, thick-skinned, quick-thinking, unique and patient. Put all those traits together and you can come up with some very strong personalities, not all of which will blend well.

I'm not sure that confronting Arnie would do much more than feed his insecurities even further. You need to stay focused on your job and the positive things you like. It's rare to be able to find a place where you are comfortable with every employee. If you're happy with the company, your boss and most of your colleagues, I'd say that you're doing pretty well.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN, email. eb(ac)news.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional

Of sukkot, refugees and the homeless

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

The sukkah is such an earthy and soulful part of Jewish ritual. It's something that many Jews enjoy building and using, regardless of their denominational affiliation. I hope you enjoyed building yours this year, as erecting one is an experience unto itself.

Over the years, I have seen some exquisite sukkot. One that was most memorable was a sukkah built by the Bobover Chassidim in New York. It was enormous and it was clear that the community – made up of 50,000 people in Boro Park – went to great expense to decorate the interior.

The sukkah is meant to remind us of the trek the Jewish people took through the desert and the temporary dwellings they built to survive. Many people sleep in their sukkah and eat all their meals there. Sometimes, there's an unsafe aspect to this, because bees often buzz about, drawn to the sukkah by the honey and sweets that are served to mark the season. I don't remember anybody ever being bitten, however. Perhaps we're protected by the holy nature of this Jewish cabin.

The wobbly and unbalanced nature of the sukkah inspires me, because it takes me out of my home and into nature, where I feel closer to God. The sukkah reminds me that, while we are asked to eat outside for a few days of the calendar year, there are millions of impoverished people around the world who always live, eat and sleep in hovels that are far less attractive than many of our sukkot.

In Toronto, as in other metropolitan centres around the world, the homeless can often be found existing in what they refer to as "cardboard condominiums" – places they have pieced together using our scraps.

If you were to travel to Cairo, you might come across the "City of the Dead," a very poor community of people who live among the tombstones in cemeteries. And, sadly, there are millions of people who live in cages in China. Every night, these destitute folk crawl into their appallingly tiny homes, which are frequently smaller than areas we reserve for our dogs.

And then, of course, there are people with whom we share our earth who call a refugee camp home, including two million people from the Darfur region of Sudan who have been forced to leave their villages because of the Janjaweed, a militia who are wreaking havoc on them. They live in camps such as Abu Shouk, Tawila, Kabkabiya, and Dar Zaghawa, where conditions are severe. Diseases such as cholera and dysentery are widespread. Violence and rape are pervasive.

On Sukkot, it's crucial that we enjoy the temporary hut we call a sukkah through celebration, merriment and thought. The sukkah gives us the opportunity to experience what it was like for Jews to live in a place where the wind finds its way through the cracks, and where dampness leaks through the *schach* – the lush branches that serve as a roof.

However, we must also remember those who don't have the luxury of going back inside once the night and the holiday is over. We must make every effort to take notice and respond to the people sitting on our sidewalks as we walk to work in the morning, and to others who are living in refugee camps with open and stinking sewage next to their decrepit sheds.

Let us hope that next year, every human being will be able to make their home permanent and enjoy the great blessing that we've been given – a sound, solid dwelling that protects us from the elements, thieves and humiliation.

Chag Samayach. May God watch over the world's refugees and homeless, and may humankind finally find the will to bring them inside.

Avrum@veahavta.org. Sudan?

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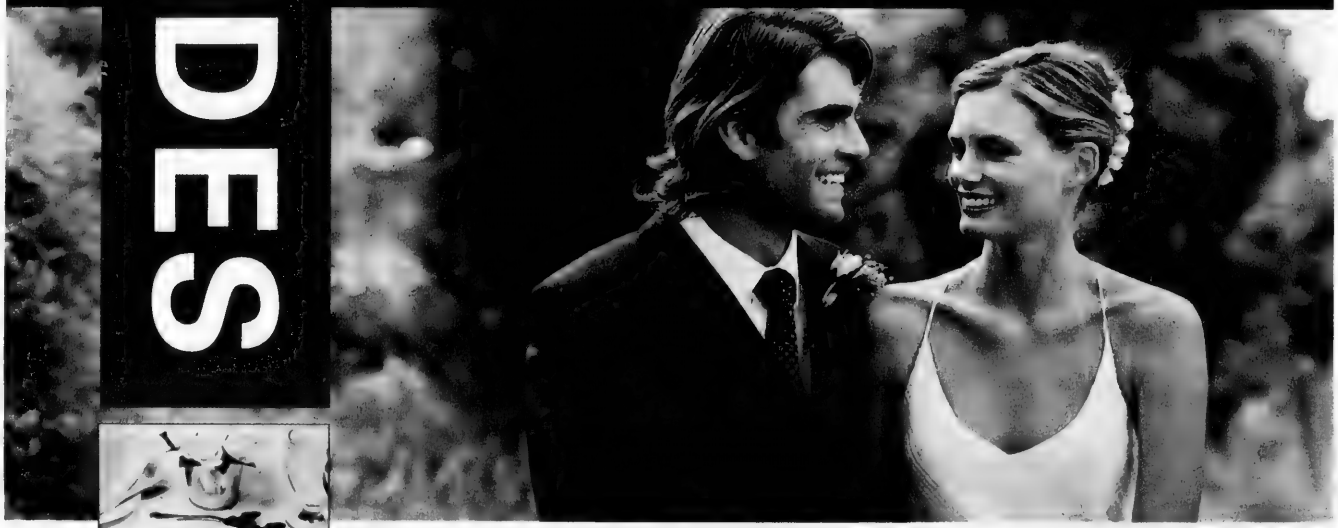

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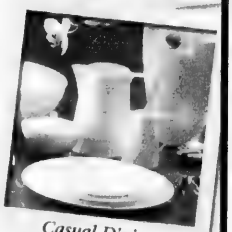
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Just when you thought you'd found the venue with everything, you discovered that "everything" wasn't quite *everything*.

Just when you realized that the Granite Club satisfied every single item on your wish list and then some, you also realized that it wasn't *just* about the wish list.

It wasn't just about their state-of-the-art modern facility for up to 500 guests — ensconced in a spectacular setting — a compelling choice even *before* its $3 million upgrade.

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Turns out it wasn't just about the palatial kitchen staffed by an army of distinguished chefs — including a full-time pastry chef — nor about their avant-garde creations or the culinary trends they set.

Nor, apparently, was it about the art gallery, valet parking, dreamlike French country brides room, onsite childcare services, or countless other amenities.

(L to R) Pastry Chef Renato Del Sol, Sous-Chef Ian Rodger and Executive Chef Nigel Didcock

So what *was* it about then?

"Every facility worth its salt has "checklist appeal," says Catering Director Deborah Muise. "Most reputable venues can walk you through their premises and make a pretty good case for hosting your event. But the bottom line is, *Does it* ***feel*** *right?* That's the question you have to ask yourself. Once you've weighed all the pros and cons, try picturing yourself in that venue. If you feel good about that picture — if you can see yourself in that setting on your special day, and feel the joy —then you'll know you've made the right choice."

At first blush it seems odd for a venue with ostensibly more to offer than any other to downplay the "wish list" factor. At the Granite Club, however, "we don't hang our hat solely on our facilities", says Muise. "If people don't feel comfortable with you, it doesn't matter how big your castle is. They need to know that when you say you'll look after them, you really mean it. This is not just another business deal. You're making a commitment, not just to host a very personal event, but to *share* it. And that event will only be as good as you make it."

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Moreover, notes Muise, since the traditionally-private club began welcoming guests to host special events there, "we feel an even greater onus to measure up."

When planning an event, you normally have to whittle down your perfect-world wish list to a realistic size. At the Granite Club, you simply *add* to it — then enjoy a level of caring that exceeds your expectations.

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Under the direction of owner and Executive Chef Abdul Amini — late of Gladstone's, and with a long list of other prestigious dining establishments like Accesso and Bellini's on his résumé — **Acrobat,** nestled neatly on the second floor at 2464 Yonge Street, has just completed a major renovation that has seen its decor

Already-brisk Bar / Bat Mitzvah bookings

upgraded to match Amini's sparkling new menu while retaining the theatrical flair — complete with romantic open-air balconies — that has made it a favourite simcha spot since its inception.

Though Acrobat bills itself as a steak and seafood house, daily dining here is secondary to its principal function as an event venue.

Amini's wealth of experience in a variety of upscale dining environments and culinary genres allows him to offer a selection of special event menus that transcends stylistic and geographic limitations. And he is also able to offer Kosher meals through a special arrangement with Zuchter Berk Creative Caterers, under the supervision of the Kashruth Council of Canada, C.O.R.

Kosher special event dining by special arrangement with Zuchter Berk Creative Caterers

Amini's vast culinary repertoire includes many surprises, especially the seafood section. Try the Blackened Filet of Red Snapper served with mango & papaya salsa and root vegetables, or the Sesame Crusted Filet of Tuna served on a bed of sautéed mushrooms with miso dressing and pickled ginger sauce. And his Smoked Salmon Crusted Filet of Halibut served with citrus sauce on a bed of rice cake & baby bok choy is fast becoming a signature dish. The steaks, lamb and poultry are similarly refined. The Moroccan Style Lamb Shank with Couscous is simply out of this world.

Influences from most European countries as well as the Near East, Middle East and Far East are evident in his special event menus. The preparation is painstaking, the presentation impeccable; in short, just what you're looking for in a special event menu.

Known not only for his culinary skills but also for his affable, easygoing demeanour, Amini has already hosted a number of Bar / Bat Mitzvahs since acquiring Acrobat, and expects the already-brisk bookings to increase dramatically now that the renovations have been completed. The hardwood floors have been retained but are fully refinished; the decor throughout has been similarly updated, but not at the expense of the elegant period feel that always made a visit to Acrobat feel like a glamorous step back in time.

In terms of daily dining, Amini is entering the already-crowded arena of steak and seafood dining with a full repertoire of mainstream offerings in addition to many dishes you won't find at any other steak and seafood restaurant. "People in Toronto have many choices, and they're very sophisticated," he notes. "Just offering good food and good service isn't enough any more, especially for a steak house. Everything has to be top drawer: food, service, presentation, decor, you name it. And it must be refined. The days of a steak house getting by on "nice big steaks" are long gone."

Sophisticated clientele demands refinement

Modest by nature, Amini shrinks from grandiose promises. "Talk is cheap. The bottom line is what you put on your customers' plate and how you treat them. We intend to let our food and our service do the talking."

From a service standpoint, it doesn't cost anything to be nice to people, and Amini definitely has a head start here. He and partner K. Afzal have surrounded themselves with a staff who reflect their personality: gentlemanly, dedicated to their craft, and attentive to detail.

If early indications are any barometer, Amini's makeover of Acrobat is already well on its way to being a resounding success.

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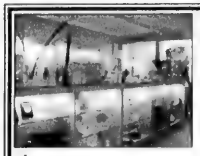

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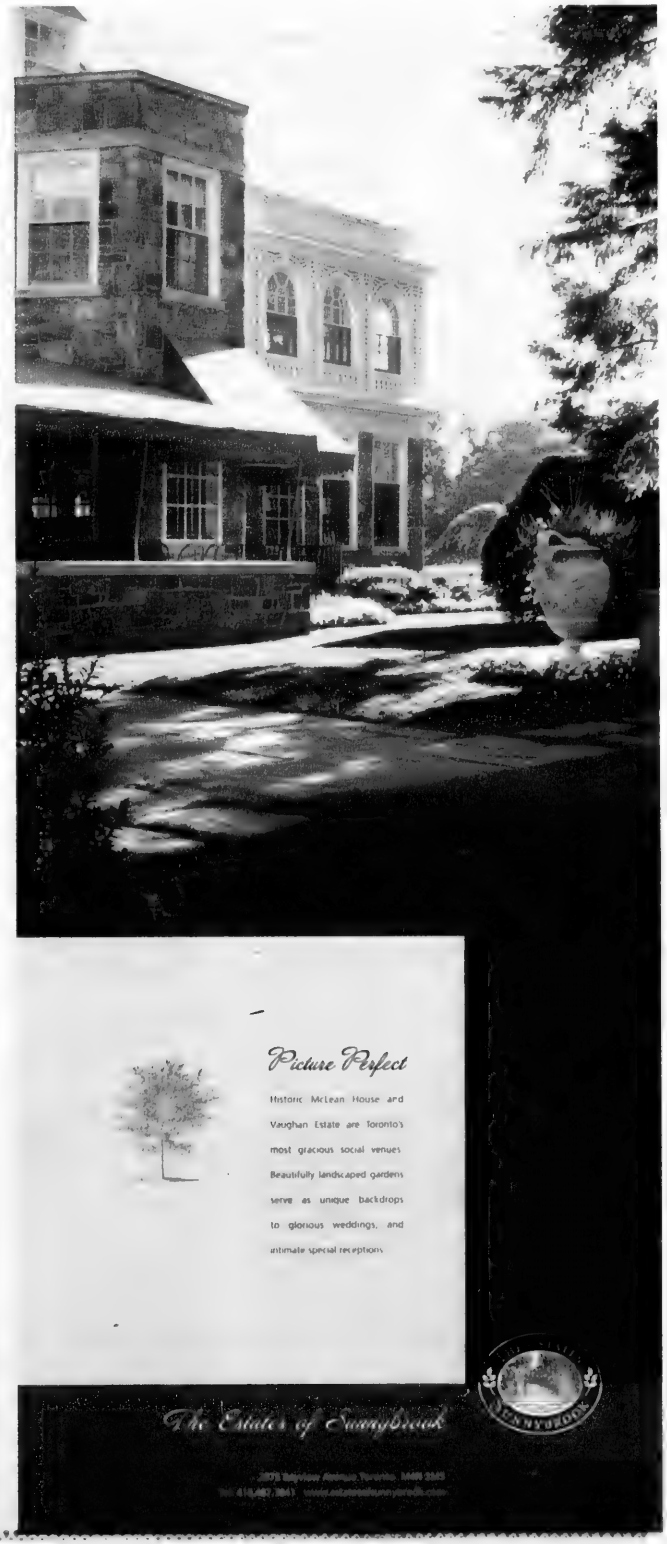

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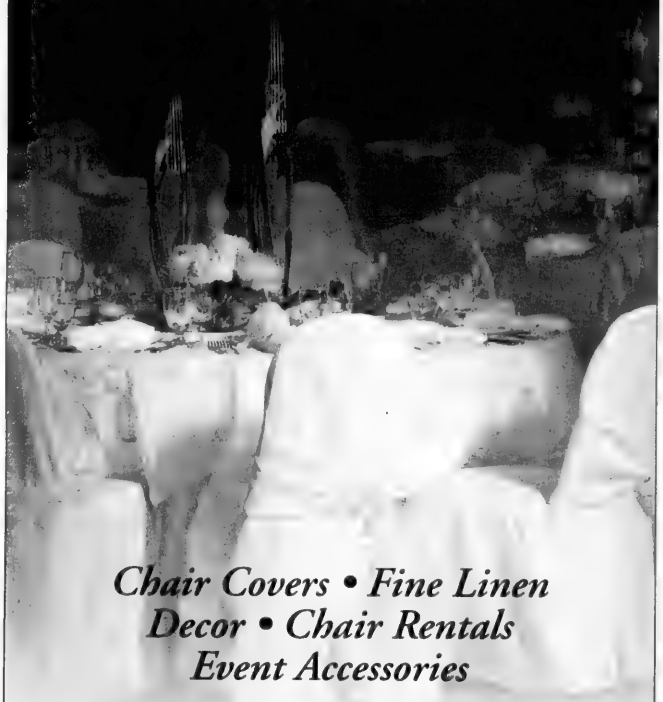

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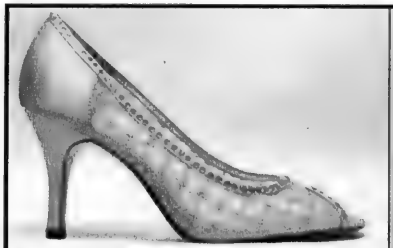

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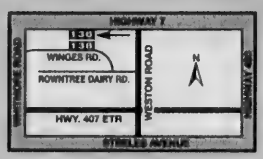

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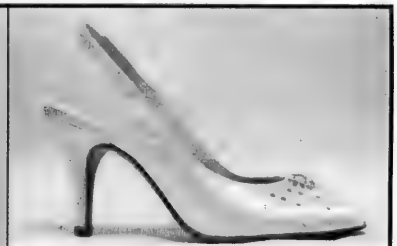

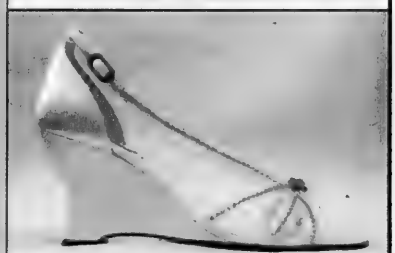

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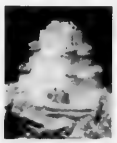

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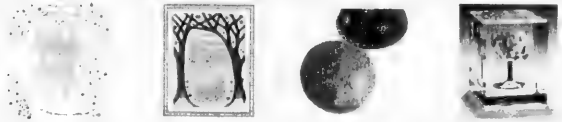

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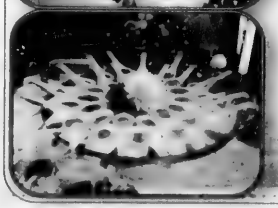

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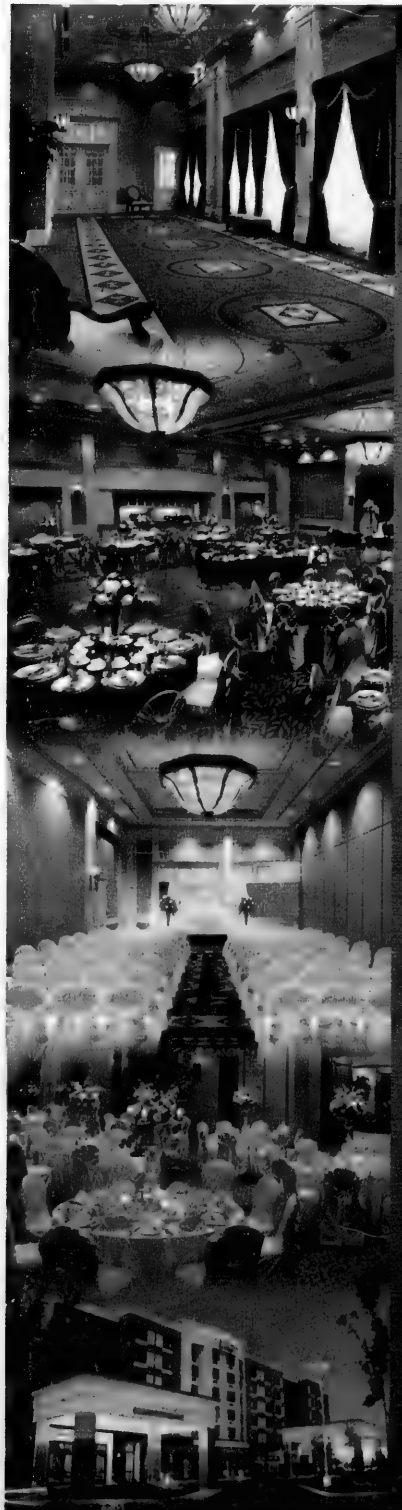

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Man's best friend with music's best friend

Icons are very personal things. Mark Twain once wrote that a home without a cat "stretched with her furry belly to the sun...may be a perfect home, perhaps, but how can it prove title?" Dog lovers would confer this title on their canine companion(s). A piano owner would simply invite all and sundry to gather round the piano and enjoy the music. To him or her, this marriage of form and function is a symbol not only of domestic completeness, but of *unification*.

Steve Jackson knows a thing or two about pianos. In a distinguished career spanning over 40 years, Master Piano Technician Jackson has tuned and serviced thousands of pianos, and repaired and rebuilt hundreds. His client list reads like a Who's Who of the music industry. He has prepared pianos for artists such as Ray Charles, Oscar Peterson, Eric Clapton, and Anton Kuerti, and has rebuilt pianos for the University of Toronto and other schools and colleges.

During this period, Jackson's affinity with this exquisitely simple yet infinitely complex instrument has blossomed into a full-blown love affair. He has come to know it not merely as a musical instrument, but as a living, breathing extension of the creative fires that burn within us all.

Four decades of living and working with vintage pianos has given Jackson "an enduring respect for their unique qualities. Just like the musicians who play them, they all look and sound a bit different."

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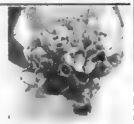

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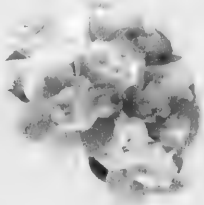

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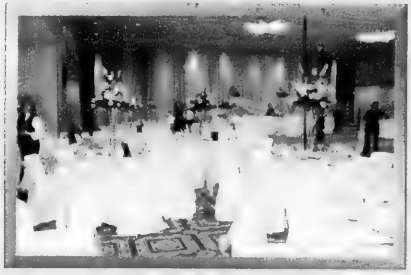

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This Week

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Canada appoints new Israel envoy

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

TEL AVIV — When Prime Minister Stephen Harper asked Jon Allen to serve as Canada's new ambassador to Israel, after Donald Sinclair stepped down from the post in August, Allen was thrilled.

"It was the assignment of greatest interest to me," said Allen, who is the third Jewish Canadian ambassador to Israel. "It is very flattering for me to be seen to be objective enough to represent my country here, despite the fact that I am Jewish."

He added: "It's always a special honour to represent your country abroad. And for me it is a particular honour to represent Canada in Israel."

His three-year term, which began only six weeks ago, marks a lot of firsts for Allen. Not only is he the first Jewish ambassador to be appointed since David Berger in 1995 but the appointment also marks the Winnipeg-born diplomat's first time leading a mission.

Jon Allen

"This new role comes with a lot of new challenges," said Allen from his new office at the Canadian Embassy in Tel Aviv. "Since I arrived, I have had 1,000 decisions to make about how to run this office."

He said the Israeli mission is the smallest foreign mission he has ever served on. "It just so happens that I have worked traditionally in bigger missions," he said, which have included about 350 people. The Israeli mission's staff, however, is 55 to 60. "For Canada, it's a medium-sized mission."

"In some ways, Washington [where he has served as minister of political affairs with Foreign Affairs Canada from September 2004] is hard to beat because of its sophisticated level of discourse and its number of very interesting people.

Continued on page 41

Israel's supporters march in Jerusalem

Donna Holbrook, left, carrying the Canadian flag, was among the more than 5,000 Christian supporters of Israel, under the auspices of the International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem, who took part in the annual Sukkot holiday march through the streets of Jerusalem. In all, close to 100,000 people participated in the march this year. *[Isranet and Israel Sun photos]*

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Police recommend that Katsav be charged — please see page 39

The News in Brief

CANADA

SWC Honours Fuller

TORONTO — Magazine editor Bonnie Fuller, executive vice-president and chief editorial director of American Media Inc., was given the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies' inaugural Woman of Valour award last week in Toronto, at a sold-out luncheon where she was the keynote speaker. Three Toronto women also received the honour: real estate agent Elise Kalles; philanthropist Pauline Menkes; and philanthropist Carol Grafstein, wife of Senator Jerry Grafstein. Fuller, a Canadian Jew, has led a number of magazines, including *US Weekly*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour* and *Marie Claire* in the United States, and *Flare* in Canada.

WORLD

Guard's Plea Rejected

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court turned down the case of a former Nazi labour camp guard who said he shouldn't be deported because he has Alzheimer's. The court ruled Oct. 10 that the deportation of Iwan Mandycz, who served at the Trawniki and Poniatowa camps, can stand. His lawyers said the right that prevents the U.S. government from prosecuting a mentally incompetent person should also apply in citizenship cases.

Lawsuit Allowed

NEW YORK — A Brooklyn, N.Y., judge refused to dismiss a lawsuit against a French bank that accuses it of knowingly providing financial services to charities funded by a terror group. The Oct. 5 ruling denied a motion by Credit Lyonnais to dismiss a suit by U.S. families of victims of terror attacks in Israel from 2001 to 2003. Judge Charles Sifton made a similar ruling last month in a terror lawsuit against a British bank, National Westminster.

Town Gets Sukkah

WARSAW — Some 300 people filled the first sukkah built in the Polish city Czestochowa in 65 years. The sukkah at the Malczewski School of Fine Arts in Czestochowa was decorated by pupils, with help from Jewish students in places such as Israel and Australia. A 100-foot-long mural of Jerusalem, painted by the local students, was on one wall. Guests included Czestochowa Jews and their descendants, who were meeting in the town to celebrate their heritage.

Vandalism Arrests

MOSCOW — Russian police arrested six ultranationalists in connection with the recent vandalism of Muslim and Jewish graves. The head of the group Russian National Unity and five others were detained but not charged over this month's attack on a cemetery in Tver, 100 miles northwest of Moscow, in which more than 100 gravestones were toppled or defaced with swastikas.

Exhibit Opens

DRESDEN — An exhibit on Nazi racial theories has opened in Germany in an institution that once promoted a lethal eugenics program. "Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race," the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's first exhibit to appear outside North America, is at the German Hygiene Museum in Dresden until June 24. The Nazis killed 5,000 disabled or ill children and 200,000 institutionalized Germans, mostly psychiatric patients.

Mel Is Still Sorry

NEW YORK — Mel Gibson apologized again last week for an anti-Semitic tirade during his arrest in July. Speaking on ABC's *Good Morning America*, the actor said his remarks were "just the stupid rambling of a drunkard." After pleading no contest to drunk driving, he received three years probation and was sent to an alcohol abuse program.

Mass Grave Discovered in German City

BERLIN — The remains of more than 50 people, many of them children, were discovered last month in a mass grave in Germany, authorities say.

Experts suspect the dead in the city of Menden were victims of a Nazi euthanasia program that murdered disabled people. Two more sites are being searched for remains.

The discovery was made by workers from an agency that cares for wartime graves. Some skulls showed signs that the victims had Down syndrome or other disabilities.

The search for the mass grave followed eyewitness reports that bodies had been transported to the site from a nearby hospital run by Adolf Hitler's doctor, Karl Brandt, who was in charge of the euthanasia program. At least 100,000 disabled people were murdered from 1939 to 1941. Protests by German church leaders brought the program publicly to an end, though parts of it continued until the end of the war.

New Dovish Lobby?

NEW YORK — U.S. billionaire George Soros is considering funding a dovish, pro-Israel alternative to the pro-Israel lobby group AIPAC, JTA has learned. Representatives of Soros met late last month with leaders of dovish pro-Israel groups in Washington, D.C., and discussed setting up an alternative to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. A meeting for potential funders is set for Oct. 26 in New York

New Shoah Sculpture

LONDON — A new sculpture by a Jewish wartime child refugee was unveiled last week at one of London's busiest train stations. Frank Meisler's sculpture recalls the Kindertransport, the 1939 trains that took Jewish children to safety in London from Nazi-occupied Europe. Meisler, who lives in Israel, came to London as a child days before the rest of his family was deported to the Warsaw Ghetto. Like most of the Kindertransport refugees, he never saw his parents again. An earlier sculpture on the site, the Liverpool Street train station, was removed last year because it had World War II artifacts that had started to deteriorate.

Ex-SS Member Freed

MUNICH — A German court in Munich freed a former Nazi SS member from custody pending a ruling on his extradition. The judge who freed Soeren Kam, 84, on Oct. 12 said he is not considered a flight risk. Kam, who was born in Denmark but holds German citizenship, is wanted for his role in the murder of a Danish journalist in Denmark during World War II. He was arrested last month at his home in Bavaria, ending decades of diplomatic limbo.

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Cotler defends Ignatieff, but says he's wrong on Qana

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Montreal Liberal MP Irwin Cotler quickly came to the defence of what he called Michael Ignatieff's "fundamental" views on the Israel-Hezbollah conflict, while firmly stating that the Liberal leadership candidate was wrong to call Israel's bombing in July of the southern Lebanese village of Qana a war crime.

His wife, however, was not ready to make that distinction. In a letter to the *National Post* published Oct. 13, Jewish community activist Ariela Cotler announced that she is renouncing her Liberal party membership because of Ignatieff's remarks.

"I feel it was not political savvy and wisdom that Mr. Ignatieff lacked… Rather it was a lack of moral integrity, sacrificing the truth for personal gains in the upcoming leadership election for the party," she said.

Her public rupture with the party came a day after her husband released a statement saying that he accepted Ignatieff's assurances to him that he believes Israel has an "unequivocal right to defend itself against unprovoked attacks and the international community must support that right," and that Ignatieff recognizes "how dangerous it is for Israel to live in a world where Hezbollah and its backers Iran and Syria, wrongly deny Israel's right to exist."

Last week's public difference of opinion between the Cotlers was the latest chapter in the furor touched off by Ignatieff's Oct. 8 comments, in French, about Qana on the popular Radio-Canada TV show *Tout la monde en parle*.

After several other Liberals, starting with Thornhill MP Susan Kadis, Ignatieff's Toronto campaign co-chair, were quick to criticize Ignatieff and distance themselves from him, the momentum began to swing the other way after Prime Minister Stephen Harper charged on Oct. 12 that "virtually all the Liberal hopefuls are anti-Israel."

Leadership candidate and former Ontario premier Bob Rae, whose wife and children are Jewish and who left the New Democratic Party in part because he disagreed with its positions on Israel, called the assertion "shameful, appalling, a smear and a lie," and demanded an apology.

The group called Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel, co-chaired by Winnipeg MP Anita Neville, who is Jewish, and Senator David Smith, denounced Harper's comment as "inflammatory and inaccurate," as well as "unnecessarily divisive," and demanded a retraction.

"The Liberal party has a long legacy of standing alongside the State of Israel," Neville said. "The Liberal leadership candidates have all explicitly and vocally rejected the terrorist actions perpetrated against Israel in the recent conflict with Hezbollah. The candidates are committed to a peaceful and negotiated solution while at the same time explicitly rejecting terrorism.

"For the prime minister to make a blanket accusation in a country as diverse as Canada shows that he has no personal qualms about resorting to cheap shots and petty politics regardless of the truth of his accusations."

Kadis immediately resigned as Toronto co-chair of Ignatieff's leadership campaign after the *National Post* ran a story Oct. 11 about his war crime remark.

"Michael is an intelligent person and I would like to think that he would have a better handle on the Middle East given his years of experience on human rights and international law," she stated. "I find his unprovoked comments very troubling given the fact that the Israeli response came in light of brazen kidnappings by Hezbollah of Israeli soldiers… This was an attack intended to root out a recognized terrorist group who were raining down thousands of missiles on Israel."

Cotler, who is supporting Rae for the leadership, said Ignatieff assured him of his "unequivocal, though not uncritical, support for Israel" and that he "intended no false equivalence between Israel and Hezbollah" and thinks Canada must always side with a democratic state when that state is in a conflict with a terrorist militia.

"These are strong statements of principle and policy… I don't question these statements of principle. I question Michael's judgment in the matter of Qana."

Cotler, the former justice minister who was a McGill University law professor, said Israel's air strike on Qana was not a war crime because it was not a "deliberate and unprovoked targeting of civilians" by Israel.

Continued on page 30

Proceeds from the 2006 JNF Toronto Negev Dinner will be directed primarily to the 4,000 square meter ***Edward and Fran Sonshine Beit Eshel Historical Site Restoration*** - an active, dynamic centre for heritage and environment education, focusing on leisure time activities.

Ed and Fran Sonshine are confident that the funds raised will exceed what is required to complete their Beit Eshel project, and have agreed to direct any additional funds to a second initiative, ***Operation Security Blanket*** – to provide alternative activities for children affected by the war; ***Project Replant, Rebuild and Restore*** – replant burned trees in the north; cultivate decimated farmland; fire-fighting upgrading; emergency response equipment and vehicles to supplement current capacity; and to rebuild recreational and tourist areas of Northern Israel.

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Greater Toronto Area

Politicians and accountability

From the editor's desk

It's one of the great liberating aspects of life in a democracy that when a politician speaks, you can either believe him or not, as opposed to life in a totalitarian dictatorship, for example, where you can believe him or else.

Our politicians speak a great deal, but they don't generally *say* very much. Their overriding need to win voters' favour leads to the following typical patterns of public discourse:

Fear of offending often inspires a politician to avoid definitive statements or unequivocal opinions. The obsession to please, on the other hand, often leads the politician to say what he believes his audience wants to hear rather than what circumstances require that they must be told. And the need to be marketable in a television and sound-byte-dominated-age often leads him to focus on style rather than content, to practise sounding sharp rather than thinking sharply.

For all these reasons and others, to a large degree, alas, the public has tuned our politicians out. It is not surprising therefore, that politicians – along with journalists, it must be said – enjoy a relatively low ranking in the public's measure of esteem and integrity.

But there are occasions when the public tunes them back in.

The statement two weekends ago by federal Liberal leadership candidate Michael Ignatieff on the popular Quebec TV show *Tout la monde en parle* about Israel's bombing of Qana last summer, was such an occasion.

The chain reaction of responses that it evoked from Canadians and other politicians – colleagues and foes alike – and the resulting high-voltage media spotlight on those responses ensured that we would take notice.

Ignatieff was trying to atone for what many people perceived to be a flippant remark he made last summer about the loss of civilian life in Lebanon during Israel's war with Hezbollah, Iran and Syria. He expressed regret for his August remarks and termed them a mistake. But then, unprompted, he went much further.

"I was a professor of human rights. I am also a professor of rights in war. What happened in Qana was a war crime. I should have said that. That's clear."

Ignatieff's pronouncement on Israel's war crimes culpability crossed the boundary from a candidate trawling for voting favour into blatant self-serving expediency. It was troubling on a number of counts:

- His conclusion is not supported by the facts, let alone a legal finding.
- He appeared to go out of his way to emphasize his finding by highlighting his academic credentials and thus his authority for making his ruling.
- He appeared to have reversed his earlier opinion about Israel's conduct of war against its terrorist adversaries.
- He appeared to be kowtowing to his Quebec audience.

Not surprisingly, there was an immediate outcry from many people who objected to Ignatieff's peculiarly prejudicial pontification.

Marc Gold, the national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, wrote to Ignatieff asking that he explain his remarks.

"If your intentions were not to accuse Israel of having committed war crimes in Qana, we would ask that you issue an immediate clarification – in both official languages – that clearly sets out your view of the issue and unambiguously rejects the suggestion that Israel is guilty of any such conduct."

Ignatieff's subsequent clarification, however, was no clarification at all. He did not withdraw his statement. Rather he framed it as incidental to the "truest form of friendship" that he evidently feels for Israel. In a further effort to soften the blow that he delivered to his friend Israel, he said that both sides were guilty of war crimes during the war.

That was too much for Thornhill Liberal MP Susan Kadis, the co-chair of Ignatieff's Toronto campaign. She decided to withdraw her support for his leadership bid.

Ignatieff subsequently also announced that he will be travelling to Israel next month for a three-day fact-finding tour for members of Parliament organized by the CIC.

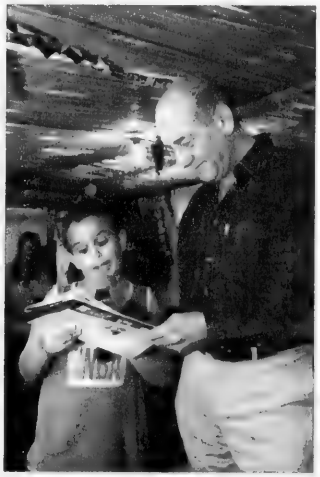
Ignatieff tried hard to calm the firestorm of emotions that his remarks ignited last week, but nothing helped him. Indeed, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and, of all people, Ariela Cotler too – the wife of the current Liberal MP for Mount Royal, Irwin Cotler – kept the maelstrom swirling. The prime minister accused most of the Liberal leadership candidates of harbouring anti-Israel sentiments, while Cotler very publicly and vocally turned in her Liberal Party membership.

In the winding-down campaign for the leadership of the Liberal Party, in the competing and often contradictory clang and clamour of these politicians' statements, we cannot afford to tune the candidates out.

On the contrary, we must be carefully tuned into what they say and hold them accountable when what they say portends behaviour that we would be loath to see them do.

—*MBD*

SeeJN



VISITING DURING SUKKOT: Above, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert chats with new immigrants who visited him in the sukkah at his residence in Jerusalem. Right, Olmert listens to Daniel Amit, an autistic child who was part of a delegation of people with special needs who also visited him in his sukkah. [Israel Sun photos]

Greater Toronto Area

El Al president optimistic 2006 will be a better year

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

President of El Al Israel Airlines Haim Romano, said he is optimistic that his airline will bounce back from the losses incurred due to the high cost of fuel, competition with Air Canada and of course, this summer's Israel-Hezbollah war.

He said that the start of 2006 was even more promising than the start of 2005, which was El Al's most profitable year ever, but things started to slow down in the second quarter.

"As if this wasn't enough, there was the Lebanon war. We haven't released the third quarter results yet, but I can tell you that the third quarter was not what was expected. The war affected us greatly," said Romano, who was visiting Toronto on business from Israel.

Last year, El Al netted its highest profit of $64 million (US).

"We estimate that in terms of revenue, we lost more than $70 million because of the war. In terms of net profit, about $40 million," said Romano, who was appointed by Israel Borovich, El Al's chairman of the board, in March 2005.

"We feel that we are on track again… We can see the reflection of it in our share price. In the last week or so, the share price increased by 14 per cent. The market believes in El Al, that we can come back," he said, adding that the airline launched a kind of recovery plan that would make it more efficient.

As a result, El Al no longer offers flights to and from Los Angeles. Aug. 31 was the last time Toronto served as a transit point for passengers flying from L.A. to Israel.

"I think it will be more efficient to fly to Chicago," Romano said, explaining that the L.A. route was a money-losing endeavour. "Flying to Chicago, and from Chicago to Israel will be the fastest and shortest way."

Although last year was the most profitable for El Al, Romano hasn't forgotten about his biggest Canadian competitor, Air Canada.

El Al has been flying from Canada since 1971 and was the only airline to offer direct flights to Israel until Air Canada began to do so in 1997. Since then, competition for Israel-bound Canadians has been fierce.

Romano, the former executive deputy CEO of Partner, an Israeli telecommunications company, believes that competition is healthy for the market and a benefit to the customer, but when it comes to serving the Canadian Jewish community, El Al does it better.

"The strength of Air Canada is with the 'beyond destinations' and the network that they have here. The strength of El Al is that we fly within a very convenient timetable with four flights a week, with the best timing, [large] capacity, great aircrafts, and with a great business class that we upgraded recently."

He said that Air Canada also offers four flights from Toronto, but one is on Shabbat, which limits members of the observant Jewish community to three flights a week.

"We decided after privatization that we would … not fly on Saturdays. We believe that you can be Israeli and private at the same time. It is still an Israeli company. The government has 30 per cent of the shares and our pilots, just a couple of months ago, flew in their F-16s to do their jobs in Lebanon and after they got their rest, they flew the El Al aircrafts. This is the big difference between El Al and other carriers," Romano said.

"For Air Canada, the route to Israel is just another route. For us, it is what we do."

Although the Toronto-Tel Aviv route has lost money for the airline in the past, Romano said that El Al is dedicated to serving the Canadian Jewish community and is optimistic about the future.

"The interest of the community is that El Al will sustain and increase its activity here. If we won't meet our expectations, there is a chance [the route will be terminated] because we have to think at the end of the day of the shareholders. But after a couple meetings here with travel agents I am very optimistic. I'm encouraged by their attitudes, and their willingness to do more with us."

Despite the operational costs, such as the high cost of fuel, security, and Toronto's landing fees, which are the highest in the world, Canadian fares are dropping, said Stanley Morais, the general manager of El Al's Toronto office.

In 2005, the average Canadian fare dropped by seven per cent.

"I just looked at specials that we had in the year 2000 and the year 2006 for the same period in October-November and the prices are $150 less than they were then," Morais said.

It is essential that El Al stays competitive by keeping fares as low as possible because passengers are always looking for the best price, he added.

But things are moving forward for the airline. Last year, El Al purchased two new Boeing 777s, they've leased five more new aircraft, they are continuing to upgrade the business class, and they are closer than ever in reaching a deal with WestJet to bring Western Canadians to Toronto to fly with El Al.

"We signed an agreement with Harmony, an airline that comes out of Vancouver, and we are working with them to bring passengers from Vancouver to Toronto, [to Israel], and from Tel Aviv to Vancouver via Toronto," said Morais, who added that the initial focus will be on group traffic.

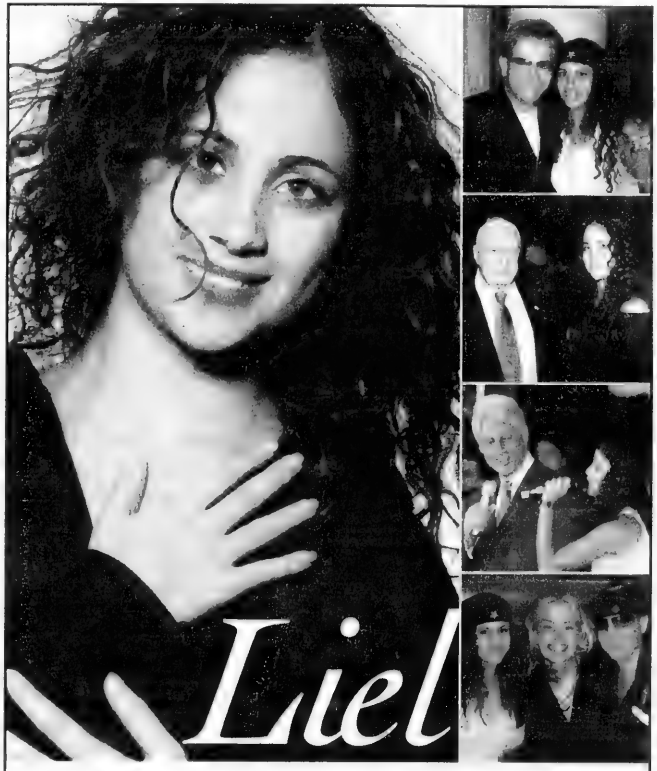
While making money is always at the forefront of a businessman's mind, Romano said that what keeps him up at night is keeping his customers safe and secure, and keeping his 6,000 employees happy.

"The most important thing is security and safety. Before any business that we do, we have to take care of safety and security. This is something that can wake me at night," Romano said.

"We also have to take care of the well-being and the salaries of 6,000 families. So, you can understand that I don't sleep too much."

Despite the fact that Romano has so many responsibilities that they interfere with his ability to sleep, he still finds time to dream.

"We want to make Toronto a major destination for El Al. It is a semi-hub and I hope it will become a hub in the future. My dream is to fly to Toronto with the 777s."



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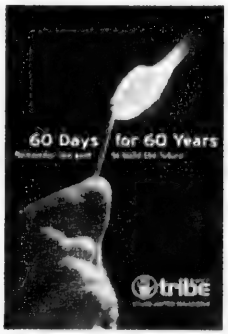
Toronto joins global program honouring 6 million

By MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

When a loved one dies, Jewish custom teaches that mourners should study Jewish scripture in order to show reverence for the deceased and to keep their souls alive.

In honour of the six million Jews who lost their lives in the Holocaust, this custom will take place on a global scale as Jews from around the world embark on 60 days of studying 60 essays by leading Jewish writers.



The Canadian program for this "60 days for Six Million" initiative will kick off on Oct. 23 at the Westmount Community Centre City Playhouse in Thornhill, where participants will receive the free book of 60 essays.

The event will feature a speech by the originator of the global program, British Rabbi Andrew Shaw, a slide show produced by teenagers who went on the March of the Living and a musical performance by violinist Mitch Silverstein, who performed during talk-show host Oprah Winfrey's tour of Holocaust sites with activist and author Elie Wiesel this past summer.

"What makes this so unique is that it's a really hands-on project," said the man spearheading the Canadian program, Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz of the Westmount Community Shul and the Routes Jewish Centre.

"People will be learning about the issue of what Judaism is, why the six million died and... we're bringing people back to life through the study of Torah."

Each program participant in Thornhill will receive a card provided by Yad Vashem with the name and age of a Holocaust victim from the city of Lvov.

Following the Oct. 23 event, the Routes Jewish Centre will be organizing weekly lectures for eight weeks exploring topics from the essay's book.

"For a good two months, we hope to have real consciousness about the Holocaust in a positive way," said Rabbi Michalowicz, noting 5,000 copies of the book of essays have already started to be distributed in the Greater Toronto Area.

"We're not just looking back and remembering. We're actively engaging in acquiring more knowledge, which is a way of moving the Jewish people forward."

The origins of the international program date back a decade when Rabbi Shaw helped commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Holocaust by creating a book that participants studied for 50 days.

A similar event was held last year to mark the 60th anniversary, and after a presentation about the program at a rabbinical convention, Michalowicz and colleagues decided it was time to take it worldwide.

This year, Toronto is one of several cities taking part.

Event organizers expect about 400 people to attend and request those interested in coming indicate so with an RSVP to 905-482-9488.

For more information, log onto www.westmountroutes.com or visit www.60for6million.com.

Jewish Book Fair celebrates 30 years

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Koffler Centre of the Arts' 30th annual Jewish Book Fair, running Nov. 4 to 12 at the Leah Posluns Theatre, promises to offer something for everyone, says book fair director Helen Redner.

With about 4,000 books, and a variety of speakers and programs throughout the week, she says, there is bound to be something for every age and taste.

Redner, who has been directing the fair for 26 years, says that in honour of the fair's 30th anniversary, all events are either $5 or $10, and many are free.

Also in honour of the anniversary, a book-cover designing contest is being held for Hebrew school students.

Barbara Held, chair of children's books and programming, says that "in the past, [the bookfair] has held extremely successful contests to mark our special anniversaries. For the 20th anniversary, students designed bookmarks, and for the 25th anniversary students were asked to describe what they felt might be an 11th commandment. Entries from both contests were displayed in the foyer."

Continued on page 15

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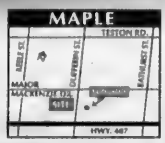

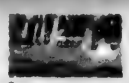

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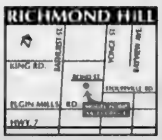

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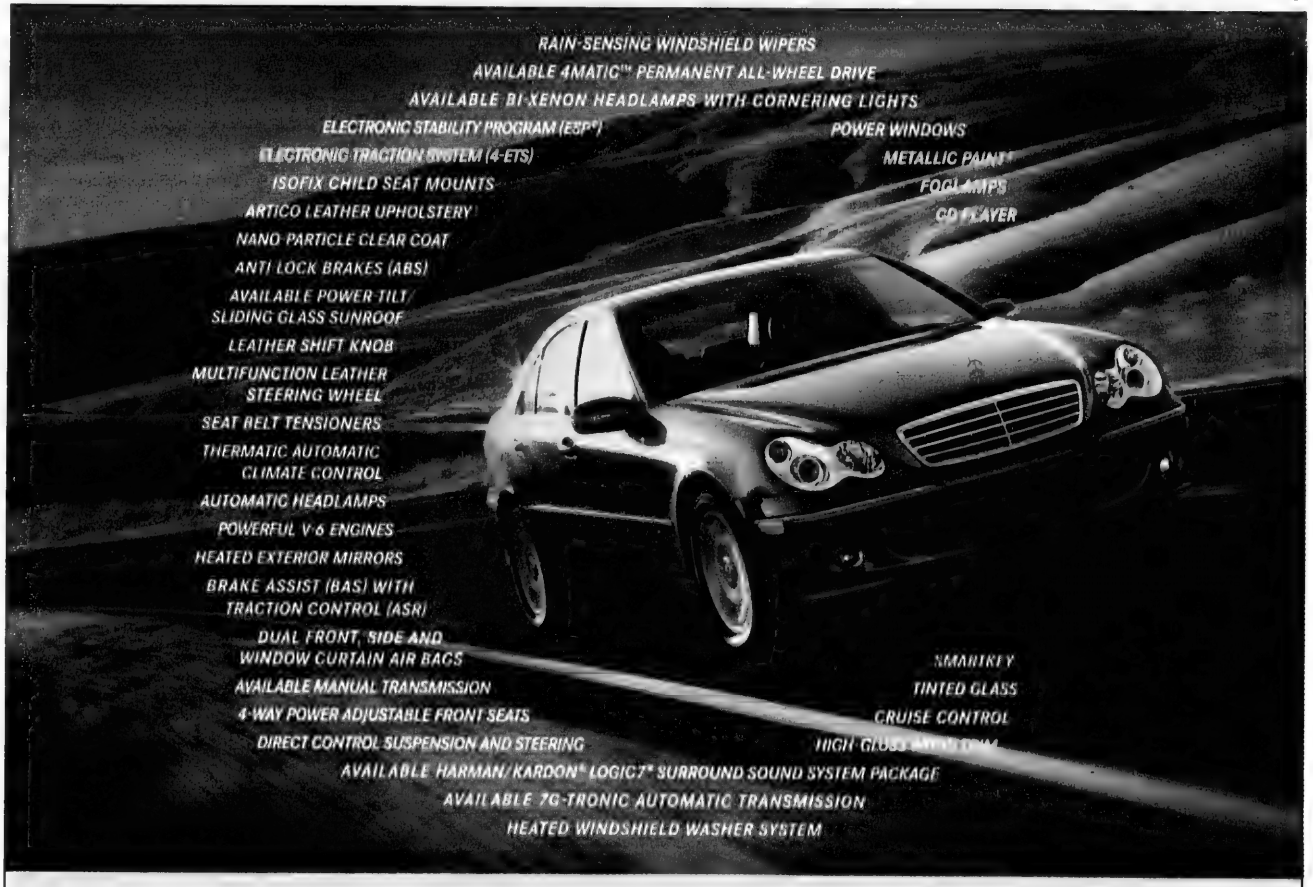

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Abbas squanders moment of history

Unilateral withdrawal by Israel from lands coveted by the Palestinians is no longer on the agenda. The unceasing rocket attacks from within Gaza upon nearby Israeli settlements, the kidnappings of Israeli soldiers by terrorists operating inside Gaza and south Lebanon and the ensuing fighting in both Gaza and south Lebanon have put paid to the possibility of unilateral Israeli withdrawals.

The majority of Israelis earnestly yearn for a leader to arise from among the Palestinians with whom they will be able to at least begin the long and arduous process of reaching a mutually acceptable accommodation.

Americans, Europeans and even many in the Israeli establishment had once hoped that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) could be that leader. Indeed, according to reports out of Washington, the Americans are convinced that Abbas can still be that leader. They are determined to prop him up until he falls finally and definitively of his own insubstantial weight or he is buried by his enemies. But most Israelis are now of the sad mind that he is not the man. He possesses neither the bravery nor the courage that his people require. He is dissembling, inept and craven.

On Sunday, the staff of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced that efforts to arrange a meeting with Abbas had come to naught. According to Olmert, Abbas had made a meeting between the two conditional on the release of Palestinians being held in Israeli jails.

"We offered to meet with Abu Mazen, but apparently he is not interested," Olmert was quoted as saying on the weekend. "He is conditioning a meeting on the release of prisoners, and we will not release any prisoners until Gilad Shalit is released," Olmert said.

The inability of the Palestinian president to set aside his transparent grandstanding to the violent, faction-driven masses can be recorded as the latest entry in a long list of his failures and missed moments.

Last week, his efforts to "moderate" the policies of the prime minister of the Palestinian Authority, Ismail Haniyeh, also failed. Haniyeh spurned even Abbas' plainly public-relations, blatantly expedient attempt to have him "recognize" Israel. Haniyeh said it would never happen, "no matter how long."

Gaza is anarchic, ruled by gun-toting bands of thugs. Palestinians have squandered the freedom to govern themselves that they gained after Israel left the Gaza Strip, much as Mahmoud Abbas squandered the numerous opportunities that the goodwill and earnest strivings of the western world and Israel conferred upon him when he ascended to power nearly two years ago. He refused to confront Hamas when his ability to do so was at its zenith. Now he confronts a rising alliance of vicious Islamist forces alongside Hamas – Iran, al Qaeda, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah – and the bleak truth of his failures as his people's condition descends despairingly to an ever lower nadir.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

• Israeli general, politician and statesman Moshe Dayan died of a heart attack. He was 66.

• Two weeks after the assassination of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt appeared to be holding.

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Oct. 7 marks Auschwitz revolt

Oct. 7, 2006, was the 62nd anniversary of the only mass revolt of the Jewish prisoners of Auschwitz.

I am a Catholic Holocaust survivor who was there while the SS were killing some of the Jews who were still alive. They were caught escaping on the banks of the River Sola. I am now 83 years old and this dramatic incident is still vivid in my mind. These brave Jews were fighting with home-made knives, bicycle chains, stones and shovels. They knew that this was the last day of their lives.

As members of the all-Polish prisoners Auschwitz Feuerwehr (fire brigade), we were sent to extinguish the burning crematorium No. IV.

Sigmund Sobolewski
Fort MacLeod, Alta.

* * *

Emergency dollars helping postwar Israel

I was among 40 members of our Jewish community who have just returned from a four-day UJA Federation of Toronto solidarity mission to the north of Israel. We visited Haifa, Nahariya, Metulla, Kiryat Shmonah and Kibbutz Misgav Am.

We saw the impact and devastation made by a constant barrage of thousands of Katyusha rockets on physical structures in each town and on the magnificent landscape of the Galilee.

More importantly, we saw the resilience of the people, who, after 32 days of living in underground shelters, are now going about the business of living normally, and with the greatest appreciation for the partnership of Jews worldwide – Jews who have assured them that in their hour of need, they are not alone.

There is much work being done, not only in restoring buildings to boost the economy, but also by psychologists and social workers who are committed to mending the minds and hearts of those who suffer from post-traumatic stress.

The Israelis we met all knew that Toronto was first on the scene, providing air conditioners in many shelters as a relief from sweltering heat. Our emergency dollars are continuing to help wherever there is a need. We all felt very proud to be members of such an extraordinary Jewish community.

Wendy R. Eisen
Toronto

* * *

Ashkenaz Festival

In "Epitaph for Yiddish" (*CJN*, Sept. 28), Rabbi Dow Marmur describes the Ashkenaz Festival as "excellent" and states that it should continue, but it is a puzzling compliment in the context of his overall indictment of Ashkenaz as a nostalgia trip.

Yiddish may not return as an everyday language, but that has little bearing on the integrity and relevance of contemporary music and art inspired by Yiddish cultural traditions. Nor does it discount the fact that there has been a considerable increase in Yiddish-language programs at major educational institutions around the world, including in Toronto, where two universities host full Yiddish-language programs.

The larger point, however, is that the Yiddish culture movement of the last quarter century has in fact demonstrated that a contemporary and evolving Yiddish-inspired culture can exist and flourish without the assurance that Yiddish will be re-instated as the Jewish vernacular. Much to the dismay of those that would have liked to forget about eastern Europe, and despite the explicit absence of its history in most Hebrew school curriculums, Ashkenaz and many like initiatives exist to ensure that this important component of our cultural heritage will not be left to wither away.

Unfortunately, Rabbi Marmur and those with like-minded attitudes make a critical perceptive error in dismissing the Ashkenaz Festival (and more broadly the entire international Yiddish culture scene) as a phenomenon based in nostalgia. It is quite the opposite, in fact. The rabbi's example of listening to, and perhaps even singing, *My Yiddishe Mama* as a means of "some Jews" reconnecting with their heritage is limited, and accurate for only a very marginal group. For many young people who attend Ashkenaz, and particularly for the many young artists working in this field, *My Yiddishe Mama* is schmaltzy anathema to what this movement is about.

Mitch Smolkin and Eric Stein
Past and current artistic directors
Ashkenaz Festival of New Yiddish Culture

* * *

Maccabi basketball

In the article "Search begins for Canada's best Jewish basketball players" (*CJN*, Sept. 28), it was stated that the men's open team did not medal in 2003 in Santiago, Chile. That is incorrect. The men's open team received a bronze medal, beating the hosting team, Chile. In fact, the 2003 men's open team did not have the funds to send a coach, but Ted Badner, the junior coach, and Sy Herling, the women's open coach, were instrumental in our victory.

Also, the 2006 men's open team, who were coached by Concordia's John Dore, returned from Australia with a silver medal. Canada pulled off a huge upset by beating one of the heavily favoured U.S. teams.

Noah Rotman
Toronto

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Perspectives

A soldier's personal Yizkor

The following is excerpted and adapted from an address delivered on Kol Nidre night to the congregation at the Beth Sholom Synagogue in Toronto.

By NOAM ARBEL

My name is Noam Arbel. I'll be 22 years old this week and I live in Jerusalem. I'm in Toronto visiting relatives, and this morning, I participated in the unveiling of my grandfather Arthur Zaldin's grave.

I am an officer in the Israeli army. Recently, I finished my mandatory three-year service and started a voluntary fourth year. This summer, I spent three weeks in Lebanon as a platoon commander in Tank Unit 401, fighting on the eastern front near Metula.

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is for many the most important day of the year – a day of justice, of decisions. Who shall live and who shall die? We ask for forgiveness for our sins over the past year. We ask to start over, looking forward to a new year and a fresh start.

Yizkor, remembering departed souls, is part of Yom Kippur too. It is when we reflect on those who have died.

At the start of the war, I was in the middle of the country. Two weeks into it, we were called up north. It was on the day before we left that Lotan Slavin died.

Lotan was an officer, a platoon commander like me, except that he had only been in his position for a few weeks. Earlier in his service, he had been a commander in the tank commanders' training school where he was my colleague for eight months, for four of which, he was my deputy.

I was the one who sent him off to officers' training. I was the last to be surprised when he finished first in the course, receiving his rank directly from the chief of staff, Dan Halutz. I'll get back to Lotan later.

I started my part in the war leaving Metula and moving west, first through a village called El-Adaisa that sits on the border, through Rab A-Talatin toward Taibe, a major town out of which many Katyusha rockets had been launched towards Israel. After spending a week in Taibe, I eventually found myself in Dir Siryan, Kantara and Hirbat Kseif, and later on, I waited to cross the Saluki river, until the call of the cease-fire and the return to Israel through Misgav Am.

None of these names should mean anything to you. Here are a few names, however, that should.

The first (well, second after Lotan) is Uri Grossman. Uri was under my command just over a year ago as a cadet in commanders' training. Uri, the son of David Grossman the author, had an amazing theatrical sense and a sense of humour that was 50 per cent Seinfeld and 50 per cent his own. He was funny, but he wasn't a joker. He was the opposite – a serious and tough fighter, not anything you would expect from a short, blond Jewish kid with thick glasses and perfect grammar. Uri was killed, along with his whole tank crew, on Aug. 12, motza'ei Shabbat, two days before the end of the war.

The commander of that tank was Bnaya Rein, another name I ask you to remember. Bnaya was 27, older than the rest of us, a fresh company commander who joined our unit two days before the war. None of us knew him that well until we saw his performance in combat. From then on, everybody did know him.

Calling himself *Koach Bnaya* (Bnaya Force), he was everywhere – carrying out wounded and bringing in supplies – always in the right place at the right time. When we started moving out toward the Saluki, we put Bnaya in charge of the four tanks we left behind knowing that no one could take care of them better than he.

Alex Bonimovitch

Uri Grossman

Bnaya Rein

Adam Goren

Yonatan Sharabi

Shai Bernstein

Lotan Slavin

Yaniv Temerson

Bnaya died on his way to rescue two tanks that were stuck in a dangerous spot and didn't know the way back to safety. He didn't think twice about the risk. He insisted on going alone since he knew it was dangerous.

As soon as he got to the two tanks, he was hit directly by an anti-tank missile that killed him along with Uri, Adam and Alex.

Adam was Adam Goren from Kibbutz Ma'abarot. He was supposed to finish his army service next month. He was a quiet and gentle soul, generally modest about his contribution.

Alex is a whole other story. Alex Bonimovitch from Netanya made aliyah from Belarus about 10 years ago. He came with his family and cousins as part of the large Russian immigration of the '90s.

Born in 1986, Alex was young, but he had an old spirit. He was one of the best soldiers or commanders you could meet – an old-fashioned stereotype of a man, extremely hardworking, sexist, funny, tough, aggressive and an enthusiastic, motivated Zionist.

When we got word that we were being sent in, Alex begged to be let in as a tank commander. As a new commander in the company, he was supposed to stay out [of the fighting] to replace any injured. But he wouldn't hear of it.

Alex was a man of principles. He insisted on two things:

- if Israel was under attack, he wanted to fight back;
- if his soldiers were in danger in Lebanon, there was no way he would not go in with them.

What can I say? Alex wasn't a classic hero or anything. All he did in the end was drive. One of 400 drivers in 400 tanks that participated in the war. But Alex was a role model in his spirit and motivation to us and to his family.

Another name never to forget is Shai Bernstein.

Shai was a good friend of Bnaya's, another company commander from a different regiment. Shai Bernstein's was the first tank in line, leading the entire army across the Saluki River. When one of the tanks with him was hit, he went to help and then was killed by another explosion. Much like Lotan.

Lotan was killed earlier in the war in a town called Bin J'bel where he had gone in to rescue fighters from the Golani forces who had been injured. He was hit while carrying wounded soldiers back toward the border.

Much has been said and can be said about the way the army and the government prepared for this war. But one thing cannot be protested: the bravery and persistence in guarding Eretz Yisrael.

I mentioned only people whom I knew and was with who were killed. But there were many others.

This is my *Yizkor*.

Who will live and who will die? It's not that clear. But it is definitely not fair.

Yom Kippur is a time worth using to put life in a more proper perspective. When I plan a military operation, I brief my soldiers and explain to them what we are looking for and so forth. However, the only way they can really understand my instructions is if I put my face next to theirs to see exactly what they see, and then show them. That's the only way for me to know their precise situation in the field.

I hope I'm helping you see things from my perspective this last summer, putting your face next to mine, metaphorically speaking, so that you are seeing a bit of what I saw.

In July and August, I was metres away from Katyusha rockets and mortars, was shot at by anti-tank missiles which missed me four times by no more than 15 to 20 metres. I drove over a landmine that lifted my tank up in the air. I treated good friends who were wounded and brought them back to Israel and dragged two bodies in a burnt tank four kilometres toward the Israeli border in order to bring them to burial. I destroyed a weapons bunker. Worst of all, I watched as rockets emptied the entire north of its inhabitants. I spent 16 days in Lebanon, showered once and changed socks twice.

I am proud of myself and my soldiers. We fought bravely. No one died in vain.

There are two key points I wish to make.

The greatest respect and honour that we owe our new Jewish heroes is to remember them and to learn from them. Moreover, we must teach *from* them – from their bravery, their Zionism and their personal sense of responsibility for an entire people.

We must maintain perspective. Many of us, including me, "sinned" over the year harming ourselves and others over petty arguments and irresponsibilities. We tend to deceive ourselves that our honour, our jobs, our money or our comforts are more important than life, morality, ideology, family, community and religion.

Alex Bonimovitch had a green backpack that he left at the base, which I found when we were gathering his belongings to give them to his parents. On it was handwriting with Joseph Trumpeldor's famous quote *"Tov lamut be'ad artzeinu."* ("It is good to die for our country.") It was sad and ironic to see it then, as the original words spoken by Trumpeldor in Tel Chai came back 80 years later, barely 10 kilometres away.

It isn't good to die for your country. It's a sacrifice one has to be prepared to make, but no parent will say it's any good. It's honourable. It's noble. But it is not good. It's good, however, to live for your country – to spend your year devoting time and attention to the things that really matter.

For perspective, I ask you to put your face next to mine.

Dedicated to:
Alex Bonimovitch, son of Yelena
Uri Grossman, son of Michal
Bnaya Rein, son of Hagit
Adam Goren, son of Aliza
Yonatan Sharabi, son of Yardena
Shai Bernstein, son of Ella
Lotan Slavin, son of Iris
Yaniv Temerson, son of Isabel

Whom I knew and cared for.
And to all of the others.

Opinions

My Jewish coffee ritual

Over the years, fasting had become increasingly difficult for me. I would get a severe headache and crippling abdominal pain. On Yom Kippur, unable to pray, I would have to go home and stay close to the washroom.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

Doctors told me to stop fasting and take pills. Impossible. After all, migraines are not a life-threatening illness. What to do?

I consulted with a cousin, Rabbi Norman Lamm. He would get blinding headaches and have to memorize his Yom Kippur sermons. Eventually, he decided to eliminate all caffeine from his diet. Incredibly, his headaches disappeared. Likewise, I now begin a slow decaffeination process before the fast and no longer suffer headaches from caffeine withdrawal.

But I love coffee! I won't eliminate it completely. It's too good, too much a staple of my diet.

So I was quite pleased recently when I came across a 1989 article by Elliott Horowitz about coffee and the Jews. It seems that coffee has played a key role in Jewish religious discourse and action since the 16th century. In fact, after wine, coffee is the most frequently discussed liquid in rabbinic responsa (law).

Coffee was first exploited and then exported from Sufi circles in 15th century Yemen. Useful as a stimulant in nightly devotional rituals, coffee became popular in religious circles. Moving from the Middle East to Italy, Jews, too, found it helpful for midnight vigils and especially during the holidays of Hoshanah Rabah and Shavuot.

But at first, there were many questions about its use. Could one drink it? Was it a medicine or a food? Questions of kashrut didn't focus on the liquid itself, but rather on who prepared it and where was it drunk.

The main concern was the degree to which coffee promoted relations between Jews and non-Jews. The very nature of the popular coffeehouses was questioned. Coffeehouses were key institutions in Paris and Britain and led to many economic and social developments. But from a Jewish perspective, they were suspect – yet also frequented.

Coffee eventually enters Jewish custom with religious approval and usage.

Kabbalists found it helpful in their midnight vigils. Others found it useful in enabling night-long study and other pietistic vigils. Some of these rituals had almost disappeared until the spread of coffee in the 17th and 18th centuries.

So the Jewish love of coffee is not just about good food, or our famous sobriety, as one historian would have it. It's intimately linked to our ritual need for wakefulness and stimulation.

It's kosher in all ways, fit for use.

Therefore, I feel justified in continuing an old Jewish tradition by drinking my daily cup.

Understanding the Beginning

"All beginnings are hard." An aphorism never more apt than when we begin the first parshah of the Torah, Bereshit.

The difficulty for western minds has been to understand what the first chapters signify. For fundamental Christians, the meaning is explicit. God created a world for himself in his image and He did it in six days, no waiting, no long and confusing crawl out of the primeval slime.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

This view is scientifically untenable. We know that the universe is incredibly old, that life formed over eons after earth began its fiery journey around the sun, and we know that, whoever is responsible for it, creation took a very, *very* long time and is still at work.

The rabbis may not have known all this, but they did intuit the fact that the first sections of Bereshit were not a science lesson, but a much more complicated message.

As I began to prepare for the new cycle, I was encouraged by my husband to look at two books that confront the difficult task of beginning to understand, well, the Beginning.

Aviva Gottleib Zornberg's *The Beginning of Desire: Reflections on Genesis* is a complicated book about a complex subject. She brings western philosophy, Freud, scientific discovery, traditional Talmud and chassidic texts, poetry and literary criticism to bear on the discussion until you are positively giddy with her knowledge and insights. For example, her analysis of the first commandment – be fruitful and multiply and subdue the earth – touches on the need the rabbis saw for the *yetser hara'ah* as the engine of increase. Dealing with the cosmic links between man and the natural world, she critiques the implicit dangers and benefits of dominance over nature versus integration with all its forms. In just one of her discourses, she brings modern philosophers, literary theorist Kenneth Burke and Rashi. And that's just for starters.

Arthur Green, in his *Seek My Face: A Jewish Mystical Theology*, recognizes that "Jews have abandoned Creation as a theological issue," leaving it to "Creationists among fundamentalist Christians, circles from which we are quite alienated, both socially and theologically." (Theology is really not a very "Jewish" thing, by this account. We seek questions more than answers, and theology is a lot about answers and patterned creeds, which we also are not very attached to, pace Maimonides.)

Green refuses to turn the issues of creation and the evolving nature of living beings into a purely mechanical process. "As Jews," he writes, "authors and bearers of the old Creation tale… we have a special interest in the emerging new story. We are concerned that its ultimate message be one of harmony… and not serve to justify endless conflict."

Living in Vancouver and travelling to many First Nations communities, we have heard their creation stories as well. First Nations tales of creation range from sublime to racy to comic. Many bands commemorate on their story poles the tale of the emergence of first people from animal origins, or from a mysterious underworld whose symbol is a hole in the middle of the poles. They took the harmony of man and nature seriously.

Jewish tradition emphasizes the responsibility of each for the other, as participants in the shaping of the natural world. Hence the very real challenge global environmental concerns should have for us: no matter how you read the commandment to "subdue" nature, surely what is not meant is to tamper with it until it is completely, irrevocably, broken. And today a very real risk is that instead of healing the world, we are destroying it.

We tie the creation of the world and the Exodus from Egypt together every week when we recite *Kiddush*. This I believe prevents us from too much hubris; as human beings we all share the same origins, a fact science now confirms. As Jews, we look forward to a new day, week, month and year in which we have special responsibilities to nurture this unique world and add to it our own personal acts of making it a better place for all.

Where are our priorities?

By JOSH SCHEINERT

Guest Voice

It was brought to my attention that over the High Holy Days the rabbi at a Conservative synagogue in Toronto took on the movement's decision to hold a vote on the ordination of gay and lesbian rabbis and whether or not Conservative rabbis could perform same-sex marriages. Staunchly opposed, he suggested Canadian Conservative rabbis form their own union if the committee on law and standards (the Conservative movement's body for deciding such issues) voted to amend the current practice.

I am not here to question or challenge such views. For starters, I am not well enough versed in the matter to have a theological debate. I can only talk about myself. Second, everyone is entitled to an opinion.

However, this underscores an ever-present tension that must be addressed. Today's youth and young adults are more exposed to, and accepting of, homosexuality than ever before. On the other side, the Conservative movement is losing numbers, especially with youth and young adults. I was in synagogue over the High Holy Days; attendance by those in their 20s and 30s was abysmal.

Thus, on one side we have a growing acceptance of homosexuality. On the other, a decline in synagogue attendance and participation in organized Jewish life. Therefore, absolute pronouncements made by religious authorities can only further damage an already weakened movement. Can we afford to be so black and white?

Yes, this is no small issue, but extreme rigidity can have huge consequences that must be thoroughly considered. Does Conservative Judaism really want to be in the business of driving away even more members – many of whom, like me, want to feel at home there? Or even parents, friends or anyone for that matter, who might feel such proclamations a bit too much and that they do not belong in such a rigid community.

I know that many could respond that expressing such views is not a rejection of homosexuality as a way of life, and merely touch on gay and lesbian rabbis and marriages. That argument cannot hold. Until you are on the other side, listening to someone make an affront to your way of life, even toward just one aspect, it is not something you can judge. Why be a member in a group that will only accept your way of life up to a point?

Again, it is not the belief that is so troublesome. But preaching moral absolutism to a society where moral relativism, for better or for worse, is often the accepted norm can be very dangerous. Too much divides us already. A movement struggling over how to handle female equality, the drive of modernity and secular culture has no room for another wedge. And no, this is not an argument, as critics would point out, rooted in that exact drive of modernity or secular culture. This is an argument rooted in morality.

We preach over and over again these beliefs, which make up just a fraction of our identity and what it means to be Jewish. Often, the big picture gets forgotten.

Put the emphasis on growth. Call out for more Jewish homes to light Shabbat candles. Ask for more couples, gay or straight, to send their children to day schools so that the coming generation will have a strong Jewish identity. Teach the Ten Commandments because not enough of us know them or adhere to them. And lastly, preach tolerance – tolerance for those who strive to live honest, menschlich, Jewish lives. Do not cast shadows over people you have never met – nothing could be more un-Jewish.

Josh Scheinert is a law student at Osgoode Hall in Toronto.

Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton

WILL RETURN

The Kirshner File

Self-hatred and disillusionment in Poland

The compelling story of blurred identity that Heather Laskey tells in *Night Voices* (McGill-Queen's University Press) turns largely on the bittersweet reminiscences of Stanislawa (Stasia) Alapin Rubilowicz, a Jewish woman from Poland who currently lives in Canada.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Her life – shot through with upheaval, terror, uncertainty, idealism, betrayal, self-hatred and confusion is a cautionary tale about a period in Poland's history when a fervent belief in communism supposedly heralded the dawn of an egalitarian society free of anti-Semitism.

Rubilowicz, a medical doctor whose original surname was Grynbaum, was born in Warsaw in 1915 and raised in an ardently assimilationist milieu. The vast majority of Polish Jews, including my own parents, were proud of their rich traditions, which stretch back a thousand years. But the Grynbaums broke that mould with a bang.

"At Easter, we painted eggs," she recalls, offering one of the first clues of their estrangement from their roots."Christmas was celebrated as in any Polish middle-class home with gifts waiting under the candle-lit pine tree and a big dinner with a glazed roast ham. And on All Saints Day we visited our dead in the cemetery – the Jewish cemetery."

And then there is this: "[We were] so well assimilated that there was never the slightest sign of the Jewish religion in my upbringing," she observes. "I knew nothing about it. I never saw anything to do with Jewish holidays… nor did I hear anyone speaking… Yiddish.."

Steeped in Polish culture, history and literature, she was a Polish patriot to the core. "We were imbued with pride in Poland's tragic yet heroic past."

Her father, whom she adored and describes as perfect, was an importer of foreign films and the owner of movie houses. Her mother, Irena, an actress, is one of the dominant characters in this intriguing book.

When Rubilowicz was a teenager, Irena divorced her husband and married Karol Adwentowicz, a distinguished Polish theatre director 22 years her senior. To marry him, she converted to Roman Catholicism and took her mother's maiden name, Stange, which did not sound Jewish.

In yet another step designed to extinguish her Jewish background, she adopted a stage name, Grywinska, which sounds very Polish. But Irena wanted more. "She pressed me to convert to Catholicism," Rubilowicz writes, "so that I would become more Polish, or perhaps so that I would not be a source of potential embarrassment for her."

Rubilowicz, who lived with her father after the divorce, refused to comply with her wishes. Yet Irena had already twisted her self-esteem, engendering in her "a distaste for anything Jewish."

Though ambivalent about her Jewishness, Rubilowicz followed in her father's footsteps. His attitude was, "I was born a Jew, and I shall die a Jew." At the insistence of Irena, however, Rubilowicz sat in on Christian religious classes at school.

It would save her life during the Holocaust.

In the mid-1930s, when a wave of anti-Semitism swept over Poland, Rubilowicz began her medical studies. She had been insulated from anti-Semitism until then. But at Warsaw University, she and other Jewish students were forced to sit on "ghetto benches," which had been introduced under pressure from a minority of pro-fascist students.

Refusing to submit to this indignity, she and a group of her fellow Jewish students stood during lectures. In solidarity, four non-Jewish left-wing students joined them.

Most Polish students in her class were simply indifferent to the crass anti-Semitism, and this shocked the naive Rubilowicz. "It was not until then, at university, that I realized that we so-called assimilated Jews were left in the cold, in a no-man's land, neither nor there – Jews living like Poles, rejecting a Jewish life, but in turn rejected by the Poles."

Due to the violence on campus, her first husband, Bolek Alapin, a Jewish leftist like herself, escorted her to class.

The anti-Semitic atmosphere dented her self-confidence. "We thought we could push through the wall of prejudice… and hatred. But it was too thick, too strong to be penetrated," she muses. Yet Rubilowicz continued to believe that Polish society would accept her as an equal.

A case in point: Two-timing her husband, she dated a Polish army cadet. But when he discovered she was Jewish, he severed the relationship. By then, her first husband had left her.

World War II shattered more of her illusions. As she puts it, "I was no longer a Polish woman; they, the Poles, were looking at me with contempt. I was Jude, Zyd, a Jew. Never again could I feel that they were my people. The disdain in their eyes made me a lifelong refugee, forever a person without a country, without a place."

Stanislawa (Stasia) Alapin Rubilowicz

Rubilowicz escaped into the Russian zone in Poland, but soon was back in Nazi-occupied Warsaw. Her status in the Warsaw ghetto was peculiar. "We were… conspicuous by our manner and pure Polish speech, and here, unable to understand or to speak Yiddish, we were deaf mutes… The irony was that we had been rejected from Polish society because we were Jews, and now, in the ghetto, we were… again rejected."

Although, as a doctor, she was better off than most Jews in the ghetto, she quickly realized that her son, Peter, was in mortal danger. With the big deportations having begun in 1942, Irena, living as a Christian in the Aryan part of town, agreed to shelter Peter. He was smuggled out of the ghetto.

Shortly afterward, Rubilowicz, overwhelmed by hopelessness, tried to commit suicide. After recovering, she escaped from the ghetto, and just in time, too. The patients in her hospital were murdered and the physicians were deported to Treblinka. She never saw her beloved father again.

With her mother's and stepfather's help, she found shelter and a new identity as Irena Ponikowska, a deceased Polish Catholic. As an extra precaution, she bleached her brown hair and wore a crucifix.

Even so, she was almost "outed" as a Jew.

Thanks to Polish friends who never wavered in their loyalty, Rubilowicz was placed on a farm near Warsaw. But even here, relatively far from prying German eyes, she felt the sting of anti-Semitism when members of a Polish partisan band boasted of killing a Jew hiding in the forest.

Liberated in August 1944 by the Red Army, she joined the reconstituted Polish army as a doctor under her real name. She was then reunited with Peter, who had been cared for by nuns in a convent. "I'll never forget this moment, the happiest in my life," she writes.

Unlike many Polish Jews, Rubilowicz remained in Poland after the war, eager to build socialism. But hope soon gave way to disappointment, as her efforts to charge a woman who had denounced her to the Gestapo came to naught and as Peter was tongue-lashed as "a dirty Jew" by a classmate.

In 1949, she married Mietek Rubilowicz, and they lived comfortably in Warsaw. But she was soon disenchanted with communism. "The turning point for me was the so-called Doctors' Plot in the Soviet Union," she says.

But growing anti-Semitism in Poland, manipulated by the cynical Polish government for its own ends, was a crushing blow as well. "I couldn't have anticipated that the virus of anti-Semitism would survive after the horrible war, when millions of Jews had died on Polish soil," she notes dejectedly.

As a result, she decided to leave Poland and settle in Canada. Mietek, a loyal communist, was reluctant to emigrate. But he consented when Rubilowicz agreed to immigrate to Israel. (Bolek, her first husband, left Poland, too, and settled in London, England, in the Polish emigre community. He had already converted to Christianity, and when he died, he was given a traditional Polish funeral, "as accorded to real Poles.")

After a difficult period of adjustment, she finally accepted Israel as her home, feeling she belonged there. Her mother, now a grand dame of the Polish theatre but still uneasy about her Jewish origins, visited them in Israel, but told friends she had been to France.

Rubilowicz eventually soured on Israel, unable to cope with the constant strife in the Mideast and angry over Israel's treatment of Israeli Arabs. She went to Canada – where Peter had immigrated – to spend her last years quietly in "a peaceful, tolerant democracy." To please her, Mietek joined her in Canada.

Rubilowicz's mother died before she settled in Canada. When she arrived in Poland for her funeral, she discovered that Irena's quest to mask her Jewishness had created a ludicrous situation. Laskey, who met Rubilowicz after making a CBC Radio documentary about her memories of World War II, describes the funeral arrangements at length.

She leaves us in the dark about Rubilowicz's current status in Canada, but sheds much light on the pathetic pathology of self-loathing.

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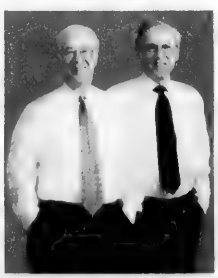

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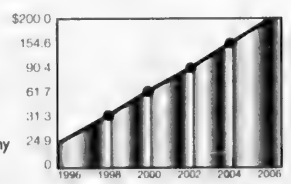

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The Jewish Education Report

Learning never stops for experienced educators

By A.M. Segal

In her 30-plus years as a teacher, Margot Levitt has learned a great deal about how to inspire kids and help them learn.

But even as a veteran, the grade four Associated Hebrew Schools educator still feels there's more to learn and that's why she enrolled in a new Professional Development Course (PDQ) offered by UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education (BJE).

"Professional development is dialogue," said Levitt. "PDQ classes are small so there is time for discussion as well as the opportunity to speak about our struggles and listen to other teachers."

Levitt is one of many educators enrolled in a new batch of PDQ courses aimed specifically at experienced teachers.

The classes, which began in the summer and continue throughout fall and winter, concentrate on enriching teaching practices, exploring educational issues and understanding the culture of the Jewish school setting.

"We want to engage these experienced teachers and invigorate them," said Laura Wiseman, a BJE educator. "The aim is to help educators become reflective practitioners who ultimately affect the quality of learning for our students."

Board of Jewish Education teachers learn new skills at a recent Professional Development Day.

The course Levitt is taking is entitled, "It's not the 'what' – it's the 'how.'" Taught by educational consultant Dori Levine, the course guides teachers towards going beyond merely presenting content to actually understanding 'how' to teach it in a way that connects with a diverse group of students.

"Nowadays, there is more complexity in the job and teachers are being asked to deal with children with varied backgrounds and varied levels of performance," explained Levine. "That means they need a new understanding of how to deal with these different levels and operate to bring about change in the child."

As an incentive to enroll in these classes, teachers who participate in seven units of PDQs are invited to take part in a free, 10-day summer seminar in Israel.

"The seminar in Israel is planned by BJE educators and facilitated by local experts in education in Israel," Wiseman said.

For more information, visit www.bjetoronto.org or call Janis Schemool at 416-633-7770 ext. 245.

Rabbi Eric Levy a perfect fit for Ulpanat Orot

By Carla Lancit

This fall, the students at Toronto's Ulpanat Orot girls school, with a religious Zionist philosophy, are adjusting to two new things –Talmud study, and Rabbi Eric Levy.

Levy, the school's new principal, oversees Jewish studies and, together with the school's board, created the new Talmud track. "Talmud wasn't being taught formally in the school before this," says Levy. "When they asked me to come on board, it was clear they wanted me to do this."

Teaching Talmud isn't new to Levy. Prior to his appointment at Ulpanat Orot, he taught Jewish studies at Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School in New Jersey. Rabbi Levy is also an internationally respected Jewish educator, who served in the Israeli army tank corps. His classes and lectures on Torah topics are widely available on the internet.

At Ulpana, Levy is teaching ninth grade Talmud and a twelfth grade course in biblical poetry. He's still adjusting, however, to the idea that his responsibilities now extend beyond the classroom. "The hardest part is coming out of the classroom and being able to affect kids directly and indirectly. You have to take a step back and remember that your job is to educate all the kids—not just teach them."

Levy is impressed with the dedication of the school's students and staff. "The girls want to learn—both Torah and otherwise. The teaching staff is great. Things have been going very smoothly."

The feeling is mutual. "I'm very excited at what I see," says the school's general studies principal Frank Samuels. "There's an energy in the school, an enthusiasm. He's a tireless worker, and I believe the path and directions that have been set are encouraging and will result in the school being stronger as we move forward."

Samuels notes, in particular, Levy's emphasis on tefilla (prayer), accountability, and embracing technology where it assists education. "We now have a student-accessible wireless internet environment, and we've already had two video shiurim (lessons) with Rabbi Leibtag in Israel through Torah in Motion."

The creation of the Talmud track is in keeping with the philosophy that Orthodox girls should receive the same education as their brothers. In fact, Levy notes that the curriculum at Ulpanat Orot closely matches that of brother-school Or Chaim. "We teach them the same Talmud as the boys. We teach them Gemara, and in Navi (Prophets) we're doing the same material," says Levy. "We want them to have the exact same educational opportunities as boys do when it comes to Torah knowledge."

NOAR forges connections between Jewish youth and community

Since he was a child, Justin Tock has dreamed about visiting Israel. So when he learned that Young Judaea was offering an extensive five week trip to the Holy Land for the summer of 2006, he was keenly interested.

But there was one potential problem - money. "There's a reasonably good chance I would have been held back because of financial constraints," noted the Northview Heights Secondary School student.

Fortunately, money didn't stand in his way thanks to a UJA Federation of Greater Toronto scholarship arranged in conjunction with NOAR, a Board of Jewish Education initiative, which helps provide a wide array of "experiential education" programs for Jewish youth.

Camps, youth groups and Israel experiences, such as tours and study opportunities, are some of the key programs NOAR provides in order to nurture Jewish identity and community connections.

Tock, who had attended NOAR-affiliated camps for six years prior to the Israel trip, is grateful the scholarship was awarded to him.

"I had never been to Israel before, so finally getting the chance to go was such a privilege," he said. "Seeing and experiencing historical and beautiful sites for the first time made it really moving."

Since starting up two years ago, NOAR – which means "youth" in Hebrew - has helped bolster programs like Tock's Young Judaea experience in Israel through a variety of efforts, particularly financial assistance and professional development for youth professionals.

For summer camps, NOAR has played a major role in developing the Ontario Council for Jewish Camping, a collaborative forum for camps.

"We discuss common camping concerns and NOAR has provided professional development support on the camp grounds," said NOAR director, Dani Fine.

"It gives us an opportunity to meet, share expertise and open ourselves up to working together which we've never done before," said Risa Epstein, national executive director of Canadian Young Judaea and director of Camp Solelim. "It's given us a real voice in the community."

For the future, NOAR is aiming to build on the progress of the last two years by launching new programs and enhancing existing ones.

"By offering our services to a wider group of Jewish youth while they're young, the community will have them forever," said Epstein.

Toronto youngsters such as these are taking part in a number of Israel experiences thanks to NOAR.

THE JEWISH EDUCATION REPORT IS PUBLISHED BY UJA FEDERATION'S BOARD OF JEWISH EDUCATION.

The Jewish Education Report

Toronto students stand with Israel

By Carla Lancit

When Dan Held returned from summer vacation, he was met by a slew of emails from students with ideas of how to respond to the recent war in Israel.

Held, the student activities director at Tanenbaum CHAT Richmond Hill, wasn't surprised. CHAT's students have strong connections to Israel and the students initiate many of the school's activities.

CHAT started the school year with an assembly covering not only the events of the summer, but background and history as well, to ensure that the students were properly informed. "Then we moved into *am echad b'lev echad* mode (one nation with one heart) and we stand with Israel," says Held. But support for Israel isn't a one-shot-deal. The students are also working with a high school in Kiryat Shmona that was bombed, so far raising more than $1,000. "It was an outpouring of their empathy and support for Israel," says Held. In addition, the school's teachers are incorporating aspects of the war into the curriculum.

"The summer has been a challenge for the schools to translate 'we stand with Israel' into a meaningful message for students," says Natan Kandler, a Jewish Agency shaliach (emissary) who works with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Board of Jewish Education (BJE).

The BJE held a workshop in order to assist the schools, during which participants discussed how to bring Israel into the schools in a meaningful way. The workshop also offered school principals resources to do so.

Each school has responded to the challenge in its own way. At Netivot HaTorah Day School, each grade is being twinned with a family in northern Israel.

"Everyone feels a concern," says vice principal of Jewish Studies Rabbi Elliott Diamond. "We have a lot of connections, and, in a time of war, our concerns are that much more intense."

At Associated, the situation in Israel is being covered in both the formal and informal curriculum. In the first two weeks of school, the students learned songs of peace and hope and prepared banners. The preparation culminated in a rally for all 1,700 Associated students. "We all marched and rallied for Israel with flags, and all the children sang songs," says Kathy Friedman, principal of the Kamin campus. "It was a powerful voice."

"I think it's very meaningful when a youngster recognizes that Israel is part of his or her identity," says Kandler. "The war may have been over there, but it affects us here as well."

1,700 students from the Kamin Campus of Associated Hebrew Schools participated in a recent rally where they marched in support of Israel.

Agreeing on a Jewish education is an important first step

By Daniel Horowitz

When my wife Elana and I were married two-and-a-half years ago, we, like many couples, didn't exactly see eye to eye on everything. Okay, to be perfectly honest, we agreed on very little. One issue in particular stood above the rest, however: how we were going to educate our beautiful 17-month-old son, Eli.

I always thought to myself - I'm a good Jew, my wife's a good Jew, we're both pretty well educated and, with or without a Jewish education, Eli's going to be the same. I always saw my son going only to our neighbourhood public school with kids of all backgrounds, learning about life. After all, I pay taxes that go to support that school, so why shouldn't I send my son there?

Not impressed with my logic, Elana had other plans. She is adamant about the importance of a good Jewish education.

Daniel and Elana Horowitz have many questions to be answered [illegible] Eli's future Jewish education choices.

"Although my brothers and I went to public school, I wholeheartedly believe in Jewish education," says Elana. "I feel that in today's world, it's crucial to send our kids to a Jewish school. I've always regretted not having a formal Jewish education and it's my wish for my son to be in a classroom where he learns the crucial subjects like math and English, but also Jewish history, language, culture and prayer, so that he is enriched with a strong Jewish identity."

The more I spoke with my wife, and the more I thought about it, the more I had to admit that she was right. I would love nothing more than to have Eli lead our Shabbos meal in the future, maybe even teach old dad how to daven properly in shul down the road.

There is something fundamentally reassuring and calming about the thought of my son learning, from day one, who he is as a Jew, and what that means in the grand, cosmic scheme of things. He'll probably even thank me for going along with his mom on this one.

Now that we've agreed on something (finally), the next step is investigating the incredible myriad of educational options out there. So, the two of us will be attending the upcoming Jewish Education Fair, and, who knows, maybe Elana and I will even agree on which pre-school is right for Eli.

Teach your children well: Don't miss the Jewish Education Fair

On Monday, October 23, parents with questions about Jewish education choices for their children will be making their way to the Tanenbaum CHAT Wilmington campus to take part in the Jewish Education Fair.

The renamed Fair – known in previous years as Options in Jewish Education – is sponsored by the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto, part of the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage of UJA Federation.

This year's fair will be bigger than ever before with representatives from more than 25 educational facilities, representing day schools, pre-schools and supplementary education, available to answer questions about the range of educational options available throughout the Greater Toronto Area.

For more information about the Jewish Education Fair, visit www.bjetoronto.org (click Jewish Education Fair on the right hand side) or call 416.635.5600.

For more information about Jewish education in Toronto, visit the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education Web site, www.bjetoronto.org, call 416.633.7770 or e-mail bje@ujafed.org

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STEPHEN HARPER

AT THE
ANNUAL NCSY GALA DINNER
Sunday, November 19, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.
The Toronto Centre For The Arts
5040 Yonge Street, Toronto

Please join us for this important event and demonstrate your appreciation for the Government's principled position on Israel while you support NCSY's educational programs for unaffiliated Jewish teenagers.

THE DINNER IS FOLLOWED BY THE
26TH ANNUAL NCSY CONCERT
A Jewish Music Extravaganza at 8:00 p.m.
Featuring **AVRAHAM FRIED**,
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Greater Toronto Area

JVS Toronto celebrates its 60th anniversary

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

As part of its 60th anniversary celebrations, Jewish Vocational Service Toronto unveiled six storyboards at its annual general meeting that highlight the organization's history.

Arranged by decades, the storyboards begin in 1947 when community leader Max Enkin led a group of businesspeople in creating the organization, and the storyboards trace the organization's growth decade by decade into the new millennium.

Karen Goldenberg, JVS Toronto's president and CEO, said that because a lot of archival information has been lost over the years, she and a group of volunteers have been attempting to retrace and document the agency's history.

"Volunteers are interviewing former clients and agency leaders and are trying to get as much information as possible. Our plan is to put together a celebratory book, which will be presented at our 60th anniversary gala, next October."

Goldenberg, who also serves as president of the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (IAJVS), said JVS is also trying to tie its history to that of similar agencies throughout North America.

"[Most] agencies started up before the war when Jews began coming to North America, and there has never been competition among us. We share information across the network."

Like the other IAJVS members, she said, the Toronto agency was founded to serve uniquely Jewish needs and thwart anti-Semitic hiring practices.

By the 1950s, though, it was serving the entire community, and in the following two decades, it created a rehabilitation workshop for clients with physical or mental disabilities, and eventually began offering career counselling, as well as education and psychological services.

JVS's storyboards

Currently in 14 locations, JVS assists more than 20,000 people a year, she said, including new immigrants, youth, women, people with disabilities, mature workers, as well as the unemployed and underemployed.

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JCC MACCABI GAMES 2007
Aug. 12-17, 2007, Orange County, CA.
Maccabi games are for Jewish athletes ages 13 to 16.

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at the Bathurst JCC 10:30 - 12 PM

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call 416.636.1880 ext 257

UJA FEDERATION · JCC

Book cover design contest set for 30th book fair

Continued from page 6

This year, students from grades 1 to 3 are asked to design a book cover about a Jewish holiday; grades 4 and 5 will design a cover about a Bible story; and grades 6 to 8 will design a cover about remembrance.

"Although we will be presenting a prize in each category, each entry will have a place of honour in the theatre foyer," said Held.

Redner says that there are a number of children's programs being held, including a reading on Nov. 5 at 10 a.m. of *Kvetchy Boy* by author Anne-Marie Baila Asner, followed by interactive bookmaking for children 5 and up.

At 3 p.m. on Nov. 5, author Kathy Kacer speaks about her latest book, *Hiding Edith*, the true story of a young Jewish girl sent to live in the French town of Moissac after the Nazi invasion of France.

"We want kids to be aware of some well-written prize-winning books that revolve around a Jewish theme," says Redner.

She says that throughout the year leading up to the fair, the board of about 30 people look over thousands of books and decide what will showcase well.

A number of the books have been written by the children of Holocaust survivors such as Bernice Eisenstein, author of *I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors*, who speaks on Nov. 8 at 8 p.m, says Redner.

"There has been a revival of these books, because as these people reach 60 years old, they are starting to lose their parents, and are trying to pass on the experience of growing up in such a home."

Two speakers are basing their talks around the 90th yahrtzeit of Sholem Aleichem, says Redner.

On Nov. 5 at 1:30, Eugene Orenstein speaks in Yiddish and English, at the Shloime and Fannie Steinhart Yiddish lecture, on "Wisdom and Grace, Sholem Aleichem's Humour: A tribute to his 90th yahrtzeit."

On Nov. 12 at 1:30 p.m., Nathan Garnick presents a literary review in English and Yiddish on the legacies of I.L. Peretz on his 90th yahrtzeit, and Sholom Aleichem.

With so much to offer, says Redner, visitors to the fair often buy tickets in multiples.

For information and to purchase tickets, call 416-636-1880, ext. 368.

JUMPING FOR JOY: For the second year in a row, Bialik Hebrew Day School elementary students in grades 1 to 5 participated in the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart event. Students learned about healthy eating and enjoyed planned physical activities related to skipping. They raised funds for research into causes and treatments of heart attacks and strokes. Seen from left are Lauren Kaminker, Nicole Tittel, Aleksa Gold, Jaime Turk, Ariel Albin, Sarah Allen.

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The Belle and Norman Sernick Memorial Lecture
"Jewish Roots of Broadway"
a series with
Jordan Klapman
Sunday, October 29th, November 12th, December 3rd
2:15 – 3:30 p.m.

The Senator David A. Croll Memorial Lecture
"Healthy Living"
with Dr. Lorenzo Diana, ND
(Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine)
Wednesday, November 1tst
1:30 p.m.

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• Visit "Your Jewish Name" Booth
• Musical presentation by Terrace Gardens Singers • Door Prizes
Free Shuttle Bus Service:
Pick up at Bialik Hebrew Day School • 2670 Bathurst Street • 12:30 pm & 1:45 pm. Call Pam at 416-452-7767 to book a seat on the shuttle.

OPEN DOORS Careguide 2006
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Torah in Motion conference at Shaarei Shomayim

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

The fifth annual Renewing Our Spirit; Self, Family, Nation, conference of Torah in Motion takes place at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation on Nov. 4 and 5.

The event is held in memory of Nathan Noteh Krauss.

The program begins Saturday night, at 8:15, with a panel discussion titled "Engagement and Disengagement: The future of Religion in the Land of Israel," moderated by Elliott Malamet. Panellists include Rabbi Chaim Brovender, dean, Ohr Torah Stone Colleges in Israel; Adam Ferziger, associate director, graduate program contemporary Jewry, Bar-Ilan University in Rehovot; Rabbi Pinchas Hayman, an expert in Talmud education; and Rabbi Francis Nataf, educational director, David Cardozo Academy in Jerusalem.

Subjects to be dealt with on Sunday include blogs; the shift to the right in contemporary Orthodoxy; the relationship between the Orthodox and the non-observant; Jewish education; Jewish meditation; and religious censorship in the information age.

Participants will include Rabbi Gil Student, who operates the HirhurimMusings blog; Samuel Heilman, professor of sociology at Queen's College in New York; Rabbi Daniel Feldman, a rebbe at Yeshiva University; Rabbi Marvin Schick, president of Jacob Joseph School in New York; and Mindy Ribner, founder and director of Beit Miriam, a centre for spirituality and meditation

Cost of the full program is $40, which includes lunch. Saturday night or any single session is $15. Cost after Oct. 30 for the complete program is $50.

For more information, or to register, go to www.torahinmotion.org, or telephone 416-633-5770.

Fertility expert to speak at Kehila Centre

"Be Fruitful and Multiply: an issue of sensitivity within the Orthodox community," will be the topic of a program at the Sephardic Kehila Centre in Thornhill, Oct. 22, at 8 p.m.

The speaker will be Dr. Baruch Brooks, an embryologist and religious supervisor in the newly opened in vitro fertilization unit at Shaare Zedek hospital in Jerusalem.

Program set for October 22

Brooks, who is involved with PGD, the pre-implantation genetics program, performs biopsies on embryos.

As well, he is the head of Zir Chemed, a resource for fertility advice. The organization runs a fertility clinic and laboratory in Jerusalem, which operates according to Halachah.

Brooks earned his PhD at the Institute of Psychiatry, London, in brain biochemistry. He and his family made aliyah in 1983, where he studied at a kollel for two years. He then took a post-doctoral position at Shaare Zedek.

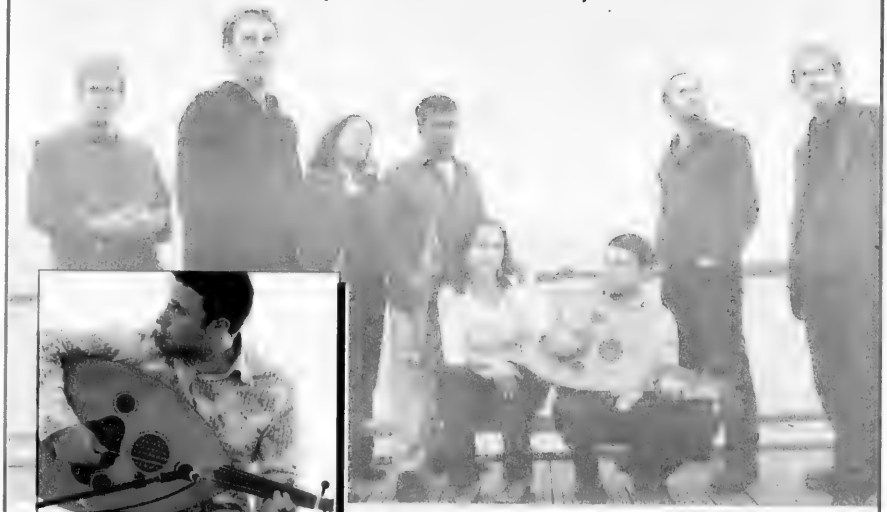
He travels extensively to England, the United States, and Canada, lecturing and counselling.

While here, he will be available for private consultation with couples experiencing fertility issues. To book an appointment, call Shari, 905-660-9281, or email Brooks, at drbrooks@netvision.net.il.

The program at the Sephardic Kehila Centre is in memory of Isaac Kozlowski. It is sponsored by the Kehila Centre and Westmount Community Shul. For more information, call Shlomo, 905-669-7654, ext.223.

"Come to Life" Open House

Sunday, October 22 1:30-4:00 p.m.



Event Program:

1:30-2:30 ARTS & CRAFTS exhibit & sale

2:30-3:30 LIVE MUSIC - SHAKSHUKA
Jazz and Klezmer performing band
Blending the sounds of many Jewish cultures with a jazzy beat

3:30-4:00 Tours and light refreshments
Door Prizes

Place: Terraces of Baycrest
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Assembly Room - Main Floor

Registration is FREE. Seating is limited.
416-785-2500 x 2267 or
MJacobson@baycrest.org

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Shakshuka: Recently featured at the Ashkenaz Festival this exuberant band is an original spicy fusion of jazz, Middle Eastern music, Israeli music, and music from around the Jewish Diaspora.

Arts and Crafts Exhibit: View our display of hand painted ceramics, knitted items, stained glass pieces, jewelry, and other unique items created by Terraces residents and Joseph E. & Minnie Wagman members. Select pieces will be available for purchase.

Terraces of Baycrest

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CJN Giveaways
7 Lucky Winners

will receive a pair of tickets
(value $136)
to hear

"The Three Tenors from the Holyland"

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Tuesday, December 12, 8 p.m.
at Beth Tzedec Synagogue
1700 Bathurst St., Toronto

Rules: To be eligible to win please print your name, address and daytime phone number on a piece of paper
(See advertisement printed elsewhere in this issue)

All contest entries received by 5 p.m. on **Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006** are eligible. The winning entries will be randomly selected from all entries received at The CJN offices on **Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2006**, at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. One entry per person!
The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants

Send your entry to: ***"The Three Tenors"* Contest,**
The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 416-391-0949

Employees and family members of The CJN and Show One Entertainment and Beth Tzedec Synagogue are not eligible to enter

2006 Jewish BOOK FAIR November 4-12

Koffler Centre of the Arts presents the

30th Annual Jewish Book Fair

Saturday, November 4 to Sunday, November 12

Leah Posluns Theatre, Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St.

For tickets phone: 416-636-1880 [ext 368] or order by e-mail at: bookfair@bjcc.ca

Opening Night - Saturday, November 4 8:00 pm
MICHAEL KARPIN, author of **The Bomb in the Basement**, will speak on *How Israel Went Nuclear and What that Means for the World.*
SPONSORED BY CANADIAN FRIENDS OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY $10

Sunday, November 5 10:00 am
ANNE-MARIE BAILA ASNER reads from her latest book, **Kvetchy Boy**, one in a series from Matzah Ball Books. Followed by interactive book-making for children ages 5+. [supplies provided]
STUDENTS $1

Sunday, November 5 11:00 am
KATHY KACER *Please see Sunday, November 5 at 8:00 pm*
AGES 9-13 STUDENTS $1 ADULTS $3

Sunday, November 5 1:30 pm
The Shloima and Yetta Steinhart Yiddish Lecture
PROFESSOR EUGENE ORENSTEIN will speak in Yiddish and English on *Wisdom and Grace, Sholem Aleichem's Humour: A Tribute for his 90th Yahrtzeit.*
SPONSORED BY COMMITTEE FOR YIDDISH, UJA FEDERATION, FRIENDS OF YIDDISH AND THE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE, TORONTO. SUPPORTED BY LIPA GREEN ENDOWMENT FUND. $5

Sunday, November 5 3:00 pm
A workshop on *How to Write and Publish a Book*, with LORNE MILLER, author of ***These Days Anyone Can Write a Book!***
SPONSORED BY MYSTORIES.CA FREE

Sunday, November 5 4:00 pm
DR. MARLA SHAPIRO, author of ***Life in the Balance***, speaks on *My Journey with Breast Cancer.*
SPONSORED BY WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM, CANADIAN SEAWAY BRANCH $5

Sunday, November 5 8:00 pm
KATHY KACER will speak on her latest book, ***Hiding Edith.*** Edith Schwalb Gelbard, the hidden child-heroine of the book will also appear and speak on her experience.
A PROGRAM OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK. FREE TICKET MUST BE OBTAINED THROUGH JEWISH BOOK FAIR BOX OFFICE.

Monday, November 6 11:00 am
NORENE GILLETZ, author of ***Healthy Helpings*** will speak on *What's For Dinner? How to Cook Quick, Easy, Healthy Meals That Actually Taste Good.*
SPONSORED BY WOMEN'S HEALTH CLUB, BJCC FREE

Monday, November 6 1:30 pm
SIMCHA SIMCHOVITCH reads in Yiddish from his new book ***The Fiery Mountain: Collected Poems, Bilingual Edition.*** Renowned poet KENNETH SHERMAN reviews the book and DORION LIEBGOTT reads the poems in English.
SPONSORED BY LZA SENIORS YIDDISH CLUB. FREE

Monday, November 6 8:00 pm
DAVID PRYCE-JONES, author of ***Betrayal*** will speak on *France, the Jews, and the Arabs.*
SPONSORED BY B'NAI BRITH CANADA $5

Tuesday, November 7 10:30 am
She'arim Hebrew Day School performs ***Bone Button Borscht*** by ELIZABETH CHATTERTON based on the book by AUBREY DAVIS.
SPONSORED BY DR. ABRAHAM SHORE SHE'ARIM HEBREW DAY SCHOOL, SARA AND SAM HENNICK EDUCATION CENTRE
AGES SK-5 STUDENTS $1 ADULTS $3

Tuesday, November 7 1:30 pm
BILL GLADSTONE, author of ***Roots and Remembrance*** will speak on *Explorations in Jewish Genealogy.*
SPONSORED BY ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. FREE

Tuesday, November 7 8:00 pm
GERSHOM GORENBERG, author of ***Accidental Empire: Israel and the Birth of the Settlements*** will speak on *After the War- Before the Peace.*
THE HARVEY YALONETSKY MEMORIAL LECTURE SPONSORED BY CANADIAN FRIENDS OF PEACE NOW $5

Wednesday, November 8 10:30 am
Play performed by She'arim Hebrew Day School.
Please see Tuesday, November 7 at 10:30 am

Wednesday, November 8 1:30 pm
KATHY KACER. *Please see Sunday, November 5 at 8:00 pm*
AGES 9-13 STUDENTS $1 ADULTS $3

Wednesday, November 8 8:00 pm
BERNICE EISENSTEIN will speak on her new book ***I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors.***
SPONSORED BY KOLEL: THE ADULT CENTRE FOR LIBERAL JEWISH LEARNING $5

Thursday, November 9 10:30 am and 1:30 pm
KATHY KACER.
Please see Sunday, November 5 at 8:00 pm
AGES 9-13 STUDENTS $1 ADULTS $3

Thursday, November 9 8:00 pm
PROFESSOR GIL TROY, author of ***Why I am a Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today*** will speak on *Why I am a Zionist - Now More Than Ever.*
SPONSORED BY CANADIAN FRIENDS OF TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY $5

Saturday, November 11 8:00 pm
KATI MARTON, author of ***Great Escape*** will speak on *How Nine Hungarian Immigrants Changed the World*
SPONSORED BY NA'AMAT CANADA $5

Sunday, November 12 11:00 am
DR. RUTH PANOFSKY, author of ***The Force of Vocation*** will speak on *The Literary Career of Adele Wiseman.*
SPONSORED BY MORRIS WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL AND UNITED JEWISH PEOPLE'S ORDER OF THE WINCHEVSKY CENTRE. FREE

Sunday, November 12 Noon
Meet the author SHARON ABRON DRACHE. FREE

Sunday, November 12 1:30 pm
NATHAN GARNICK presents *Nu...I Ask You? A Literary Revue in Yiddish and English* honouring the legacies of I.L. PERETZ and SHOLOM ALEICHEM on their 90th Yahrtzeit, featuring JEANNETTE STEIN, FAYE ZEIDMAN, NAT GARNICK and PAUL MATHEW. $5

Sunday, November 12 4:00 pm
Growing Up Jewish in Jewish Toronto featuring readings and discussion with HAROLD TROPER, BONNIE BURSTOW AND HOWARD AKLER. FREE

Sunday, November 12 5:00 pm
ELLIOTT R. KATZ, author of ***Being the Strong Man A Woman Wants*** will speak on *From Homer Simpson to Sensitive New Age Guy - What's A Man Supposed to Be?*
SPONSORED BY THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS $5

Sunday, November 12 8:00 pm
Lower Lobby, Leah Posluns Theatre
SARAH CHANA RADCLIFFE, author of ***Raise Yours Kids Without Raising Your Voice*** will speak on *Ramban's Guide When You're Fit to be Tied: Anger-Proof Your Home and Office in Five Easy Steps.*
SPONSORED BY JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILD SERVICE OF GREATER TORONTO AND THE JEWISH HEALTH ALLIANCE, A SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORK FOR HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS. $5

Sunday, November 12 8:00 pm
A Celebration in Readings and Music of the Life and Poetry of OSIP MANDELSTAM.
RAFI AARON, will read from his latest book of poems, ***Surviving the Censor - The Unspoken Words of Osip Mandelstam.*** Readings in Russian by actors DMITRY CHEPOVETSKY and SHAUNA MACDONALD. Musical accompaniment by DANIEL and CAREY DOMB.
SPONSORED BY JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY OF TORONTO, A PART OF LATNER CENTER FOR JEWISH KNOWLEDGE AND HERITAGE OF UJA FEDERATION $5

TICKET INFORMATION

Order by phone at: 416-636-1880, ext. 368

Order by e-mail at: bookfair@bjcc.ca

Purchase in person at:
Room 274, BJCC, 4588 Bathurst Street
Monday - Friday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Programs subject to change.
No Refunds on tickets/books.

Jewish Book Fair is a program of the Koffler Centre of the Arts at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre with the assistance of UJA Federation.

Parking and Entrance to Jewish Book Fair is FREE

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Jewish Life

We need baseless love and unity

By RABBI AVRAM ROTHMAN

RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

In the Torah's description of Creation, found prominently at the start of this week's parshah, we see that the Almighty looked at his daily activities and proclaimed, "and it was good." However, when He gets to the second day of Creation, the Torah does not use the expression *ki tov* ("it was good").

What was wrong with the second day of creation that it should be singled out from all the other days that were all described as *ki tov*?

The midrash explains that the reason the Almighty doesn't say that his work on the second day of Creation was *ki tov* is because on that day, He created division. Division, as one might expect, is not considered good. To divide people – to separate one person, for instance, from another – is the cause of fighting, arguments and plain old Jewish *machlokes*. The midrash lets us know that division is just not good.

Where do we see that HaShem created division? The Torah teaches us that on the second day of Creation, God separated the waters above from the waters below, thereby creating the first division in the history of Creation.

Or was it?

A little earlier in the Torah, we see that on the very first day (about which HaShem certainly declares "and it was good"), HaShem actually separated light from darkness. This division clearly seems to have been made even earlier by HaShem and, therefore, raises a real question for our midrash.

The answer is that on the first day, HaShem divided two significantly different things – light and darkness. That, the midrash seems to hint, is not a problem. The world needs separations. Separations between very different types of things, such as good and bad, are actually good.

However, on the second day of Creation, the Almighty separated the waters above from the waters below. Even though the waters were in different places, they were both water. This is the first place where God creates a division within a like object.

To separate two different things may not be bad, but creating a division in a like object – an artificial division, if you will – is not good at all.

This's the point of the midrash. HaShem did not say "and it was good" when He made a division in the water. Dividing the water is like dividing Jews – like things that should never be divided. It's not good.

The message is clear: separation in the world is necessary, but division between like things, such as among Jews, can never be called good. We can't consider that living with infighting among Jews will ever be good.

I'm sure we can agree that the Torah gives us this message right from the start so that we should never become confused and think that divisions and infighting between Jews are acceptable. Regardless of which shul you belong to (if any), or what school you send your children to, or what kind of kippah you wear (if any) or what neighbourhood you live in, you need to know from the start that infighting and divisions are simply not acceptable to the Torah.

Jewish history is replete with examples of baseless hatred, needless divisions and fighting among Jews. It's the cause of the murder of Abel by Cain early in the history of the world, as well as the selling of Joseph by his brothers and certainly the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. We still live under the shadow of the baseless hatred between Jews that caused that destruction, and led to us being dispersed throughout the world.

Clearly, the Torah is telling us – appropriately, at the very start of Creation – that fighting, hatred and all forms of divisiveness are to be avoided, and that they're ultimately the cause of great pain, sorrow and destruction for Jews and for the world itself.

May we learn from this and take to heart our need to follow the teaching of the first chief rabbi of the State of Israel, Rabbi Avraham Kook, who said that the way to combat baseless hatred and divisiveness is with baseless love and unity. May we be blessed with the foresight, energy and ingenuity to accomplish that and bring Mashiach speedily in our time!

Best wishes for a continued happy and inspired new year!

Rabbi Avram Rothman is spiritual leader of the Thornhill Community Shul in Thornhill, Ont.

Trick or treat? No thanks

IDEAS ON IDENTITY

By Rabbi Elyse Goldstein

I'm the Jewish Grinch who stole Halloween. I'm a parent whose kids have never gone trick or treating. Why? Because context matters.

Halloween is a sacred day in the Catholic calendar. Candles for the dead are lit in Catholic churches on the evening of Oct. 31. Nov. 1, "All Hallows Day" (or "All Saints Day"), is a Catholic holy day. In the earlier pagan world, it was believed the disembodied spirits of those who had died the preceding year would come back in search of living bodies to possess for the next year. Those still living did not want to be possessed, so on the night of Oct. 31, villagers would extinguish the fires in their homes to make them cold and undesirable, then dress up in ghoulish costumes and noisily parade around in order to frighten away spirits looking for bodies to possess.

"OK," you might say, "That's ancient history." But since history is so important for us as Jews, shouldn't it be important when it's somebody else's?

Even if we ignore the holiday's origins, I'd still wonder about the point of it. What are the values, customs and messages of Halloween that my kids would imbibe?

• Gimme candy. The Jewish way is to give: on Purim, we go house to house delivering sweets, not asking for them. I'm happy to fill my kids' lunchboxes to the brim with little candy bars all week after Oct. 31. I can buy them from the store. My kids don't have to go door to door begging strangers for them. If the neighbours I know and trust want to give a treat to my kids, they can do so any time of the year, as a gesture of friendship.

• Dead people are scary. Although we have the occasional folkloric tale of evil spirits, such as the Dybbuk, Judaism doesn't teach us to fear death, graveyards or the dead. I don't want my kids to be afraid that their late grandpa will come back to harm them, or that they should be scared to visit a cemetery.

• Old women are witches, hags, and harmful. As a feminist – and one growing older every year – I find the images of old ugly women with warts riding broomsticks totally offensive. Have you ever noticed how much those caricatures resemble the caricatures of Jews from the Middle Ages – of baby eaters with hooked noses, tails and wicked grins? It's not an accident.

• Witches are devil worshippers. Witchcraft is part of an ancient religion called Wicca. There are practising Wiccans today. They don't worship the devil or demons. In fact, they preach a dignified spirituality and respect for the Earth and all its creatures. I wouldn't want Jews portrayed the way witches are portrayed. For centuries, witches had been persecuted and killed, like Jews, in the name of religion. Most of those witches were women practising ancient herbal cures and midwifery that was considered threatening by the male establishment. Do I want my kids growing up unaware of the stereotypes they are perpetuating?

• If people don't give you what you want, you can hurt them. Throw eggs on their doors or their cars. Kids are warned to go out only with parents or older siblings. Police are on call all night. You can't trust a treat that's not store-bought and hermetically sealed. What kind of "holiday" is it when I have to fear for my kids' safety?

So what does our family do? We go to the movies or bowling. It's great fun we're usually the only ones there, and afterward we go out for dinner and ice cream sundaes. The kids actually look forward to it. The week after Halloween, we buy face paint and wigs at half price for Purim.

Meet you there?

Jewish Life

Matrimonial assets

Money Matters

By Rabbi Jay Kelman CA

One of the hallmarks of Western society is the distinction between the legal and ethical realms. It's the height of political incorrectness to pass judgment on another person's moral choices. The extent of this dichotomy was evident in a recent news story about the high-profile divorce of a recently retired hockey player, allegedly due to an affair with a member of Parliament. The story quoted family lawyers who stated that adultery is no longer a factor that courts take into consideration when allocating financial assets to each party when a marriage fails.

Judaism takes a much different approach.

Issues of morality often have legal and financial consequences. While Judaism basically has a no fault divorce system – a couple can divorce for any reason – fault does come into play in dividing up a couple's financial assets. From a legal perspective – and marriage is much more than that – marriage is a private contract between two individuals (need I say a man and a woman?) that imposes certain financial obligations, primarily on the husband, many of which are spelled out in the ketubah.

Upon dissolution of the marriage, the husband would pay a pre-agreed sum stipulated in the ketubah. This was a one-time payment and was thus often quite a substantial sum. Jewish law – quite brilliantly, I believe – allowed the couple to sever all ties upon divorce. The western system of monthly alimony can create unneeded tensions between people who may genuinely dislike one another, not to mention the potential of non-payment as time progresses. Even the issue of child support – which is beyond the scope of this column – was arranged in such a way so that the divorcing couple would have minimal contact.

Nonetheless, the wife could lose her claim to financial windfall of the ketubah if she were found to be at fault for the marriage ending. Such forfeiture would occur if she, for example, secretly fed her husband non-kosher food – eating it herself is not grounds for divorce – or if she refused to follow the laws of family purity. Interestingly, included in this list is cursing one's in-laws in the presence of one's spouse and conducting oneself in an immodest fashion, examples of which are spelled out in the Talmud.

It goes without saying that having an affair – and one must be faithful even to the extent of forfeiting one's life – would cause one to lose any financial support from one's ex-husband. These financial penalties are reciprocal, with the wife being able to demand a divorce if her husband is guilty of such moral wrongs. Thus, a woman can demand a divorce with full payment of her ketubah if her husband has had an affair.

Modern authorities point out that a number of the examples listed may not be operative today. As mentioned above, non-observance of the laws of family purity is grounds for divorce and the loss of ketubah rights. During talmudic times – and until the modern era – it was self-evident that a Jewish couple would observe this cornerstone of Jewish marriage. Unfortunately, this is no longer true. At times, we face a situation in which one spouse decides, often years into the marriage, that they will observe these laws. If, tragically, the couple can't solve this religious difference and divorce ensues, the observant party would be "at fault," and thus, if it's the woman who has become observant, she would be unable to collect her ketubah. While this newfound observance is most commendable, it may not come at the expense of the non-observant spouse.

Israel's water shortage

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last Saturday, on Shmini Atzeret, Jews around the world recited the beautiful *Tefillat Geshem*, the Prayer for Rain: "For blessing and not for curse. For life and not for death. For plenty and not for scarcity." **[http://tinyurl.com/a8wr9]**

Unfortunately, Israel and its neighbours have been suffering from a scarcity of rain for the past two years. And the general shortage of water has become one of the most contentious issues in the region. Today, as the rainy season begins, a look at Israel and the water shortage. **[http://tinyurl.com/jskee]**

After two years of below average precipitation, Lake Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee) is more than three metres below the "red line," the optimum water level of the lake. (It will continue to descend about a centimetre a day until the rains begin to fall.) Sinkholes have appeared on the shores of the Dead Sea, and a few years ago, there was talk of a ban on watering gardens in Israel. **[http://tinyurl.com/ecnuo]** Why has the situation been allowed to deteriorate so seriously? As reporter Herb Keinon says in a detailed and depressing article in the *Jerusalem Post*, there have been warnings for years but no one seemed to be listening. He quotes Haim Gvirtzman, a Hebrew University hydrologist: "No one cares. Everyone cares about politics, about peace, about making money. Who cares about things like health, the environment, or water?" **[http://tinyurl.com/keavg]**

Back in the 1950s, Levi Eshkol understood the role water would play in the country's future and was instrumental in the creation of the National Water Carrier. The future prime minister helped develop plans for a single network to link most of the regional water projects throughout the country. **[http://tinyurl.com/hnfx8]** The huge civil engineering project joined the Kinneret with Israel's other aquifers and is credited with pumping water and bringing life to the Negev and allowing portions of the desert to bloom, a dream of another prime minister, David Ben-Gurion. But with low rainfall and high demand, the water level of the Kinneret has been falling. **[http://tinyurl.com/n5z8h]**

The Kinneret isn't the only Israeli lake with problems. The Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, is also experiencing a serious decline in sea level. Water diversion projects and industry on both the Israeli and Jordanian sides have reduced the Dead Sea to record lows. As the *Jerusalem Post* has put it, "The Dead Sea is dying of thirst." As the level drops – at the rate of one metre every year – Dead Sea resorts are finding themselves farther and farther from the water's edge. **[http://tinyurl.com/jwgaq]**

Despite the gravity of the issue, *Ha'aretz*'s environmental reporter, Zafrir Rinat, says Israelis can be fickle about the country's water situation. All it takes is a couple of rainy winters and the crisis is forgotten. Rinat then points a finger at colleagues in the media and accuses them of letting the issue fade from the headlines. **[http://tinyurl.com/ef2u2]**

Israel's water crisis extends well beyond its own borders and could result in regional conflict, or worse. Ismail Serageldin, vice-president of the World Bank, said in 1995: "If the wars of this century were fought over oil, the wars of the next century will be fought over water – unless we change our approach to managing this precious and vital resource." **[http://tinyurl.com/p7fvp]**

Perhaps Serageldin's prediction wasn't so remarkable. Former prime minister Ariel Sharon once said: "People generally regard June 5, 1967 as the day the Six Day War began… That is the official date. But, in reality, it started 2½ years earlier, on the day Israel decided to act against the diversion of the Jordan." **[http://tinyurl.com/et8aa]**

Israel is regularly blamed by its neighbours for abusing its control of water resources. You can read some of the accusations **[http://tinyurl.com/ jjgho]** followed by a backgrounder by the pro-Israel group, CAMERA. **[http://tinyurl.com/fm8wq]**

Although the situation is extremely serious, there have been many suggestions about easing Israel's water shortage from desalination plants to conservation to seeding clouds. We'll look at some of those initiatives next time. Until then, you can keep your eye on Lake Kinneret's always changing water level. **[http://tinyurl.com/ofcaa]** Or take a peak at a live shot of the lake and check out what's doing on the shore of the city of Tiberias. **[http://tinyurl.com/gqsg9]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Toronto Jewish Film Festival

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Art, lecture project part of Autism Awareness Month

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Estée Klar-Wolfond, whose son Adam was diagnosed with autism at age 19 months in December 2003, is convinced that people's perceptions of autism can be a greater problem than autism itself.

Her Autism Acceptance Project (taaproject.com) ran a series of lectures earlier this month and is sponsoring an art exhibit at the Lonsdale Gallery in Toronto until Nov. 5. On Oct. 27, autistic musician and photographer Michael Moon will give a concert at the same gallery.

Last year, Klar-Wolfond, a former art curator, organized an exhibit by autistic American artist Jonathan Lerman, and she is planning another awareness project for next year.

Autistic people have different needs, Klar-Wolfond said in a telephone interview last week, in the middle of Canadian Autism Awareness Month. A difference in visual acuity may cause an autistic person to need to blink a lot, for example, or an autistic child may need to swing in a swing or pace for 20 minutes before being able to sit at a desk and learn.

"I can never fully understand that because I'm a non-autistic person," she said.

Klar-Wolfond said greater understanding of autism and more positive language with respect to the syndrome is needed.

Perhaps by understanding why some autistic children have precocious reading skills – Adam recognized letters and numbers by 12 months of age – we can help older non-readers benefit, she said.

Klar-Wolfond's quest to understand autism has included meetings with autistic people, some of whom spoke at this year's event. Contrary to what some people think, autistic people can be "very astute with respect to how others feel and how they [themselves] feel, despite the fact they might not be able to manifest it," she said.

Klar-Wolfond, 41, who said her husband Henry is her "silent partner" in her project, writes a blog called "The Joy of Autism." It wasn't her first choice of title – others she considered were already taken – but she liked the fact that it was "somewhat controversial" and "would really get people thinking."

Estée with Adam

From the time her son was diagnosed, Klar-Wolfond was "frustrated with the system," she said. "I saw a big injustice in how autistics were so stereotyped."

There has to be a balance between education, which is necessary, and understanding the autistic world, she said.

When her son met Michael Moon, the musician who is performing as part of this year's event, Moon – unlike some non-autistic adults – was very quiet and made no demands of Adam. Klar-Wolfond said every autistic child is different, but Adam needs teachers, occupational therapists and language therapists who have "a gentle affect."

Adam, who attends junior kindergarten at an "inclusive" preschool, is "a delightful little boy," his mother said. "He's happy and affectionate, intelligent. He likes to work on the computer."

One of the effects of his autism, however, is that he is "quasi-verbal," which can be a source of frustration for him. "He has a lot of struggles with that."

Autism is a challenge, but it can also be correlated with strengths, Klar-Wolfond contends. "[Autistic people] need to be included. They can be scientists, they can be educated, they can participate in some way, and we have to figure out how to enable that.

"Can you imagine how it affects the person who is autistic [when autism is viewed as a tragedy]?" she asked.

It is as important to give an autistic child a structured environment that accommodates his or her needs as it is to give a wheelchair to a physically disabled child or Braille materials to a blind child, she said. "This is a human rights issue."

I wish my family and friends
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Mary Levitt

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Manufacturer sent 100,000 toys to Israel during war

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

This past summer, when Katyusha rockets were raining down on northern Israel and Qassam rockets were falling in the Negev, forcing families to huddle in shelters, Ronnen Harary decided to bring joy to Israeli children by giving them what all kids love and what he was in a perfect position to provide: toys.

Close to 100,000 of them, in fact.

Harary, the 35-year-old CEO and co-founder of Toronto-based Spin Master Ltd., one of North America's largest toy companies, said he felt an overwhelming desire to do whatever he could to help alleviate the stress being experienced by Israel's children, be they Jewish, Arab, Druze or Christian.

With that in mind, he sent priority e-mail to Toronto from Japan, where he was on business, and told his staff to ready an initial shipment of more than 5,000 Spin Master inflatable "Ready Beds" to be flown to Israel for immediate distribution.

"You always want to do what you can with what you have at your disposal," Harary said. "For me, this wasn't a pre-planned thing. It was a visceral reaction to what was going on [in Israel] and wanting to help as much as I could."

But there were problems with implementing the plan, the first being cost.

"When I got back to Toronto, I heard that these beds would cost about $100,000 to ship," he said.

The prohibitive expense threatened to stop his mission before it even got off the ground, so Harary decided to take a chance and "see if El Al would carry the freight for free. And it snowballed from there."

El Al normally doesn't ship cargo free of charge, but Stan Morais, general manager of El Al Canada, said that as soon as he heard about Harary's request, he dedicated himself to the cause.

"During times of conflict, we try to assist with heavily reduced shipping prices," Morais said. "But Spin Master's idea was unique, because it was for kids. We made some calls to our people in Israel, and it went all the way up to the board."

The airline's board of directors approved the plan, and El Al figures it provided Harary with nearly $250,000 worth of free cargo space and shipping by the end of the war.

All El Al asked in return was for Spin Master to consolidate its shipments in two locations for direct flights: New York and Amsterdam.

Harary and Odette Levy (Harary's mother and Spin Master's promotions manager) arranged for toys to be trucked from warehouses in Toronto and London to New York and Amsterdam, respectively.

By this point, Harary and Levy had themselves left for Israel to oversee the distribution and meet with families and children in affected areas.

Beyond shipping costs, Harary had to deal with other problems.

For one, he foresaw that Israeli customs officials might want to slap a duty on the toys.

In preparation, he pored over Israel's import regulations and discovered a clause stating that any shipments bound for Israel to help during wartime are exempt from duties. And in an unprecedented move, the Israeli government agreed to view the toys as necessary for the war effort, and it even went one step further, agreeing to a blanket exemption on taxes for all Spin Master shipments until the war ended.

On the ground in Israel, Harary and Levy also assembled a small army of volunteers to help in the cause, including government officials, mayors, civilians and companies.

"Kislev, a well-known Israeli brokerage house, cleared all our shipments into the country for free. But we also needed trucks, so we got the army and the police involved. The police were unbelievable. *Beit sefer l'shotrim*, a school for [police] officers, provided 800 people [to help distribute]," Levy said.

Everything seemed set to go.

But U.S. customs officials refused to allow the initial shipment of toys out of the United States, saying that Spin Master was an unrecognized vendor because it had never shipped from New York before.

Harary and Levy were beside themselves with worry that the mission might fall apart.

"Every day we woke up and thought 'How do we get the products into peoples' hands?' I'll never forget our first trip up to Haifa. We got in the car to see a couple of [bomb] shelters, and your heart just melts," Harary said.

In a fortuitous twist of fate, a Spin Master employee revealed that she had connections to former U.S. president Bill Clinton. He was contacted and told of the problems with U.S. customs. He agreed to make some calls. What's more, a friend of Harary's knew a U.S. senator, and another call was made. The senator immediately agreed to try to free up the shipment.

Less than 24 hours later, Harary received a call in Israel saying the shipment was being cleared to go.

To this day, neither Harary nor Levy know whether it was Clinton's intervention or the senator's that moved things along, but close to 100,000 toys and products were on their way to help Israeli children and their families.

It's an experience Harary said he'll never forget, and he urges others, particularly people his age, to consider mounting similar relief efforts.

"Hopefully, [this story] will inspire people to have the courage and will to take on their own personal, charitable endeavours," he said.

"In life, if you think about stuff too much, about all the obstacles, that doesn't give you the strength to deal with it. I [didn't do this] for any accolades, but for the Jewish community, this is an important story to hear," he added.

"When we went to the distribution centres and saw young people with their own cars, loading them up with food or medicine or toys to take to people who couldn't leave their villages, these young people, when bombs would fall, would go inside the shelter, wait for the sirens to finish and then go back up to their cars and drive around... To see these young people do this was just amazing."

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Radio host helps make dreams come true

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

It wasn't until David Cohen lost his job that he made his dream come true and began helping others do the same.

Cohen, 45, from North York, is the host of the *Small Business, Big Ideas* show, which broadcasts in the Durham Region on Sundays at 9 am on CKDO 1580 and 107.7 FM.

The show, which has just entered its fourth season, "is a talk-interview information show helping small business owners succeed. We'll talk about anything from financing to marketing to selling to personal development, to health and wellness. Anything that matters to small business, we'll talk about," Cohen said.

David Cohen

He said what propelled him to start this radio show was the loss of his job as a coach and facilitator at the Centennial College Centre for Entrepreneurship.

"My game plan for work was to start my own company, find something similar to what I was doing, and then live the dream doing a radio show."

Cohen launched his own company in 2002 called The Technicolour Umbrella, a coaching and consulting company for small business owners.

Once Cohen fulfilled the first part of his dream, he did whatever he could to convince radio programmers to put him on the air.

"I went to stations in Toronto and because I was unknown and had no experience, they turned me down. My neighbour, I recalled, worked in a radio station in Oshawa. I went to the program director and pitched the idea."

Cohen said that he was granted an hour-long slot, but the airtime would cost him $350 a show and the money would have to come out of his pocket unless he could lure companies to advertise on the show.

"I bought 13 weeks of airtime and I had to sell it in order to at least pay for the cost and make money out of it. I started calling every company that I thought would want to [advertise]. I called about 130 companies, and I got turned down 125 times," Cohen said.

"But I just kept going because I was really passionate about it and I really believed in the concept and that there was a need for this kind of radio programming. Here we are, four years later and it's doing really well."

He said that some of the notable guests have included Jack Canfield, author of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, Stephen Covey, who wrote *The 7 Habits of Highly Successful People* and Ellie Kay, author of *The Debt Diet*, a book that was featured on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

The show also features local business owners, representatives from government agencies, as well as business coaches who offer advice and tips about how to succeed in running a small business.

"You can listen in, and get ideas and tools and tips you need to run your own business,' Cohen said.

"The feedback has been really positive. I'm always shocked. Listeners really enjoy the delivery of the show, the way it flows, they like the content. It's just good, smart radio," he said, adding that about 6,000 people tune in each week.

For those who feel that an hour a week isn't enough, the show now has its own website – www.smallbusinessbigideas.com – where listeners can read Cohen's blog, post comments or questions, or buy show tapes.

The show can also be heard online at www.ckdo.ca.

He said that although this is a business-oriented show, he doesn't shy away from inviting Jewish guests on the show and making reference to the fact that he himself is Jewish.

"I actually made comment in reference to my own religious background... I'm pretty open about that," he said.

"I made the claim that I think I've had the most guests from Temple Sinai [Congregation in Toronto] than any other show in Durham region. We're not afraid to share our own background and be proud of it. I'm not afraid to be who I am and to let my listeners get to know me a little bit."

He said the best part of the show for Cohen is being able to see his creativity in the marketplace and witnessing the growth and success of the show.

He said what excites him about small businesses is the newness of it and the thrill of being able to help someone achieve their own dream.

"When you see someone coming in, deadened from a job or a career that they existed in and now they have an opportunity to do something that they are really good at or passionate about, to see that come to fruition is really energizing," Cohen said.

Although he has already made his dream come true, Cohen still has the drive and the ambition to go further.

"I'd love to be on [Toronto AM radio station] CFRB one day and I'd love to see it go national, but I'm actively working on making this show the best it can be."

Dentist-cum-artist subject of TV documentary

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Will be aired November 1

Harry Rosen was good with tools and wanted to be an engineer, but when he graduated from Baron Byng High School in 1946, the prospects did not seem good for Jews in engineering.

So, like many other sons of Jewish immigrants (his parents were from Latvia), he enrolled in dental school at McGill University. He specialized in prosthodontics, or reconstructive dentistry, which allowed him to use his talent for making things and problem-solving.

He became a pioneering professor of prosthodontics at his alma mater, and was a mentor to generations of students over the decades.

But he was not content to work in the micro-environment of the mouth only. After he and wife, Delores, bought a country home in the Laurentians, he noticed that the bottom of the lake and the surrounding landscape were strewn with countless boulders that just cried out to be put to some practical use.

Over the past 40-odd years since then, Rosen has retrieved, split and repositioned an estimated 1,000 tons of rock by hand, using winches, pulleys and levers he has devised, the innate engineer finding expression.

After making every functional thing he could think of with these rocks, including terraces, walls, drainage systems, even an amphitheatre, in the past eight years he has given his artistic side free reign.

He has applied the minute precision and innovation that he developed as a restorative dentist to the monumental.

His masterwork is a 12-foot, 8-ton, curvaceous female form, a cross between a mermaid and Cleopatra, called *Universal Woman on a Half Shell*, that dominates his Ste. Marguerite cottage grounds. Completed in 2003, it is composed of 600 rocks split and stacked from toe to head, and so solidly fitted together he jokes that even a bomb won't bring down this lady.

Considering his ability to marry science and art, an upcoming PBS Mountain Lake television documentary is appropriately titled *Dr. Harry Rosen: Renaissance Man*. Just to round out the picture, Rosen is also an equestrian and has taught horses to jump, using techniques that succeeded with his dental students, he says.

Coinciding with the documentary's release is the creation of a fund in Rosen's name at the McGill dental faculty by friends and admirers, led by former Montrealers Bluma and Bram Appel of Toronto. The documentary will be aired on PBS Mountain Lake Nov. 1 as part of the Art Express series at 8 p.m., which is accessible to Bell ExpressVu subscribers in the Toronto area.

The half-hour film, narrated by Robert Adams, traces Rosen's life and professional and artistic development. After 53 years, he still maintains a full dental practice and, as a professor emeritus, continues to teach dental residents.

And, at 77, he's also still playing with rocks, heaving 100-pounders without a second thought. His current work-in-progress is *Little Hercules*, a boy hoisting a barbell, dedicated to his grandson.

Rosen says he loves the textures, colours and shapes of stone and got "turned on by the challenge of moving these massive things and creating something that was more beautiful than it was before."

He was spurred on to explore the artistic possibilities of stonework when he and Delores spotted the Inuit inukshuk erected outside the downtown McCord Museum in 1998. He marvelled at how all those stones were held together by gravity alone.

"I was inspired by the native art, but I wanted to do something, let's say, more sophisticated," he said.

Continued on page 24

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Seniors Scene

Rosen sees connection between art and profession

Continued from page 23

His first stone sculpture was his own inukshuk, 400 stones weighing 10 tons and rising nine feet. The head is a single one-ton volcanic stone.

He began *Universal Woman* in 2000 and it took him three years to finish it, working on weekends and holidays.

With only chisel and mallet, Rosen split about 600 stones into flat stackable surfaces two to four inches thick. The only electric tool he used was a diamond-disc grinder to smooth edges. The sculpture has a fully formed face and page-boy hairdo.

As a dentist, Rosen was known as the guy "who took on the tough nuts nobody else could crack," so transforming a pile of rocks into a sinuous siren was just one more challenge. To make things a little harder, he insisted on giving her arms that stretch out horizontally. He put her in a four-ton half-shell because he was inspired by Botticelli's painting *The Birth of Venus*.

Rosen sees a strong correlation between his "earth art" and what he does for a living. "In reconstructive dentistry you start with almost nothing, just the roots of the teeth, and build a structure on that which is functional and looks good. I'm adapting that to another scale."

Rosen is still a strapping, imposing figure. "It keeps you in shape. You can work at this all day and not get bored. No gym can give you that kind of motivation," he said.

Rosen asked that income from the fund in his name be used to encourage young dentists to teach, something that is becoming harder to do. "It's different today. Teaching does not really pay, and it costs so much now to set up a practice. I was raised in a different age when it was a great honour to be a teacher."

The fund, which will be administered by the McGill dean of dentistry, will pay for "little perks" like enabling recipients to take a course out of town or buy a computer, he said.

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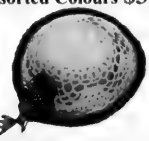

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Retirement homes open their doors

Three Jewish retirement residences in Toronto — Pine Villa, Forest Hill Place and Terrace Gardens — will open their doors to the community on Oct. 22, from 1 to 4 p.m., for fundraising events in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The fundraisers coincide with the Annual Open Doors Program.

In its second year, Open Doors provides an opportunity for retirement residences and long-term care homes to open their doors to seniors and their families who are interested in seniors' housing options and would like to take a tour of the sites, or having their questions about the transition from one's home to retirement housing answered.

Pine Villa Retirement Residence, 1035 Eglinton Ave. W., hosts an afternoon of jazz music. Refreshments include delicious crepes, chocolate fondue, biscotti and coffee. The York Jazz Ensemble's trio will perform modern and swing music throughout the afternoon. Visitors can purchase Jewish calendars and homemade biscotti, with proceeds going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

At Forest Hill Place, 645 Castlefield Ave., a harvest fair will be held. Festivities will include line dancing, and refreshments such as delectable apple pie will be available. A harvest bake sale will be put on by the residents of Forest Hill Place, with proceeds from the sale going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Terrace Gardens Retirement Residence, 3705 Bathurst St., hosts a Kosher Food Fest. Guests can sample the treats from numerous kosher food vendors who will have displays at the residence. Proceeds from a draw go to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Free shuttle service to the three events, with pickup at the Bialik Hebrew Day School at 2670 Bathurst St. at 12:30 p.m. and 1:45 p.m., is available.

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Clashes among Palestinians get scant attention

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Last month, when Hamas and Fatah were talking about forming a unity government, mainstream media gave the story front-page coverage. But when Hamas backed out of the deal, refusing to abandon its ideological commitment to destroy Israel, major papers relegated the story to the inside pages. The *Globe and Mail*, for instance, placed "Palestinian leaders clash over Israel" by Carolynne Wheeler (Sept. 23) on page 16. The Sept. 23 *National Post* also ran the story inside, but its headline, "Palestinian PM rejects Abbas' recognition of Israel," was a more direct depiction of the facts.

In the *Globe*, Wheeler accurately led with Hamas's rejectionism: "Assurances given by Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas that his [proposed] new national unity government would recognize Israel and all previous peace deals have been dismissed by his prime minister [Ismail Haniyeh], who swore never to lead such a government."

Wheeler wrote that, at most, Hamas is prepared for "a long-term truce in exchange for a Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders."

What Hamas will not do is comply with the demands of the international community, as expressed by the socalled "Quartet" (the European Union, Russia, the United States and United Nations), that it explicitly recognize Israel, renounce violence and accept previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements. Were Hamas to meet these conditions, international financial aid to the Palestinian Authority would resume at once, and the door might be open to Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

What the West needs to understand, however, is that Hamas consists of "true believers" – in this case Islamic extremists who cannot renounce their deeply held belief that forbids Jewish sovereignty on "Islamic soil."

So while Hamas clearly wants financial aid to relieve the growing desperation of the Palestinians, it will not accept the legitimacy of Israel's existence as a Jewish state in order to secure that aid. Nor, apparently, will it compromise its principles to sit with Fatah in a national unity government.

Some analysts, however, still hold out hope that Hamas will modify its stand to reach some accommodation with Israel. What they fail to realize is that were Hamas to do so, it would no longer be the same organization as currently defined by its rejectionist – and racist – charter.

In the meantime, as Wheeler wrote, the West Bank and Gaza are "falling deeper into poverty and violence, with teachers, medical workers and security forces staging demonstrations after largely going unpaid since March." And, she noted, "Gaza is already falling into clan warfare."

Since Wheeler filed that piece, the unity talks have collapsed and violence has grown, with many Palestinians wounded and even killed in clashes between Hamas and Fatah supporters. But these developments received very scant attention.

For example, only in a "World in Brief" Reuters bulletin ("Hamas talks dead, Abbas asserts," Oct. 5) did the *Globe* report that during a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Abbas formally announced the end of unity talks and that he might dissolve the Hamas-led government and call for new elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council.

On Oct. 6, the paper reported on mounting internecine violence merely in a 50-word "World in Brief" AFP wire story, "Hamas, Fatah target each other in Gaza."

On these days, the *National Post* didn't treat either story at all.

To some degree, this lack of attention can be attributed to the fact that substantial media attention had turned during this period to the North Korean nuclear threat.

Still, what does such relative inattention to important negative developments within Palestinian society say about some mainstream news attitudes towards intra-Arab affairs in general?

* * *

The Western media have largely ignored another important story.

In "Unity as a Lifesaver," (*Ha'aretz*, Oct. 3), Danny Rubinstein wrote: "Shin Bet security service head Yuval Diskin informed the government at its last meeting that the border between Gaza and Egypt is largely porous and that considerable quantities of explosives and weapons are being smuggled into Gaza. In such a situation, sooner or later there will be Katyushas in Gaza, and in the future perhaps in the West Bank as well."

Clearly the media need to keep an eye on Egypt's failure – or refusal – to stop the cross-border smuggling, and also on allegations that Iran and Syria, the backers of Hezbollah and other terrorist groups, are behind these operations.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Coast to Coast

Winnipeg Jewish Theatre's future in doubt

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Winnipeg Jewish Theatre (WJT), which bills itself as Canada's only professional Jewish theatre company, is threatening to close its doors after this season unless attendance picks up considerably.

The non-profit theatre's board of directors put its cards on the table in an open letter to the community in the Sept 20 edition of Winnipeg's *Jewish Post and News*.

"Our subscription base of 330 [30 pr cent of seating capacity] is just not good enough," said WJT president David Marr, noting that in 2001, the company had 800 season-ticket subscribers.

"We need to boost our number of season ticket holders to at least 750 if the theatre is to remain viable."

The WJT was founded in 1987 by music teacher and theatre enthusiast Bev Aronovitch. Its mandate is to mount productions written by modern Jewish playwrights and/or containing Jewish characters and themes.

The theatre generally puts on three shows a year including at least one commissioned work each season. This season's entries include *Golda's Balcony*, based on the life of Golda Meir; *Soap and Laughter* (the commissioned play) by local actor and playwright Chris Sigurdson; and Arthur Miller's *Broken Glass*.

With a declining audience comes declining revenues, Marr noted. The theatre receives one-third of its funding from the three levels of government, and it has an endowment fund of $650,000, established in 1992, that Marr describes as a testament to the community's support for the theatre.

But the WJT depends on fundraising and ticket sales for the bulk of its revenues.

Marr said an emergency fundraising campaign in the spring raised $50,000 to pay down a debt and help pay expenses for this season. He notes that the board is trying to raise an additional $50,000 plus $14,000 more in corporate sponsorships to pay for continuing operating expenses.

The theatre's budget for this year is $312,000, with a forecast deficit of $4,000.

He said the public response to the open letter in the paper has been encouraging but that ticket sales for this year are still not at the level the board would like to see.

"The bottom line is that we can't continue to put on plays if we don't have audience support," he said.

Green Party activist starts Jewish ecology group

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Alon Weinberg has a passion for Judaism, spirituality and ecology. The Winnipeg Green Party activist founded the Jewish ecology group Adamah'Nitoba this summer, which enables him to combine his passions in a common cause.

"The purpose is to take Jewish tradition and show how it is connected to the world at large," Weinberg says. "We have been disconnected from the land by centuries of wandering and an inability [for the most part] to own land. Many of our traditions don't make a lot of sense unless they are seen in a holistic context."

Weinberg began contemplating the need for an organization like Adamah'Nitoba three years ago while he was working at the Teva Learning Center in New York, teaching Jewish kids about the environment and leading environmental camping sessions.

"I came back to Winnipeg in the spring of 2004 for my zaide's funeral," Weinberg says. "Then I went back east to attend the COEJL [Coalition on the Environment in Jewish Life] annual conference [in Boston that year].

"I was sitting with about a dozen other Canadian delegates and we began discussing the need for a Canadian network. There are Jewish ecology groups in Vancouver [Adam and Adamah] and Toronto [Torat Hatevah]. I figured there can't be a network without a group in Winnipeg."

Weinberg applied for and received a startup grant for Adamah'Nitoba from the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba. Thus far, he has held two introductory programs – a picnic in August that attracted about 20 people and a study evening on the Shabbat evening before Yom Kippur intended to get people thinking about ecological tshuvah. He is also putting out a newsletter with a mailing list of between 75 and 100 and an e-mail newsletter, which goes out to about 150 readers, including some outside of Winnipeg.

"We have received positive feedback from the director of the Teva Learning Center," he says.

Weinberg's plans for future programs include an interfaith gathering some time in November, with the objective of "promoting a sacred balance" through trying to get religious institutions to become more energy efficient. He is also planning a Shabbaton in the spring and perhaps a weekend retreat in the countryside somewhere and hopes to bring to Winnipeg environmental activists Noam Dolgin from Vancouver and Rabbis Arthur Waskow and Phyllis Berman to lead the Shabbaton or retreat.

"I would really like to attract more university students," Weinberg says. "Younger people may want to be become more involved in Judaism in a more meaningful way."

Coast to Coast

Gray Academy teachers win prestigious awards

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Gray Academy of Jewish Education is celebrating three of its teachers who have won prestigious awards.

On Sept. 29, Gray Academy high school biology teacher Sheppy Coodin received the BIOTECanada Biogen Idec Teaching Excellence Award, Canada's top national biotechnology teaching prize – and the $5,000 cheque that goes along with it – for his efforts to turn high school students on to biotechnology.

Coodin, originally from Winnipeg, earned a PhD in cell biology and his teaching degree at the University of Western Ontario in London.

Before joining the Gray Academy staff three years ago, he taught high school science and biology at St. John's-Ravenscourt, Manitoba's most prestigious private school, for eight years.

"I became interested in biotechnology after I began teaching, Coodin says. "I wanted to share my excitement about this new field with my students. It was clear to me – and Biotec-Canada – that if Canadian youth were going to pursue careers in biotechnology, then it had to be put on their radar screens in high school."

To that end, in 1999, Coodin launched Biotrek, a weeklong summer program for high school students. For the first four years, Coodin only offered the program in Winnipeg. A grant from Monsanto in 2003 allowed him to offer it in other cities in Canada.

This past summer, Biotrek was available in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Oakville, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Steinbach, Man. (Coodin hires a teacher to teach Biotrek in Vancouver and another teacher for the program in eastern Canada.)

Each lab, he notes, costs $30,000 to mount, with equipment and materials donated by private Canadian biotech companies.

The Biotrek program has room for only 16 students in each city, Coodin says. "This past summer in Vancouver, 75 students applied for the course. We added two extra sessions in Vancouver to accommodate as many students as we could."

Coodin says that he gets quite a lot of positive feedback. He cites a letter from one Biotrek grad in Vancouver who is now studying biotechnology in a highly specialized program at the University of British Columbia who decided on a biotechnology career because of Biotrek.

With his award prize money, Coodin is planning to buy an LCD projector to hang from his classroom ceiling and a laptop computer.

Gray Academy teachers Joyce Kerr, left, and Rochelle Gamliel won Grinspoon-Steinhardt Awards for Excellence in Jewish Education.

In November, Gray Academy teachers Rochelle Gamliel and Joyce Kerr are going to an international conference of Jewish educators and community leaders in Los Angeles to receive Grinspoon-Steinhardt Awards for Excellence in Jewish Education. The awards recognizes classroom teachers across North America who demonstrate exceptional achievement in Jewish education.

"It feels good to be recognized in this manner," says Kerr, who is a vice-principal and teaches Grade 1 Judaic studies. "But I see this as also an honour for the school and the community."

Gamliel, who teaches Grade 12 Holocaust studies and a Grade 7 course in family roots, says: "Accolades such as this are very heartwarming. You teach though because you love what you're doing, not because you expect any recognition."

Sheppy Coodin

Gamliel is the senior of the two teachers. She has been teaching in the Winnipeg Jewish school system for 25 years after having lived in Israel for 11 years. For most of her career, she taught elementary school. She has been teaching in the high school since 1997 and has been teaching the Holocaust program since 2002.

"I have taken courses in Holocaust studies for educators, and I participated in a hands-on two-week summer program for educators in Poland and Lithuania," she says.

In Gamliel's family roots program, students do 50-page reports on their families. "They study their parents, grandparents, how they ended up in Winnipeg instead of Florida," she says. "Some can only go back as far as the Holocaust, because everything has been lost. Some go back to the 1800s."

Gamliel praises Kerr for helping to create the Judaic spirit that pervades the school and makes it a comfortable place for students to learn. Kerr is originally from Calgary, where she began her teaching career in the Jewish school in which she grew up.

Continued on page 37

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Israel Emergency Campaign

Counting the Toll

When the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah terrorists ended two months ago, the battle began for northern Israel residents to rebuild their lives. The damage to Israel's north was unprecedented. Close to one-third of Israel's population had been traumatized. Some 90,000 small businesses faced extinction. Physical damage was estimated to be at least $1 billion. Today, the people of the north are still suffering. Families face shocking property damage. Tens of thousands of children and adults jump at every loud noise and some youngsters are even afraid to sleep in their own beds.

UJA Federation's Impact

Our community was North America's first to launch an Israel Emergency Campaign and our community's funds were the first to arrive in northern Israel when the war began. Through your generosity, we moved children away from the war zone to summer camps in safer areas of the country; offered thousands of families a week of respite away from the rockets; and provided emergency supplies of food and medicine.

Karnit's Story

During the war, Karnit Malka from Kiryat Shmona – the mother of an eight year old and five year old triplets - and her husband - experienced a nightmare. On their way home from a short respite in Eilat , a neighbour called with the horrifying news: their home had suffered a direct hit. . "When I walked in, I couldn't breathe," she explains. "Realizing that the kids could have been in the house was terrifying. There's no word to describe the stress and feeling of helplessness."

It wasn't easy for the children to witness the destruction either. They turned to their parents to ask: "Why did it happen to us? Did we do something wrong? Why do they hate us so much?"

Nonetheless, Karnit is adamant that she and her family will never leave Kiryat Shmona, where she was born and raised. And her children, she insists, feel the same way.

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Ignatieff refuses to retract war crime assertion

Continued from page 3

Ignatieff "rightly has acknowledged his earlier mistake when he said he was 'not losing sleep' over what happened in Qana. What happened in Qana was indeed a tragedy, but it was not a war crime." Twenty-eight civilians, mostly women and children, were confirmed to have been killed.

Rae initially said Ignatieff was mistaken, while fellow leadership candidate Joe Volpe attempted to distance Ignatieff's views from Liberal party policy. "In law, a crime usually requires intent. Surely, Mr. Ignatieff is not suggesting that Israel, while fighting a defensive war, was acting with the intention of harming civilians. He should retract his inaccurate and harmful remarks without delay."

Ignatieff did not retract his assertion that Israel's attack on Qana was a war crime and that he should have said so at the time.

"I was a professor of human rights. I am also a professor of rights in war. What happened in Qana was a war crime. I should have said that. That's clear," he said on the Quebec program, referring to a remark he made last summer that he would not "lose any sleep" over the loss of civilian life as a result of Israel's bombing of Qana during its war with Hezbollah.

At a press conference in Toronto Oct. 11, Ignatieff – who, before entering politics in last January's election, was director of the Carr Centre for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University – added that Israeli civilians had also been the victims of war crimes committed by Hezbollah. He described himself as a friend of Israel, commenting that "a true friend says what he thinks."

On his campaign website, Ignatieff said, "Qana was a terrible human tragedy where innocent civilians died in a conflict that saw unjustified tragedies on all sides. For this reason, I have always been a vocal supporter for a peaceful solution to tensions in the Middle East. There are no further military solutions in this region."

At the same time, he affirmed that he strongly supported Israel's right to "respond to Hezbollah's provocation and to send the terrorist militia a very clear message that kidnapping soldiers and firing rockets on Israel will never be tolerated… This summer, Hezbollah tried to lure Israel into a regional conflict to cause Israel to lose its remaining international support. It did not succeed."

The only long-term solution is a two-state one, with an "independent" Lebanon, he continued, adding that a Palestinian state and Lebanon must recognize Israel's right to exist in peace.

Ignatieff portrayed himself as "a lifelong friend" of Israel, noting that he has lived and taught there (he was a fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1999).

"If my friendship on occasion involves criticism, it is because this is the truest form of friendship."

Ignatieff has also said he will be travelling to Israel next month for a three-day fact-finding tour for members of Parliament organized by the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC).

Ignatieff's explanation did not satisfy Israel's Ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker. He told *The CJN* that Ignatieff must know, as a former professor of human rights and international affairs, that the air strike on Qana does not qualify as a war crime "from either the point of view of law or the point of view of fact." But Baker stopped short of accusing him of being disingenuous.

Baker, who was a legal adviser to Israel's foreign ministry and helped draw up the definition of a war crime under international law, said Israel did not wilfully target civilians and that it was "well known" that Hezbollah kept missiles in the vicinity of Qana and even in private homes. Moreover, he said Israel warned civilians of the impending air strike by distributing leaflets and by broadcast.

"We did everything that is required under international law," he said.

"It's not for me to say in the middle of a leadership campaign whether he was being disingenuous… but I do find it surprising for a professor of his experience to make such a mistake."

Baker added that it can't be ignored that Ignatieff chose to make the remark in Quebec, where support for Israel's battle with Hezbollah was weaker.

Baker said he had not communicated directly with Ignatieff, but hoped to do so.

The CIC and B'nai Brith Canada were also not persuaded by Ignatieff's response.

In a letter to Ignatieff, the CIC expressed "profound concern" about the war crime remark, especially because it was "anchored in your expertise in the area of international law and the conduct of war." CIC national chair Marc Gold asked Ignatieff for a "clarification – in both official languages – that clearly sets out your view of the issue and unambiguously rejects the suggestion that Israel is guilty of any such conduct."

Alicia Richler, the CIC's associate communications director, told *The CJN* that Ignatieff's "wishy-washy answer" is not what the CIC was looking for, but it is not making any further comment. The CIC, she also said, is "not wading into the wars going on in the government" as a result of Harper's allegation that the leadership contenders are anti-Israel because it is "non-partisan" and wishes to work with all parties.

B'nai Brith executive vice-president Frank Dimant urged interim Liberal leader Bill Graham to "disassociate" the party from Ignatieff's remarks and for the other leadership candidates to publicly denounce his "false accusations" against Israel.

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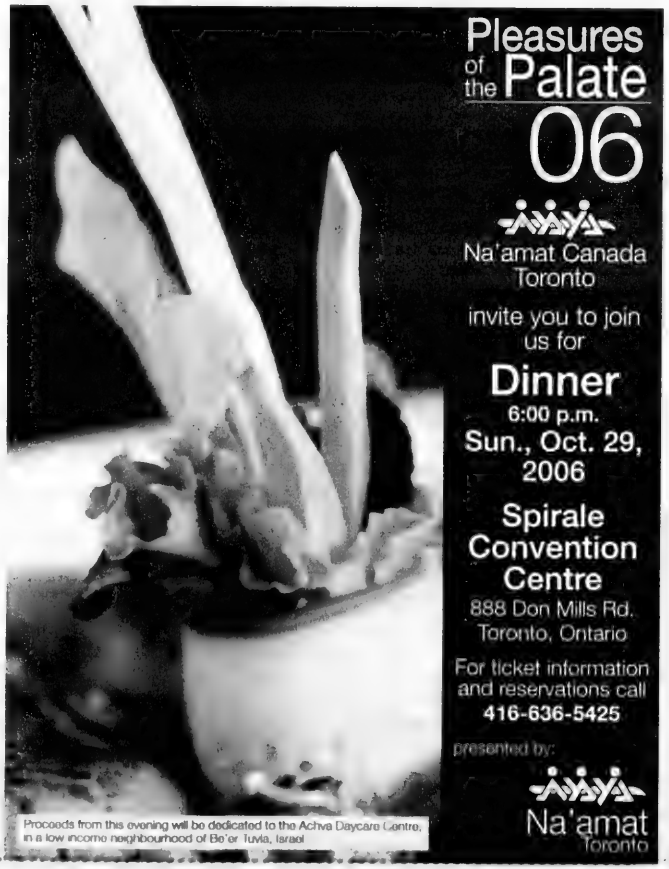
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Chag Samayach

SUKKOS IN THE CITY

More than 600 people attended Chabad Lubavitch of Markham's annual Sukkos in the City event and the dedication of the new Rabbi Levi Bialo Youth Wing on Oct. 9. A Sukkot party featuring carnival rides, a barbecue, vendors, a live circus and other events for the kids was followed by the opening ceremony for the new youth wing named in memory of the young adult director at Chabad of Markham who was tragically killed in a train crash on Green Lane a little over a year ago. The 2,500-square-foot expansion will be used for the Torah Tots Preschool and the Chabad youth programs. The new space is being built through a generous grant from York Region and donations from the community. The family of the late Rabbi Bialo cut the ceremonial ribbon, and then the crowd was invited to browse around the new facility and gather for refreshments in the sukkah. Seen, from left, are Rabbi Bialo's siblings Menachem, Yossi and Sarah Bialo; Rebbitzen Goldie Plotkin; Rabbi Bialo's wife, Shira Bialo, his mother, Gitty Bialo, and sibling Kivi Bialo; Rabbi Avraham Plotkin; and Chabad Lubavitch of Markham president Richard Steyn.

The Canadian Jewish news

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Subscription will begin two weeks after receipt of information.

If you wish, please enclose a photo - we'd be honoured to publish it in an upcoming issue.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Happy 80th birthday Bubbie Dina! Wishing you health, happiness, nachas ... and great-grandchildren!

To our beloved father and zaidie, Isak Fiksel,on his 90th birthday. Happy birthday! Love, Ephraim, Penny, Zachary, Zoey, Betty and Stephen.

Faye & Moishe, mazel tov on your 60th wedding anniversary! To many more years! Love, Patsy and Felicia.

Congratulations Blake! You're 2! We are very proud of you. You're such a good boy! We're so lucky to have you. Love Mommy & Daddy.

Ashley welcomes Natalie to the Burdine family. Parents Stephanie & Will, grandparents Anne & John Burdine, Rhona & Howard Sandy, great-grandparents Kay & Lawrence Sandy.

Mazel tov Olivia Bowden on her first birthday. Parents Ilene & Craig. Grandparents Nini & Harry Abramovitch, Joan & the late George Bowden. Great-grandmother Clara Abramovitch.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos (25 words or less) and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4

JNF
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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

CJN DATING
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JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

What's New deadlines: Monday, Oct. 23, is the deadline for the Nov. 2 issue and Monday, Oct. 30, is the deadline for the Nov. 9 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Sunday, Oct. 22

YIDDISH CLASSES

The UJA Federation committee for Yiddish offers Yiddish classes starting today for beginners, intermediate, advanced and a children's class. Register, 416-635-2883, ext. 185, or yossel@ujafed.org.

SUNDAY LEARNING

Rabbi Eric Levy, principal at Ulpanat Orot high school, will teach "Earthly and Heavenly Love: Poetry and Metaphor in the Bible," today and next Sunday. Shacharit and breakfast, 8 a.m., class, 9 a.m. at Netivot HaTorah Day School. $10 per session. For information, contact Torah in Motion, 416-633-5770 or visit www.torahinmotion.org.

WINGATE MEETING

The Wingate branch, Royal Canadian Legion, all-members breakfast meeting will be held at 9:15 a.m. at 788 Marlee Ave. 416-782-5024.

ORAYNU LUNCH & LEARN

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism hosts a potluck lunch at 12:30 p.m. followed by "Sigmund Freud Today: What Are His Enduring Contributions?" with **Prof. Don Carveth** at 2 p.m. RSVP and location 416-385-3910 or info@oraynu.org.

SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Join Walk and Talk Etc., a walking club for Jewish singles 50+, for a hike through the Moore Park Ravine. Meet 9:30 a.m. on Lumley Avenue south of Moore. Register at walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

The Jewish Genealogical Society holds a workshop with **Gord Meslin** and **Neil Richler**, with sessions on "How to Get Started and Organized," "The Wealth of Accessible Jewish and Non-Jewish Records," "Local Resources and Archives" and "Using Your Computer and the Internet Effectively for Genealogy." There will be Internet connection for those who need it. 1-5 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $20 for non-members. Limited to 25 participants. Pre-register at info@jgstoronto.ca or call 416-926-3277.

BENEFIT CONCERT

The Beach Hebrew Institute presents a benefit concert for the shul's drop-in centre – classic jazz ballads by DUO, with flutist **Margot Rydall** and guitarist **Ivan Zilman**, 2 p.m. 109 Kenilworth Ave. 416-694-7942.

ON WINGS OF EAGLES

Stanley Morais of El Al Canada speaks on "On Wings of Eagles: Making the Impossible Possible," an update on Israel and El Al Airlines. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Non-members $2. 416-789-3213.

KEDUSHAT HAGUF

Temple Sinai hosts "Kedushat HaGuf Project," two 3-week information and resource groups tonight through Nov. 5. The first, for family, friends and partners of those suffering from an eating disorder or other addictive behaviour, 5-6:30 p.m. The second, for individuals suffering from eating disorders or other addictive behaviour, 7-8:30 p.m. To register or for information, call **Orit**, 905-763-0660. All calls confidential.

Monday, Oct. 23

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

Ilana Sober teaches "More Surprising Women in the Bible," an 8-week series examining 8 women, who they were as people, wives, parents, and what can be learned from them. Begins Monday, Oct. 23, 9:30-11 a.m. at Netivot Hatorah Day School and 8-9:30 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Men and women welcome. Register at 416-877-2050 or www.mekorot.ca.

Continued on page 33

Celebrating 60 years of Temple-Mothering-People 1946-2006

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• Celebrating 60 years of service to the community
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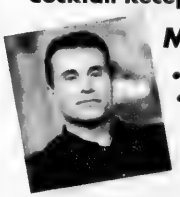

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18 Atkinson Avenue, Thornhill
Opening lectures
October 22 & 29.
Earthy and Heavenly Love:
Poetry and Metaphor in the Bible.
Rabbi Eric Levy, Menahel Ulpanat Orot.
• $10. TiMPass holders free.

An Ethical Battlefield
How Judaism Views War and Global Conflict
Sunday October 29, 2006. 8:00 pm
Shaarei Tefillah Congregation
3600 Bathurst St., Toronto
Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Congregation, Montreal
• $10. TiMPass holders free

For more information/registration
416.633.5770
www.torahinmotion.org

G-d, Ethics & Religion
Monday nights Oct. 30 - Dec. 4, 2006
Or Chaim Yeshiva; 159 Almore Avenue
7:30 pm Chaim Klein, CHAT
Jewish Ethics:
Religious or Moral roots.
8:35 pm Rabbi Michael Skobac,
Jews for Judaism.
Thinking About G-d.
• $36 per course. TiMPass holders free.

5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Renewing Our Spirit
Self, Family, Nation
In memory of Nathan Noteh Krauss z"l
Saturday Night Nov. 4, 2006
8:15 - 10:30pm
Sunday November 5, 2006
9:00am - 5:00pm
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation
470 Glencairn Avenue

What's New

Continued from page 32

JEWISH EDUCATION FAIR

If you have school age children or grandchildren and want to know more about Jewish education in Toronto, come to the Jewish education fair to speak with representatives from more than 25 schools. 7-9 p.m. at CHAT, 200 Wilmington Ave. For information, call 416-635-5600 or visit www.bjetoronto.org.

PROBLEMS & PROSPECTS

Globe and Mail comment editor **Patrick Martin** will speak on "Israel: Problems and Prospects" in the aftermath of the recent war, at First Narayever Congregation, 7:30 p.m., 187 Brunswick Ave. www.narayever.com.

IS ISRAEL ONSIDE?

Joe Samuels will speak on "International Law: Is Israel Onside?" 7:30 p.m. at Or Shalom, London.

YIDDISH IN JAPAN

Beth Emeth Sisterhood presents a slide presentation on "Yiddish in Japan" with **Vivian Felsen**. 8 p.m. Non-members $3. 416-633-3838.

60 DAYS FOR 6 MILLION

Routes Jewish Centre at the Westmount Community Shul launches "60 Days for 6 Million," a program where participants learn about Judaism for a few minutes every day in memory of someone murdered in the Holocaust. Begins 8:30 p.m. at the City Playhouse in Vaughan. Free. RSVP to 905-482-9488.

HEBREW & TORAH STUDY

Beth David Congregation offers Hebrew and Torah classes with **Hana Werner** Monday evenings through April 30. For fees, registration and information, call 416-633-5500 or e-mail gail@bethdavid.com.

Tuesday, Oct. 24

WOMEN'S NIA CLASSES

Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee offers ongoing Nia classes, a combination of dance, healing and martial arts for women, at 585 Cranbrooke Ave. 7:30-8:30 p.m. All levels welcome. For information, call 647-295-0084.

OPEN HOUSE

The Lodzer Centre Congregation holds an open house with clergy and staff. Meet **Rabbi Matthew Kaufman, Cantor David Edwards**, young family leader **Arlene Moshe** and the caterer. 7-9 p.m. 416-636-6665.

MEMORY EXPLORED

Holy Blossom Sisterhood present **Dr. Nicole Anderson** of the University of Toronto and Baycrest Centre, on "Memory: From Neuropsychology to Neuroimaging," exploring the interaction between brain, behaviour and beyond as revealed in neuroimaging research. 7:30 p.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 514.

IN THE RCMP

Join Adath Israel Sisterhood as **Fran Saltzman** discusses "The Life of a Jewish Woman Officer in the RCMP." 8 p.m. 416-635-5340.

Wednesday, Oct. 25

STRESS RELIEF DAY

The Wagman Centre hosts a day of relaxation featuring healthy footcare, meditation, stress survival tips, dance expression, displays, lunch, raffles and more. $15, non-members $18. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at 55 Ameer Ave. Registration, 416-785-2500, ext. 2267.

GETTING TO SLEEP

The Wellness Library at Baycrest Hospital hosts a free information session on "Getting a Good Night's Sleep," with **Dr. Mortimer Mamelak**, psychiatrist at Baycrest's Sleep Disorders Clinic, and **Amy Clements-Cortes**, Baycrest music therapist. 2-3:30 p.m. Register at 416-785-2500, ext. 3374.

JEWISH JOKERS GROUP

Jewish Jokers and Humour Group meets at the Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Dr. 7 p.m. 416-661-2541.

Other News

PLAY & LECTURE

Prof. Isaac Benabu of Hebrew University of Jerusalem and visiting scholar at U of T, will direct *Two Charlottes* by **Nora Glickman**, starring **Dawn Nadel** of Israel and **Michelle Girouard** of Toronto. Sunday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation. $10 voluntary admission. For information, 416-485-8000, ext. 122.

Benabu will also speak Wednesday, Oct. 25, at noon on "Fighting or Rather Watching World War Three: The Passivity of the 21st-Century Spectator: A Challenge to Political Opinion Forming" at the Wolfond Centre. 416-913-2424.

PAUL PENNA OPEN HOUSE

Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School holds two open houses – the first for grades 7 and 8, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m.; the second for SK to Grade 6, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. Both at the Miles Nadal JCC. RSVP 416-928-3537.

CHURCH AND THE JEWS

The Beth David continuing education committee presents "The Catholic Church and the Jews: From Bitter Monologue to Fruitful Dialogue," a series of three lectures by **Prof. Arnold Ages**, beginning Thursday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. with "The Catholic Church and the First Teaching of Contempt for Jews and Judaism." 416-633-5500.

THE ETHICS OF TERROR

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz of Montreal speaks on "The Ethics of Terror: How Judaism Looks at War and Global Conflict," the moral and halachic questions that Judaism raises about waging war, offering peace, the tragedy of civilian casualties and the goals of conflict. Sunday. Oct. 29, 8 p.m. $10. Torah in Motion, 416-633-5770 or www.torahinmotion.org.

HOLOCAUST ED WEEK

They say those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it. The 26th annual Holocaust Education Week returns to churches, synagogues, schools and community centres in the GTA Nov. 1-9. For information, call 416-631-5689 or visit holocausteducationweek.com.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. For information or registration, call **Shawna**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215, or go to www.jfandcs.com.

Creating Fulfilling Relationships, a 6-session group for single adults. Tuesday, Oct. 24, 7:30-9 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building.

Successful Parenting, a 6-session group for couples living in blended families adjusting to step-family life. Begins Wednesday, Oct. 25, 7:30-9 p.m. at Lipa Green.

Living With Teens, a 6-session group. Begins Wednesday, Oct. 25, 7:30-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St., #325, www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer, or for more information on programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafes: Newcomers to Canada practise speaking English with JIAS volunteers, in a casual, friendly environment. Interested participants or volunteers should call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

Youth Groups: Programs for newcomer children and teens. For information, call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

JUMPStart: If you have a networking or job opportunity in the skilled labour market for a newcomer, connect to our JUMPStart program. Call **Elisa**, ext. 28.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tikvah Friendship Group hosts **Dov Altman** of Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan, speaking on "Country of Hope and Peace." 2 p.m.

Beth Emeth Chai Shalom presents a Magical Musical Evening with pianist and vocalist **Nina Shapilsky** and guest musicians, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. $8, non-members $10. Tickets available in the office or at the door. For information, call **Sandy** at 416-736-8073 or 416-458-1440.

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Oct. 24; Sunday Dance, Oct. 29.; Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave., 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Fall Festival, Monday, Oct. 23, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free.

"Getting Married at 65+" with **Dr. Ben Schlesinger**, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m. $2, non-members $4.

Boost Your Memory with trivia, games and riddles, Thursdays at 11 a.m. Free.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Koffler School of Music classes begin the week of Oct. 22, including vocal class for teens, fiddle class for ages 8-10, Koffler Kids Band age 10-15, Koffler Rock Band, Opera is Cool workshop for kids age 10-14 and Brass Ensembles for adults. Call for registration.

Kolel begins fall courses and one-night events Oct. 23 at the BJCC. Visit www.kolel.org or ext. 235.

The Travellers with a retrospective of **Pete Seeger**, Tuesday, Oct. 24, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Tickets, ext. 228.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Jewish Meditation, Sundays, Oct. 22-Dec. 24, 4:30-5:30 p.m. $125, $15 per session.

"Jazz at the J," Ron Davis Sayonara Concert, Thursday, Oct. 26, 7:30 pm. Tickets, $20.

"From Tin Pan Alley to Broadway: Great Jewish Composers Make Their Mark," 9 lectures with **Jordan Klapman**. Begins Sunday, Oct. 29, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. $50, $8/lecture. Call ext. 111 to register.

SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Doris Stein	Sep 30/06	3560 Bathurst Street
Carol Levitan	Oct 1/06	2727 Yonge Street
Mary Medline	Oct 1/06	88 Ridge Hill Drive
Lewis Friedlich	Oct 2/06	3560 Bathurst Street
Bela Frenkel	Oct 2/06	80 Antibes Drive
Selig Silverberg	Oct 2/06	39 Henry Welsh Drive
Anne Stein	Oct 2/06	41 Warlock Crescent
Mark Obar	Oct 3/06	55 Skymark Drive
Boris Shilansky	Oct 4/06	71 King High Drive
Ida Bloome	Oct 4/06	866 Sheppard Ave. West
Goldie Isaac	Oct 5/06	3560 Bathurst Street
Helen Steele	Oct 5/06	429 Walmer Road
Fran Salem	Oct 5/06	90 Fisherville Road
Eva Winick	Oct 5/06	6101 Bathurst Street
Gayle Friendly	Oct 6/06	103 Romfield Circuit
Goldie Cohen	Oct 6/06	12 Kereven Street

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Lubart, Dobe	Oct. 3/06	Private
Leykind, Faina	Oct. 3/06	6250 Bathurst St
Korb, Simme	Oct. 3/06	2 Buchan Crt.
Ishaky, Doris	Oct. 3/06	56 Shadberrry Dr
Benis, Ilie	Oct. 4/06	
Gobshits, Vladimir	Oct. 5/06	850 Steeles Ave. W.
Wise, Victor	Oct. 5/06	
Wissotsky, Yakov	Oct. 5/06	
Bem, Kazimierz	Oct. 5/06	Private
Deutsch, Zlatica	Oct. 6/06	42 Russfax Dr
Zvulony, Jacob	Oct. 6/06	7460 Bathurst St
Heimlich, Ladislav	Oct. 8/06	2 Terrace Ave
Cappe, David	Oct. 8/06	133 Torresdale Ave
Kreitzer, Fischel	Oct. 8/06	170 Red Maple Rd
Goldberg, Bernard	Oct. 8/06	645 Castlefield Ave
Stern, Myrna	Oct. 9/06	

HEDREW DASIC

Cynthia Neuman	Oct 1/06	980 Broadview Avenue
Molly Brown	Oct 1/06	110 Bloor Street West

ILIE BENIS ז"ל

passed away October 4th, 2006

He was a beloved & devoted husband of Dina for 56 years, and beloved father of Monel Benis, & Neli Attas. He is also survived by the loves of his life his grandchildren Erica Benis & Shana, Adam, Zachary Attas, & his loving and devoted son-in law Dr. Lewis Attas. Ilie was a role model, and inspiration to his grandchildren, as well as all who knew him. His quite and sweet disposition will be in our hearts forever.

IN MEMORIAM

COHEN, Sheila

In loving memory of Sheila, who died twelve years ago, on 3 Cheshvan 5755, but whose compassion and generosity and kindness and sense of fun light our lives to this day. At the rising of the sun and at its going down, we remember her – *Bob, Ellen, Norton and Vicki.*

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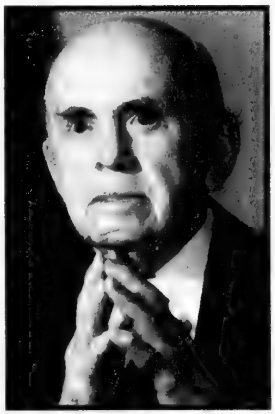
By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Bertram Loeb, a visionary businessman, philanthropist and committed Zionist, died in Ottawa on Sept. 11 at age 90.

The second-eldest of six sons of the late Moses and Rose Loeb, Russian immigrants who arrived in Ottawa in 1912, Loeb took over and greatly expanded his family's small wholesale grocery business after serving in World War II.



Bertram Loeb
[The Ottawa Citizen photo]

Following Loeb's early education in Ottawa, he earned a BA from New York University, a bachelor's degree in Hebrew literature from the Jewish Theological Seminary and a master's degree in Hebrew literature and philosophy from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in what was then Palestine.

At one time, Loeb considered becoming a rabbi.

His daughter, Naomi Loeb, said, "My grandfather was very religious and wanted one of his six sons to become a rabbi and my father seemed the most likely, [but] the pull of business was greater than the pull of the life of clergy."

Once he joined the family business, Loeb set his sites on expansion. He amassed a large fortune by purchasing the first Independent Grocers Alliance (IGA) grocery store franchise in Canada and expanding the concept across Canada and the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. Loeb Canada Inc. is now owned by Montreal-based grocery store giant Metro Inc.

On a State of Israel Bond mission in the early 1950s, Loeb met David Ben-Gurion who, Naomi Loeb said, encouraged him to come to Israel to work.

When told that Loeb was in the grocery business in Canada, Ben-Gurion asked him to open similar stores in Israel.

"That sort of challenge was all my father needed," said Naomi Loeb.

He was instrumental in the establishment of Israel's first Supersol store, which opened in 1958 and grew into the country's first chain of modern supermarkets. "The governments of Iran and Russia contacted my father subsequently to open supermarkets there, but Israel was my father's main interest and focus."

The well-known philanthropist donated vast amounts of money to a variety of causes, both locally and in Israel. He believed strongly in the importance of contributing to society, and carefully considered each and every donation, his daughter said.

In Ottawa, the Loeb family name can be seen on the Loeb Building at Carleton University; on the Loeb Health Research Institute, which merged with the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute to form the Ottawa Health Research Institute in 2001; and the Bertram Loeb Organ-Tissue Donation Institute.

Rabbi Reuven Bulka, spiritual leader of Ottawa's Congregation Machzikei Hadas, knew Loeb well.

"Bert Loeb was a thinking person," he said. "He did not merely give charity. He wanted to make sure that his money generated a significant change for the better. His last major gift, to set up the Bertram Loeb Organ-Tissue Donation Institute, has already made Ottawa No. 1 in Ontario for cornea retrieval and has led to the establishment of the first chair anywhere in the world in organ donation, at the University of Ottawa."

In addition to his money, Loeb gave generously of his time, energy and considerable abilities to a variety of causes. He served as president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa and chaired the United Jewish Appeal of Ottawa campaign, the UJA Emergency Campaign and Ottawa State of Israel Bonds.

Nationally, he served as first vice-president of the Zionist Organization of Canada, on the executive committee of the Canada-Israel Development Corporation and as national chairman of the United Israel Appeal.

Loeb also served as operations chairman of the National Arts Centre; chairman of the 1968 United Appeal of Ottawa; as a governor of Carleton University; as a director of the Ottawa Philharmonic Orchestra; and as chairman of the Ottawa Civic Hospital Development Campaign.

"My father was a very complicated person, an anomaly in the business world," said Naomi Loeb. "He had a very deep spiritual side. He also loved music and his family. He had an enormous influence on us, in the family. He was a complex, dynamic person, and we are really going to miss him."

In addition to his daughter Naomi, Loeb is survived by daughter Diane, grandson Samuel, and brothers Jules and David.

On Campus

Book offers survival tips for college bound

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

When Yadin Kaufmann's son was getting ready to apply to university, there were things he wanted his son to know about the student experience.

Yadin Kaufmann

"I thought, 'How do I convey to him what college is all about?' This is obviously something he hadn't done before and to make his entry as smooth as possible, it would be good to give him some advice," said Kaufmann, the co-founder of Atlanta-based Hundreds of Heads books, and one of the editors of its series of survival guides for everyday life.

"Well, I can tell him my own college experience, but first of all, I'm his father, so, is he really going to listen or think that it's relevant? And second of all, I consider myself young and hip, but... things have changed," he added.

Out of this train of thought came the idea to interview hundreds of people who have been through some of life's challenges and write books based on their opinions and advice.

Three years ago, Kaufmann got in touch with an old college buddy, Mark Bernstein, a former senior vice-president of CNN.com, and they have since developed 12 survival guides that range in topics from getting into college to getting married to having a baby.

"Each title is aimed at helping people get through life's major challenges or milestones, with the help of people who have been there before and have something interesting to say about it," said Kaufmann, a Harvard Law School graduate who also has journalism experience as a former editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.

Their latest title, *How to Survive Getting into College*, offers high school students advice from college students who have already been through the same process.

Kaufmann said the information was compiled by journalists – he calls them "headhunters" – who travelled all over North America to find students willing to share their stories about how they applied to universities, what made them stand out, how they handled the interview process, and more.

"We went around and interviewed students at well over 100 different colleges – mostly in the United States, but we have a few from Canada also, such as York University, McGill University and Queen's University."

He said that in addition to students' advice, the book's editor, Rachel Korn – a former admissions officer at Wellesley College, the University of Pennsylvania and Brandeis University – was able to provide her own expertise about what admissions departments look for in applications, and in students.

How to Survive Your Freshman Year was the first title in the 12-book series, and a second edition was released earlier this year that offers crucial tips for all students living away from home for the first time.

"[The book] helps entering freshmen with insights about what to take with them when they go to school, where to choose to live when they get to campus, campus food, how to deal with roommates, picking a major, how to prepare for exams, and the social aspects as well," Kaufmann said.

One student featured in the book said, "Do not download AOL Instant Messenger. That will be the end of you. That is the greatest procrastination tool known to man. I wish I had never discovered that stupid thing."

Another student said that studying in bed is a big mistake.

Continued on page 36

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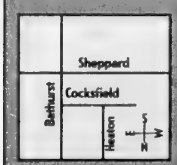

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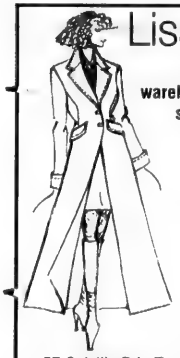

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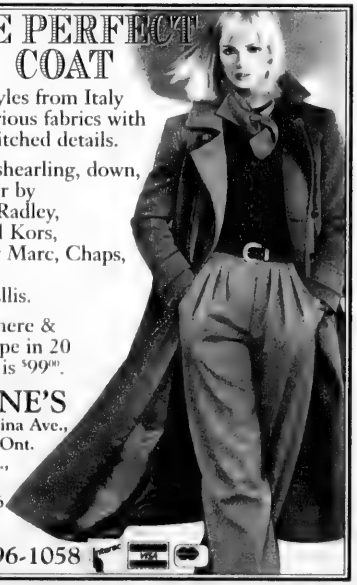

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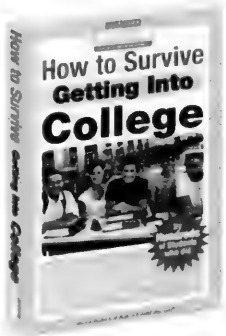
On Campus

Book relies on advice from students

Continued from page 35

"I would read in my bed and I would, obviously, fall asleep. When you're in your bed, that's what you do. And then you start to associate reading with sleeping, so anytime you try to read anywhere, you fall asleep. So, don't read in your bed."

A warning about gaining weight in first year – known as the "Freshman 15" – came from another student who learned the hard way.



"Just because you can take as much as you want in a dining hall does not mean you should," she warned.

Obtaining advice from students rather than professionals is what sets these books apart from other guides, Kaufmann said.

"It's peer-to-peer content. It's not some adult preaching. It's not some adult who's got some theory about how college students should behave or what they should do," he said.

"Our headhunters found everyday students and that is part of the philosophy behind the series. We don't go looking for so-called experts on a subject. There are enough books like that that have the philosophy of someone who is supposed to be an expert. We believe that the more everyday people you hear from, the more you'll find someone who has experiences more similar to your own," Kaufmann said, adding that he's always interested in hearing from people who want to share their stories.

For more information about the guides, visit www.hundredsofheads.com.

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

ס'איז מיט ניסים, אַז . . .

פון אַלעק סילווער

מיין באָבע פעסל, זאָל זי רוען אין גן־עדן, פלעגט אין דער אַלטער היים אין סטאָפניץ זאָגן: „ס'איז מיט ניסים, אַז דאָס האַרץ פלאַצט נישט!". טייערע ווערטער, וועלכע זיינען מיר געקומען אויפן געדאַנק אין שיל בשעת די יום־טובדיקע תפילות. נוץ איך די דאָזיקע ווערטער און וויל בלויז צוגעבן איין וואָרט: „ס'איז מיט ניסים, אַז דאָס ייִדישע האַרץ פלאַצט נישט!".

די ווערטער זיינען מיר אָנגעקומען ווען דער ראַביי האָט דערמאָנט וועגן דער לעצטער מלחמה צווישן ישראל און דער טעראָריסטן־גרופּע „העזבאָלאַ". אָבער דאָס איז נישט געווען די הויפּט־סיבה. וואָס עס האָט מיר מער וויי געטאָן איז געווען דער פאַקט, וואָס מדינת ישראל האָט אין דער זעלבער צייט געמוזט פירן אַ מלחמה מיט כמעט דער גאַנצער וועלט. אמת, נישט קיין „שיסנדיקע", נאָר בלויז אַ דיפּלאָמאַטישע מלחמה. אַזעלכע מלחמות זיינען אָבער אַ סך מער געפערלעך.

מיט גרויס צער און ווייטיק האָט מען געלייענט אין דער פרעסע, געהערט אויף דער ראַדיאָ און געזען אויף דער טעלעוויזיע, ווי פירנדיקע פערזענלעכקייטן פון לענדער (און נישט בלויז פון פיינטלעכע, נאָר אַפילו פון מכלומרשטע פריינדלעכע לענדער) האָבן זיך צעשריגן אויף דער ייִדישער מדינה און איר פאַר־געוואָרפן, אַז זי באַגייט מלחמה־פאַרברעכנס בעת זי פאַרטיידיקט איר לאַנד און איר באַפעלקערונג.

שוין אָפּגערעדט פון דער „יו.ען." (די פאַראייניקטע פעלקער אָרגאַניזאַציע). דאָרטן גייט שוין אָן דער אַנטי־ציוניסטישער, אַנטיסעמיטישער קאַמף קעגן מדינת ישראל און קעגן ייִדישן פאָלק איבער פינף צענדליק יאָרן. נישט בלויז די אָרגאַניזאַציע אַליין, נאָר אויך די אַפיליירטע אינסטיטוציעס, וועלכע רעדן מכלומרשט אין נאָמען פון דער „יו.ען." און דאַרפן זיך באַציען יושרדיק צו אַלע מיטגליד־פעלקער, באַהאַנדלען ישראל מיט איינזייטיקייט און מיט אומגלויבלעכער שנאה.

למען האמת מוז מען צוגעבן, אַז עטלעכע מלוכות האָבן יאָ געטאַדלט די טעראָריסטן גרופּע פאַר פּראָוואָצירן דעם ישראלדיקן פאַרטיידיקונגס אָנגריף. אָבער דאָס איז נאָר געווען פון אָנהייב. שפּעטער אָבער האָט זיך די איסלאַמישע וועלט, בשותפות מיט אירע אויל־„אונטערגעשמירטע" פריינד צעיוכעט, גערופן צו אַ קאַמף קעגן מדינת ישראל און באַשולדיקט דאָס ייִדישע לאַנד אין אַלערליי מלחמה פאַרברעכנס. זיי האָבן אַפילו באַשולדיקט ישראל אין באָמבאַרדירן און בכיוון הרגענען ציווילע מענער, פרויען און קינדער פון דער לבנון באַפעלקערונג.

דער גענעראַל־סעקרעטאַר פון דער „יו.ען.", קאָפי אַננאַן, אַ פאַרברענטער שונא ישראל, האָט באַשולדיקט מדינת ישראל אין מערדערישע פאַרברעכנס קעגן לבנון. פון אים אָבער איז דאָס געווען פאַרויסצוזען. עס איז אָבער נישט געווען פאַרשטענדלעך, ווען קאָנדאָליזאַ רייס, אויסערן־מיניסטער פון די פאַראייניקטע שטאַטן, אַ מכלומרשט פריינדלעכע מדינה, האָט גערופן ישראל זיך צוריקצוהאַלטן און נישט אָנמאַכן אַזוי פיל שאָדן און קרבנות אין לבנון.

קיין איין מדינה אין דער וועלט האָט נישט אַרויס־געוויזן מיטגעפיל צו די שאָדנס און קרבנות, וואָס ישראל האָט געליטן. ס'האָט אויסגעזען ווי די וועלט האָט באַשלאָסן, אַז די ייִדישע מדינה איז דאָס נישט ווערט. ווער דאַרף זיך אָנגעמען די עוולה פון ייִדישן פאָלק?... אַזוי איז עס געווען אין 20סטן יאָרהונדערט; אַזוי איז עס אין 21סטן יאָרהונדערט. זיינען טאַקע מיין באָבעס רייד איצט אַזוי פאַסיק: „ס'איז מיט ניסים, אַז דאָס ייִדישע האַרץ פלאַצט נישט!".

On Campus

Student journalists to gather at GA

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Forty university students across North America will be given the opportunity to hone their reporting skills by participating in the 17th annual Do the Write Thing program at the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities (GA), which is being held in Los Angeles next month.

Do the Write Thing (DTWT) is a four-day conference that offers workshops conducted by professionals associated with Jewish and Israeli newspapers and magazines.

Tuca Bihari, the Canadian director of the University Student Division of Hagshama, said that the conference, which runs from Nov. 12 to 15 alongside the GA, allows students interested in journalism to interact with, and learn from, influential Jewish community leaders.

"They will also have a chance to interact with editors of Jewish and Israeli newspapers. Last year, we had the editor of *Jpost*, the editor of *Ha'aretz* online and also editors from the main local newspapers in the Jewish community here in Toronto," he said, adding that professionals of the same caliber are expected to share their expertise at this year's DTWT.

He said that although they don't have a final list of speakers yet, two that are confirmed are Gary Rosenblatt, the editor of New York's *Jewish Week* and Rob Eshman, the editor of LA's *Jewish Journal*. He also expects representatives from the *Jerusalem Post* and *Ha'aretz*, two major Israeli newspapers.

"We work together with the GA. Whoever is coming to the GA, we will try to bring to our conference," Bihari said.

The $120 registration fee for the program includes all hotel expenses, most meals, workshops and sessions, as well as registration for the GA.

Travel scholarships are available for those who publish articles on the conference in any campus, community or general newspapers, but the deadline to apply is tomorrow, Oct. 20.

The workshops and sessions will teach potential journalists about objective reporting, while focusing on ways to improve Israel's image on campus and in the media.

Topics will include Israel's response to terrorism, the media's influence in foreign policy-making, Israel's domestic politics and foreign relations, and Zionism on campus.

Bihari said that the best part of registering for DTWT is that participants will receive "journalist status" for the rest of the GA sessions.

"That means they'll receive a press pass to be able to go to all the meetings as part of the press and even try to talk with the politicians or other special guests they'll have at the GA," he said, adding that organizers of the GA are expecting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, the leader of the opposition Binyamin Netanyahu, as well as other notable Israeli cabinet ministers.

Do the Write Thing is brought to you by the World Zionist Organization – Department for Zionist Activities, The World Zionist Organization – Hagshama Department, The Jewish Agency for Israel-Spokesperson's Office and The American Zionist Movement.

For more information visit www.wzo.org.il/en/dtwt/default.asp.

Winnipeg teachers honoured

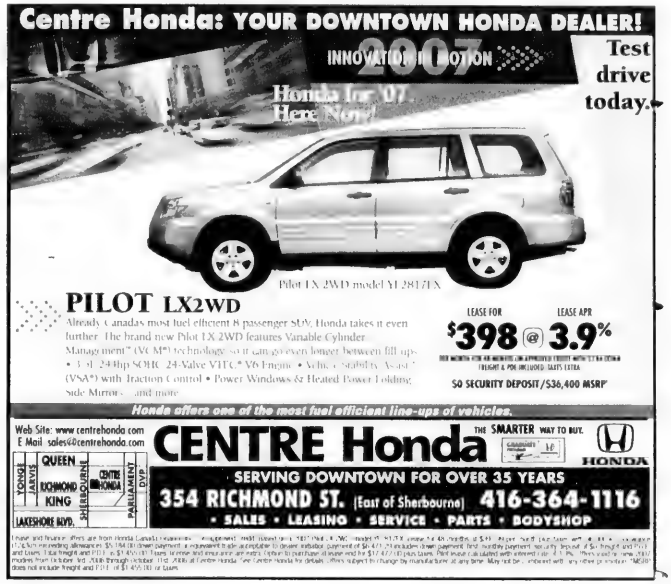
Continued from page 27

She taught for a year in Calgary before moving to Winnipeg with her husband in 1988.

Kerr started working at Gray Academy as a kindergarten teacher. She has taught Grade 1 for most of her time at the school. She also served as Judaic studies co-ordinator from 1997 to 2000, and is currently a half-time vice-principal.

"I have always loved working with kids, especially younger children," she says.

There were only three other Canadian Grinspoon-Steinhardt honorees this year Miriam Araf from Montreal, Rabbi Shmuel Dov Yarmush from Ottawa and Eleanor Braude from Vancouver. Gray Academy vice-principal Lori Binder was a previous honoree.



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Telehop

Pears can be used in savoury or sweet dishes

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

Next to the apple, the best known and used fall fruit is the pear. There are more than 3,000 known pear varieties grown around the world.

One reason I love pears is that they are incredibly versatile. In addition to being delicious served raw, they can be baked, poached, sautéed, roasted or grilled in both sweet and savoury dishes. In fact, pretty much anything you can make with an apple you can make with a pear.

PEAR AND PECAN SALAD

3 tbsp. apple cider vinegar
4 tsp. Dijon mustard
4 tbsp. honey
¼ cup oil
1 tsp. poppy seeds
mixed lettuce
½ cup pecans toasted and chopped
2 pears peeled and cut in pieces

In a small bowl combine the vinegar, mustard, and honey. Mix to combine. Gradually whisk in the oil and then mix in poppy seeds. Season the dressing to taste with salt and pepper and set it aside. In a salad bowl, combine the lettuce, pears and pecans. Pour in enough dressing to coat and toss. Season once again with salt and pepper. Divide salad among 8 plates and serve with the remaining dressing. Serves 2 to 4.

GREEK PEAR SALAD

Greek vinaigrette:
¼ cup olive oil or vegetable oil
3 to 4 tbsp. white wine vinegar
2 tsp. sugar
½ tsp. dried oregano
2 Bartlett pears, cored and sliced
1 cucumber, thinly sliced
1 tomato, cut into wedges
½ cup pitted black olives, or Greek-style olives, drained
4 oz. feta cheese or Monterey Jack cheese, sliced

In medium bowl, combine the oil, vinegar, sugar and oregano. Add the pears and gently mix the dressing to cover the pear but not break it into pieces. In salad bowl, combine the cucumber, tomato, olives and cheese. Mix gently to combine. Spoon the pears out of the dressing and arrange them on the top of the salad. Pour the remaining dressing over the top of the salad. Can be served immediately or may be prepared up to 4 hours ahead. Makes 4 servings.

PEARS AND CHICKEN HAWAIIAN

Quick to prepare, this one-dish meal combines veggies, pears and pineapple with chicken. You might want to substitute canned sliced water chestnuts for the cashews.

4 fresh Anjou pears
1 lb. boned chicken, sliced into strips
3 tbsp. pareve margarine
1 can (8 oz.) pineapple chunks
1 green pepper, seeded and sliced
½ cup cashew nuts
2 tbsp. packed brown sugar
1 tbsp. cornstarch
⅓ cup water
2 tbsp. soy sauce

Core and slice pears. Sauté chicken in margarine 3 to 5 minutes or until juices run clear. Drain pineapple; reserve ⅓ cup liquid. Add pears, pineapple, green pepper and cashews to chicken; heat thoroughly. Combine brown sugar, cornstarch, reserved pineapple liquid, water and soy sauce in saucepan. Cook and stir over low heat until mixture thickens; cook 1 minute longer. Pour sauce over pear-chicken mixture and toss gently. Serves 4. This recipe can be doubled or tripled.

PEAR AND MAPLE NAPOLEONS

1 pkg. (1 sheet) frozen puff pastry
1 egg beaten with 1 tbsp. water
2 tbsp. butter
3 slightly under-ripe Bartlett pears, peeled, cored and thinly sliced
1 tsp. sugar
¼ tsp. cinnamon
2 tbsp pure maple syrup plus ¼ to ⅓ cup extra for drizzling assembled desserts
1 cup heavy whipping cream
1 tbsp. powdered sugar

Blue cheese and pear toast as seen in *fast healthy food*, Reader's Digest.

Thaw pastry sheet at room temperature for 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 375. Unfold pastry dough onto lightly floured board; roll into a 16-in. x 12-in. rectangle. Trim any uneven edges, saving this dough for garnishing. Cut dough into 12 equal portions and place on 2 large baking sheets. If desired, make small pear and leaf designs out of the excess dough, brush bottoms of designs with beaten egg mixture and place on four of the dough squares. Brush these 4 pieces with the beaten egg mixture. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until lightly browned and fluffy; set aside.

Melt the butter in a large skillet. Add the pears, sugar and cinnamon; cook over low heat until pears are browned and very soft, about 30 minutes. Stir in 1 tbsp. of the maple syrup and let mixture cool.

In a medium mixing bowl, beat cream until soft peaks form; add remaining 1 tbsp. maple syrup and powdered sugar; continue beating until stiff peaks form.

To prepare napoleons, place 4 undecorated pastry squares on individual plates. (Reserve the decorated pieces for the top layer). Top with dollop of sweetened cream and some of the pear slices. Place a second layer of pastry atop the pears and repeat layers of cream and pears. Top with decorated pastry square. Drizzle dessert generously with maple syrup, dust with powdered sugar and serve. Makes 4 servings.

Custody and religious rights

Family Matters
by
John Syrtash
B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Partner, Beard Winter LLP

Question. I have been separated from my ex-wife for over 5 years and have custody & primary residency of our son, age 6 since he was 2 years old. Neither myself nor my ex-wife are religious but my ex-wife does celebrate some of the Jewish cultural activities. She claims that our son is Jewish and demands that he miss school on days that are Jewish Holidays. Does she have this right?

Answer. Yes, if she truly practices Judaism. Canadian law technically gives you the sole right to decide the child's religious upbringing since you are the custodial parent. However, it curiously also gives the access parent, in this case the mother, the right to enjoy her religious traditions and to introduce her religion to the child on her time with him even if it appears to contradict your religious philosophy.

Normally, these seemingly inconsistent rules are interpreted to mean that mother can take the child to synagogue and introduce Judaism with the child on her time and you can introduce your take on religion in any way you want when the child is with you. The reason is that in Canada we live in a multicultural country and the Courts show great deference to this tradition ensconced in Canada's constitution, particularly Article 27. Canadian children are not, in fact, confused by their parents' differing religious positions if the parents are tolerant of each other and don't allow their differences to upset the children.

The Courts enforce this principle by allowing the access parent maximum freedom when it comes to religious instruction, subject only to the rare situation where a child could be in some physical danger, e.g Jehovah's Witness cases where a parent refuses to allow blood transfusions for a seriously ill child. In your case I suspect that a Court would likely give your wife extra access to your child on her religious holidays, which by definition means that she could remove the child from school on those Jewish religious Holy Days that mandate this practice.

However, if she simply demanded that the child stay home from school without herself spending time with him on those same religious days then she may well have a problem. She cannot ask you to practice her religion for her because then she is imposing her religious traditions on you. In other words, if she wants her child to act as a faith-based Jew then she must obey her God as well. For further information consult my book, *Religion and Culture in Canadian Family Law* (Butterworth's,1992), available at some libraries.

*John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of **Beard Winter LLP**. Neither Beard Winter LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at 416-306-1733, or e-mailed at jsyrtash@beardwinter.com. You can also visit www.beardwinter.com and www.spousalsupport.com.*

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Israeli police urge AG to charge Katsav

Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — For the first time since Israel's creation, the president of the country failed to attend an opening session of the Knesset.

President Moshe Katsav, who has been the subject of criminal investigations on allegations of sexual impropriety, did not attend the opening of the Knesset's winter session on Monday.

The previous day, police recommended to Attorney General Menachem Mazuz that he indict Katsav on charges of rape, sexual misconduct and other offences.

For the past three months, police have investigated allegations that Katsav committed several acts of sexual misconduct – ranging from harassment to rape – against women employed by him in various government offices.

Police said Sunday that they had gathered sufficient evidence to recommend indicting the president on charges of rape, as well as indecent acts using force, indecent acts without consent and sexual harassment offences.

The police also told Mazuz that there was enough evidence that Katsav had committed grand larceny, fraud and breach of trust, and violated a law against wiretapping. Police said they were still gathering evidence to support further suspicions that Katsav may also have harassed a witness and disrupted judicial procedures.

In addition to the evidence about Katsav's alleged sexual crimes, police said there is sufficient evidence to press charges against him for having listened in on the conversations of employees of the president's residence and of improprieties related to his decisions to grant pardons.

Moshe Katsav
[Israel Sun photo]

Katsav's lawyer, Zion Amir, told the *Jerusalem Post* he was "shocked by the fact that the police recommendations were so sweeping."

Amir noted that during the past 10 years, police have recommended pressing charges against all prime ministers that they had investigated, but none of the cases ever went to trial.

"In the final analysis, the decision belongs to the attorney general and to him alone," Amir said. "I suggest we await his decision."

Amir told Israel Radio Monday that Katsav would resign if an indictment is served against him.

Amir's statement came as sources close to the president insisted that Katsav was not currently intending to resign. According to these sources, the president was still hoping Mazuz wouldn't act on police recommendations and would refrain from serving an indictment. "At this time, the president has no intention of quitting or suspending himself from his position," the sources said.

Although he has refrained from saying so in public so far, Mazuz believes Katsav should step aside until the state makes a final decision on whether the evidence justifies a criminal indictment in order to save Israelis from further embarrassment and confusion.

But even if Mazuz makes such a declaration, it will be a moral statement rather than a legal opinion, since he has no power to order Katsav to do so.

Meanwhile, at least 20 MKs from Labor, Meretz, Likud, Kadima and NU-NRP had announced that they would stage various forms of protest if Katsav had entered the Knesset plenum. Traditionally, MKs rise for the president's arrival. However, the MKs were planning to walk out of the room or remain seated to protest Katsav's attendance.

Half a dozen MKs had also signed a request to begin Knesset proceedings to force Katsav's resignation. A minimum of 20 MKs must sign the request before it can be officially processed.

"At this point it is clear that the president must resign to save the dignity of his position," said Education Minister Yuli Tamir. "If he does not, then it will become necessary for the Knesset to take its own steps to remove him."

But a few MKs stood firmly behind the president. Likud MK Michael Eitan said Katsav's decision not to attend the opening of Knesset wasn't an admission of guilt and showed that he put "the dignity of the presidency above his personal struggle to prove his innocence."

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IDF's performance during war probed

By YAAKOV KATZ
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Commanders who did not fully understand their orders, who were not present with their troops during important battles and even failed to fulfil basic missions were only some of the grave failures found by an internal Israel Defence Forces committee that probed Division 91's performance during the recent war in Lebanon.

Led by Maj.-Gen. Yoram (Ya'Ya) Yair, the committee probed Division 91, which was responsible for the border with Lebanon and led by Brig.-Gen. Gal Hirsch, on a number of levels, from operational plans drawn up within the division to the handling of logistical issues, as well as the division's integration with the top IDF command.

According to a high-ranking officer involved in the probe, Hirsch and his men were questioned over a five-week period during which they were asked "tough and probing" questions about the way the division functioned during the war. One of the problems found during the probe was in the way tactical orders were composed, sometimes without a time element. Since the orders were not clear, they were changed, in some cases, on an hourly basis.

"Brigade commanders did not properly understand their missions," the high-ranking officer said. "They didn't know what their goals were and how long they had to fulfill their missions."

Due to the lack of clarity in the orders, "military forces moved forward and then backward, forward and then backward." In one case, the officer said an entire battalion sat in the same location for several days without moving, and when the commander finally received orders to push deeper into enemy territory, he was confused and failed to fulfil the mission. The probe further found that territory that had been conquered by the IDF was later abandoned and then conquered again.

Except for Paratrooper Brigade Commander Col. Hagai Mordechai, all of the brigade commanders whose troops were fighting in Lebanon spent their time in war rooms set up along the northern border but did not set foot behind enemy lines. "This impacted their understanding of what was going on during the fighting," the officer said.

The officer called on commanders to take responsibility for their performance during the war. "A commander needs to look at himself as if the fate of the entire war lies on his shoulders and as if there is no one else who can fulfil his mission," said the officer. "A commander needs to know to take responsibility immediately and not wait for his superior officers to push him out."

The probe also found that commanders were not devoted to their missions and in some cases even decided to ignore orders so as not to risk the lives of their soldiers. The overall sense within Division 91, the officer claimed, was that Israel was not at war and that the operations in Lebanon were "standard and routine."

"Since they didn't fully digest that the country was at war, then the missions were not given the correct amount of weight and importance by the commanders," said the officer.

Despite the severe failures, the committee, led by Yair, does not plan at this stage to recommend personal sanctions against division commanders and officers. Instead, the committee will review a number of specific cases in which battalion commanders allegedly failed to fulfil their missions and drastically strayed from military norms.

Three other divisions will present interim findings over the coming weeks, including Division 162, headed by Brig.-Gen. Guy Zur, an elite reserve division commanded by Brig.-Gen. Eyal Eizenberg and an armoured reserve division led by Brig.-Gen. Erez Zuckerman.

Environmentalists condemn Jerusalem expansion plan

By ETGAR LEFKOVITS
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — A controversial building plan that would expand Jerusalem westward despite the bitter objection of environmentalists was drawn up only after the government made a political decision not to expand the city to the east, the plan's chief architect says.

The proposal, named after the internationally renowned architect Moshe Safdie who designed the original plan, would see the construction of 20,000 housing units on more than 26 square kilometres of natural woodland west of Jerusalem, in one of the largest construction projects ever proposed in Israel.

"If the government had decided to make a building plan to the east of Jerusalem, they never would have approached me to make a plan for the expansion of the city westward," Safdie said in an interview with the *Jerusalem Post*.

The proposal, which has been on the drawing board for much of the last decade and has the backing of the Jerusalem Municipality, was to receive final approval this past Tuesday from the Interior Ministry's national planning and building committee.

The committee had put off a final decision on the proposal last year.

Safdie, although clearly piqued by the criticism of his plan, said he refused to take sides in the debate, suggesting it should be left to the public domain.

Last month, in an unusual show of cross-party unity, 50 Knesset members from across the political spectrum joined forces in opposition to the plan. The parliamentarians who signed a petition prepared by environmental groups against the building plan came from all the Knesset parties, including left-wing and right-wing legislators and a rare mix of secular, religious and haredi parties.

In what has become the largest environmental struggle in Israel in years, the green groups opposed to the plan presented the petition to Interior Minister Roni Bar-On on Sunday, and planned a Tuesday morning protest outside the Interior Ministry offices during the critical ministry committee meeting.

Moshe Safdie
[Michal Ronnen Safdie photo]

The committee, which is an independent body, has 31 members, including eight publicly appointed officials.

A last-minute petition to the High Court of Justice was filed by an environmental group against Tuesday's planned meeting because at least two of the slots reserved for public officials had not been filled.

Proponents of the city's westward expansion plan, including Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski, argue that it is essential for the natural growth of Jerusalem, with its notoriously high real estate prices and continuing Jewish immigration.

The plan to expand Jerusalem westward in the face of mounting opposition gathered steam in the wake of the government's decision to freeze an alternate, decades-old proposal to expand Jerusalem eastward to the nearby West Bank settlement of Ma'aleh Adumim.

That eastward expansion plan, commonly known as E1, was frozen last year in the wake of American pressure not to build in the West Bank.

Safdie said political reality indicates there is very little chance that the eastward expansion proposal would ever be approved, adding that its proposed size was also more limited.

He said that building between Jerusalem and Ma'aleh Adumim would cut off Palestinian territorial continuity in the West Bank.

"The people who are against the westward plan are rightists who want to build to the east, and green-loving bleeding heart leftists," Safdie said.

The government's decision to freeze the expansion of Jerusalem eastward led an external consultant to endorse the westward expansion of the city in its stead, as part of an ongoing effort to buttress the dwindling Jewish population of Jerusalem.

U.K. groups call for arms embargo of Israel

By JONNY PAUL
Jerusalem Post

LONDON — A London-based non-governmental organization, the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), has launched a campaign calling for an arms embargo on Israel, accusing the British government of "complicity in the occupation."

CAAT, which has joined forces with several other groups with a history of anti-Israel activism, including the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, War on Want and the Israeli Committee against House Demolitions (ICAHD), has called for "an immediate, comprehensive arms embargo on all parties involved in the conflict and in particular Israel."

The new joint initiative, Stop Arming Israel, lists all the U.K. companies that supply Israel and gives advice on actions to build support for an embargo.

Ready-made postcards, which the group provides for people to sign and send to members of Parliament, state: "Israel has violated more UN resolutions than any other country. Its increasingly bloody occupation of Palestine has plunged the whole region into a crisis."

The group claims the U.K. government buys arms from Israeli companies that have been "battle-tested in the occupied territories."

The group's policies apply to all countries to which the United Kingdom sells weapons, said CAAT media co-ordinator Symon Hill. However, according to the group's bimonthly publication, *CAAT News*, a campaign against Hezbollah's weaponry is not necessary as the weapons are "low-tech" and not made in the U.K., while Israel's Apache helicopters and F-16 jets "contain key parts" made in the U.K.

A 2002 CAAT report refers to "the killing of Palestinian men, women and children, extra-judicial executions, arbitrary detention and deportation of prisoners, collective punishment, torture, attacks on hospitals and ambulances, curfews and other restrictions on freedom of movement and the wholesale destruction of homes."

The onus for the recent hostilities in Lebanon is on Israel, according to a recent *CAAT News* article, "Southern Lebanon Destroyed, Now Stop Arming Israel." Hezbollah's assault on northern Israel is described as "a response."

The same article also blames Israel for the situation in Gaza.

"A year after a supposed IDF withdrawal from Gaza, its one million inhabitants have to endure repeated military incursions, assassinations, sonic booms from low-flying aircraft and other forms of collective punishment for the armed resistance of a small minority," it says.

Israel is at the "cutting edge" of global weapons technology, according to CAAT, which also says that Israel was the leading supplier of arms to apartheid South Africa and currently sells to Burma's military junta.

Sarah Mandel, associate editor of the *NGO Monitor*, said War on Want and ICAHD have a long history of promoting anti-Israeli discrimination.

"War on Want claims to pursue a humanitarian agenda, but is being investigated by the U.K. Charity Commission for its highly politicized activities – calls for sanctions, divestment and boycotts. ICAHD, a small extremist group, has been given international prominence by its European Union funding. Its ostensible human rights projects call for a one-state solution [the destruction of Israel] and its use of polarizing rhetoric undermines all hope for progress towards mutual understanding between Israelis and Palestinians," she said.

Mandell added that the lack of any call for Syria and Iran to stop arming Hezbollah and Hamas "makes a mockery of U.K. and E.U. funding for such NGOs."

* * *

In related Israel boycott developments, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) is calling on Irish academics to oppose demands to boycott Israel. The union, which represents 1.3 million members across the United States, sent a letter to four Irish teachers' and academic unions, urging them to oppose the boycott proposed by several Irish academics in recent weeks.

The boycott call was made by 61 Irish faculty members in a letter sent to the *Irish Times* in late September. They called for the European Union to cut ties with Israeli academic institutions in protest of Israel's policy towards the Palestinians and its conduct during the Lebanese war.

With files from Nathan Guttman.

'Living here a great opportunity'

Continued from page 1

"All of the world's issues run through that embassy at one point or another," said Allen, who spent much of his early career in the legal bureau of Foreign Affairs Canada, representing Canada in disputes under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and leading Canadian delegations to various UN conferences.

"But in many ways, Israel rivals Washington because there is so much interesting discussion, so many issues on the table, so many different points of view, and a very high level of political discourse here," he said.

"Whether it's Iran, or the Israel-Palestine issue, or the region as a whole, the issues that affect Israel are always making front page news. Israel is a fascinating place. You can be sure that there is always something interesting and compelling going on here."

Allen hopes that as Canada's new representative in Israel, he will be able to push some of those issues forward. "We already co-operate on foreign policy and on military issues and issues of terrorism, and on those scores, we see the world from very similar points of view.

"But I think there are other areas where we haven't necessarily tapped all the potential," he said. He noted that he would like to expand Canada and Israel's co-operation in a number of areas: environmental sustainability, transportation security, agriculture, water conservation, energy co-operation, and even cultural/artistic exchanges.

"With the strong support that the Harper government has demonstrated for Israel, and the mutual feelings and good relationships that we have built up between our foreign ministries, we have a golden opportunity here to take our relationship to the next level," Allen said.

"Of course, anything that Canada can do to contribute to peace processes – as an honest broker and as a strong ally – the government will be looking for opportunities to this effect, and I am here to carry that out.

"I am hoping to do the best job possible in what are generally considered to be the both difficult and interesting circumstances that prevail in Israel," he said.

Speaking about being appointed so soon after the war with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, he said: "This post-Lebanon period is a very interesting time," he says. "I am here to see Israel undergo this unbelievable rebuilding phase."

Allen and his wife, Clara Hirsh, spent a weekend recently travelling to various art festivals across Israel's north, including the All the Music in the Galil Festival, the 22nd International Film Festival in Haifa and the Acco Fringe Theater Festival.

"It was amazing to see places which just a couple of months ago were under attack, being bombed [by Hezbollah], but on the weekend they were chock-a-block with people," said Allen.

"There certainly is an incredible resilience, no doubt about it; whether it's because there have been previous wars and they've had to get back to it, or because there is just a love of life, and the people refuse not to get back to it, I don't know. But Israelis get back into the swing of things and it's amazing to see."

For Allen, the youngest of three, born in 1950, the appointment to Israel has both professional and personal benefits. Allen's sister made aliyah from Winnipeg in the 1960s and lives on Kibbutz Kfar Blum in the Galil, so coming to Israel also means reuniting with her and her three children.

"Previous to the appointment, I had been to Israel a number of times to visit my sister," said Allen, who last visited two years ago for his nephew's wedding. His father was a strong Zionist, and a big supporter of the Technion in Haifa and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

"Actually living here presents a great opportunity for me and my sister to be closer to one another," Allen said.

Hirsh, who moved with her family from Poland to Winnipeg in 1959, also has an aunt and a few cousins in Israel. "So we both have this personal connection to Israel, and although that's not what motivated the posting, it is an added advantage," said Allen.

In addition to meeting with family since they arrived, the pair have spent most of their time meeting and greeting Israelis from all walks of life. "The country is full of interesting people, and we have just begun to meet a few of them," he said. "People have really gone out of their way to extend us a very warm welcome."

In their downtime, the couple, who live in the official ambassador's residence in Herzliya Pituach, play tennis and swim.

That's not to say that their adjustment to Israel has been without blips. Allen said he's finding it a challenge to get used to driving in Israel. "Some drivers in Israel are incredibly reckless. I don't know whether it's postwar tension and anxiety, or what, but you can really sense that people feel under pressure on the roads.

"Driving here really gives you the impression that Israelis are yearning for some calm in their lives, and in the country. Then again, I have driven in Mexico City, and I have driven in India, so this kind of driving is not completely unfamiliar to me."

In spite of the driving, Allen doesn't miss Canada. "I especially don't miss the winters in Winnipeg," he said, adding that he does miss his two children – Jake, 23, and AJ, 21 – who are studying at McGill University. "The experiences abroad have just been too fascinating and too varied for me to miss Canada too much."

Allen, who obtained a law degree from the University of Western Ontario in 1976 and a master of law degree from the University of London in 1997, joined the then-Department of External Affairs in 1981. He participated in diplomatic missions to Mexico City, from 1983 to 1985; and New Delhi, from 1989 to 1992. In Washington, D.C., from 1997 to 2001, he was minister counsellor and head of the political section of Foreign Affairs Canada and director general of the ministry's North American bureau, from 2001 to 2004. As director general, he was responsible for Canada's bilateral relations with the United States and Mexico.

Israel Briefs

Olmert thanks Harper

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert spoke by phone last week with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Olmert thanked Harper for Canada's support for Israel at the Francophonie summit. Olmert also thanked Harper for Canada's backing of the decision by the "Quartet" (the United States, Russia, the United Nations and the European Union) to demand that the Palestinians recognize Israel, renounce violence and honour signed treaties.

Netanyahu's star rises

Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party would win if elections had been held last week, a poll found. The *Yediot Achronot* survey, published Oct. 12, found Likud would win 22 of the Knesset's 120 seats, almost twice its current number. Avigdor Lieberman's right-wing Yisrael Beiteinu Party would place second with 20 seats, and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's centrist Kadima Party would be third with 15 seats, almost half its current 29.

Israel backs UN Iran moves

Israel endorsed a decision to discuss Iran's nuclear program at the UN Security Council. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert convened top cabinet colleagues and Israeli military and intelligence chiefs last week for a top-secret discussion of how to handle Iranian atomic ambitions, especially after North Korea's recent nuclear test.

Rocket defence years away

Israel isn't expected to have defense systems against tactical rockets within the next four years, a newspaper reported. The *Jerusalem Post* quoted unnamed military officials who said it will take at least four years to develop a system that can be deployed along the Lebanese and Gaza borders. Two anti-rocket projects are being considered, one Israeli and the other American.

– from JTA and news services

Sunday, November 5, 2006

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Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel

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Ottawa: **Thursday October 26th at 12:00 pm at the Soloway Jewish Community Center 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, K2A 1R9**
The complete itinerary and registration form can be found in the download section of our web-site at: **www.gideonprogram.com**
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Russian Jews upset by anti-Georgian crackdown

By LEV KRICHEVSKY
JTA

MOSCOW — When hundreds rallied last week in downtown Moscow to protest the Russian crackdown on Georgians, many of the protesters had yellow stars pinned to their chests.

The Oct. 8 rally was called to voice criticism of the deportation of hundreds of Georgians and closure of Georgian-owned businesses in Moscow in the wake of Russia's spy dispute with the small Caucasus republic.

The yellow stars were symbols that the protesters – who included many well-known Russian liberal figures – view the Russian authorities' singling out of Georgians as similar to what happened to Jews during the Holocaust, when Jews in many European countries were forced to wear yellow stars as identification.

"To me, the key word here is mass deportation," said Alexandra Arkus, a Jewish pediatrician who had a yellow star pinned to her denim jacket alongside a homemade button pin saying "I'm a Georgian."

"The Holocaust is part of my own family history, and it doesn't make big difference if it's not me who is being targeted this time."

A leading Russian Jewish political journalist who also took part in the rally agreed.

"It doesn't matter which group is singled out for ethnic profiling," Yevgenia Albats said. "Our books, our history do not allow us to sit idle," in this situation, she said.

Russian Jewish groups, however, have not spoken out publicly on the matter.

Up to 600,000 Georgian nationals are believed to be living in Russia, including thousands of Georgian-born Jews. Many Georgians in Russia earn their living as construction workers, taxi drivers or in markets.

There are also a number of high-profile Georgian businessmen based in Russia.

Following the diplomatic dispute between Moscow and Georgia earlier this month, Russian police and tax officials cracked down on Georgian natives living in Russia in what authorities called part of the fight against illegal immigrants and tax evasion.

The crackdown resulted in the deportations of hundreds of Georgians and caused many more Georgians to close their businesses and lose their jobs.

Earier this month, Russian newspapers reported that some Moscow schools were asked to provide lists of Georgian students to the officials so their parents can be tracked down and checked for residence and tax status.

A leading human rights group condemned the "collective blame" that Russian authorities are putting on Georgians in Russia as a result of the "irresponsible actions of Georgian authorities."

> ***'Our books, our history do not allow us to sit idle'***

The Moscow Bureau on Human Rights said the "multiple facts of discrimination against citizens of Georgian nationality in Russian regions" was "an outrageous violation" of the Russian Constitution.

Ethnic profiling is not new in modern Russia, but by cracking down on Georgians the authorities have crossed a certain barrier, critics say.

"When police were cracking down on Chechens" during the 1990s, "this was during the war and could at least be explained as part of the wartime rhetoric," Arkus said. "What's unfolding now simply borders on Nazism."

Many Russians, however, disagree.

According to a recent poll, 40 per cent of Russians welcome the deportation of all Georgians who don't have legal residency in Russia, while the same proportion favours imposing economic blockade on Georgia, and 20 per cent support cutting off all trade relations between Russia and Georgia, the VTSIOM polling firm reported.

While many Jews in Russia appear to be more sensitive to ethnic profiling than average Russians, Jewish organizations remained silent in the wake of police and officials' crackdown on the Georgian minority.

"We cannot afford speaking out on this," an official with a leading Jewish group, who asked not to be identified, told JTA.

"If we say something, the authorities will tell us we are shaking the boat," he said, referring to the fact all major Jewish groups value their relations with the Kremlin, which is believed to be orchestrating the anti-Georgian campaign.

A spokesperson for the Federation of Jewish Communities, the largest organization of Jews in Russia, said in an interview with JTA that he believes the persecution of Georgians is "very dangerous."

"I hope this is the very first and therefore excessively emotional reaction" to the dispute with Georgia, Boruch Gorin said.

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You are imagining The Toronto Heschel School.

"Our beautiful new six-acre green space allows us to put our environmental ethos into practice," says principal Gail Baker. "Now that we have such fantastic, flexible space, it's been amazing to see how much learning can actually move seamlessly from inside to outside."

Baker adds, "In addition to the teaching garden and recycling program, our school also conducts classes such as Chumash, Hebrew and math outside. The children love sitting and learning in the outdoor classrooms under the big trees."

The grounds are not the only impressive feature of the new campus. It also has 20 large classrooms – including particularly spacious preschool rooms – as well as a computer lab, a resource room, an art room, a music room, a beit midrash, a gymnasium and more.

Innovative teaching methods are also part of educational excellence at Heschel. "Since 1996, we've strived to foster Jewish values and a love of Jewish identity in children's hearts and minds," says curriculum director Greg Beiles. "Our day is integrated. We don't separate secular and Judaic studies into half-days, as do most day schools. This integration allows the children to see the world as if through two overlaid lenses all day long, a universal lens and a Jewish lens. The children will then be comfortable living full Jewish lives as part of the wider community."

"My kids are getting a fantastic education," says parent Ashira Gobrin, who has two daughters at Heschel. "It's more than solid math and science skills. They are learning to imagine. They are using their creativity to think outside the box and solve problems." Suzy Rosenstein, whose three sons attend Heschel, shares that enthusiasm. "The boys are learning to love their Jewish heritage. But more importantly, they are learning to become engaged citizens, locally and globally. It's quite something to see."

For more information about The Toronto Heschel School and to book a tour, please call Soheila Sabeti at 416-635-1876, ext. 334.

Books & Authors

American idealist aided artists, intellectuals in Vichy France

***Villa Air-Bel: World War II, Escape and a House in Marseille* by Rosemary Sullivan, HarperCollins.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Varian Fry, a young American idealist, arrived in Nazi-occupied France on Aug. 15, 1941, a sum of $3,000 in cash taped to his leg. Clad in a Brooks Brothers pinstriped suit, he also carried a sleeping bag and an air mattress, a list of 200 European artists and intellectuals he intended to help and letters of introduction from the U.S State Department.

So began one of the most intriguing, if little-known, humanitarian missions of World War II.

A 32-year-old Harvard graduate, Fry went to France as the representative of the American Emergency Rescue Committee, which had been established to assist the artistic elite of Europe.

As part of its capitulation to Germany in June 1940, Vichy France agreed to "surrender on demand" all German nationals and citizens of conquered countries who had publicly expressed criticism of the Nazi regime and had fled to France seeking asylum.

The individuals Germany sought to extradite were both Jewish and Christian, and included novelist Thomas Mann and painter Marc Chagall. Fry's intention was to whisk them out of France as soon as possible, lest they be interned and/or murdered by the rapacious Nazis.

As they waited for their exit visas, some found a temporary haven in Villa Air-Bel, an imposing, three-storey, 18-room mansion on a hill outside the southern French port of Marseille. It had been expressly rented to accommodate them.

Rosemary Sullivan, a professor of English at the University of Toronto and an award-winning biographer, has written a vivid account of this episode. *Villa Air-Bel: World War II, Escape and a House in Marseille* is a strong narrative work that burnishes her reputation as a meticulous researcher and a fluid writer.

Sullivan, whose biographies of Canadian literary figures Margaret Atwood and Gwendolyn MacEwen are already classics, has a gift for humanizing history. And in *Villa Air-Bel*, this is precisely what she achieves.

The central character, Fry, is a handsome, charismatic man who had a passion for liberal political causes. A magazine editor until his sojourn in France, he felt that the United States should jettison its isolationist policy, stop Adolf Hitler in his tracks and help imperilled progressive Europeans.

Fry's interest in, and commitment to, such causes was cemented by a trip to swastika-bedecked Berlin in 1935, where he witnessed a random anti-Semitic attack on an elderly Jewish couple. The ugly incident galvanized him, and in the years to come, he would extend a helping hand to refugees in France.

With Hitler's accession to power in 1933, many Jews and dissidents fled Germany, bound for France. At first, they were warmly received, though right-wing newspapers regarded them as "German invaders who were taking the bread out of French mouths."

With the fall of Leon Blum's Popular Front government in 1938, during the depths of the Depression, the refugees found themselves on hard times. The new prime minister, Edouard Daladier, a supporter of appeasement, declared that the refugees were no longer worthy of French hospitality and should be "controlled."

Rightists, meanwhile, called for their internment. Eventually, the refugees were dispatched to internment camps. Among them were Otto Meyerhoff, the winner of the 1922 Nobel Prize in medicine, and Thadeus Reichstein, the discoverer of cortisone and the recipient of the 1950 Nobel Prize for medicine.

Conditions for the refugees deteriorated after France's defeat in the war. As Sullivan says, they lived in constant fear of being deported.

When Fry reached Marseille in the summer of 1941, refugees who sought to escape the hell of Vichy France needed several documents: a safe-conduct pass to travel within France; an exit permit to leave the country; a transit visa to travel overland via Spain and Portugal to board a ship in Lisbon; a visa to a country willing to accept them.

Thanks to Eleanor Roosevelt, President Franklin Roosevelt's humane wife, Fry had acquired quasi-diplomatic status when he arrived in Marseille. Fry assumed that he could get the job done within a matter of weeks and return to New York City by the end of August. But in October, he prolonged his visit, informing his wife in a cable that he could not "abandon" the refugees in his care.

Varian Fry

Several days later, the Vichy regime enacted new anti-Semitic regulations, the *statut des juifs*, and authorized the internment of "all foreign Jews in camps" or in "residences in remote villages where they could remain under the watchful eyes of the local police."

To assist the refugees in distress, Fry and his confrères rented Villa Air-Bel and established the Centre Americain de Secours (CAS).

They also enlisted the services of two German dissidents, Lisa and Hans Fittko, to guide refugees over the Pyrenees mountains to safety in neutral Spain. One of their "clients" was the renowned German-Jewish philosopher Walter Benjamin. Having reached a Spanish border post, he was callously told that he could not proceed any farther. In despondency, he committed suicide. A priceless manuscript he had carried in his briefcases disappeared, never to resurface.

Sullivan's chapters on the Fittkos and on political developments in Europe that impinged on the lives of refugees are interesting, though slightly padded. But the beating heart of her book concerns Air-Bel, the rambling villa where the refugees while away their days while waiting for their travel papers to the United States. The villa, she notes, provided "a respite from harsher realities" just outside its portals. In Marseille, for example, Jews were being victimized.

Sullivan portrays American diplomats in Marseille as heartless creatures who curried favour with Vichy and could not care a whit about Fry and his project. When the U.S. consul there, Hugh Fullerton, called Fry into his office for a chat, he could only tell him that the Vichy regime was "uncomfortable" with his "refugee work."

The police inevitably raided Air-Bel and summoned Fry for a grilling. After he was arrested, Fry was forced to leave France. Vichy could do without troublemakers like him. With Fry gone, Air-Bel was summarily emptied of its residents. But by that point, Fry had accomplished a lot.

Over a period of one and a half years, he managed to protect more than 4,000 refugees, facilitated the departure of 1,500 people from France and threw a financial lifeline to 600 others.

With the Air-Bel interregnum behind him, Fry became a freelance writer and teacher. Five months before his death on Sept. 12, 1967, just shy of his 60th birthday, France belatedly honoured him for his good deeds. In 1996, Yad Vashem – the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem – posthumously named Fry as a righteous gentile.

During his lifetime, the United States never officially recognized his heroic actions, though Warren Christopher, a U.S. secretary of state, belatedly conveyed apologies to Fry on behalf of Americans.

At Fry's funeral, the Jewish sculptor Jacques Lipchitz, whom Fry had helped, said in a eulogy, "He was like a racehorse hitched to a wagonload of stones." These poetic words spoke volumes.

In closing, Sullivan adds that Villa Air-Bel was torn down in 1970 and replaced by a faceless apartment complex for new immigrants, mainly North Africans. One can probably assume that they have never heard of Villa Air-Bel, which, after Sullivan's book, has taken on a life of its own.

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Mother-daughter team aim to 'make the impossible possible'

What do the Everything To Do With Sex Show and the Weekend To End Breast Cancer have in common?

Team Bubble Boobs, which supports the Weekend To End Breast Cancer, has an exhibit at the upcoming Everything To Do With Sex Show (ETDWSS) in Toronto.

Team Bubble Boobs is made up of Jai and Stephanie Cole, a mother and daughter team registered to participate in the 2007 Weekend To End Breast Cancer fundraising event, which benefits Princess Margaret Hospital.

"Breast cancer is on the dark side of everything sexy and generally invisible at fun events like the ETDWSS," says Stephanie, the daughter half of team Bubble Boobs. "Awareness and education go hand in hand with raising the necessary funds to win the war against this insidious disease. Our exhibit will make the invisible visible. The ETDWSS is attended by 50,000+ people, and it is the perfect environment to do just that."

The booth will have information about breast cancer, survivorship programs and research from Princess Margaret Hospital, and a representative from the Weekend To End Breast Cancer will be there to answer questions about the walk and register walkers for the 2007 event.

Team Bubble Boobs will be raising sponsorship dollars through direct donations and the sale of unique products, from sexy pink ribbon toe rings to cuddly pink ribbon teddy bears.

A pair of gigantic lifelike breasts that can be filled with donations will be the main attraction. Bubble Boobs' goal is to completely "fill 'em up" with dollars by the end of the show.

"I have participated in the Weekend to End Breast Cancer's 60-kilometre walk as a walker and as crew from the first event in 2003," says Jai Cole, the mother half of the team. "The experience of being with more than 6,000 people, all set on the same goal, is truly incredible. We are excited about having the opportunity to educate, entertain and raise the needed funds at the Everything To Do With Sex Show."

"Together we are empowered to make the impossible possible" is the slogan created by the Cole team. In 2005 and 2006, Team Bubble Boobs was part of the volunteer motor crew driving a sweep vehicle that assisted walkers along the route. Jai participated as a walker in 2003 and 2004.

Jai and Stephanie believe awareness and early diagnosis are major facctors in the fight to save people's lives. The funds raised by the Weekend to End Breast Cancer's 60-km walk go to Princess Margaret Hospital for breast cancer treatment, research and education. The hospital is an international leader in the fight against cancer and the largest institution in Canada devoted to cancer treatment, innovative research, and education programs.

Princess Margaret focuses on translational research – research findings that are quickly transformed into improved treatment options and enhanced patient care. For the 2006 event, 5,382 walkers raised $17.2 million. Next year's walk is scheduled for Sept. 7 to 9, 2007. For information, go to www.endcancer.ca.

Now in its seventh year, the Everything To Do With Sex show draws curious adults who want to explore their sexuality. Topics covered range from romantic dinners to sexual bondage. Organizers present sex and everything to do with it in a fun, non-threatening environment that appeals to couples and singles alike. It takes place at the Automotive Building at Exhibition Place Oct. 20 to 22. Admission is restricted to age 19 and over. For information, go to www.everythingtodowithsexshow.com.

For more information on the Team Bubble effort, contact Stephanie Cole, at 905-695-0123, ext. 211, or steph@plumcom.ca.

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Eating disorders program planned for Temple Sinai

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

A three-session program on eating disorders and other addictive behaviour, called the Kedushat HaGuf Project, will be held Sundays, beginning Oct. 22, at Temple Sinai Congregation.

Supported by the Bernstein Family Endowment, the groups will be facilitated by Orit Morse. She has had 20 years of counselling experience with individuals, families and groups in several mental health settings. She now runs New Realities Eating Disorders Recovery Centre in Toronto.

From 5 to 6 p.m., there will be an information and resource group for family, friends and partners of those suffering from an eating disorder or other addictive behaviour. The group from 7 to 8:30 p.m. will be for those suffering from the problem.

Both will offer information and awareness about the problems, as well as community resources that may be of help.

Morse said that the organizers decided to focus on eating disorders because they are relatively so prevalent in the Jewish community. "If the turnout is good, the program will be ongoing," she said.

Admission is free, but registration is necessary.

For more information, call Morse at 905-763-0660.

Message to *CJN* Snowbirds

If you will be spending all or part of this winter outside of Canada, there are three options available to you regarding delivery of your *Canadian Jewish News*.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

NORA GLICKMAN PLAY *TWO CHARLOTTES* MAKES CANADIAN DEBUT AT BETH TZEDEC

Theatre professor **Isaac Benabu** of Hebrew University of Jerusalem directs the Canadian première performance of *Two Charlottes* by **Nora Glickman**. The play tells the story of German-Jewish painter **Charlotte Salomon** and French-Christian poet **Charlotte Delbo**, both of whom were prisoners at Auschwitz.

The production is presented by Beth Tzedec Congregation, Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University and the University of Toronto. It stars **Dawn Nadel** of Israel and **Michelle Girouard** of Toronto. $10 voluntary admission. Beth Tzedec, Sunday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Benabu, who is the Ralph and Roslyn Halbert visiting scholar at the University of Toronto, is also involved in two additional public presentations.

"Fighting – or Rather Watching World War Three: The Passivity of the 21st Century Spectator – A Challenge to Political Opinion Forming" takes place at the Wolfond Centre, 36 Harbord St. Wednesday, Oct. 25, at noon.

"Workshop on Israeli Theatre, From the National to the Universal: Translating Israeli Theatre into English" is at the Medical Science Bldg., 1 King's College Circle, Room 3154, Thursday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m. 416-485-8000, ext. 122

* * *

Manguel, Ozick to Read:

This year's International Festival of Authors runs Oct. 18 to 28 at Harbourfront and features numerous authors of special interest. For instance: **Alberto Manguel** reads from his latest book *The Library at Night*, and participates in a round-table discussion with **Bruce Whiteman** and **Rosemary Sullivan** (Oct. 24, 8 p.m.). **Cynthia Ozick** reads from her latest book of essays, *A Din in the Head* (Oct. 25, 8 p.m.) and is interviewed by **Lewis DeSoto** (Oct. 26, 7 p.m.) For full festival details, please visit the website www.readings.org.

* * *

Names in the News: Candida Paltiel, director of the upcoming Planet In Focus International Environmental Film & Video Festival, is an award-winning Toronto filmmaker-producer who has filmed in a variety of international settings and has taught film at Ryerson University. She studied political science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and film at Columbia University in New York.

The Planet in Focus festival promotes and celebrates the use of film and video as a catalyst for public awareness, discussion and appropriate action on the environmental, ecological and social health of the planet. It features more than 80 international films – including two from Israel – at the Royal Ontario Museum, Innis College and the City of Toronto Archives, Nov 1 to 5. Adults $10 per screening. 416-968-3456

* * *

Schubert Chamber Music: Mooredale Concerts presents five Canadian musicians performing **Schubert**'s "Trout" Quintet, one of the most famous works in the chamber music repertoire, as well as two cello works on Hebrew themes – **Bruch**'s *Kol Nidrei, Op. 47*, and **Paganini**'s Introduction and Variations on a Theme from **Rossini**'s *Moses in Egypt*.

The musicians include Israeli-born violist **Daniel Bard**, a principal player of both Israel's Tel Aviv Soloists and Sweden's Camerata Nordica. They perform at Willowdale United Church, 349 Kenneth Ave. (Finch-Yonge area) on Saturday, Oct. 28, 8 p.m. and again at Walter Hall, University of Toronto, 80 Queen's Park Cres., on Sunday, Oct. 29, 3 p.m. $25-$20. 416-922-3714, ext. 103; www.mooredaleconcerts.com

* * *

Documentary on Autism: Vancouver filmmaker **Marianne Kaplan**'s new documentary, *The Boy Inside*, offers a candid, personal and harrowing story about Kaplan's 12-year-old son Adam, who has a form of high-functioning autism characterized by socially and emotionally inappropriate behavior and an inability to interact successfully with others. It premières on CBC Newsworld's series *The Lens*, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 10 p.m. (repeats Oct. 25, 28 and 29).

* * *

Weavers Music Featured: The Travellers' concert mentioned in last week's column has been canceled due to illness, but previously purchased tickets will be honoured for the **Work O' the Weavers**, with special guest **Jerry Gray**, The Travellers' lead singer.

Work O' the Weavers [Jayne Toohey photo]

Sponsored by the Koffler School of Music, Work O' the Weavers presents such popular folk tunes as *If I Had A Hammer, Midnight Special, This Land Is Your Land, Wimoweh, House Of The Rising Sun* and others that were written or first popularized by **The Weavers.**

Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. $30 in advance, $35 at the door. Tuesday Oct. 24, 8 p.m. Previous ticket holders for The Travellers are requested to confirm their reservations. 416-636-1880, ext. 228.

* * *

Sunday Concert: Orchestra Toronto's first concert of its 52nd season of "Afternoons at the Symphony" features works by **Brahms**, **Sibelius** and **Klami**. Toronto Centre for the Arts, Oct. 22, 3 p.m. 416-872-1111 or www.ticketmaster.ca.

* * *

Fun and Games in Mameloshen: Friends of Yiddish presents its first-ever *Yiddish Shpiel Ovnt*, an evening of fun and games, mostly in Yiddish . Whether you speak Yiddish fluently or (as the old saying goes) "break a tooth" getting a word out, you're in for a great time. Toronto humourist **Jack Newman** leads participants in a game of "Dictionary", theatre games, story-building and much more. Workmen's Circle Hall, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Sunday Oct. 22, 8 p.m. Free for members, $5 for guests.

Literary Notes

• Toronto writer **Anne Dublin** launches her new book *June Callwood: A Life of Action* (for young adults) at David Mirvish Books, 596 Markham St. Sunday, Oct. 22, 2 p.m. Published by Second Story Press.

• Ottawa author **Sharon Abron Drache** launches her children's book *The Lubavitchers Are Coming to Second Avenue (A Hanukah story)* at Israel's Judaica Centre, 870 Eglinton Ave. W. Sunday, Oct. 22, 4 p.m.

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Arts & Travel

Art exhibit pays tribute to philanthropist Max Sharp

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Joy Shepherd's artwork was on display at a recent exhibit she held in tribute to her late grandfather, Max Sharp.

To honour the memory of her grandfather, Max Sharp, a philanthropist, community leader and pioneer in building Israel, his granddaughter, Joy Shepherd, held an art show for family and friends recently.

The exhibition of her grandfather's needlepoint works and her watercolours, "Max's Fiddle," had previously been at the Koffler Centre of the Arts.

Sharp died just short of his 103rd birthday, on Dec. 4, 2004.

"My paintings tell a story and they are my interpretation of what my grandfather gave the world," Shepherd says.

"My grandfather was my *Fiddler on the Roof* and inspired me to paint fiddlers. He was a master of needlepoint. [The show] was a tribute to the legacy he left me and all his family."

Shepherd said she was one of the 19 lucky grandchildren to be blessed by a true-to-life Fiddler on the Roof. "My papa Max, who loved to sing and dance, inspired me to paint the fiddlers, which represent his love of life."

Her watercolours express her love and admiration for a person who exemplified all that life should represent, "kindness, compassion and his values that continue to inspire me and my family," she says.

Shepherd is a psychometrist at the Hospital for Sick Children. She has had a passion for art since childhood and, for the past five years, has studied watercolour.

One of her works, *The Penthouse*, is of the 19 grandchildren around the Friday night dinner table, a tradition in the Sharp family.

"My grandparent's traditions and values have been passed down to my generation – what a memory, what a gift," Shepherd says.

Joy Shepherd with her late grandfather, Max Sharp

Another one of Shepherd's works, *The Quintette*, tells the story of "my grandfather passing down the fiddle to my father, Siggie Levy, and then from generation to generation. Most of my paintings tell a story of Jewish life and family traditions," she says.

Max and his son, Issy Sharp, were the first father and son to be honoured with a Negev Dinner by the Jewish National Fund, at which their community leadership and service was recognized.

More than 200 people attended Shepherd's exhibition and celebration of her grandfather's life. Sam Sable paid tribute to his longtime friend. Joseph Telch, a Toronto artist, introduced Shepherd and praised her for her love of the arts and for her talent.

The money raised from the exhibition has been donated to Beit Halochem – Aid to Disabled Veterans.

"Israel was my grandfather's lifelong love, and it is appropriate that we make this donation in his honour," Shepherd says.

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Artist's friends give him posthumous honour

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Artist Stanley Lewis, who died Aug. 14 at 76 of heart failure, has achieved in death what he did not in life: a solo exhibition at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

For one evening earlier this month, 35 of his stone-cut prints and sculptures were on display, most of them on loan from private collectors, who ranged from well-heeled connoisseurs to the waitress Lewis befriended at a St. Laurent Boulevard delicatessen.

The Oct. 4 event was organized by a small group of Lewis' friends, most of whom he met in his latter years and were much younger than him. But it also attracted people who knew him for 50 years or more.

This group is trying to interest the museum or another gallery to mount a full-fledged retrospective of Lewis' work and to ensure that he takes what they believe is his rightful place among Canada's better artists.

Among his new friends was Concordia University film student Jeannette Pope, one of the organizers, who made a seven-minute documentary about Lewis last year titled *Where's Stanley?*. That was followed this year by the 19-minute *The Birth of Smoked Meat*, a documentary about the Main Delicatessen, which she credits Lewis with encouraging her to do.

She is hoping to make a full-length portrait of Lewis with the hours of footage she has of him, including interviews during his final hospital stay.

Lewis also has a role in the just-released *Posthumous Pickle Party*, by Ezra Soiferman, another organizer. It's a tribute to the late Simcha Leibovich, who owned Simcha's Grocery on St. Laurent Boulevard. (Lewis also made a cameo in Garry Beitel's new *Chez Schwartz*.)

Lewis, who died after being in the Jewish General Hospital for five months, was remembered as a man so totally devoted to his art that his personal relationships suffered and he paid scant attention to the necessity of making a living.

Lewis was, in the words of a longtime friend, physician Phil Gold, "a thoroughly lovable pain in the ass."

Unable to pay his rent, Lewis moved into his dusty studio over Berson Monuments on St. Laurent a couple of years ago, living amid a large number of unsold works and without even a telephone. He became a familiar figure on the Main and at its eateries.

Gold said the only way to reach Lewis was to leave messages at the various restaurants he frequented. "Ultimately, he would get back to you, and say 'What's the problem?'"

Gold said he had always tried – in vain – to impress upon Lewis the need to make a living. "I saw him at the hospital a few days before he died. He promised me he would have a grand show and sell a lot of his work and become a man of leisure. A little later, he called and said he'd changed his mind."

Lewis was amazingly prolific over his 56-year career, and he continued to create obsessively up until his health started to fail about 18 months ago. He had a keen sense of life's evanescence, as one might expect of someone whose studio was upstairs from a gravestone forged himself to carve it exactly as the master had.

The late Montreal artist Stanley Lewis, seen in his studio, views *Pink Lady*, one of his best-known sculptures. [Kamal photo]

Lewis, who lived in Florence from 1956 to 1959, was an authority on Michelangelo's techniques. He was particularly proud of the fact that author Irving Stone consulted him in his research for *The Agony and the Ecstasy*, a bestselling novel based on Michelangelo's life.

Pope said a friend had offered Lewis a place to live with him, but he flatly refused because he wanted to be on his own to work without disruption, probably sensing that his time was short. Lewis' disregard for money and comfort reflected desire for simplicity, and was not a rejection of society, she feels.

Lewis had a strong social conscience and donated his work when he was touched by an event. In 1990, he gave École Polytechnique a colour print from his series *Age of Violence* series, in memory of the 14 women murdered there.

Soiferman added that Lewis, whom he met only last year, was not lonely or reclusive. He loved to be out and about in his neighbourhood, and readily endeared himself to people. Soiferman became close to him, visiting him two or three times a week in the hospital for long talks about life and art.

Author Joe King met Lewis 40 years ago when he was producing a documentary on pollution for CTV. Lewis had done a series of prints expressing his concern about pollution.

King said that Lewis had two failed marriages, but one of the good things to come out of his first divorce was his print series *The Ten Commandments*, for which he traveled to Israel to use Jerusalem stone slabs.

"Charles Bronfman bought 10 of the prints, so Stanley could eat for a week," King said. Lewis was later commissioned to make a bust of Charles's father Samuel Bronfman on his 75th birthday.

Despite the instability of his life, King said Lewis never lost his "*joie de vivre*." Lewis's work often had esoteric, gloomy themes, but King said he was "one of the few artists who could explain his work, what he was doing and what it meant."

His old friends tried to help him in his last years, but King said Lewis was content "to drift from the Main Delicatessen to Welch's book store."

Noted sculptor Armand Vaillancourt, a contemporary of Lewis, joked that Lewis' problem was being "too inclined to chase women" for his own good. He urged that an effort be made to have Lewis' work seen by the public.

Among the other people participating in the evening were Montreal Jewish historian Allan Raymond, a friend of Lewis for 30 years; Diane Charbonneau, a museum curator; former student Marilyn Berzan-Montblanch; and art expert Gilles Bertrand.

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Arts & Travel

Jewish and Arab students launch a journal

By LINDSAY SOBERANO-WILSON
Special to The CJN

Ran Goel, left, and Meena Rafie hope the second edition of the journal *Yalla* will create a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.
[Mike Andrechuk photo]

Yalla, a journal of creative expression that promotes dialogue and communication among Jewish and Arab youths, is being launched next week in Toronto and Montreal.

The contributors and editors are mainly Jews and Arabs aged 18 to 30. *Yalla* was launched in 2004 as a publication that was Canadian in scope. The new edition features voices from the United States, England, Jordan, Israel and Palestine.

Yalla's editors are homegrown, with connections to McGill University and the University of Toronto. They include senior Jewish editor Rachel Davidson, senior Arab editor Dina Awad, Jewish editors Lisa Anthony and Ran Goel, and Arab editors Rasha Srouji and Adam Allouba. Meena Rafie, an Afghan Muslim, is the producer.

"The editorial board's mandate is to let the authors speak for themselves. We want to take the reader on a journey with the youth who are tied to the Holy Land, so that they can understand how their lives are affected by this conflict," says Allouba.

The launch will feature readings and performances, which Davidson considers "physical incarnations of our hopes and dreams for *Yalla*, instead of people on either side of the picket fences screaming at each other.

"*Yalla* wants to counter the current state of youth empowerment that seems to be largely a manipulation of their collective bodies as weapons for the agendas of politicians on either side of the conflict by demonstrating that their minds, hearts and souls, embodied in their stories, can be a much more powerful means of being heard and making change," Davidson says.

"The idea is that readers will be more exposed to the fact that their isn't one uniform viewpoint of the other and that people want peace – that youth could see that they are a peace-driving force. We would rather live together than die together."

Yalla gives a voice to those who are silenced, says Allouba. "We were also willing to be more controversial this year, knowing that a diversity of views need to be expressed for the reader to get the full range of experiences and opinions tied to this conflict," he says.

However, the editors couldn't include all the diverse opinions and experiences related to the conflict: "Some [people] didn't want to participate, and we feel that there is a big silent space… because these voices are part of the dialogue," says Davidson. "Some people think when you humanize the other you lose, but I think you win."

Yalla consists of poetry, short stories, personal narratives, photos, posters and even jewelry. There is also a new section dedicated to politics. "We hear pain and joy, but the majority of voices come very much from a place of pain," says Davidson. "In acknowledging that pain and validating it as real, perhaps we can move forward, not forgetting painful histories but using them as a starting point towards a more just and peaceful future."

Many funding bodies rejected the project, so instead of the 10,000 books the group planned to publish, Yalla's print run is the same as in 2004 – 2,500.

Funding came from the United Israel Appeal's National Jewish Campus Life, Hillel International, Canadian Friends of Peace Now, the Jewish/Muslim Association at the University of Toronto and various private donors from the Jewish and Arab communities.

A large part of *Yalla*'s funding came from a $4,000 award they won in September 2005 from Forces Avenir, a Quebec organization that promotes student commitment. Yalla won in the mutual aid, peace and justice category.

The *Yalla* editorial board considers the new edition of the publication to be a beginning – a small step toward peace. Future goals include publishing a yearly anthology, and the board eventually want to create a regional edition: the young people hope to go to the Middle East to help youths there to publish a journal in Hebrew, Arabic and English.

The Toronto launch takes place on Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. at the University of Toronto's Flavelle House, 78 Queen's Park Cres.

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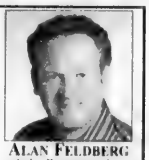

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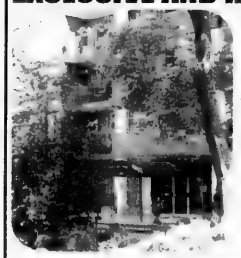

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Century Village, Pembroke Pines, 1 bdrm., 1.5 bath., kosher kitchen, close to 3 shuls, $1400/mo. US. Please call 416-635-0026 or 954-437-5756.

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40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/RENT
45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED
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55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED
60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED
65 ACCOMMODATION/SWAP/EXCHANGE
67 HOUSE SITTERS
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82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT
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87 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT
115 COTTAGE FOR RENT/SALE
120 COTTAGE WANTED
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123 TIME SHARE FOR RENT
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130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT
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145 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM. WANTED
147 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION
150 FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION
155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE
160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT
165 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT
170 ISRAEL PROPERTIES WANTED
175 ISRAEL ACCOMMODATION WANTED
178 ISRAEL TRANSPORTATION
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185 OUT-OF-COUNTRY PROPERTIES
190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE
195 VACATION PROPERTIES WANTED
196 VACATION PROPERTIES-EXCH./SHARE
198 SPACE FOR LEASE
199 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AVAILABLE
200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE
201 OFFICE SPACE WANTED
202 STORAGE SPACE WANTED
203 STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE
205 LAND/LOTS FOR SALE
210 LAND/LOTS FOR LEASE
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225 INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
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Israeli juniors to play two games in Toronto

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

The Israeli Ice Hockey Federation's (IIHF) junior team is back in Ontario.

Led by former Montreal Canadiens coach Jean Perron, who was behind the Habs bench for their 1986 Stanley Cup win, the juniors are currently on their seventh annual North American tour, which aims to showcase Israel's up-and-coming under-18 players.

After stops in Chicago and New York, the under-18s headed north and played their first Canadian game Oct. 16 at the Nepean Sportsplex in Ottawa. They were arrayed against the Nepean Raiders Midget A squad, and fans were treated to a special bonus game between the Ottawa Senators Alumni and the Jewish Men's Hockey League All-Star Fundraisers.

Daniel Ehrlich rushing the net.

Next up are two highly anticipated matches in Toronto: at Forest Hill Arena on Oct. 19, and on Oct. 21 at North York Centennial Arena for the Friendship Cup at 8 p.m. against a Jewish camp all-star team.

This year's round of exhibition matches holds special import for the IIHF, as many of its players try to recover emotionally from Israel's recent conflict with Hezbollah and rebuild their lives by getting back to the sport they love.

The task hasn't been easy.

"The majority of these players live in the north of Israel. Many lost friends, neighbours and relatives. [The war] had a direct impact on their lives," said Alex Voihanski, chair of marketing and public relations for the IIHF.

What's more, the Canada Center, the team's practice facility in Metullah, Israel's northernmost town, was heavily damaged by rocket fire during the war and remains closed for repairs.

This fact alone is causing much stress for the players, coaches and management, as the temporary loss of their home arena may leave the team behind schedule when it comes to conditioning. But in addition to improving their fitness, the current North American tour provides the juniors with crucial playing time to get team chemistry right.

Come April 15, the Israelis will play in the world under-18 championships in Miscolk, Hungary. They were moved up to Division II group B after a successful 2006 tournament in Romania, and this year they'll face stiff competition from Belgium, Estonia, Hungary, Mexico and Holland.

The Oct. 21 game in Toronto will also carry special significance as players and fans alike will commemorate Thom Farkash, the 23-year-old Toronto-born airman who was killed, along with his commander Tzviki Luft, when his helicopter was shot down in Lebanon on July 24, during the conflict with Hezbollah.

Israeli Juniors pose with the 2005 Friendship Cup.
[Israeli Ice Hockey FEDERATION photos]

Details of the pre-game ceremony are still being worked out, but the team is determined to honour Farkash. "There will be something for sure before the game," Voihanski said.

The team is urging the Toronto Jewish community to come out to support the players, and to get a glimpse of the impressive talent representing Israel this year.

In what could be a preview of great things to come, on Oct. 9, the Israeli juniors trounced their Chicago opponents 10-1 on the strength of talented forwards such as Israeli-born Canadians Daniel Ehrlich and Eli Sherbatov.

Though their last games in Toronto garnered extra media attention due to the NHL lockout, Voihanski hopes the Jewish community will still show up in force to validate the teams' enduring affection for the city.

"The team loves Toronto! They feel like it's their second home," Voihanski said. "They always feel so welcomed. It should be a wonderful event for everyone."

Plans are in the works to televise the Oct. 21 game, and the team suggests that fans try to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to match time in order to take in the planned ceremony for Farkash, as well as to show their support for Israel's hockey program and inspire the players before they head home the next day.

Local fans show their support.

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Inside Back

Why geriatrics? An indirect path

By MICHAEL GORDON

I have done a lot of public and professional speaking on eldercare for much of my 30-year career. At the end of many speaking engagements, I am asked what led me to my interest in geriatrics. I was in the first group of Canadians who received the certificates of specialization from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 1981. When asking about my career path, the questioner often assumes that it was a field I was destined to pursue.

The Senior Side of Life

The truth is that geriatrics was never a planned career. It is a field that I fell upon without any special focused interest or training, but rather because of a combination of circumstances and people that coalesced at a critical point in my life. I make this point because I find too many young people looking at their futures are concerned that they do not know what they might want to do. In the high school and university career-planning processes, many students are told that they have to "focus" and "decide" what they want to do, otherwise they risk not getting where they want to go.

I believe that erroneous premise and pressure to "decide" can stifle intellectual and emotional exploration and growth that might include a few bad choices. I can unreservedly say that I never planned to be a geriatrician and only decided to go into medicine because of a novel I read in my last year of high school. *The Citadel*, by A.J. Cronin, was not required reading for my English class, but I chose it because of my love of literature, which was probably an outcome of my father's practice of taking my sister and me to the Brooklyn Public Library every Saturday – a practice I undertake today with my teenaged children.

The Citadel propelled me into medicine, and by chance I chose to study in Scotland, at the University of St. Andrews, although the medical school was in a not very romantic part of Dundee, which at the time was a remnant of the Industrial Revolution with its jute manufacturing factories and rows of walk-up low-rise tenements. Fortunately, I was exposed to excellent geriatric medicine in Dundee, but never thought of it as a career choice as my focus increasingly became general internal medicine – which I pursued during my postgraduate years in Aberdeen, Boston, Montreal and Jerusalem. When I first came to Toronto from Israel, where I lived for four years, it was for specialty training in nuclear medicine, which I realized very quickly was not for me. I decided to transfer back into internal medicine, but could not decide which specialty suited me best.

I struggled with the choice of career path. I recalled an invitation I had received from Dr. Abe Rapoport after a lecture he gave as a visiting professor at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. I attended the lecture during my last rotation at Shaare Zedek Hospital before moving to Toronto. He said, as we drove to Jerusalem, "If you ever have any questions when you get to Toronto, give me a call." I went to visit Dr. Rapoport, and after hearing of my interests, he suggested I consider geriatrics, which was not yet a recognized medical specialty in Canada. He added that Baycrest is a special place. I visited, applied for a training position that, when combined with my maternal grandmother's influence while I was growing up in Brooklyn, culminated in my accepting an offer of a conjoint appointment at Mt. Sinai Hospital and Baycrest. This was the beginning of my career in geriatric medicine.

Apple and Parsnip Soup with Coriander

3 tblsp unsalted butter
1 1/2 lbs. Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored, sliced
1 1/2 lbs. parsnips, peeled, sliced
1 lg onion, chopped
1 1/2 tsp ground coriander
4 c pareve chicken broth or vegetable broth

chopped fresh parsley — apple slices (optional)

Melt butter in heavy large pot over med.-high heat. Add apples, parsnips, onion & coriander and sauté until slightly softened, about 12 min. Add 4 c broth; bring to boil. Reduce heat to med.-low, cover, simmer until apples & parsnips are tender, about 40 min. Puree soup in blender in batches. Return puree to saucepan. Or use immersible blender right in pot. Thin with more broth if desired. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Ladle into bowls. Sprinkle with parsley; garnish with apple slices if desired and serve.

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Epi on Education

Lessons we can learn from cheating

Recently, we've been hearing a great deal about high-tech cheating. Students order term papers over the Internet. Others plagiarize by cutting and pasting from the Web without proper attribution. Text messaging goes on during exams using tiny and silent phones. Students sneak notes into electronic doodads that should be performing other functions.

Seymour Epstein

Aside from the fact that much of this technology is a bit beyond the ken of an older generation of teachers, the immoral aspects of this level of cheating are quite shocking. Yet, the response to most of this is to find technological barriers to such activity. Professors are provided with search engines that can uncover plagiarized text and off-the-rack term papers. Even custom-made papers written by pros can sometimes be revealed for what they are. Cellphones are being banned from exam rooms, which themselves are being taken off wireless local area computer networks. And on it goes.

These solutions are like the old ice-cream truck dilemma. When ice-cream trucks were found to cause accidents in suburban neighbourhoods, they were banned from many of them. The alternative would have been to teach children about proper and safe behaviour in busy streets, a lesson that would serve them well in many situations, not just in their ice cream years.

Do schools realize their responsibility in teaching values? Do we not possess an entire tradition that prohibits cheating as outright theft? Do we not have a famous talmudic dictum that tells us that the person who quotes his sources brings redemption to the world? Is the school reduced to policing after the fact when it should be transmitting age-old values that refine us, insert civility into our lives, and teach us to use our impressive new tools for good rather than evil?

Cheating leads to more of the same, and policing leads to punishment, but teaching the right way from the start can create a world of difference.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Of Mickey Rooney and my father's passing

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

It's been 17 years since my father, Shragah Phyvle Rosensweig, passed away. His yahrzeit is approaching, and my head is spinning with memories.

URBAN WRITER

I remember calling the hospital in Kitchener, Ont., on Oct. 27, 1989, at around 4 p.m., before Shabbat, to see how my father was feeling. He had been admitted two days before with a heart attack.

I recall the nurse telling me that the doctors were trying to keep him alive. For a second, denial kicked in, and I had the benefit of disbelief. The next second, I was was frantic. My heart dropped.

I recall asking the nurse what she was talking about. My father seemed fine when I saw him the day before. Life is strange that way, isn't it?

She was very compassionate and told me that my father's heart had stopped and they were trying to revive him. She could hear how anxious I was and told me to stay in Toronto, as it might be unsafe for me to drive. Nice of her.

I was scouting locations for a TV movie at the time, and remember trying to steady myself as I yelled something to the office manager about having to go. For some strange reason, I recall thinking it was too bad that I wouldn't be able to meet Mickey Rooney, the star of the movie. How odd it is that even in crisis, we maintain a certain composure, a strong sense of our needs and desires.

Driving home, during Friday rush hour on Highway 401, my mind jumped back and forth between knowing my dad was gone to having hope that he was still alive. Upon arriving in Kitchener, I remember driving straight to my parents' house and wondering where my mother was (may she live until 120), and how she was going to cope.

I drove up the street and saw my brother-in-law driving the other way. He stopped, looked at me with the saddest eyes and told me my mother was at the hospital. He may or may not have nodded his head. It was clear, though. My father was gone.

I drove to the hospital. I remember seeing my dear mother sitting with my father. She is a strong woman, and she held her Book of Tehillim in her hand as she kissed my father and said goodbye to him with such elegance and the greatest depth of love. I remember wondering whether I should take her home or let her be. I wasn't sure.

I recall how light from the street lamp shone through our living room window that Friday night as my mother reminisced about her childhood. As she talked about her home on Oxford Street right near the bottle factory, her face seemed to morph into what it had been in her childhood. It was an otherworldly vision. But I swear that it happened, and I know I was witness to something holy.

On Sunday, we flew to Israel. The next day, we buried my father in a cemetery outside Beit Shemesh, in the Jerusalem Hills. I recall the exquisite view and whispered in my head to my father how appropriate his resting place was – fit for a lover of Israel and the Jewish people.

Our personal history is based on our memories, and some reminders from others. The things we remember likely hold stronger messages and meaning for us than the stuff we forget.

From the time my dad passed away, I remember the hospital call, my brother-in-law's sad eyes, my mother kissing my father goodbye, the light from the street lamp shining on my mother's face that Friday night, the Jerusalem Hills and Mickey Rooney.

It's been 17 years, and although I'm sure that lots more happened around the time of my father's passing, for whatever reason, this is what I remember. This is my narrative.

Avrum@yeshavta.org. Sudan?

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Hamilton mom takes a new approach to classic kids' tunes. *Page 45*

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PM stresses his support for Israel

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

In his first formal address to the Jewish community since being elected prime minister, Stephen Harper reinforced his strong support for Israel and its right to defend itself.

Stephen Harper

"When it comes to dealing with a war between Israel and a terrorist organization, this country and this government cannot and will never be neutral," Harper told B'nai Brith Canada's annual awards dinner last week, eliciting a standing ovation from more than 1,000 politicians, businesspeople and Jewish community leaders.

The Oct. 18 Award of Merit ceremony, held at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto, was organized to pay tribute to Walter Arbib and Surjit Babra, the president and CEO, respectively, of the SkyLink Group of Companies for their contributions to Canadian society.

After thanking Arbib, who is Jewish, and his partner Babra, who is Sikh, for their philanthropy and hard work, Harper took the opportunity to assure the Jewish community that even in the face of harsh criticism from the opposition for calling Israel's response to Hezbollah's kidnapping of Israeli soldiers last July "measured," his government will continue to support Israel's fight against terror.

Harper refrained from labelling the Liberal party anti-Israel, which he did earlier this month in response to Liberal leadership candidate Michael Ignatieff's comments that Israel's strike on the Lebanese village of Qana during the conflict with Hezbollah was a war crime.

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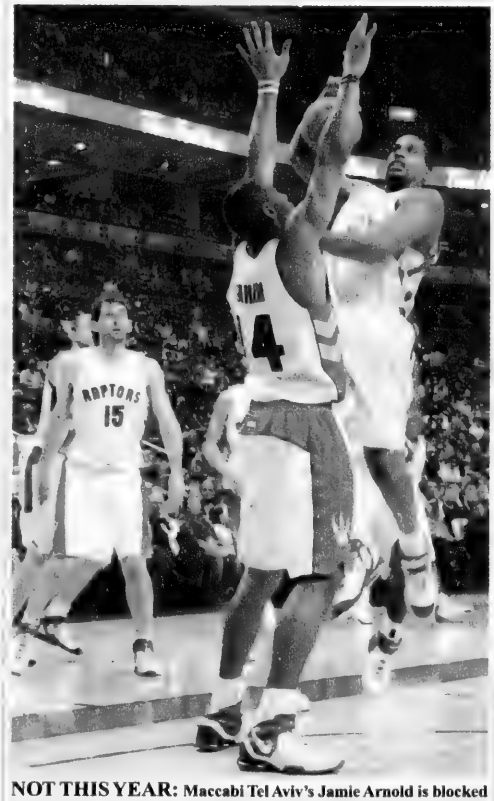

NOT THIS YEAR: Maccabi Tel Aviv's Jamie Arnold is blocked by Joey Graham while the Raptors' Jorge Garbajosa looks on. Toronto beat Maccabi 118-84 last Thursday night at the Air Canada Centre. *Please see related story on page 54.* *[Photo by Tal]*

Supreme Court to hear agunah damages case

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — On Dec. 5, the Supreme Court of Canada will hear the appeal of a woman seeking damages from her ex-husband who withheld a *get*, or Jewish religious divorce, from her for 15 years.

In September 2005, the Quebec Court of Appeal overturned a precedent-setting ruling by a lower court that ordered Jessel (Jason) Marcovitz of Montreal to pay Stephanie Bruker damages of $47,500, plus interest going back to 1995, the year he granted her a *get*. The compensation was for her having been unable to remarry or have legitimate children according to traditional Judaism during those 15 years.

The appellate court upheld Marcovitz's appeal, despite the fact that he had signed an agreement with Bruker before they got married stating that he would go before a Montreal rabbinical court immediately upon issuance of a provisional decree of civil divorce, which occurred in 1980.

The case is significant because it will determine whether secular courts can adjudicate on breaches of promises of a religious nature when they're agreed to in a civil contract.

The three Quebec appellate judges – two of whom were women

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Olmert warns world about Iran — please

The News in Brief

CANADA

Activism Urged

TORONTO — The Canadian Islamic Congress wants Muslims to become politically active so they can "provide an alternative to the Jewish vote." Its Oct. 16 statement came as Liberal leadership candidate Michael Ignatieff faced criticism for calling Israel's July bombing of Qana in Lebanon a war crime. Noting Muslims outnumber Jews in Canada, the group said: "Canadian Muslims have the numbers to make a real and substantive difference" and should press for a "fair and balanced Canadian foreign policy."

Ignatieff Trip Put Off

OTTAWA — The Canada-Israel Committee has postponed a trip to Israel for MPs next month that would have included Liberal leadership candidate Michael Ignatieff, who faced controversy this month for calling Israel's bombing of the Lebanese town of Qana a war crime. The multi-party trip will take place in early 2007, after the Liberal leadership convention, and Ignatieff said he'll go. "It serves no one's purpose to undertake such an initiative in so highly charged a political environment," the CIC said. Ignatieff made his comment about Qana in French on a Radio-Canada talk show. He later said both Israel and Hezbollah may have committed war crimes in the war. Ignatieff, who accepted the CIC's invitation to go after making his war crime comments, said he's "disappointed" the trip is being postponed.

Journalist Backed Arts

TORONTO — Sid Adilman, a longtime *Toronto Star* entertainment columnist, died Oct. 14 in Toronto at 68 of heart failure. He had been ill with kidney problems. A strong booster of Canadian culture, Adilman was the Canadian editor of the entertainment paper *Variety* in the 1970s and '80s and the *Star*'s entertainment editor from 1986 to 1991.

Star Publisher Resigns

TORONTO — Michael Goldbloom, the first Jewish publisher of the *Toronto Star*, Canada's largest newspaper, resigned last week after less than three years on the job. Joining Goldbloom was his hand-picked editor-in-chief, Giles Gherson. Their resignations came amid reports the pair were fired in a power struggle between the five families who control the *Star*'s parent firm, Torstar, and its CEO, Robert Prichard, over Torstar's lacklustre performance. Goldbloom – the son of former Quebec MNA Victor Goldbloom – was publisher of the Montreal *Gazette* from 1994 to 2001.

Cotler Motion For Arar Apology Approved

OTTAWA — The House of Commons public safety committee last week approved a motion by Montreal Liberal MP Irwin Cotler calling on the government of Canada to issue an official apology to Maher Arar and his family.

"The House of Commons has unanimously issued an apology to Maher Arar. RCMP Commissioner [Giuliano] Zaccardelli has apologized to Maher Arar. The government has acknowledged that a grave injustice has been done to Maher Arar. Mr. Arar has said that he awaits a formal government apology, and every day that passes without it is a source of continuing harm to him.The government should now do the right and honourable thing and apologize," said Cotler, who is the Liberal public safety critic and was Arar's lawyer before becaming justice minister in 2003.

The motion also calls on the government to negotiate compensation with Arar for "the ordeal of pain and suffering that he and his family endured." As well, it says Ottawa should voice its objection to the U.S. government for "its breach of domestic and international undertakings in the confinement and rendition" of Arar to Syria, and protest to the Syrian government for his torture while detained.

WORLD

Ex-camp Guard Freed

DETROIT — The United States freed an ex-Nazi concentration camp guard because it couldn't find a country to take him. Johann Leprich was released Oct. 16 because Romania, Hungary and Germany all refused to take him. Leprich, 81, was stripped of his U.S. citizenship this year for lying about his membership in the Nazi Waffen SS and being at Mauthausen when he came to the United States in 1958. The Detroit-area man is an ethnic German who was born in Romania.

Corrie Play Opens

NEW YORK — A play about a pro-Palestinian U.S. activist opened Oct. 15 in New York. *My Name Is Rachel Corrie* is a one-woman drama based on Corrie's journal and e-mails. Corrie, 23, was an activist with the International Solidarity Movement who was killed by an Israeli bulldozer as she tried to prevent it from searching for Palestinian arms-smuggling tunnels in Gaza in 2003. The play, which ran in London before coming to the Minetta Lane Theater in Manhattan, was set to open at another New York location last March but was delayed after concerns from the Jewish community.

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Immigrant remembers the 1956 Hungarian Revolution

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Nearly 50 years after her arrival here as a Hungarian immigrant, Erica Collins considers herself eminently fortunate to be a Canadian.

Feature

"Canada is wonderful," she said last week. "Canada is beautiful. I'm very grateful to be a Canadian."

Collins, 71, was among thousands of Hungarians who found a refuge in Canada after the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, a major event that overlapped with the eruption of the Suez war in the Middle East.

The revolution, which started as a spontaneous student demonstration in Budapest on Oct. 23, quickly escalated into a nation-wide revolt that challenged the primacy of Communism in Hungary.

As the situation spiralled out of control, Soviet tanks rumbled into Hungary on Nov. 4 to quell the pro-Western uprising. By Nov.10, the revolution had fizzled and Hungary was firmly back in the Soviet fold.

Two hundred thousand Hungarians, some of whom were Jewish, fled during and after the crisis. Canada accepted almost 40,000 Hungarian refugees, and Collins, a Holocaust survivor, was one of them.

Erica Collins today and, inset, soon after her arrival in Canada.

She left Hungary because she had always wanted to live in a free, democratic and peaceful country. The chaotic conditions unleashed by the revolution enabled her to fulfil a lifelong dream.

When the revolution broke out, Collins was 21 years old and studying cosmetics. Although she supported the revolutionaries, she didn't take part in the demonstrations and street skirmishes that characterized the opening phase of the revolution, a flashpoint in the annals of modern Hungarian history.

"I could have done something," she recalled, "but I was scared. I didn't want to be killed. I wanted to escape to a beautiful country, like Canada."

From her window, however, Collins was able to spot Soviet soldiers and Hungarian protesters rushing to and fro.

She never believed that the revolution would succeed. "They had a few guns and no military training," she said of the revolutionaries. "The Soviet army was huge and powerful."

She likened the confrontation to a battle between an ant and an elephant.

Her father and mother, Leon and Bertha Nunes, sought to leave Hungary as well, never having forgotten the horrors and indignities they endured during the Nazi occupation of Hungary from 1944 to 1945.

Continued on page 20

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Proceeds from the 2006 JNF Toronto Negev Dinner will be directed primarily to the 4,000 square meter ***Edward and Fran Sonshine Beit Eshel Historical Site Restoration*** - an active, dynamic centre for heritage and environment education, focusing on leisure time activities.

Ed and Fran Sonshine are confident that the funds raised will exceed what is required to complete their Beit Eshel project, and have agreed to direct any additional funds to a second initiative, ***Operation Security Blanket*** – to provide alternative activities for children affected by the war; ***Project Replant, Rebuild and Restore*** – replant burned trees in the north; cultivate decimated farmland; fire-fighting upgrading; emergency response equipment and vehicles to supplement current capacity; and to rebuild recreational and tourist areas of Northern Israel.

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Greater Toronto Area

A quick visit to Israel

(Written in Israel)

In late October, the waters of the Mediterranean are still very blue. Many Israelis awake with the first rays of dawn to walk or run at the edge of the waves of the water still calmly rolling in along the beige, brown and ochre coastline of this tiny country.

We tend to forget this October delight in central Canada as we ready ourselves for the last sparkling days of autumn, have the furnace cleaned and prepare for our mostly grey winter.

But the gentle stirring of a breezy Mediterranean morning along the Herzliya beach last week was not quite reflective of the country's existentially packed order of business that day, or indeed, on any day since it came into being some 58 years ago.

Israeli society is still in the aftermath of the 34 days of fighting against Hezbollah last summer. The task of literally, physically rebuilding the northern communities, homes and businesses that were devastated by the unceasing rain of Katyusha rockets is proceeding with great vigour.

But the task of rebuilding confidence in the leadership of the society's key institutions continues to lag. The eyes of the public are focused immovably, as if stuck with industrial glue, on accusations and allegations against the prime minister, the chief of staff, the minister of defence, the president and the former minister of justice, to name just the five most prominent in the news day's roll call.

The cumulative effect of the widely based institutional letdown, as it were – irrespective of the ultimate outcomes of the investigations, inquiries or trials – has been the emergence of a collective sense that there must be a kind of reinvestment in the civics, ethics and governance of decision making. Israel is a society looking for newer, more meaningful mechanisms of accountability.

Unfortunately, the gravity and unabating recurrence of so many other "problems" hardly leaves time to engage that reinvestment in the manner that most Israelis feel is necessary.

Thus, Israeli leaders must engage the issues even as the Israeli public strives to engage their leaders.

A cursory scan of the headlines from some of the daily newspapers on just one day last week – Sunday – tells a daunting tale of the types of issues that Israeli leaders must confront.

Yediot Achronot

• Europe and the UN intensifying pressure against Israel over reconnaissance flights into Lebanon.

• In spite of announcement by Israel that sorties would go on as long as Syria continues smuggling arms to Hezbollah: intense consultations at [Israeli Prime Minister Ehud] Olmert's Bureau aimed at UN compliance.

Ha'aretz

• Government to decide on Lieberman Proposal [The Lieberman proposal would change Israel's governance from a parliamentary to a presidential system.]

• In the wake of Qassams, cabinet to discuss a major operation in Gaza.

• [Iranian President Mahmoud] Ahmadinejad continues to threaten: Israel – a fading regime.

• [Russian President Vladimir] Putin to Olmert: no military action against Iran.

• Indonesia wants to buy Israeli unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Hatsofeh

• German intelligence director dealing with release of soldiers abducted in Lebanon.

• Islamic Jihad: we will intensify rocket attacks on Negev.

• [Deputy Prime Minister Shimon] Peres opens race for presidency; [Israel's former chief rabbi] Rabbi [Israel Meir] Lau considers running.

Ma'ariv

• Crisis intensifies with UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] regarding Israeli reconnaissance flights over Lebanon.

• The Pensioners' party will decide fate of the Lieberman law on changing the governmental system.

Jerusalem Post

• Ahamdinejad: Israel will 'disappear,' Peres likens his rhetoric to Hitler's; France, Russia resistant to even limited sanctions against Iran.

• Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev to international community: focus on Lebanese violations [of UN Resolution 1701].

• Palestinian foreign minister: we may kidnap more IDF soldiers.

• Chief of staff Dan Halutz: Palestinian Authority is in a state of anarchy

The following were the headlines for the web edition of the *Globe and Mail* over the same time period last Sunday.

• [Prime Minister Stephen] Harper sets by-elections dates for two vacant seats.

• Travel restrictions too tight for aid workers in Afghanistan: [Foreign Affairs Minister Peter] Mackay

• Violence in France's suburban projects gets organized.

• End of an era in Philly: larger-than-life Flyers GM Bob Clarke resigns, coach Ken Hitchcock fired after terrible start.

A comparison is quite instructive. Thank God that Canada, a nation five times the size of Israel in population and 500 times its size in land mass, does not face the daily fare of existentially grave and emotionally wearying issues.

And we pray to God that Israel's leaders and its people, struggling at this moment, to find their way together again in mutual respect and trusting confidence, will always have the strength, wisdom and courage to contend with and overcome the many issues they face, however grave and wearying.

– *MBD*

SeeJN

JNF BOXES, WRIT LARGE: The Jewish National Fund's traditional blue tzedakah box has been turned into colourful works of art by Israeli artists and displayed on Tel Aviv's Rothschild Boulevard. Artists such as renowned jewelry designer Michal Negrin, graffiti artist Rami Meiri, fashion designer Gadi Halperin, illustrators Uri Fink and Dani Karman, and painters and sculptors Zvi Geva and Zvika Lachman have personally signed one of the 4½-foot high boxes, which will eventually be sold at auction. Proceeds will go to rehabilitate forests damaged in Israel's recent war with Hezbollah. [Israel Sun photo]

Iran is Israel's biggest problem, says Silvan Shalom

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel's greatest existential problem today revolves around Iran's quest to acquire nuclear arms, says Silvan Shalom, the former Israeli foreign minister.

"It's the most important issue we face," he said in an interview in Toronto last week. "Iran is an existential threat. Hamas can hurt us, but it can't undermine our existence, which Iran can do."

He added, "We can't live with the idea that Iran will possess a nuclear bomb."

Shalom, a Likud member of Knesset who served as foreign minister from 2003 until earlier this year, said he supports diplomatic means to resolve the problem.

Silvan Shalom

"We should work through diplomacy," said Shalom, who was here to attend a B'nai Brith banquet in honour of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. "Iran is trying to buy time, but diplomacy should continue. Sanctions should be imposed on Iran. There are no more games to play."

Suggesting that the United Nations will eventually vote for sanctions, Shalom acknowledged that they may nevertheless be a hard sell.

"In one of my meetings with a very well-known European leader, he claimed that sanctions would increase the price of oil. But while he talked about the standard of living, I talked about the living," said Shalom, referring to Iran's opposition to Israel's existence.

Shalom twice declined to say whether he would back Israeli military action against Iran's nuclear facilities. "I wouldn't tell you anyway."

Declaring that there is now widespread recognition that Iran's campaign to be a nuclear power is not solely Israel's headache, Shalom said the current UN standoff with Iran shouldn't be portrayed as a confrontation between Jews and Muslims but as a test of wills between the Iranians and the international community.

Shalom urged Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, to dissolve the Hamas government, which was elected last January and which Israel has since boycotted.

"What need to be done now is for Abbas to exercise his authority. He has a right to do so."

Only then can Israel resume bilateral talks with the Palestinians, Shalom said. "Abbas is a good partner, certainly better than [the later PA president] Yasser Arafat. I've met [Abbas] a few times, and he's willing to find a solution, though he is not a Zionist and believes in the right of return."

Asked whether Israel should engage Hamas in negotiations, Shalom said, "Never! You can't talk to someone who wants to kill you."

There is no chance for peace as long as Hamas governs the Palestinian Authority, he asserted.

He expressed doubt that the 2003 UN-sanctioned "road map" peace plan can be revived. "It looks like it's dead," he said, blaming the Palestinians for failing to fulfil their obligations to combat terrorism.

He agreed that, under the road map, Israel is obliged to dismantle illegal outposts in the West Bank. "We should implement our commitments, but if the Palestinians aren't doing anything to carry out their obligations, it's ridiculous to ask us to make a move."

Shalom said that Israel should stand fast against Saudi Arabia's 2002 peace initiative.

"It's very troubling. It calls not only for a full withdrawal to the 1967 borders, but for the right of return. It spells out the destruction of Israel."

He advised Israel not to make further unilateral withdrawals from the West Bank. "It wouldn't be a smart move," he said, observing that Israel's unilateral pullout from Gaza in 2005 has not inhibited Palestinian militants there from firing Qassam rockets at Israeli settlements and towns near the border.

Continued on page 23

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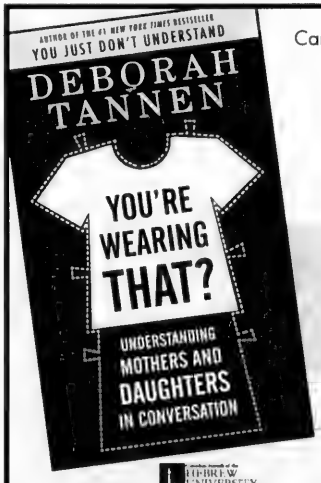

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New *Encyclopedia Judaica* has more Canadian entries

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The revised and updated second edition of the 16-volume *Encyclopedia Judaica*, scheduled to be published on Dec. 8, contains more information than ever before on Canada, says the executive editor.

"We have added a vast amount of material on Canada, Canadian Jewish figures, major Canadian cities and many prominent rabbis, thinkers, writers, artists, musicians and philosophers," said Michael Berenbaum in an interview last week.

"We have also taken pains to treat the Canadian part of the careers of major figures who spent some time in Canada."

Canadians who rate entries in the encyclopedia – a collaborative effort between Keter Publishing House and MacMillan Reference USA – run the gamut from Rosalie Silberman Abella, a Supreme Court justice, to Larry Zolf, a CBC broadcaster.

In addition, there are entries on such individuals as David Arnold Croll, the politician; David Cronenberg, the filmmaker; Jack Diamond, the architect; Benjamin Dunkelman, the war hero; Philip Givens, the former mayor of Toronto; Murray Koffler, the entrepreneur; Henry Kreisel, the novelist; Robert Lantos, the filmmaker; Michael Marrus, the historian; John Weinzweig, the composer; Heather Reisman, the bookstore chain owner; Joseph Salsberg, the trade unionist and politician; Reuben Slonim, the rabbi; and Wayne and Shuster, the comedians.

The second edition, with 22,000 signed entries on Jewish life, culture, history and religion and more than 150 new pages of colour inserts, is the encyclopedia's first makeover in some three decades.

The English edition, initially published in the early 1970s after 45 years of effort, was widely hailed as a reference work of great value.

Michael Berenbaum

Ten volumes of the original German edition, the brainchild of Zionist luminary Nahum Goldman, were published in Berlin in 1928. But due to the rise of the Nazis in 1933, the project was never completed.

Goldman revived the encyclopedia using German reparation funds. Work began in 1966 and was finally completed in 1972.

The second edition contains 2,664 fresh entries, said Berenbaum, a writer, lecturer, teacher and consultant who specializes in the development of museums and historical films.

There are new entries on subjects ranging from Chabad and the Camp David accords to Jewish law and Jewish women.

The newest entries also cover topics like medicine, Israeli prime ministers and presidents since Golda Meir and Zalman Shazar, the Yom Kippur War, Holocaust memorialization and Holocaust education.

More than 12,000 entries have been reworked, and they include subjects from the Bible and the Talmud to dietary laws and the Kabbalah.

As well, there is a new entry on the changing demography of New York, the city with the world's biggest Jewish population.

Each volume, with the exception of the index volume, features eight pages of colour inserts.

The hardcover set costs $1,995 (US), but an online edition is available to institutions.

In compiling the second edition, Berenbaum faced two major challenges.

"The most important was how to preserve the pristine authority of what is now a classic work of scholarship, while adding 40 years of history and intensive scholarship that has revamped our understanding of the past and our appreciation of its importance."

Fifty editors and 1,200 contributors laboured on the second edition.

"The core editorial staff of the Keter Publishing House in Jerusalem was small, but they borrowed liberally from the larger staff of MacMillan," said Berenbaum. "I used research assistants, my administrative assistant and consultants to keep track of and to supplement my work.

"We asked our writers to compose articles that would be both timely and timeless so they could be read in a decade or two and still be useful."

Apart from his chores at the encyclopedia, Berenbaum is currently the director of the Sigi Ziering Institute at the University of Judaism, where he is also an adjunct professor of theology.

As well, he was director of the United States Holocaust Research Institute and the president and chief executive officer of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation.

Prior to that, he served as opinion page editor of the *Washington Jewish Week*.

Berenbaum's broad mandate was to work with the encyclopedia's editor-in-chief, Fred Skolnik, to recruit sectional editors and to oversee the North American sections.

The encyclopedia is not competing with the Internet, he said.

"Rather, we plan to use web technology to distribute the eBook version. The web only amplifies our ability to distribute this unique, highly valuable resource."

Greater Toronto Area

Weizmann launches alternative energy research project

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The world has no alternative but to wean itself off its dependence on oil, says an Israeli scientist who is heading up a new multidisciplinary research program aimed at finding alternative energy resources.

"Alternatives must be developed to non-sustainable fossil fuel," David Cahen of the Weizmann Institute of Science said in an e-mail interview.

"For that to happen, we need to give scientists optimal conditions for creativity, and we need to have sufficient patience," he added.

Cahen, a member of Weizmann's department of materials and interface, said certain projects may require 10 years or more. "There are no instant solutions. Sorry."

The Initiative for Research in Sustainable and Alternative Energy, which was launched this month, draws on the talents of some 250 scientists at the Weizmann Institute.

But the program is essentially the brainchild of a group of 12 scientists spearheaded by Cahen, Mordechai Sheves, Gad Galili, Jacob Karni, Yitzhak Maron and Ronnie Neumann.

World must wean itself from oil, says Israeli scientist

"We believe that others will want to be involved, and that new scientists joining the Weizmann Institute will be attracted to the program" said Cahen said.

The institute's president, Ilan Chet, said the current energy crisis forces institutions of higher learning to devise new means of generating energy.

But solutions can only be found through completely new technologies, he observed.

"We have an obligation to take the lead in the global effort in this field," Chet said. "We believe we can help shape the planet's future."

Sheves, the dean of Weizmann's faculty of chemistry, said the institute, given its forte for multidisciplinary scientific co-operation, is ideally placed to pursue such solutions.

The institute is not the only university-level institution conducting this kind of research.

"Obviously not," said Cahen. "The adage, 'The more, the better,' is relevant here because this has to be a global endeavour."

The institute's research program is relevant for a number of reasons.

Oil producers, particularly in the Arab and Muslim world, could affect the peace, security and stability of Israel and other nations, he said. As well, the demand for energy has escalated sharply as standards of living have risen and populations have expanded, especially in China and India.

Non-renewable energy sources are running out, and mounting oil prices threaten the global economy, Sheves added.

In addition, the burning of fossil fuels is a major source of air pollution and global warming.

In the face of these developments, the institute has already created some original approaches to the production of alternative energy.

But Cahen said he's not at liberty to discuss these projects as long as they're still subject to laboratory tests and have yet to pass peer review.

Cahen said the institute is not oriented toward "instant science."

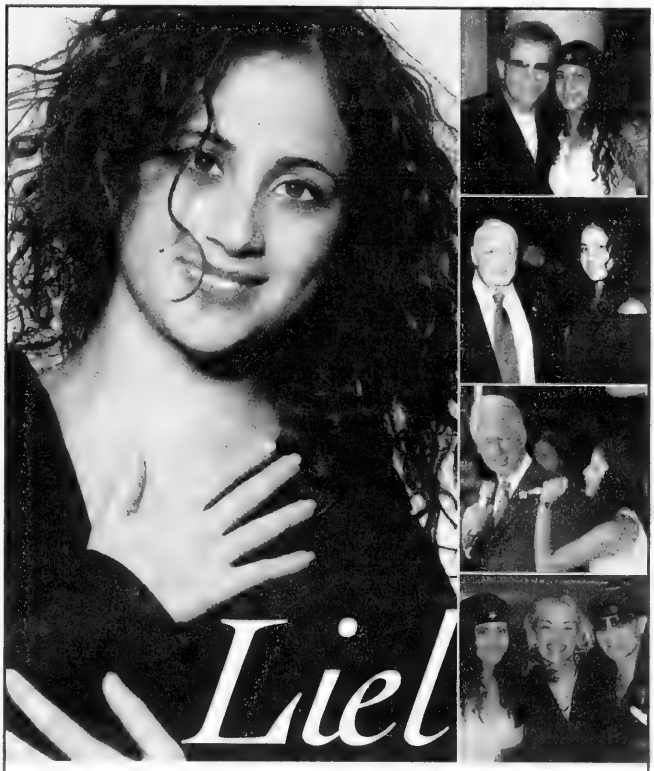
As he explained: "Much of our research is basic. It may result in new ideas that can be converted to practical advances and new understandings of chemical, physical or organic processes, which may eventually lead to new technologies or even shifts in paradigm that might, in the future, change the way we live."

He added: "There is seldom a short, straight line between research of this type and practical application."

Asked how advanced Israel is in alternative energy research compared to Canada or the United States, he replied, "In terms of original non-fossil fuel-based work, Israel has some key advantages. But in terms of advanced fossil fuel-based technology developments, the larger economies, with a few notable exceptions, are more advanced."

Correction

The article titled "Jewish Book Fair celebrates 30 years" (*CJN* Oct. 19) should have said that at 11 a.m. on Nov. 5, author Kathy Kacer will speak about her latest book, *Hiding Edith*, the true story of a Jewish girl sent to live in the French town of Moissac after the Nazi invasion of France. An incorrect time appeared in the article. *The CJN* regrets the error.



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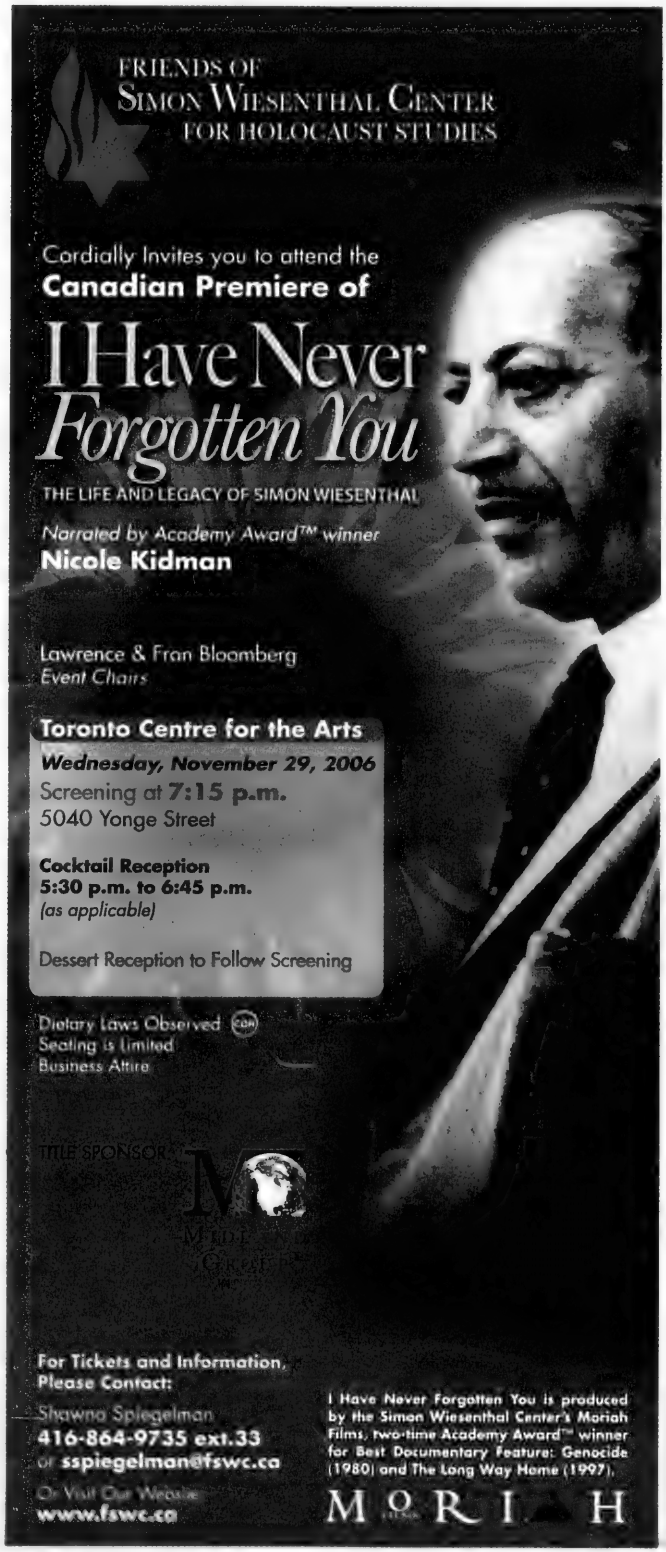

Greater Toronto Area

Orthodox group promotes environmental awareness

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

The environment may not be the leading sermon topic in synagogues around the world, but that could soon change if Canfei Nesharim, a New York-based, non-profit Orthodox environmental group, has its way.

Since 2003, the organization has been trying to promote understanding and encourage action regarding the relationship between Halachah and modern environmental issues.

Led by a worldwide board of halachic and environmental experts, Canfei Nesharim (which means "the wings of eagles") has set its sights on the Canadian Jewish Orthodox community, and by extension the Canadian Jewish community at large.

Toronto native Shai Spetgang is one of the group's founders and its lone Canadian board member. While completing his undergraduate degree in environmental studies at the University of Toronto, he became ba'al tshuvah and decided the time was right to bridge the gap between his academic pursuits and his religion.

Canfei Nesharim sets sights on Canadian Jewish community

A conference call with some peers in New York led to the establishment of the group.

"It was about connecting the current environmental crisis with my heritage," he said. "I was not seeing that in enough places or finding enough like-minded people in the Orthodox community. So I [helped] put an organization together."

Aside from his duties with Canfei Nesharim, he is also the manager of program development at the Ontario Environment Industry Association and the executive director of the Canadian Environmental Markets Association. Spetgang believes the group can have success in Canada, much as it has had in the United States, but he admits conditions here make it tougher.

"The number of Jews in a population centre will give Canfei Nesharim a critical mass," he said. "It has [been a challenge] in the Canadian community because it's not [Canadian Orthodox Jews'] first priority. They sometimes associate [us] as 'those crazy environmentalists.' But there are more Jews in the U.S. and therefore more Jews who are open to us."

Speaking by phone from her New York office, Evonne Marzouk, the group's executive director, said she's satisfied with the feedback she's received from the Jewish community so far.

"I can't speak for Canada, [but] I've been shocked at the lack of resistance we've had in the U.S.," she said. "We've gotten a really warm reception from a lot of people who wished someone would address the Orthodox community [about the environment] but were afraid to ask."

Canfei Nesharim has even managed to impress some of the major decision-makers in the Orthodox world. Both the Rabbinical Council of America and the Orthodox Union have responded positively to the group and have opened the door to promote it in congregations worldwide, Marzouk said.

The thrust of Canfei Nesharim's philosophy is found in the first few pages of its *Compendium of Sources in Halachah and the Environment*, the fledgling group's environmental reference point, which stresses verse 2:15 from the book of Genesis: "And the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to till and to keep (guard, protect) it."

It's a message the group wants the community to take to heart.

"The bottom line in the relationship between Halachah and the environment is that the sages wanted us to live by the Torah and live in the world so that it continues. This is evident in all the halachahs," Spetgang said.

The organization ramps up its educational activities twice a year, around Sukkot and around Tu b'Shvat. This year's Sukkot campaign revolved around water conservation. Pamphlets, as well as stickers and information packets, were handed out at local synagogues to promote the organization's presence in Canada.

Toronto resident and shul-goer Susan De Rosa was happy to discover the organization.

"As far as I know, there isn't another group that deals with environmental issues from an Orthodox perspective," she said. "When I saw that there was a group being proactive, doing research and providing tools for people in the Jewish community to work on and understand our relationship with the environment, I was really thrilled."

So thrilled, in fact, that she took it upon herself to distribute Canfei Nesharim's literature in her synagogue this past Sukkot.

"I gave them to the person who was doing the dvar Torah and they said, 'Wow. This is really interesting. Where did you get this?'"

It's the kind of positive reaction Spetgang hopes to hear more often from members of the Orthodox community. He believes they will eventually come around to the group's point of view.

"We can make the argument that Jews don't affect the world that much because we don't have a large population and don't draw on so many resources," he said. "But the truth is that we do affect the world, and we have to serve as a light unto the nations."

Canfei Nesharim is planning a major education campaign for the fall of 2007, along with a revamp of its website. For more information about Canfei Nesharim, visit www.canfeinesharim.org.

REBUILDING LIVES IN NORTHERN ISRAEL

A Financial Report

From the very beginning of Israel's war for national security against Hezbollah, contributions from Toronto's Jewish community and other friends of Israel provided **urgent, immediate relief.** In fact, the first emergency funds to arrive in northern Israel when the war began came from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's incredibly generous donors. Thanks to our community's ongoing generosity, **crucial allocations continue** through **UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007.** Together we are helping **110,000 children** who experienced rocket attacks, providing temporary housing for the displaced, offering small business loans to those who lost their livelihoods and re-equipping **critical community facilities.**

Thanks to the immediate support of our donors, UJA Federation has already sent **10 million emergency CASH dollars to Israel.** Some of these funds were distributed in the first days of the war. Here's a breakdown, to date, of the initial cash transfers:

- Recreation, relief and respite for citizens throughout northern communities affected by the war $693,182
- New equipment and facilities for schools in Kiryat Shmona, Acco and Nahariya to assist students during the war $681,818
- Arranging summer camps, away from the north for children and parents, including transportation and facilities during the war $646,269
- Equipping bomb shelters and supplying emergency amenities for northern residents under fire $556,766
- Emergency food relief during the war $426,578
- Emergency response equipment provided during the rocket attacks $330,000
- Emergency facility repairs $67,233
- Direct trauma services $60,000
- Funds awaiting distribution for general emergency needs $6,538,154

- **Total** **$10,000,000**

The 34 day war took a tragic toll on northern Israel with over 4,000 terrorist rockets. The requirements are urgent and the emergency is far from over. Much more needs to be done.

Please support UJA Federation
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Lethal intentions of obscene rhetoric

The last Friday of the Muslim holiday of Ramadan was celebrated last week in Tehran as Al Quds day, as it has been since the decree of the late Ayataollah Khomeini and in some other capitals of the Muslim world. It was a rather large showering of undiluted hatred for Israel and the Jewish people. We have heard it before. Alas, we will undoubtedly hear it again. The Jews have no claim, let alone any right to Jerusalem, the Tehrani celebrants chanted. The Jews therefore have no claim, let alone any right to a sovereign state of their own in the Middle East.

Speaking before thousands of robustly cheering demonstrators in Tehran and to countless more Iranians by television, Iran's president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad shouted: "This regime [Israel] has no reason to exist... You should believe that this regime is disappearing."

Ahmadinejad's frothy orations were also directed at the countries of the West. "It's in your own interest to distance yourself from these criminals [Israel]... this is an ultimatum. Don't complain tomorrow. Nations will take revenge [upon you]."

Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres correctly compared Ahmadinejad's statements and threats to those made some 70 years ago by Adolf Hitler. Thus, Peres urged that an international coalition of staunch allies must arise to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. There is no reason to doubt the sincerity of Ahmadinejad's lethal intentions. There is no reason to make light of his obscene rhetoric. The world paid a very grave price when it doubted Hitler's rabid, hate-infested intentions.

But where is this international coalition to be found? The governments of France and Russia have already rushed to announce they will oppose even limited sanctions against Iran and its nuclear program when the subject comes before the Security Council.

The civilized world would do well to heed the words spoken last week by Canada's own prime minister, Stephen Harper.

"It is too easy to ignore the greater implications of that truth – [that there is one simple reason for seeking the destruction of the Jews: because the Jews are different] which became so evident in World War II, that those who seek to destroy the Jews, who seek to destroy Israel, will for the same reason ultimately seek to destroy us all.

"The world was too slow to fully grasp the threat of fascism, too willing in the early years [before World War II] to make excuses for it, too blind to see what it meant for all of us."

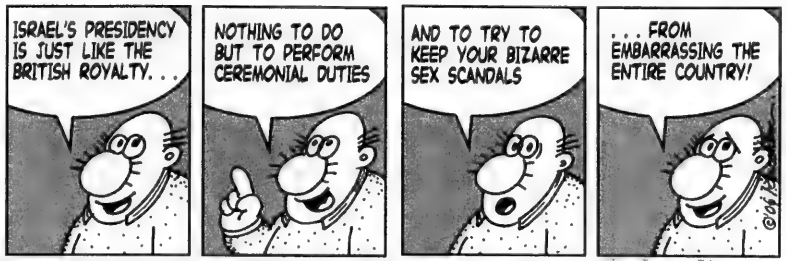
Ahmadinejad has made plain his evil intention for the Jewish state, and, as Harper has forewarned, to "all of us" as well. Will the world be too slow today, in the year 2006, to fully grasp the threat? Is the civilized world too blind to see?

We stand, all of us, before great peril.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

A small Sephardi shul in Antwerp, Belgium, was bombed on Simchat Torah. The attack killed two people and injured more than 100. Meanwhile, the Anti-Defamation League reported that Westerm European Jews were increasingly the targets of international terrorism.

Dry Bones



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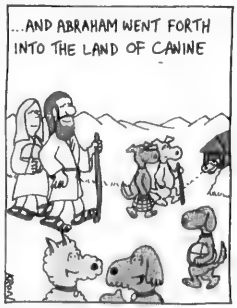
French Auschwitz transports (1)

The article "Canadians seek French redress for Auschwitz transports" (*CJN*, Oct. 5, 2006) is most appropriate and a reminder to everyone of the duplicity of the French Vichy government and the Société Nationale Des Chemins De Fer Français (SNCF) during the calamitous occupation of France by German troops.



I am a former native of Paris, France, who, together with my younger sister, miraculously survived the atrocities and crimes committed against Jews during those unforgettable years. But during that same period, we lost our parents and a younger brother in the Holocaust.

Our father was interned on May 14, 1941, at Beaune-La-Rolande and deported to Auschwitz on June 27, 1942. Our mother was interned on July 16, 1942, at Pithiviers, and deported from Drancy on Aug. 26, 1942, and our brother was also interned on July 16, 1942, at Pithiviers, and deported from Drancy on Aug. 22, 1942. Both were deported to Auschwitz.

Albert L. Stal
Toronto

* * *

French Auschwitz transports (2)

On Dec. 7, 1943, my father was deported by train on Transport No. 64 from Drancy, France to Auschwitz. He perished there. From March 1942 to July 1944, the Vichy France government collaborated fully with the Gestapo by rounding up some 75,000 Jews and deporting them to Auschwitz. Each numbered train transport carried some 1,000 Jews. Only some 2,500 Jews survived.

Five thousand Jews died of malnutrition and disease in internment camps under the control of the Vichy government. This is the bloody legacy left by the French Vichy government.

The surviving victims and heirs have taken legal action for compensation not only against the Société Nationale Des Chemins De Fer Français (SNCF) but also against the state of France.

While the SNCF is appealing this legal action, the state of France has not appealed this action. The state of France would not dare to do so. The state of France should stand up and be counted to fulfil its moral obligation to the victims and their heirs.

Willie Glazer
St. Laurent, Que.

* * *

Modern Orthodox manifesto (1)

While there is much to be gained by the effort to distil the ideological, social, and political underpinnings of any group or sub-group in Judaism, elements of Martin Lockshin's article left me uneasy ("A modern Orthodox manifesto," *CJN*, Oct. 5).

The very idea of a list of requirements, even when accompanied by the caveat it "is not the only one possible," is dangerously close to denying the rich diversity of opinion that exists within modern Orthodoxy. Whether on issues relating to women or engagement with non-Orthodox groups, there is nothing close to a consensus within modern Orthodoxy.

The difficulty of finding consistency within modern Orthodoxy is demonstrated by Lockshin's own thesis. While mourning the demise of the Rabbinical Council of America in Toronto (which was overwhelmingly made up of Yeshiva University graduates), he praises the graduates of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, none of whom have been permitted to join the Rabbinical Council of America. Additionally, in what can only be considered a startling lacuna, Lockshin managed to write a full-page article on modern Orthodoxy with nary a reference to Yeshiva University.

While many of the issues raised by Lockshin are eminently reasonable, his descent into stereotyping is painful. When he writes that "modern Orthodox Jews see it as religious duty to pay taxes," the implication is unavoidable. The idea that haredim are, as a group, less than ethical is one that should not find refuge in civil discourse. No group has a monopoly on ethics, and, tragically, ethical shortcomings are spread quite evenly across the Jewish world.

As most reasonable people by now realize, a group's success is undermined by an excessive focus on the negative. If modern Orthodoxy is going to be characterized by its bitterness toward haredim, there is very little reason for optimism. For modern Orthodoxy to grow, it needs to focus on its strengths. Modern Orthodoxy will not be saved through the tearing down of others or the production of artificial catechisms.

Rabbi Reuben J. Poupko
Montreal

* * *

Modern Orthodox manifesto (2)

"A modern Orthodox manifesto" is a wonderful summation of modern Orthodoxy. But Martin Lockshin's need to publish it points out a major sociological flaw in modern Orthodoxy. For the vast majority of the Jewish world, including the modern non-Orthodox and modern near-Orthodox (and except, perhaps, for the extreme secularists), modern Orthodoxy is a valid, authentic and much-loved and respected part of the mosaic. The people to whom he is trying to explain himself are the pre-modern Orthodox. They will never accept him or his teachings. It's time for modern Orthodoxy to look toward those who respect it, and love it, rather than to continue banging its head against the medieval ghetto wall, begging to be let in.

Eric Mendelsohn
Toronto

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Perspectives

Lawyers without rights

By SAMUEL SIMMONS and HOWARD SIMMONS

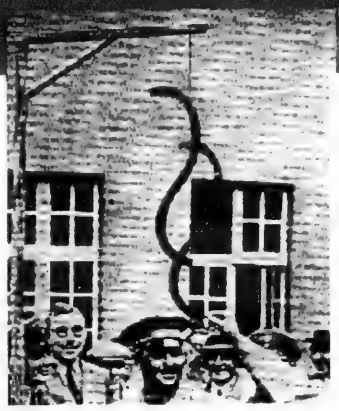
When the Nazis came to power on Jan. 30, 1933, there was a well-established legal system in Germany, with an honest and capable judiciary and an independent bar. Yet in a period of just months, an apparently strong and established legal system cracked under pressure and then collapsed in a few short years.

At that time, more than 50 per cent of Berlin lawyers and about 30 per cent of all German lawyers were Jewish. Jews also made up about 23 per cent of the law professors and seven per cent of the judges. It was not unusual for fathers to hand over law offices to sons on retirement. There were few daughters who were lawyers, as women started to become lawyers only in the early 1920s. By 1933, of the 35 women lawyers in Berlin, 20 were Jewish.

There was a "joke" circulating at this time in Germany: when a student in first grade was asked to name the 12 apostles, he replied, Judah, Levi, Benjamin, Ephraim, etc. The teacher told the student he was wrong and asked where he got those names from. Another student replied that he had given the names of the lawyers at the regional court. This "joke" shows the tension then existing between Jews and non-Jews and hints at deep resentment among Germans over the number of Jewish lawyers in the country. The Nazis used this resentment to their advantage.

At a meeting of the League of National-Socialist German Jurists (the Nazi lawyers association) early in March 1933, one speaker demanded that no lawyer, notary or judge who was Jewish should be allowed to practise. There followed thunderous applause. Shortly after that, the Nazis organized rallies advocating the elimination of Jewish Germans in the legal profession. At the end of March, the minister of justice for the state of Prussia issued a directive to the presidents of the supreme courts of the various states that Jewish judges were to resign immediately. At the Justice building in Munich, there was an announcement that it was necessary to "safeguard the prestige of the administration of justice," and the Justice Building was to become off limits to Jewish lawyers starting April 1, 1933. At this point, no laws had yet been passed against Jews practising law, and the directives had no legal effect.

To achieve formal legality, the goverrnment passed a law on April 7, 1933, taking away the right of German Jewish lawyers to practise law or be judges. Exceptions to this law were made for German Jews who had been front line soldiers in the German army in World War I, for those who had lost sons or fathers in this war or had been lawyers since 1914. Following this, approximately 25 per cent of the German Jewish lawyers lost their right to practise, a number that was much lower than the Nazis had hoped or imagined, as they did not realize the extent to which German Jews had fought with Germany in World War I.



What did the German lawyers, judges and the bar associations (the governing bodies of lawyers) do when the Jewish lawyers and the legal system itself were under attack? There was no display of solidarity by the non-Jewish lawyers in opposing the disbarment of their colleagues. There was silent pity, but seldom any active assistance. While some lawyers behaved "decently," as one affected lawyer described it, many others used the situation to their advantage.

In 1933, the severe economic depression greatly reduced the income of all lawyers. The remaining lawyers benefited from the sudden drop in the number of lawyers. Lawyers were abandoned by their partners. Judges were not protected by their fellow judges. Ironically, it was clients of Jewish lawyers who most often came to their defence. Most clients were not interested in making a political statement, but just wanted to have a capable lawyer handle their affairs. But with the threats being made against the Jewish lawyers and the increasing difficulties those lawyers were facing, many clients gradually moved to non-Jewish lawyers. Some wrote to the minister of justice asking for an exception for their own lawyer, but these were ultimately small cries in the plea for justice.

To carry out the policy of removing the judges, the Nazi government needed the cooperation of the bar associations. The Berlin Bar Association decided on May 23, 1933, that Jewish and non-Jewish lawyers were no longer to set up law partnerships. This was not even a requirement of the law, but the Berlin Bar Association went beyond the law to further restrict Jewish lawyers. In June 1933, the Berlin Bar Association decreed that every lawyer now had to produce proof of Aryan descent, thus excluding Jewish lawyers.

By this decree, the Berlin Bar Association was carrying out the Nazi policy of identifying who was Jewish. If a lawyer was Jewish and if he claimed that he fought in World War I and was exempt, then this lawyer was required to produce strict proof of his exemption. For example, if a lawyer claimed that he was exempt because he had been a front line soldier in World War I, he had to prove which battles he had fought in. If a lawyer was in the army but did not fight on the front lines, he did not qualify for the exemption. The Jewish lawyers who still remained lost any illusions about the policy of their professional organization, and no longer expected any assistance from it.

Although no Jewish woman lawyer fit the exemption, the Nazi government was faced with a dilemma. Hanna Katz was a female Jewish lawyer who, under the restrictions, would have been disbarred. However, she was the only German member of the Trade Mark Committee of the International Law Association. If she were disbarred, Germany would lose its seat on this committee. An exception was made for her to remain as a lawyer, albeit temporarily.

There are many examples of ways that judges did not try to help their fellow judges or lawyers. Criminal lawyers often depended on legal aid for their clients. Judges in courts often had the authority to direct which lawyer would get a case. Many judges stopped referring these clients to Jewish lawyers. This, for many lawyers, was financially crippling.

Hermann Lehmann, who had been a lawyer for five years, lost his right to practise law. He had worked for one judge as a trainee and recollects, "As a lawyer, I had pleaded before his court and we knew each other well. I met him in the morning and greeted him respectfully, he being the senior. He recognized me immediately. He looked through me as if I were air and did not return my greeting. It painfully dawned on me how deeply I must have already sunk in the appreciation of my fellow beings."

Many of the remaining Jewish lawyers and judges could not believe, after these losses of civil rights and self-dignity, and after so many had lost their profession and the remaining ones so much of their livelihood, that anything could get worse. However, after the Nuremberg Party Rally in 1935, the 232 remaining Jewish judges and prosecutors were removed. After Kristallnacht in November 1938, the law disbarred any remaining Jewish lawyers. The only minor concession was that some of these former lawyers could apply to be "consultants," where the former lawyer could represent only Jews. They were not allowed to call themselves lawyers. Hanna Katz, the only remaining Jewish female lawyer was also disbarred, but succeeded in becoming a consultant. She was fortunate in being able to leave Germany for the United States in June 1941. Thanks to the fact that she spoke English, she succeeded faster than others, and soon became a lawyer in New York State.

When the attacks on the Jewish lawyers and judges in Germany began, many thought these were merely Nazi excesses and were not taken seriously. Many thought these extreme actions would pass. It was only in retrospect that we can pinpoint that these excesses marked the complete collapse of the legal structure. As terrifying as the boycotts, acts of violence and laws eventually were, it was the willing or tacit acceptance of these policies by lawyers, judges and the legal system that is most frightening. These actions, and inactions, are what not only sealed the fate of German Jewish jurists, but saw the complete dismantling of the rule of law in Germany.

To remember these German Jewish lawyers, not just the famous ones, the German Federal Bar, the Israel Bar Association and others are providing an Exhibit titled "Lawyers Without Rights". The exhibit will be in Toronto from Nov. 1 to 12, at Beth Tzedec Congregation, 1700 Bathurst Street.

Samuel Simmons is a PhD candidate at University of Edinburgh on "Ezra Pound, Fascism and Modernist Ideology" and Howard Simmons is a lawyer in Montreal.

Opinions

Demography before Halachah

A man who lives in Europe wrote to me recently. He had read one of my books and wanted some clarification. He had a very Jewish-sounding surname, but he was quick to note that, like his mother, he was not Jewish – but his paternal grandfather had been the chief rabbi of his native country.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

That is one of the many burdens of Diaspora existence in our time. Even a rabbi may not have what it takes to make sure his grandchildren stay Jewish. We all know Jews, sometimes pillars of the community, whose offspring have married out. Unless we take drastic steps to help children to stay in, they will be lost to Judaism forever.

I believe that all Jews should have the freedom to determine the level of their personal observance. That makes me a liberal Jew. However, in matters of Jewish status, when I was a congregational rabbi, I insisted that all streams in Judaism should follow the traditional criteria and only accept as Jewish those people who were born to Jewish mothers or converted to Judaism.

Hence my opposition to patrilineal descent, which means granting Jewish status to children of Jewish men married to non-Jewish women on an equal footing with the traditional recognition of children of Jewish women married to non-Jewish men.

But experiences of the kind reflected in the story of the rabbi's grandson prompt me to revise my traditionalist bent. Also, I have seen the splendid results in many congregations, not least in Europe, that have been soft on the law, but firm on integration. Many children of mixed marriages who otherwise might have been lost to Judaism are now active members of Jewish communities and are raising Jewish children, because rabbis and congregations put people before principles – liberal Judaism at its best.

Individuals thus integrated are understandably distressed when they are not accepted as Jews. I now believe that, despite halachic "irregularities," it behooves us all to honour and celebrate their commitment, not to try to disenfranchise them.

A passage in the Talmud chooses to misread the verse in Psalm 119, "It is time to act for the Lord, for they have violated Your Teaching." It interprets it to mean that there are situations when, to be true to our heritage, we must violate the Teaching in order to act for God. There may be times, paradoxically, when going against an ordinance in the Torah may help save it.

Perhaps now is such a time. As there can be no Judaism without a critical mass, it may be our task to integrate as many Jews "of questionable status" as possible into our communities. The alternative may keep us halachically intact, but it will make us demographically depleted.

The idiots have inherited the earth

When I recently walked past a group of students who were involved in a heated discussion, I thought to myself that one of two things was going on. The first was that these people were intelligent, focused individuals debating a weighty topic such as global warming or international politics with gusto. The second – and, sadly as it turned out, correct – possibility was that they were arguing about which stunt was best in the movie *Jackass 2*.

Gershon Richter in Winnipeg

For those of you who live in a cave and are thus unfamiliar with *Jackass I*, I will explain its simple formula: take a bunch of people who lack common sense, give them a camera and a task that will likely hurt them (such as playing with weapons or fire), and collect the tape when the smoke has cleared. It's all about idiots doing idiotic things.

It's symptomatic of our times. Our celebrities are celebrated simply because they're celebrities. There's no longer any achievement required, except being in the spotlight for a short amount of time. They don't have to be admired or worthy of praise, they need only be known for something. In Yiddish, they call it *shtick* – an act or gimmick that a person is known for. It could be that they're crazy, angry or bitter; that they have an X-rated video circulating on the Internet; that they perform suicidal stunts; or that they've built an airport in their house. Tons of newsprint and hours of TV are wasted on the personal lives of people who are famous just for being famous.

But the newest celebrities are people who can be convinced to do dumb things. The latest video of some kid breaking his bones skateboarding inevitably hits the Web and is seen by 100 million people before it fades away to that secret place where forgotten fads go. We watch as people set themselves up to be terribly hurt by, say, motorized shopping carts or dynamite-powered vehicles, and we are fascinated. We want to yell, "You idiots! That's a train!" or, "That looks like it's going to be painful." But instead, we stare at the screen as the next potential celebrity decides to light himself on fire while bungee jumping over a pool filled with alligators.

People, for the most part, have lost the "this is a bad idea" instinct. Warning labels try to point out the most obvious of possible stupid activities, such as not eating paint or sticking your fingers in electrical sockets, but there's only so much room on a label to cover every possible dumb idea. An idiot will always find new and exciting ways to hurt himself. When you have so many people with so little common sense, someone is bound to stick something where it doesn't belong. And since personal responsibility died with common sense, if you haven't been warned that something is going to hurt, it's obviously not your fault.

But don't think that it's only everyday people who lack common sense. Politicians are also prone to this condition. Take, for example, a recent incident in international politics. North Korea, a nation whose main industry is consuming international aid, has decided it can fix all of its ills with nuclear weapons. It doesn't matter that the country has no food or industry. In response to North Korea's recent nuclear weapons test, the United Nations, which is similarly populated by people lacking in common sense, issued North Korea a strongly worded warning and restricted the trade of luxury goods with the Communist dictatorship.

Are you trying to destabilize the planet? Are you developing weapons that can end the world? Here's an angry letter. And let that be a lesson to the rest of you.

Yes, the idiots have inherited the earth. They've somehow escaped the process of natural selection and come out on top. Lawsuits are now the norm, warning labels continue to grow larger and contain ever-smaller text, and instead of action, we get angry letters.

We glorify people who propagate idiocy, and they're the topic of discussion in our esteemed halls of learning. We stare at them as they barrel toward disaster. We're frozen and fascinated, like deer in headlights.

We're circling the drain, picking up speed, and blissfully ignorant about it. But the important thing is that there's no warning label, so we're not responsible for the outcome.

Juggling my different roles

It's always with a twinge of guilt that I feel a sense of relief at the end of the month-long frenzy that is our holiday season.

Are holidays really supposed to be this much work? My non-Jewish friends are always surprised at both the length and nature of our fall holiday season, which is not limited to one concentrated time, but is a month-long journey that seems to constantly shift between holy and normal days.

Mordechai Walfish in Halifax

For me, the real trial of the season is not the amount of time it takes up, but the fact I feel compelled to live in two different realms at once. Indeed, I often feel that being a Jewish student in Halifax has required me to become a schizophrenic of sorts, and the feeling is most intense during the holiday season, which inevitably falls during a very busy time in the semester.

During my first year in university, my dorm mates were fascinated by the concept of Shabbat. They thought it was Cinderella-like magic how every Friday evening at sundown, I would turn into a "shomer shabbes pumpkin," suddenly not allowed to use electricity or do any work. And I was equally fascinated by how, on Shabbat, I could share the same space with them, yet have such a different experience of that space.

For me, the 25 hours of Shabbat were a time of relaxation and rest, while for my dorm mates, it was business as usual. They eventually got used to my special day and came to accept it as part of the routine. They would stop giving me funny looks when I said I wouldn't be working on my papers, and I gained a healthy supply of "Shabbes goys," ready to serve at any moment.

Shabbat also provided tasty fruit for discussions about how every person seems to have a different experience of time and space, depending on what he or she brings to them. Sometimes, like on holidays or birthdays, we're conscious of giving a certain day special significance. But sometimes we're unaware of it, like when we experience things differently depending on our mood. I know that when I'm happy, everything seems beautiful and wonderful, even the rain, which normally bothers me. But when I'm in a bad mood, the rain can be the object of my resentment. Perhaps, my friends and I contemplated, our experience of time and space depends only on how we decide to fill it.

The holiday season changes the weekly cycle and Shabbat's place in it. With holy days coming almost one on top of the other, the season brings home to me the difficulty of playing different roles and the impossibility of satisfying all of their demands completely. I often wonder whether I'm a student first or a Jew? Why must I choose between going to important classes and going to shul?

I have a feeling I'm not alone in these musings and that this is one of the great challenges of living Jewishly in a predominantly non-Jewish culture. And I'm sure this feeling is shared by anyone who lives a hyphenated existence. Whether you're a Jewish-Canadian or some other combination, you're inherently different from the norm and must juggle the various roles you play.

But I've also come to realize that I can't think of anyone who is able to focus on just one role. I have one professor who comes to class exhausted every morning because her baby twins keep her up all night. I see how she struggles with being both a mother and a teacher (and likely with other roles as well).

I suppose that we all live a hyphenated existence of sorts, lacking sufficient time to be the perfect anything – student, Jew, parent or friend. But this is something we must all contend with, and perhaps we should even be happy that our lives are so full that we're pulled in so many different directions. I guess that's what I've learned from this holiday season.

The Kirshner File

Jaffa and Tel Aviv coexisted uneasily

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Amalgamated in 1949, Tel Aviv and Jaffa are now administratively one seamless city. But for virtually 40 years, from the founding of Tel Aviv in 1909 to the War of Independence in 1948, the year Israel declared statehood, these neighbouring municipalities coexisted uneasily.

Tel Aviv, which means "hill of spring" in Hebrew, began as a garden suburb for Jewish residents of Jaffa. But as the Zionist movement and Palestinian nationalism clashed with increasing frequency, Tel Aviv became a symbol of the rebirth of the Jewish people in their ancestral homeland.

The relationship between Tel Aviv and Jaffa is the subject of Mark LeVine's *Overthrowing Geography: Jaffa, Tel Aviv and the Struggle for Palestine 1880-1948* (University of California Press).

In writing this intriguing book, LeVine – a professor of modern Middle Eastern history, culture and Islamic studies at the University of California – made use of Jewish and Arab primary sources.

His research has served him well, for in this volume, he shatters the assumption that Jaffa was home to few Jews, even as late as the 1940s, and dispels the notion that Jaffa's Jewish and Arab elites did not co-operate to solve common problems.

Jaffa, the most important port in Palestine and the Palestinians' cultural capital until Israel's emergence as a sovereign state, has repeatedly changed hands.

Conquered by the ancient Egyptians, Jaffa came under the sway of the Israelites during the biblical period. The cedars of Lebanon, used in the building of Solomon's Temple, were unloaded in Jaffa and shipped to Jerusalem.

Falling to the Muslims in 639, Jaffa was seized by the Crusaders in 1099, only to revert to Muslim hegemony in 1196.

In the wake of the Mamluk era (1268-1517), Jaffa was taken over by the Ottoman Turks, who held it in their grasp until the early 20th-century British conquest.

With the end of the Crimean War in the late 1850s, Jaffa's economic importance increased. Its exports included wheat, cotton and, of course, oranges. Its imports ran the gamut from British fabrics to Egyptian rice.

By the 1870s, Jaffa was a cosmopolitan Mediterranean town, with oranges having replaced cotton as Palestine's most important export crop. Indeed, the export of oranges jumped from 165,000 cases in 1885 to 1.6 million in 1913. Encouraged by the demand, farmers in and around Jaffa expanded their citrus groves.

Jaffa also became the chief debarkation point for European tourists visiting Palestine.

On the eve of World War I, Jaffa was the most important port in the eastern Mediterrancan after Istanbul, Beirut and Alexandria, its volume of trade having tripled since the 1880s.

Sephardi Jews, followed by Ashkenazim, came to Jaffa in the 1820s and 1830s, revitalizing its Jewish community, which played a pivotal role in Jaffa's development.

David Smilansky, one of the founders of Tel Aviv, claimed that Muslim and Christian traders had a stranglehold on the local economy. But a Syrian journalist wrote that "most of the commerce is in Jewish hands, as if entering a Jewish city."

The high proportion of Jews in such Jaffa neighborhoods as Shapira, Givat Herzl and Florentin was a source of concern to Palestinian nationalists. In 1907, a Palestinian notable warned that "a foreign foundation is now conquering the Jaffa region" and threatening "the future" of Palestine.

On March 16, 1908, the day before Purim, fighting broke out between Jewish and Muslim youths. Thirteen Jews and one Muslim were injured in the melee. The British consul in Jaffa ascribed the tension to Arab bitterness over the explosive growth of the Jewish population.

In 1866, 150 Jews resided in Jaffa, compared to 3,850 Muslims and 1,000 Christians. A year before David Ben-Gurion arrived in Jaffa in 1905 as a new immigrant, 3,000 Jews, 18,000 Muslims and 9,000 Christians lived in Jaffa. By 1913, more than one quarter of Jaffa's population of 50,000 consisted of Jews.

As Palestinian opposition to Zionism grew exponentially, Arab-Jewish clashes became commonplace. Street fighting erupted in 1920 and again in 1921 and 1929. As a result, hundreds of Jews fled to Tel Aviv, the first Hebrew city in the modern epoch.

Ground was broken for Tel Aviv on April 11, 1909 on a plot of sandy land known as Karm al-Jabali. According to LeVine, the Ahuzat Bayit society, whose members founded Tel Aviv, had no intention of establishing a separate city but of building a green and pleasant suburb for which Jaffa would continue to provide essential services.

Tel Aviv, in fact, was not Jaffa's first suburb. Taking their cue from well-off Muslims and Christians who had fled the filth and noise of the old city, Jews from Jaffa built the first Jewish suburb, Neve Tzedek, in 1887.

Neve Tzedek inspired further suburbs: Neve Shalom in 1890, Mahane Yosef in1904, Kerem Hateimanim in 1905 and Ohel Moshe just a year later.

In 1906, 60 prominent members of Jaffa's Jewish community established an organization to purchase land and construct homes outside Jaffa.

These pioneers had two goals: to develop a Zionist community where Jews could nurture their national, linguistic and cultural values, and to stem the flow of Jewish capital into the Arab sector (some Jews in Jaffa rented homes from Arab landlords).

Tel Aviv in 1937

The chairman of Ahuzat Bayit, Akiva Weiss, explained in a prospectus that he wanted to create a clean, modern city in Tel Aviv. Architects from Germany and what is now Austria were asked to draw up plans.

The commission was offered to a Viennese architect, Wilhelm Stiasni. "In contrast to the earlier Jewish neighbourhoods of Jaffa," LeVine observes, "Stiasni's plan and Ahuzat Bayit's bylaws limited the number of houses that could be built and provided for the allocation of ample open space and public and private gardens."

From 1910 to 1914, Jews from various Zionist societies bought much of the land surrounding present-day Tel Aviv. Their intention was to merge all the plots into one Jewish quarter, which would be known as Tel Aviv.

Britain conquered Jaffa on Nov. 16, 1917, but from March 28, 1916 until the British invasion, almost all the Jews of Tel Aviv were expelled by the Turks.

During the 1920s, the population of Tel Aviv and Jaffa grew by leaps and bounds. By 1944, nearly 75 per cent of the residents in the Tel Aviv-Jaffa area were Jewish.

Often referred to as the White City, due to the colour of many of its International and Bauhaus-style buildings, Tel Aviv became the hub of the Yishuv, the Jewish community of Palestine.

Although Zionism was clearly at odds with Palestinian nationalism, Jewish and Arab leaders in Tel Aviv and Jaffa managed to work together on a variety of joint projects.

They devised a system for the collection and division of taxes, the paving and/or expansion of roads in border neighbourhoods, the administration of common slaughterhouses and the improvement of transportation from Jaffa-Tel Aviv to Haifa.

As well, they co-operated in the construction of a train station that would benefit both towns.

Nevertheless, there was political tension in the air, which was best summed up by Meir Dizengoff, the legendary mayor of Tel Aviv: "It cannot be denied that a kind of a state of war exists between the Jews and our Arab neighbours."

Due to the 1936 Arab Revolt – the first Palestinian uprising – and the closure of Jaffa's harbour, the city fathers of Tel Aviv decided to build their own port.

As tensions escalated after World War II, Jews ultimately found it too difficult to live in Jaffa among their Arab neighbours. By 1946, for example, almost 7,000 Jews from the Manshiyyeh quarter had moved to Tel Aviv, complaining of a lack of security.

Jaffa was earmarked for the Arab state envisaged by the United Nations under its 1947 Palestine partition scheme. But on May 13, 1948, Jaffa surrendered to Jewish forces, prompting all but 3,500 of its Arab inhabitants to flee.

When the War of Independence officially ended in 1949, all of the 26 Palestinian villages in the Jaffa sub-district had already been emptied or destroyed.

Jewish immigrants, mainly from Bulgaria, were resettled in abandoned Arab properties in Jaffa.

As of a few years ago,15,800 Arabs resided in Jaffa, representing 4.5 per cent of its total population.

The city once lyrically extolled by Arab writers as the Bride of the Sea is but a memory today.

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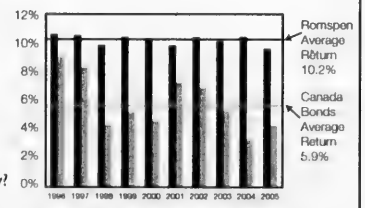

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New director of Holocaust Centre compelled by Shoah

Jennifer Ritter returns to Toronto after successful stint in Florida

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

So, why does a successful attorney give up the legal life to devote herself to teaching the lessons of the Holocaust? In the case of Jennifer Ritter, the new director of the UJA Federation Holocaust Centre of Toronto, the lessons of the Shoah are simply too compelling to pass up.

"I've always had a fascination with Jewish history and, in particular, the Shoah," says Ritter, a Toronto native who returns home after a successful five-year stint as executive director of The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida.

"As a watershed event in our history, as well as all humanity, the Holocaust has always intrigued me. There is just so much to be learned from that period. When you look at what's going on around the world today - the genocide, the rise in antisemitism in the Islamic world - you see warning signals. And, in a multi-cultural society like Canada, where we're supposed to be championing the values of diversity, respect and tolerance, we need to learn those lessons."

Jennifer Ritter

Another motivating factor Ritter cites for her chosen line of work is clear each time she looks into the eyes of her one-year-old son, Jacob.

"This beautiful little boy simply wouldn't be here today had my husband Matthew's grandparents not survived hiding in Czechoslovakia," she says. "Jacob is fourth generation and that is truly amazing to me, as is our very history; how we survived and how we thrived despite the odds. That's why I do what I do."

While Florida was a great experience for Ritter, both she and her Ottawa-born husband, a pilot with Air Canada, knew it was just a matter of time before they'd return to Canada. Ritter found out about the job opening in Toronto and applied. It was a perfect fit.

"We're thrilled about Jennifer's arrival," enthuses Lorraine Sandler, chair of The Holocaust Centre. "She brings with her a whole new set of skills required to take the Centre well into the future. She has already developed and run a successful Holocaust museum and that fact, combined with her empathy and understanding about the needs of a Holocaust learning centre, puts us in great shape."

"In the years that she spent in Orlando, Jennifer Ritter left an indelible personal and professional impact on our community," says Susan Bodner-Levine, president & CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando. "Her integrity, professionalism, charm, intelligence and wisdom added so much to our community's mix of programs and services. Toronto is fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Jennifer."

While she's not quite ready to list her specific goals just yet, Ritter clearly wants to take advantage of the tremendous accomplishments already made by The Holocaust Centre.

"My biggest challenge may be how to grow and build upon the impressive legacy that's already been established here," she says, while flipping through The Holocaust Centre schedule for November. "Every day in November we have school trips coming through the Centre. We have a panel of 70 or 80 survivor speakers here. In Orlando we had seven or eight. It's a completely different landscape here. It's wonderful. One thing that I will have to wrap my head around is something that confronts so many Holocaust centres and museums - how to stay relevant in the community while garnering broad-based support."

On November 1, Holocaust Education Week begins its 26th year in and around the Greater Toronto Area, and Ritter is looking forward to being part of what she considers an important time.

"Holocaust Education Week - as it is with all Holocaust education programs – is an important vehicle for teaching humane values and for building a society that is inclusive, caring and compassionate so that bystanding and indifference to suffering are no longer options. Ultimately, that is an important goal of Holocaust education, to build a better, more humane world."

Sukkot campaign promotes tourism to northern Israel

Tens of thousands of Israelis and tourists from around the world rediscovered the beauty of northern Israel during Sukkot, while northern tourist attractions were once again thriving after the devastating financial beating they took during the recent war this summer.

Under the slogan "we stood behind you during the war, we stand behind you now," the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) – UJA Federation's overseas agency – invited the general public to visit, at no cost, more than 20 national parks and nature reserves thanks to generous donations from Jewish communities worldwide.

"It warms my heart and is truly appreciated that donors would do this for us," says Yossi Hayut, a visitor to one of the sites.

Hayut and his wife, Gili, took their children to Zippori, an ancient hilltop city with great archeological importance for both Christians and Jews. It was here that Rabbi Judah Hanasi lived with the Sanhedrin in 220 C.E.

"During the war my husband, Yossi, fought in Lebanon and I was alone with our three children. I worried about Yossi day and night. Needless to say, we had no summer vacation," says Gili. "I am taking time off from work this Sukkot to be with the family," adds Yossi. "This is the first time that we have been to Zippori and we were only able to come because it is free of charge. Otherwise, the entrance fee for all of us would have been too expensive."

Families enjoyed northern Israeli parks during a special Sukkot campaign by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI).

Menachem and Mazal Vaknin, a religious family from Haifa, are exploring Zippori's living quarters with their three children who suffered from nightmares for a long time after the war.

"Living in Haifa, we really felt the full impact of the war," says Mazal. "There was no vacation, only six weeks of pure terror. We came here today to make up for what we lost in the summer. The fact that it is free of charge enables us to do more traveling and activities than we could normally afford."

As the shadows lengthen and the visitors slowly wend their way towards their cars, Igal Yonash, manager of the Zippori site, surveys the scene with satisfaction.

"Yesterday we had 1,300 visitors and today another 1,400 passed through our gates," says Yonash. "It's great that people are returning."

Ikkarim reaches out to parents of pre-schoolers

By JONATHAN AIN
UJA Federation

How can the Jewish community extend itself to busy parents of pre-school aged children, offering them a meaningful Jewish learning experience?

According to Rabbi Joe Kanofsky, a consultant with the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Board of Jewish Education (BJE), one answer might be found in the upcoming Ikkarim program being launched by UJA Federation at the end of October.

Ikkarim offers Jewish learning opportunities to parents of pre-schoolers.

No prior Jewish or Hebrew education is necessary, and Jews of all views are welcome and encouraged to come with their questions and perspectives.

"What's different about Ikkarim is that rather than preaching or lecturing, this program is really a discussion about empowering Jewish choices," says Rabbi Kanofsky. "Rather than trying to place you in a movement or institution, it's all about giving you the literacy and points of reference to make educated, Jewish choices as a parent of a young family."

Ikkarim instructors include scholars and rabbis, all of whom also happen to be parents of young children.

Ikkarim, which can be literally translated from the classic Hebrew to mean both "roots" and "principles," is a 19-week learning program sponsored by the BJE, tailored to parents of pre-school aged children.

Deb Kram, director of adult learning for Combined Jewish Philanthropy (CJP) in Boston – where Ikkarim was spearheaded three years ago – has seen the program mushroom from one synagogue with 20 participants to eight different locations with over 100 participants. According to Kram, the key success of Ikkarim has been its ability to reach parents at a time in their lives when they are making key decisions about the Jewish future of their children.

"Ikkarim targets a group of people you wouldn't think would have any time to explore religious ethics and values," says Kram. "Yet as it turns out, it is the busiest people, parents of young children – and not necessarily those with any obvious attachment to Judaism – who are the program's most enthusiastic participants. That's because Ikkarim speaks to people at a time of life when they have to come to terms with Jewish issues so they can model them for their kids."

Ikkarim will meet in two sessions – morning and evening at The Family Resource Centre at the Promenade Mall (Bathurst St. between Clark and Centre). Childcare is provided for the morning session. The cost for the 19 week course is $250 which includes all course materials.

Space is limited so please sign up early. For more information, or to register for Ikkarim, call 416.635.2883 ext. 185 or email ikkarim@ujafed.org.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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Supporting Israel galvanizes Toronto's diverse Jewish community

All streams of Judaism supporting UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign

By A.M. SEGAL
UJA Federation

Is there a single issue that rabbis from all denominations mutually support and believe in?

When it comes to helping Israel, the answer is a resounding yes.

More than 50 Toronto-area rabbis from various streams have jointly pledged to support the UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 (IEC), which is raising funds to help rebuild Israel following the war with Hezbollah last summer and to support essential Jewish services in Toronto.

The IEC, which has already raised $65 million, is funding the urgent psychological and financial needs of northern Israeli residents caused by thousands of terrorist rockets. By the time the campaign is over, UJA Federation expects to send $35 million to Israel for both emergency and regular requirements.

The rabbis recently showed their unity by being signatories to a newspaper ad headlined, "Together with Israel. Together as one."

"The security and survival of Israel is a top priority of the entire Jewish community," said Rabbi Baruch Taub of BAYT (Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation) in Thornhill. "We shouldn't have any second thoughts about signing this type of declaration."

"Israel is in need of emergency support and that's part of our responsibility in the Diaspora to give that extra support: moral, financial or otherwise," said Rabbi Moshe Shulman, religious leader of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

Jewish community members of all backgrounds, seen here at Toronto's Stand With Israel solidarity rally, have come together in support of UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007. (Photo by Jen Arron).

In addition to jointly supporting the emergency campaign, the rabbis also called on all members of the Jewish community to donate to the cause.

This united front is not unprecedented.

Rabbi Steven Saltzman of Adath Israel Congregation believes the rabbis have banded together because ensuring Israel's vitality is in the best interests of Jews all over the world.

"The destiny of the Diaspora is directly related to the health and vibrancy of the State of Israel," said Rabbi Saltzman.

"It's in our own interests, as well as the interests of Israel, to support Israel in moments of need."

Shortly after the end of the conflict, after 4,000 rockets rained down on northern Israel, Rabbi Michael Dolgin of Temple Sinai visited the north where the brunt of the damage occurred.

"I met a man who operates a tour site who told me that he had lost income from 4,000 tourists," Rabbi Dolgin said.

"Even if tourism was back to 100 per cent now, he won't get back what he lost."

But on a happier note, the rabbi noted Israelis were very appreciative of the support from Toronto's Jewish community.

"People in Israel turned to me and said Toronto is with us," Rabbi Dolgin said.

"We were the only non-Israelis there and that was very important for them, to see us standing together with them."

To donate to UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, visit www.ujadonations.com or call the Campaign Hotline at 416.631.5705.

Southern U.S. Holocaust film inspires women donors

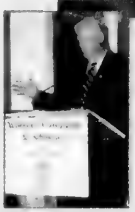
Tennessee school official urges Lion of Judah members to extend the spirit of Paper Clips

By REBECCA SOBERMAN
UJA Federation

Whitwell, Tennessee Middle School principal Linda Hooper, who inspired the now world-renowned documentary *Paper Clips*, had a strong message of tolerance for women who, through their UJA Federation donations of at least $5,000 annually, are Lions of Judah.

"Help the children of Whitwell to create a world where love and acceptance are the rule and not the exception," she told 300 women attending the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Lion of Judah luncheon, chaired by Shanitha Kachan and Susan Maldoff.

Paper Clips documents how Whitwell Tennessee students collected one paper clip for each individual exterminated by the Nazis. The result was a memorial railcar filled with 11 million paper clips (representing 6 million Jews and 5 million gypsies, homosexuals and other victims of the Holocaust) which stands permanently in their schoolyard.



Enjoying the UJA Federation Lion of Judah Luncheon are: (l-r) Ariella Rohringer, chair, UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 (IEC); Linda Hooper, principal, Whitwell Middle School; Fred Waks, chair, IEC and Judith Finer Freedman, chair, UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy. (inset) Mayor David Miller
(Photos: Jen Arron)

Hooper shared the project's chronology, explaining that she was seeking to enhance her pupils' knowledge and understanding of the world as a global community. "We [in Whitwell], in a town of 1800 people, grew up in a world that is White Anglo Saxon Protestant. We needed to understand the world and know that we are all responsible for each other."

Despite Whitwell's average education level of 6.6 years and a vast majority of residents living below the poverty line, Hooper's goal was to have her students recognize they were still better off than others. So teaching about the atrocity of the Holocaust was, for Hooper, a powerful learning tool to help her students grasp the message. And, in turn, the students taught Hooper an unexpected but important lesson.

"I learned that children are far more intelligent than we give them credit for," remarked Hooper. While teaching about the Holocaust and discussing the six million Jews who perished, one student asked her if it was possible to find some tangible way to measure six million because the number seemed so big. The child explained that the number should be represented by a collection of paper clips. Through self-motivated research, the student discovered that Norwegians wore paper clips on their lapels during the Second World War to protest the Nazi occupation, and the paper clip project began. "You see, children can teach us a thing or two," Hooper added.

The event also featured personal greetings from Toronto Mayor David Miller, who thanked the women for their tremendous support. "By your generosity, you are helping to build a city and that's what makes it a success," he expressed.

The luncheon also featured a campaign update by UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 chairs Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks and by Women's Campaign & Advocacy (WC&A) chair Judith Finer Freedman. The Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 total is now at $65 million, with over $18 million designated for Israel's emergency needs. WC&A has contributed $7.5 million to the campaign total.

A sign of the times in Vaughan

(l-r) UJA Federation of Greater Toronto chair David Engel, Beit Rayim Synagogue and School president Bill Mandelman, United Synagogue Day School president Wendy Bellack-Viner, and UJA Federation president Ted Sokolsky celebrate the installation of a sign marking the future home of United Synagogue Day School with Beit Rayim Synagogue & School at the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus. The Lebovic Campus at Bathurst & Weldrick is an initiative of UJA Federation's Tomorrow Campaign. USDS and Beit Rayim are working closely with UJA Federation to develop a new Jewish day school serving children and families from SK to Grade 8, a synagogue and a supplementary Hebrew school opening in 2008.

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The missing children of Yemen – Pt. 1

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

The State of Israel is nothing less than a major miracle – a reborn nation that's home to Jews from more than 100 different countries who speak more than 80 languages; an arid land exploding with blossom; a land that is barren of natural resources yet has a robust, world-class economy; and a land of freedom and democracy. No one thought it was possible, and it was all accomplished in just half a century.

But in all these many glorious and unparalleled stories of success, one dark chapter refuses to go away. It stubbornly resurfaces again and again. Year after year, it nags at the conscience of a people. It's such an upsetting chapter in Israel's history that the response to it is usually one of denial.

I am referring to the missing children of Yemen.

In 1949, the ruler of Yemen, Iman Yichyeh, was murdered and under his son, emigration to Israel became a reality. Tens of thousands of rural Yemenite Jews were convinced that the Mashiach had arrived. They left their homes en masse and came to what was dubbed Camp Geula – the camp of redemption. From there, they were to be transported to Israel. They waited patiently in conditions that were subhuman. State workers sent to facilitate this exodus worked as fast as they could to prevent a human tragedy. All the Jews were eventually evacuated to Israel.

Once there, the Yemenites were brought to Camp Shaar Haaliya, where they were to be registered, examined, inoculated, deloused and disinfected.

Instead, there was total chaos.

What was intended to be a temporary camp soon sprawled out of control. There were no proper sanitary facilities. Food and water distribution was poor. Diseases naturally followed, and intestinal disorders were especially rampant. Children and infants, in particular, could not hold what little food or water they were given, and their numbers were quickly dwindling.

Keep in mind that at this time, the State of Israel was itself just a baby, one fighting for its very existence. As such, it was totally unprepared to handle this tsunami of some 100,000 immigrants. The fact that it did is just one of its many miracles.

The Yemenite Jews responded to their situation with patience and dignity. Yet, leaky tents and extremes in temperature and hunger could be tolerated, but watching their children waste away could not. Parents who themselves were willing to bear all sorts of deprivation, became frantic at the sight of their sick children.

Streams of people, children in tow, surrounded the camp's infirmary tents around the clock. Help was dispensed, but in the worst cases of dehydration, the infirmary would have no choice but to send these children off to hospitals.

The resulting drama of these traumatic moments cannot be overemphasized. Parents were torn, on the one hand unable to care for their sick child while at the same time unable to accompany the child to the hospital. As well, they usually had other children, who were often ill and in desperate need of their attention. Compounding the heartache was the colossal barrier of language: the Yemenites and state workers could barely communicate.

With tears, kisses and prayers, in trust and in innocence, in the midst of confusion and in compliance with authority – and really with no other alternative – parents placed their babies in the arms of nurses.

The children were then taken, alone, to hospitals miles away.

To be continued next month...

'Voices of tomorrow'

Guest Voice

By SUSAN KRASHINSKY

I'll admit that when I first got the call, I thought the whole thing sounded overly ambitious.

It came from the director of education at my parents' synagogue, a man who has known me since I was the proverbial "this big." He wanted to know if I would take part in a service on Yom Kippur at which a few young people would be selected to speak.

I don't spend much time at Temple Sinai anymore. I have called Montreal home for the past eight years or so. But the High Holy Days are a good time to be with my family in Toronto, and so I agreed.

"Great," he replied. "The topic we've decided on is, 'What is the greatest challenge facing the Jewish people today?'"

"But no pressure!" I joked with my mother, to make light of my discomfort. Just recently, when asked to give a lecture on Judaism for a friend's class at McGill University, I came face-to-face with the difficulty of making sweeping statements about such a diverse, living tradition: "I can't speak for all the Jews in this room," I told the students, "let alone all the Jews in the world."

Naturally, I recognized that I was only expected to speak for myself and my own concerns as a young Jewish woman, yet the obligation to identify the single most important issue facing one of the world's oldest religions is a task that could be fairly described as daunting.

My fellow speakers and I arrived to find the service titled, "Voices of Tomorrow: Future Leaders Speak." (I hadn't been aware that I was a leader of tomorrow, but there it was.) And as behooves any group of Jews when asked for their opinions, we all came up with different answers to the question.

Given the topic, it's not surprising that the Holocaust played a major role in these answers. The first speaker took part of his time to tell us about his great uncle's experience during the war. Relating the tale in a rhythm of storytelling that only a loved one can recreate, he described how his great uncle had offered to fix the pocket watch of an official in his labour camp. Though he knew nothing about the watchmakers' trade, he managed to return the item not only in one piece, but in working order. It was a skill that may have saved his life.

The speaker used the story to remind us that we are the last generation to have the opportunity to speak directly to Holocaust survivors. He insisted that our challenge is to make an effort to hear their stories. "Soon, only the questions will remain," he said, "and people will be looking to us for the answers." It will be our duty never to forget.

It was a familiar theme, and I'm sure that it won't be the last time that I will attend a Jewish function where those present are encouraged, quite rightly, to remember their responsibility to history.

What I hadn't expected was the second view of the Holocaust that was presented by another speaker, a high school student who had recently returned from the March of the Living.

Having studied the issue of the conflict in Darfur, the student felt uncomfortable with the "never again" message of the march. While she acknowledged the emotional and historical resonance of the places she visited, she spoke eloquently about her uneasiness with the expectation that being Jewish should cause her to be defined by the Holocaust. It's a discomfort that is not unfamiliar to many of us, and it made sense that these two speakers should focus on a topic that still occupies us so completely.

My expectations were overturned once again when a third person took to the microphone. I felt sure that someone would speak – as we so often do – about the perils of intermarriage among young Jews. Eleanor comes from an interfaith family herself, and has grown understandably tired of being told that she is "the greatest threat facing the Jewish people." She asserted that our preoccupation with intermarriage opens the door for too much intolerance among Jews, and our challenge is to recognize that pluralism does not have to be equated with the destruction of our people.

Continuing the discussion of big issues, another speaker focused his speech on Israel. He spent the past summer there thanks to an Aish Hatorah Hasbara Fellowship. Participants in the program are educated in advocacy for Israel on college campuses, where many students have difficulty with the country's policies. This speaker chose to present a more personal side of Israel, talking about the people he met during one afternoon there, all of whom inspired him in various ways.

As for me, I spoke about the tension that I and many other young Jews feel in reconciling our progressive politics with our need for tradition. I worry that in modernizing ourselves, we may perhaps be letting go of too much. Part of the connection I feel to my religion is its link to a vast history, but in giving too much primacy to that history, we risk stagnation. If we want to remain a living tradition, I argued, we have to continue to ask questions and to challenge ourselves to hold on to our past without compromising our future.

"It's no secret to most of you that many young Jews have become detached from their faith," I said to illustrate this tension.

But listening to the people who spoke alongside me this Yom Kippur, you'd never know it.

Susan Krashinksy is a writer who lives in Montreal.

Jewish Life

A new book from Rabbi Kushner

Overcoming Life's Disappointments **by Harold S. Kushner, Random House.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

In 1981, Harold Kushner, the Conservative rabbi of a suburban Boston congregation, published *When Bad Things Happen To Good People.*

Surprisingly, it became a runaway bestseller and made him, arguably, the best-known American rabbi.

Rabbi Kushner asked an old and vexing question – would a God who is both omnipotent and good allow the innocent to suffer? He answered the question with a resounding no. God does not cause suffering, rather He empathizes with those who do suffer. God is powerless to prevent people from harming one another – to do so would remove from them their precious, if dangerous, freedom of choice. It was not God who was responsible for Auschwitz, but cruel and barbaric human beings. Moreover, God is limited by the unchanging laws of his own created universe.

These views about God were hardly new or original, but Rabbi Kushner's engaging literary style and ability to distil complex theological ideas for the average reader made him a popular religious guide and mentor.

In all of his books, Rabbi Kushner combines pastoral experience with apt references to books, movies and plays. He refers knowingly to the wisdom that is to be found in the wellsprings of Jewish traditions, as well as to the insights of modern psychology.

To be human is to experience disappointment. Things don't always turn out as we expect. Our dreams remain unrealized. How do we overcome the pain of marital discord, of a lost job, the death of a loved one, prolonged illness, etc?

For answers, the author turns to the many-sided life of Moses to find examples of strength, resilience, patience, humility and faith.

Moses was a sorely tested leader whose triumphs were offset by frustration, rivalry, hostility and ultimate rejection – after years of struggle, he was not permitted to enter the Promised Land.

The author reminds us that the shattered tablets of the Ten Commandments were eventually replaced with new tablets that were to guide untold future generations. The old and the new, the broken dream and the bright promise were placed together in the Ark. There is always the opportunity for victorious vision to replace grievous disappointment.

From the biblical assertion that Moses was the most humble of men, Rabbi Kushner reminds us of our role in the scheme of things. "Humility means recognizing that you are not God and it is not your job or responsibility to run the world. Moses was able to surmount the problems and frustrations in his life because he understood that he was not God and could not be expected to be, and that God's plan for humanity did not depend solely on him."

Rabbi Kushner concludes that "the most valuable, most enduring lesson we can learn from Moses comes not from his successes but from his failures. It is about facing our past with gratitude and our future with confidence, even as we carry with us the memories of dreams that never came true. There are other, more attainable dreams waiting for us."

This book is life affirming, sensible, thoughtful and realistic. Grateful readers will welcome this inspirational and helpful guide.

Solving Israel's water crisis, Pt. 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we looked at the water crisis in Israel and the region. Today, we look at some possible solutions.

Conservation: First, let's look at how Israelis try to conserve what they do have. Israelis use only 338 cubic metres of water a year per person, compared to 1,682 cubic metres in the United States and 1,494 cubic metres in Canada. **[http://tinyurl.com/yhmvxp]** But that isn't good enough considering the country's limited resources. Israel's conservation program wants to cut that number further in the agricultural, manufacturing and domestic sectors. **[http://tinyurl.com/yzpghj]**

Public awareness: Israelis are used to billboards and other ads imploring them to save every drop. But sometimes a lighter approach works. If you can read Hebrew, you can play the Water Game at Israel's water conservation site. Answer the questions right and you'll keep the drop of the water from being wasted. **[www.tipa.gov.il/instructions.htm]** If you want to be more water savvy, read the water tips from Jewish National Fund and the International Arid Lands Consortium. They make sense even if you don't live in a desert. **[http://tinyurl.com/y8oz94]**

Drip irrigation: Despite its current problems, Israel has seen much success in its battle to conserve water. Visitors to Israel will be familiar with "drip irrigation" and the plastic tubing that snakes its way through city parks and kibbutzim. The slow drop-by-drop method of watering deposits just enough water above or below surface. Thanks mostly to drip irrigation, Israel's water requirements for apples, bananas and potatoes declined by more than half after its introduction. **[http://tinyurl.com/z9cma]**

I recommend a four-minute video created by KTEH Public Television titled *Last Oasis,* which praises Israel's efforts in recycling and drip irrigation but also has an unsettling warning. Professor Amos Banin of Hebrew University draws an interesting analogy to describe the limits of artificial irrigation. He compares the technology to the life of a married couple. "There is the honeymoon between the irrigator and the land… [but] after some decades, there is an increasing deterioration of the land as a result of irrigation." Throughout the world – Israel included – artificial irrigation is taking its toll on the land. **[http://tinyurl.com/hoh94]**

Rainfall enhancement: Israel began seeding clouds with silver iodide crystals over the Lake Kinneret basin in 1976. Cloud-seeding in Israel can significantly increase rainfall in a normal winter and produce as much as an additional 80 million cubic metres of water. Traditional cloud-seeding is only effective when there are suitable rain clouds in the area, and even then, there is no guarantee that the rain will fall exactly where needed. **[http://tinyurl.com/kudau]**

Currently researchers from Belgium, Israel and California are working on a different way to make rain. For Project Geshem, several square kilometres of land are covered with black, solar-absorbing material that bounces the sunlight's energy back into the lower atmosphere. "The heated air rises taking water condensation high enough to form clouds and produce out-of-season rain." **[http://tinyurl.com/lb5ao]**

Importing water: In 2004, Israel and Turkey agreed to a 20-year proposal in which Turkey would ship water to meet three per cent of Israel's consumption. Due to rising costs, that deal was scrapped in April of this year. **[http://tinyurl.com/nnu5m]** But the following month, the two countries were negotiating the construction of four underwater pipelines that would transfer water, electricity, natural gas and oil to Israel. The oil sent to Israel would then be transferred by tankers to countries including India, China and South Korea. There was no word on the cost of the project or how much water it would deliver to Israel. **[http://tinyurl.com/hfl3l]**

Next week, unearthing an ancient waterworks, making saltwater potable and plans to link the Red Sea to the Dead Sea.

* * *

Do you have a Jewish website that you find yourself coming back to again and again? Or have you created one that more people should know about? I am about to put together my newest column based on your recommendations. Tell me about your favourite Jewish or Israeli site at the address below.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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With appreciation,
The Board of Directors, Staff and the newcomer community of JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto
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Science teacher honoured by Tiferes Bais Yaakov

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Earlier this year Peter Salmon was honoured by Tiferes Bais Yaakov, the Orthodox girls' high school where he teaches science, as its general studies teacher of distinction.

The 51-year-old educator is relatively new to the classroom, however. About six years ago, Salmon had to give up dentistry after 22 years of practice when he developed a hand tremor as a result of Parkinson's disease. A Jewish day school principal heard him give a *shiur* about the weekly Torah portion at Thornhill's Beth Avraham Yosef of Toronto Congregation and suggested he might be able to transfer his innate teaching skills to the day school classroom.

A teacher of Grade 12 biology, Grade 11 chemistry and Grade 10 general science, Salmon, who has a degree in science from the University of Toronto, says he prepared meticulously to teach the Ontario ministry's science curriculum when he joined the school four years ago as a part-time teacher.

His classroom style blends academics with sharing of real life experience, Torah insight and humour.

A blurb about Salmon on the school's website, in the context of his recent honour, described him as "the consummate science teacher" who translates "complex material to manageable subject matter."

A somewhat reticent interviewee, he said he is happy about the accolades the school gave him, but that he doesn't like being in the limelight.

Having had teenage children of his own helped him understand his students' mindset, said Salmon, who was one of the coaches for his sons' basketball team at Yeshivat Or Chaim a few years ago. He and his wife Roslyn, also a teacher, have three sons, now age 20, 22 and 25.

"Kids can see through somebody pretty quickly," Salmon told *The CJN*.

Despite the tremor that results in "not ideal" handwriting – which he jokes about – and the fatigue he sometimes battles as a side effect of Parkinson's and rheumatoid arthritis, he considers himself lucky, he stressed.

A lesson from the teacher: *"It's a competitive world out there. You have to strive for excellence, [even if] you get a 'C.' Every child has their niche. Sometimes it takes longer to find it."*

"This is what life gave me. You make the best of it."

He credits his wife for her support at home, and his principals and fellow staff for easing his transition into the school.

Having family responsibilities and being an observant Jew were also factors in making the switch to this new stage. Based on conversations with others who have chronic illnesses, Salmon said that "[having] a faith system seems to be a bedrock."

He enjoys the interaction with his students, as well as the opportunity to stimulate their minds, he said.

"You do the best you can to motivate them," said Salmon, adding that at the same time, he reminds his students that marks are not everything. "Sometimes, the kids who get the C's in school get the A's in life."

Peter Salmon

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JETT program hopes to take on young passengers

By DAVE GORDON
Special to The CJN

There's a new "JETT"-setting crowd, and they're heading not just on any course – they're taking a course toward spiritual fulfilment. And they won't be passing through customs, but instead they'll be learning about Jewish customs.

Indeed, the "first class" of a new learning program called Jewish Empowerment Through Torah, or JETT, begins soon. It is specifically for men and women in their 20s and 30s who crave Jewish learning in a way that's most comfortable for them.

Offering lectures, seminars, Hebrew reading workshops, open discussions, and Shabbat dinners, JETT's programs are free.

JETT takes off Nov. 5 and ends Dec. 16. The fall session includes courses called "Torah and Science," "Spiritual DNA: Its Vast Impact on Civilization" and "Soul Searching: Cognitive Keys for a Spiritual Life."

Arnie Gotfryd, who created this program and others like it, says that he expects hundreds of students to attend.

Gotfryd lectured for many years at the University of Toronto. He has won several academic prizes including a grant for his popular university course called "Faith and Science." He has penned a number of books and articles on the topic of Judaism and has lectured in more than 20 cities.

The idea for JETT came to Gotfryd around Rosh Hashanah of this year, during a gathering with some of his former students. They became nostalgic about the daily learning program he once ran, which ended because Gotfryd had other commitments. They urged him to bring it back. He agreed, and people eagerly volunteered to help him. He says he's pleased to see the program take hold in a grassroots manner, where students are enlisting other students to enroll.

Gotfryd's work in outreach began in 1997, when he and his wife, Leah, bought their home in Thornhill for their family of 10, with the intent of turning the expansive basement into a shul. "Of course, it was a sacrifice, especially since the kids were hoping for floor hockey games down there, but everybody was wonderful with it from the beginning."

The minyan actually moved in about a month before they did.

"A few families in the neighbourhood were thrilled from the start to have a warm chassidic shul right around the corner. That's when I realized how important this little *shtiebl* [small chapel] was. There were literally dozens of kids from observant families hanging out as kids do, most of whom were already quite alienated from their traditions," he says.

Gotfryd made sure that the synagogue wasn't just for praying, but for learning and teaching, too. By teaching students a few core ideas, many got turned back on to Judaism, he says.

From left are the "JETT setters," teacher Akiva Danzinger, with students Zack Steel and Yaakov Rosenzweig.

This morphed into a formalized "night yeshiva" with adult education at all levels, seven days a week. The biggest draw he says was a free Hebrew crash course designed for absolute beginners. "They loved getting into their Jewish roots. We need all the identity boosting we can get," he says.

More than 200 people learned to read Hebrew and another 300 participated in other courses and special lectures, boasts Gotfryd. "People need to know that the Torah is cool, and perfectly relevant in a modern world," he says.

JETT's faculty consists of 10 teachers, who have diverse backgrounds and talents, and are volunteers from the Chabad community.

"When people see that teachers are giving of their own free time for complete strangers just to share something good, it rubs off. Then the students also turn into givers who want to give back."

The instructors and programs have received endorsements from community leaders such as Rabbi Dovid Schochet, head of the Vaad HaRabbanim of Greater Toronto, and Rabbi Yosaif Zaltzman of the Jewish Russian Community Centre of Toronto.

Gotfryd, who follows chassidic traditions, maintains that his centre uses teaching tools that have for decades proven successful around the globe.

"The chassidic approach is very special. It's very positive and non-judgmental," he says. "It doesn't matter who you are or where you are on the ladder as long as you're growing. Chassidic philosophy is another unique factor. It really focuses on the big questions of life, God, the soul, and the significance of the Jewish journey for the fulfilment of mankind."

For more information, visit www.getjett.net

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Collins among 40,000 Hungarian refugees

Continued from page 3

In 1943, Leon was called up by the Hungarian army and, as a Jew, was inducted into a labour battalion. Told that he would be sent to the front, he deliberately broke his leg – not once but twice. "All the others who went, his friends, never came back," Collins said ruefully.

Shortly after Germany's invasion, the pro-German Hungarian government began to deport Jews to Auschwitz. One day, Collins and her mother were ordered to report to a railway station in Budapest. She thinks they would have been deported straight to Poland had their luck run out.

"We were there for three days, and then, suddenly, released."

She speculates that Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish humanitarian who rescued tens of thousands of Jews from the clutches of the Nazis and their Hungarian collaborators, may have intervened on their behalf.

Having reached the edge of the abyss, Bertha decided she could only save herself and her daughter, her only child, through drastic measures. Removing the mandatory yellow star from her coat, she approached the Spanish consulate in Budapest. She had heard that protective passes were being handed out by Spain, a neutral country during World War II.

Informed by a guard that she was too late, Bertha didn't take no for an answer. As a bread truck made a delivery, she slipped into the consulate, then climbed a flight of steps and barged into an office.

"She begged a consul to save her family. 'We have nowhere to go. Give us Spanish protection,' she said. The consul was impressed by her courage, and that's how we were saved."

Remembering their days in Hungary during the Holocaust, Collins' parents desperately wanted to join her in the quest to live in the West.

"But they were too old to cross the border illegally," she said. "They preferred to leave legally. I was young and adventurous, and they were not. "

Collins and a group of 30 Hungarians paid a farmer to lead them to safety into neighbouring Austria. "But on the day we were supposed to leave, he was drunk and we had to do it ourselves. It took us only a night to reach the border, but it was a scary and dangerous trip. Russian patrols were everywhere."

She spent the next two months in a refugee camp in Vienna. "Conditions were not bad. We were young and hopeful. The Austrian government helped a lot."

After waiting in line for a couple of days at the Canadian consulate, Collins finally received permission to immigrate to Canada. "The Canadians were generous. Canada paid for my passage to Halifax."

She arrived on Jan. 5, 1957, after a 10-day voyage, during which she was seasick. Upon arrival, an immigration officer gave her a tube of toothpaste, a loaf of bread and a $5 bill. Yet she found Halifax was disappointing, a pale imitation of a sophisticated European city.

"It looked very provincial, but the people were kind."

Collins and her fellow Hungarian newcomers boarded a train for Montreal in the dead of a typical Canadian winter.

"I didn't know anyone in Montreal, but a social worker directed us to a hostel. She said that it would be dry and warm, that we wouldn't freeze."

The day after her arrival, she found a job at a television factory at a salary of $25 a week. "We all wanted to work. There was no welfare."

She went through a number of menial jobs in eight months before landing one as a cosmetician. "By then, I spoke English and already had a better life."

In 1959, her parents left Hungary. They settled in Los Angeles, where her father's brother lived. Leon died in 1971. Bertha passed away last year, six months shy of her 100th birthday, in Toronto.

A year after their departure from Hungary, Collins relocated to Toronto and opened a cosmetics shop.

"Cosmetics was a new field back then. I showed Canadian women how to take care of their skin. I had a busy little business and made a nice career for myself. The business was my baby."

Her first marriage, in 1964, ended in divorce. Today she is happily married to her second husband, an architect. Their daughter is a teacher.

Since her retirement eight years ago, she has returned to an old love, painting. Collins has donated some of her paintings to Mount Sinai Hospital and the proceeds from others to orphanages in Israel.

"I have tried hard to integrate myself into Canadian society, but I have not assimilated completely. I speak Hungarian at home and I have Hungarian friends. Nevertheless, I am a Canadian first and a Hungarian second. I feel very lucky this country took me in. I kiss the ground in Canada."

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Greater Toronto Area

New Mizrachi director heads Thornhill congregation

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Meir Rosenberg has been juggling two full-time jobs since since Sept. 1, shortly after his arrival in Toronto. How does he do it? "Very carefully, and with great dedication," he says with a mix of humour and seriousness.

On weekdays the rabbi can usually be found at the offices of Mizrachi Canada, where he is now executive director. He is also the first full-time spiritual leader of Congregation Ayin L'Tzion, a three-year-old congregation with about 50 member families housed at Thornhill's Netivot HaTorah Day School.

The rabbi grew up on New York's Lower East Side – "a very colourful place" – where as a child he attended Mesivta Tiferes Yerushalayim, the yeshiva of renowned Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, a neighbour of the Rosenberg family.

Now 37, Rabbi Rosenberg served most recently as spiritual leader of Congregation Ohav Zedek in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., just over 200 kilometres from New York, where he moved in 1997. While there, he also served as chair and posek (halachic decisor) of the Vaad Hakashrus of Luzerne County, which oversees the local mikvah, eruv, chevrah kadisha and kashrut standards.

Prior to his time in Pennsylvania, he was a rabbi in Birmingham, Ala. for three years.

The rabbi's most recent move brings him to a larger Jewish community with more educational options for his six children, who range in age from 2 to 13. Wilkes-Barre, despite its Jewish day school and small Orthodox community, has a Jewish population of less than 3,000, compared to the GTA's 200,000.

The move also brings the Rosenbergs closer to family. Rabbi Rosenberg's wife, Chaya Stern, a vocational rehabilitational therapist, is the daughter of Rabbi Moshe Stern of

Rabbi Meir Rosenberg

Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. The couple met through her brother Tzvi, who studied with Rabbi Rosenberg at a Mercaz HaTorah yeshiva in Israel.

Rabbi Rosenberg also studied at New Jersey's Ramapo College, where he earned a bachelor of science degree. As well, he has a post-graduate degree in advanced rabbinics and synagogue management from Touro College in New York.

As a rabbi in the United States, his community involvement included serving on hospital ethics committees. "I still keep my finger on the pulse of what's going on [in science]," he said.

Rabbi Rosenberg obtained his smichah from Rabbi Berel Wein at Yeshiva Shaarei Torah in Monsey, N.Y. He pursued a pulpit career out of a desire to apply his Torah studies in a practical context and "reach out to fellow Jews." Also, he added, his uncles were rabbis (non-pulpit), his parents – an electrical engineer and a guidance counsellor – were involved in the community, and his grandfather was an early synagogue president of the first Young Israel congregation on the Lower East Side.

As a youngster, Rabbi Rosenberg grew up in a Mizrachi congregation. The religious Zionist movement helps people develop "a love for the land of Israel through the Torah of Israel," the rabbi said. Also, he noted, it supports Torah institutions in Israel.

Upcoming Mizrachi events with which he is involved include a dinner on Nov. 13 honouring Joyce and Herb Green and Jerry Rosenfield and a Nov. 20 lecture by Rabbi Shlomo Riskin. The dinner proceeds will help rebuild former Gush Katif communities in the Negev. Recently, Mizrachi co-sponsored a Torah lecture by Rabbi Hershel Schachter of Yeshiva University.

Referring to both his new positions, Rabbi Rosenberg said he looks forward to "working with and reaching out to the entire community in order to promote the values and ideals of Torah Judaism."

Having been an active board member of Wilkes-Barre's Jewish federation, he looks forward to becoming involved with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

In Wilkes-Barre, he said, rabbis of all denominations "worked together for the benefit of the community.

"There will always be philosophical differences, but we're all Jews, and we've all been given the same Torah."

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Honoree motivated by need for 'strong leadership'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Warren Kimel says he was "a little shocked" that the dinner honouring him Nov. 7 at Beth Sholom Synagogue has sold out.

"I'm just a guy," he said, comparing himself to some of the more widely known government and community leaders who were also recipients of the synagogue's annual Humanitarian Award, now in its 55th year. "And I don't even like asking for money."

Warren Kimel

The latter comment may be surprising, given Kimel's position last year as co-chair of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's 2006 campaign that raised $58 million.

Yet asking for money is not Kimel's forté, he insisted in a recent interview in the well-appointed office he occupies at the headquarters of Fabricland, the Canada-wide business run by Kimel and founded almost 39 years ago by his father, Manny, who now has Alzheimer's disease.

Kimel, 56, says he didn't ask for money for UJA, but rather "told a story. I tell the people what Israel needs and what Toronto needs. I'm not really asking for money; I'm stating a purpose... If I understand a cause, I can talk, but you have to believe in the cause."

Kimel has been involved with an impressive array of causes, including several federation projects. A board member and past president of Beth Sholom, he has also served on the boards of United Synagogue Day School, Baycrest Centre Foundation, and Jewish National Fund. He is Toronto co-chair of State of Israel Bonds, and a past president of B'nai Brith Canada's B'nai Brith lodge.

As a board member of the Baycrest Centre Foundation, he oversaw a $15-million family donation to the centre as his family's representative. It's the largest single gift that Baycrest has ever received. The funds will go to Baycrest's Brain Health Care facility, which is being renamed the Brain Health Centre – Kimel Family Building, as well as to kick off a fundraising campaign for research on treatment and prevention of brain diseases and disorders, and to establish the Elkie Adler MS Clinic. It will be named for Kimel's sister, who died last year.

The family, which also includes Warren's brother Ronald, also donated $7.5 million to the federation's Tomorrow campaign to establish the Kimel Family Education Centre, the new home of the north campus of the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. It's expected to open in 2007 on the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan.

The Kimel family also supports non-Jewish causes, including the United Way of Greater Toronto, Best Buddies (an organization that helps mentally challenged people), Bloorview Kids Rehab and the National Ballet of Canada.

Warren Kimel got his start in community work as a board member at United Synagogue Day School, although he and his wife Debbie – who encouraged him to get involved and who is involved in a variety of causes herself – had already been to Israel on a UJA Young Leadership mission. Also, Marty Goldberg, a fellow board member whom he's known since their days at Forest Hill Collegiate, served as "sort of my mentor."

Kimel said his father, whose Fabricland office he now uses, always told him, "You have to give back."

Having a business where he can delegate responsibilities – he joined Fabricland 31 years ago after earning his bachelor of science degree at the University of Western Ontario – allows Kimel to devote time to charitable work, he said. "I'm lucky that way."

He is also motivated by a desire to set an example for the next generation – his four children range in age from 19 to 23 – and the belief that "the community needs strong leadership.

"If you want to be in the community and you have the wherewithal, you should give back, you should be a leader, and you should be responsible."

Shalom backed Gaza pullout

Continued from page 5

Shalom said the Israeli army should attack terrorist bases in Gaza on a massive scale. "We should consider an operation like Defensive Shield," he said, referring to Israel's raids into the West Bank in the spring of 2002.

"It dramatically reduced terrorist attacks," he noted.

Suggesting that Israel had no option but to cede Gaza, he said, "I agreed to the withdrawal, but a withdrawal based on a bilateral agreement with the Palestinians would have been better."

Shalom said he worked from the assumption that a withdrawal would deprive the Palestinians of a pretext to fire Qassams at Israel.

Yet Israel had no alternative but to give up Gaza. "We couldn't stay in Gaza. There was no way."

Turning to Egypt, he accused the Egyptians of laxity in failing to stop the smuggling of arms from the Sinai Peninsula into Gaza.

Shalom said Israel will have to free Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails to gain the release of Gilad Shalit, the soldier kidnapped by Hamas gunmen last June.

He also said he's not sure whether Bashar Assad, the president of Syria, was sincere when he called for a resumption of talks with Israel in a series of recent media interviews.

"On the one hand, he seems sincere. On the other hand, he is not sincere. I don't know if he is playing games."

When Shalom was foreign minister, he dispatched an envoy to meet with Assad's brother-in-law to sound out Syria's intentions toward Israel. The meeting took place shortly after the allied invasion of Iraq.

Asked about the outcome, Shalom said, "I can't get into the details."

In his view, Israel can only agree to a resumption of talks with Syria when the Syrians stop funnelling weapons to Hezbollah and close down the offices and training camps of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Syria.

"They should change the locks to show their sincerity," Shalom said.

He would not be drawn into a discussion about the depth of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights should Israel reach an accord with Syria in the future. As he put it, "No one should ask for an outcome in advance."

Shalom doubts whether Hezbollah will relinquish its struggle against Israel, even if Israel pulls out of the disputed Shebaa Farms area. "Hezbollah will find another excuse to attack us. Don't be naive."

Voicing concern that many young Arabs have adopted Hezbollah's narrative that Arab territory can only be regained by force, Shalom said, "It's a problem that they have bought this ridiculous narrative. But they should know that we will win every war."

In closing, Shalom praised Harper. "He is very good. His statements are very encouraging. It shows Canada is a strong ally and a strong friend of Israel."

Conference set for children of Holocaust survivors

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

The third conference for children of Holocaust survivors is set for Oct. 29 at the Baycrest Wagman Centre.

Titled Inheriting the Past and Influencing the Future, the daylong conference includes speakers Susan Bendor, associate professor of Wurzweiler School of Social Work; Anne Balaban, an educator and trainer; and Susan Jackson, executive director of the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Will be held Oct. 29 at Wagman Centre

A panel discussion will feature Hindy Friedman, a daughter of survivors, and Bob Czincz, a child survivor. Moderator will be Bernie Farber, CEO of Canadian Jewish Congress, and a child of survivors.

Paula David, conference co-ordinator with Eva Dojc and Margie Levitt, said the first seminar was organized because they realized that children of Holocaust survivors had diverse needs.

"They had a lot in common when they were part of young families, but now they're in their 40s and 50s, and their parents are elderly or gone. Many are part of the sandwich generation.

"Baycrest is taking care of a lot of Holocaust survivors and we realize that they each have unique concerns. The second generation finds strength through mutual support and understanding. They are like an extended family – they understand what others don't get," says David.

The whole Holocaust legacy has fallen into the laps of the second generation, says David. "What is their role in carrying on the legacy, and what does this mean for future generations?"

David says that rather than being depressing, the conference always proves to be energizing and uplifting.

For information, call 416-785-2500, ext. 2853.

The Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Fall 2006 Lecture Series at Holy Blossom Temple

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Reflections on the Jews, Israel and Anti-Semitism in an Uncertain World

Even after enduring and surviving several millennia, even at a time of statehood and prosperity, Israel and World Jewry struggle for a place among the nations in an unbalanced and precarious world. What will be now as genocidal Islamism is on the march? Does the West care and how will it respond?

Barbara Amiel
Mon. Nov. 13, 2006, at 8 p.m.

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Introduction: Robert Lantos

Upcoming lectures
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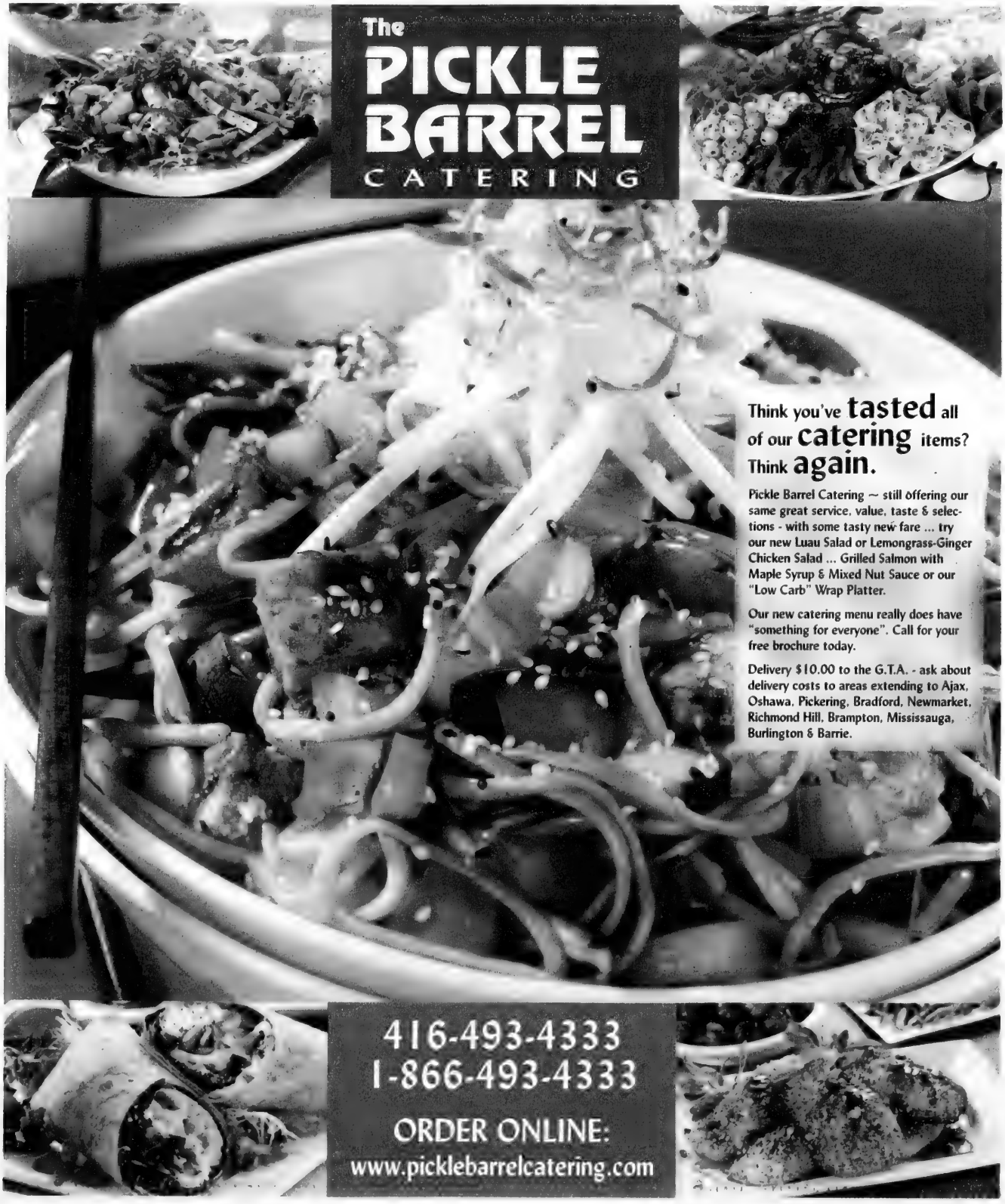
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Greater Toronto Area

Arbib, Babra honoured at B'nai Brith dinner

Continued from page 1

Instead, the prime minister told the crowd that Israel "can count on Canada's steadfast support, encouragement and friendship," and he urged all Canadians to be "guided by our values: freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law and the uncompromising opposition to terrorism."

"The State of Israel, a democratic nation, was attacked by Hezbollah, a terrorist organization. In fact, a terrorist organization listed illegal in this country," Harper said, noting that Canada is fighting terrorists in Afghanistan and that police have arrested a group of alleged terrorist plotters in Toronto.

Surjit Babra and Walter Arbib [Ram Regev photo]

"I understand that with the news reports of the day, and the sound of battle, the images of destruction and the suffering of innocents, it is sometimes difficult to see and keep the focus on what is truly at stake.

"But the fact is this: those who attacked Israel, and those who sponsored such attacks, don't seek merely to gain some leverage, to alter some boundary or to right some wrong. They seek what they and those like them have always sought: the destruction of Israel and the destruction of the Jewish people. Those who seek to destroy the Jews, who seek to destroy Israel, will for the same reason ultimately seek to destroy us all, and that, my friends, is why Canada's new government has reacted with speed and spoken with clarity on recent events in the Middle East."

Harper dismissed claims that his stance on the Middle East is a departure from what some describe as Canada's traditional role in foreign affairs.

"Some have claimed that this is charting a radical new course in foreign affairs. That is simply not accurate," he said. "Rather than charting a new course, we are restoring Canada to its traditional and true role, principled leadership in world affairs – a Canada that knows where it stands, speaks up for what is right and invests in the tools of diplomacy, foreign aid, intelligence and military capability."

The prime minister also referred to the need for Israelis and Palestinians to reach a peaceful agreement and establish a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

"I need to tell you that we must also seek a fair and just solution for the Palestinians," he said. "Our government believes in a two-state solution in a secure, democratic and prosperous Israel living beside a viable, democratic and peaceful Palestinian state."

He said that other countries in the Middle East need to follow the lead of Egypt and Jordan, which took "tremendous steps" to make peace with Israel.

"They know the benefits to peace. We think the time is long overdue for others in the region to join them."

Harper said he believes ordinary Palestinians want peace as much as Israelis do.

"Other than terrorists and extremists, or the fanatics, who wakes up each day and wishes that the public life in their community or their country will be an endless cycle of hate, violence, oppression and corruption? No one. But in the end, that is all that they will ever achieve and why we must be so ever vigilant against them."

Harper said that despite Israel's commitment to fighting terrorism and protecting Israeli citizens, Israel found itself in a war it never wanted to wage.

"[The current Israeli government] wasn't elected to wage war, but to pursue peace. And this is the great tragedy, because Prime Minister [Ehud] Olmert and [former] prime minister [Ariel] Sharon before him sought a mandate to break the mould and find a new way forward, not to have the same battle yet again over the same ground."

He said that both Olmert and Sharon have been willing to make "painful compromises for peace. This is the sort of leadership, initiative and commitment that we need and that we have come to expect from the great State of Israel."

After Harper's speech, B'nai Brith executive vice-president Frank Dimant told him: "Every Shabbat, every Saturday, we recite [a] prayer for you, Mr. Prime Minister. I believe that the Almighty has answered our prayers."

He also presented Harper with a plaque that said the prime minister's "actions are in harmony with his personal integrity, as he fights without compromise, the challenges of our time."

In an Oct. 19 statement responding to Harper's speech, the Canadian Arab Federation said that the "unconditional support for Israel" expressed by the prime minister is a "dangerous path for Canada's foreign policy." It added that "Harper is tarnishing Canada's reputation and repudiating Canadian values by associating his government" so closely with Israel.

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New shaliach serves Habonim Dror, small communities in Ontario

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

New shaliach Eitan Grinspun hasn't experienced a Canadian winter yet, but he considers himself lucky to be working in "such a warm community."

Grinspun, 33, arrived in Canada in August and began working at Camp Gesher in Cloyne, Ont. The camp is affiliated with Habonim Dror, the Labour Zionist youth movement where Grinspun is a shaliach from the Jewish Agency for Israel. He replaces Omer Eshel, who returned to Israel in September after a three-year stint.

Eshel's "Shelach" program at Bialik Hebrew Day School will continue to be run by Grinspun. The three-year-old program involves experiential education about Israel.

Grinspun and Shaul Zobary, director of Habonim Dror and Camp Gesher, are also developing another interactive school program that will explore Jewish and Israeli history through the introduction of historical personages including biblical characters and more recent personalities like Eliezer Ben-Yehuda and Chana Senesh.

In addition to his Habonim Dror duties, Grinspun serves as a shaliach for Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario (RJCO), running educational programs for children and adults in smaller Jewish communities outside of Toronto.

Eitan Grinspun

"We're planning a huge Chanukah drive," he said of the RJCO activities, which include three Shabbatonim a year. This year, the themed weekends centre around Jewish identity, he said.

The Chanukah program, which is open to Torontonians who want to participate, will begin in Sault Ste. Marie, where the first candle of the holiday will be lit, and will travel to other communities throughout the week.

Also in his RJCO capacity, Grinspun is available to field questions about Israeli culture, identity and society on a new "Ask Our Shaliach" web page (http://www.rjco.ca/home.do?ch=didYouKnow).

A native of Eilat, Grinspun is the son of Argentinian olim whose house has always been a gathering place for family and friends. "They never invite two people; they invite 20," he said.

Working out of the Borochov Centre with Zobary, Grinspun is excited about the youth group's programs such as a new "Ken Rikud" (Israeli dance program) for parents and children, and a new partnership with the Lodzer Centre Holocaust Congregation. Habonim Dror is running educational programs for young teenagers out of the synagogue.

In Israel, for the past six years, Grinspun managed the student dormitories at Tel Aviv University (TAU), where he enjoyed its mix of Jewish and Arab Israelis, overseas students and new immigrants.

An alumnus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem where he earned a BA in international relations, and also of TAU where he earned a diploma in mediation and negotiation, Grinspun said that he likes working with people. As a student, he worked at Kol Yisrael radio station editing programs for youth.

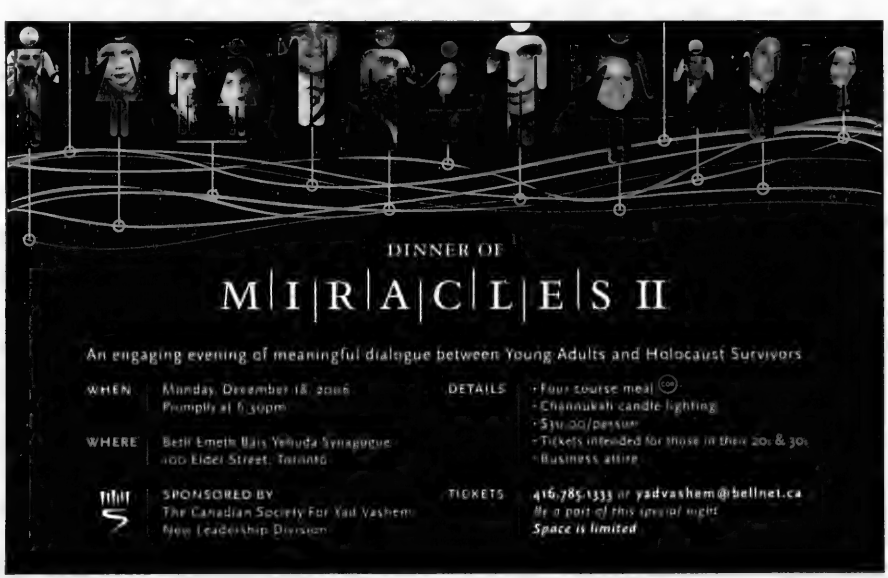
His main goal now is to "work with youth starting to form their own ideas."

Habonim Dror brings together "all the things I believe in," Grinspun said, citing Judaism, Israel, socialism, tikkun olam and the movement's Jewishly pluralistic nature.

The group is joining forces with other local youth movements to host a memorial ceremony for slain Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin on November 4, he noted.

The product of a secular home, Grinspun spent a summer working as a counsellor at the Conservative movement's Camp Ramah in Massachusetts, and has a close friend who is a Conservative rabbi.

As a youngster in Israel, he was involved with Ha'Noar Haoved (the Israeli Equivalent of Habonim Dror) for a short time.



שישאר פ'נינו

גידי קורן וחברים

בין אושוויץ לרחובות

אחרי חקירה מקיפה של משרד הבריאות והמשטרה, נעצרו ארבעה רופאים וגריאטריים מבי"ח הרצפלד לזקנים עקב ראיות חותכות שהם עסקו בניסויים רפואיים בקשישים מאושפזים ללא בקשת הסכמה מהם, וללא אישור ועדה אתית, תוך הפרה חמורה של חוקים רבים. באופן עקרוני אי אפשר לעשות ניסויים רפואיים במי שאינו מסוגל לתת את הסכמתו, ביניהם זקנים נכים. במקרה כזה חייבת לבוא הסכמה מפורשת וחתומה של משפחת החולה, ואת לאחר אישור ועדה אתית.

מסתבר שתוך כדי הניסויים מתו חולים רבים, אך הרופאים לא דווחו על כך למשרד הבריאות, כפי שדורשות התקנות.

והחמאר מכל-אין מדובר בניסוי אחד, אלא בעשרות רבות, שנמשכו לאורך שנים.

המקרה המזעזע ביותר שהגיע לעיתונות הוא של ניצולת שואה שעברה את ניסויי מנגלה, ואמרה למשפחתה פעמים רבות במפורש שאין היא מרכנה, מסיבות ברורות, להשתתף בניסוי כלשהוא.

מסתבר שהישישה היתה קרבן לניסוי רפואי שבמהלכו נפטרה.

החיבור בין ניסויי מנגלה לניסויים רפואיים של רופאים ישראלים נגד החוק, בהחלט מעורר תלחלה. קשה לחשוב על פשע יותר חמור מזה, מה עוד מידיהם של אנשים שאמורים לעזור, לרפא, לעזור.

הקהילה הרפואית בארץ בסערה גדולה, מחשש ברור שפשעם של מעטים יסכן את שמם הטוב של רבים מאד.

התעללות בזקנים במוסדות רפואיים איננה חדשה או ייחודית לישראל. עובדה-אתנטרי עומדת לחוקק חוק שיחייב מצלמות וידיאו במוסדות גריאטריים, על מנת למנוע התעללות, ללמד שגם בארץ מתוקנת כמו קנדה מהווים זקנים חסרי ישע מטרה לחיות אדם.

היורדים כמשל-עכשיו הסרט

כשאדם מהגר מארץ מולדתו-הוא עוזב אותה, אך היא איננה עוזבת אותו. וכהוכחה-כמה מיכם רואים טלויזיה ישראלית, וכמה מאיתנו לא מפסידים אף משחק של נבחרת ישראל. הבמאי אבי לב הנציח את המצב הזה בסידרו החדש "אבי אבי", בו הוא מספר את סיפורו של הצייד הישראלי אבי זיו אב, ואת סיפורו האוטוביוגרפי.

עם השנים, החזרה לארץ לביקור מלווה בביקורת מתגברת על החיים שם, ועל שהמקום "לא מה שהיה". יש בביקורת הזאת משהו די אבסורדי-אנשים מתגעגעים "לארץ ישראל הישנה והטובה" אבל איכשהו שוכחים שמרוב שהיא היתה כל כך טובה -הם ברחו לעזוב אותה. ובראיונות-שום דבר בחיים איננו נשאר איפה שעזבו אותו. וישראל, אולי יותר מכל מקום אחר, עוברת שינויים מהירים ומהימים.

יש בסרט הזה תמונה של אבי זיו אב עומד במועדון סקס תל אביבי ואינו מאמין שזה יכול לקרות בתל אביב הקטנה שלו. מבט התימהון שעל פניו אומר הכל.

ב 28 באוקטובר יקרן הסרט, שוכה להצלחה גדולה בפסטיבל הסרטים היהודי של טורונטו, ב JCC של דאון טאון.

לאחר הסרט יערך דיון פתוח על מצבו של הישראלי מחץ לגבולות ישראל בהשתתפות מומחים וקהל.

ולקינוח תוצג תערוכת ציוריו של אבי זיו אב, ציורים שיצר במיוחד עבור הסרט, ושהופכים אותו ליצירה מאד ייחודית.

כל היזמה הברוכה הזו היא פרי עבודתה הבלתי נלאית של גליה סרטר, מנהלת המחלקה לפיתוח קהילתי של הקונגרס היהודי.

לדעתי האישית-זה שהקונגרס מוהה את הקהילה הישראלית כפוקוס לפעילות חדשה- חדשה טובה היא. וזה שדמות דינאמית ויצירתית כמו גליה נבחרה להוזיו את האג'נדה הזאת קדימה-כולנו ברי מזל. אבל שישאר בינינו.

First of Stern's Nazi-looted art recovered

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Almost 70 years after a German Jewish art dealer was forced by the Nazis to sell it off at a bargain-basement price, a painting of an exotic young woman has been restored to its rightful owner, the estate of the late Max Stern.

Stern, who died in 1987, owned the Dominion Gallery in Montreal for four decades and became one of Canada's leading art promoters.

Aimee, a Young Egyptian by 19th-century Frenchman Emile C.H. Vernet-Lecomte is the first artwork that has been recovered among the more than 400 pieces Stern is believed to have had to liquidate from his Dusseldorf art gallery between 1935 and 1937.

The portrait of a spangled raven-haired beauty in billowing costume, which sold at auction in New York five years ago for close to $100,000 (US), was returned by Sotheby's, after the London-based auction house discovered through its own research the painting's tainted provenance.

The identity of the consigner and the party that bought the painting, or the nature of the settlement were not revealed, although lawyer Robert Vineberg, an executor of the Stern estate, said there was no financial compensation.

Sotheby's Lucian Simmons said it is obliged to keep confidential everything about the negotiations and would not even say if the purchaser was American or, in fact, an individual. He did say that the party was "very emotional" about the matter.

The painting was unveiled with great flourish at a press conference last Thursday at Concordia University's Faculty of Fine Arts Gallery. Concordia launched an international effort in March 2005, headed by cultural-property specialist Clarence Epstein, to track down and recover all of the artworks Stern was forced to sell.

Max and Iris Stern, who had no children, left the bulk of their assets, including a 5,000-piece art collection, to Concordia, McGill University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

This painting, however, was not among the 10 to 15 located so far in Europe, the United States and Taiwan, mostly at auction houses, galleries and recently in museums.

Willi Korte, the German-American lawyer overseeing the investigation for the Stern estate, said *Aimee* was retrieved without any of the wrangling, often in the courts, that accompanies looted-art claims.

"Sotheby's on its own took all the necessary steps. There was not a great deal of bargaining, discussing or settling. It went very smoothly and very quickly. I hope this will be an example to other claims," he said.

In 2002, Sotheby's, acting on information it received, began to look into the painting's history, long before the Stern restoration project began or Sotheby's had even heard of Stern, said Simmons, senior vice-president of its restitution department in New York.

It found *Aimee* was among the final approximately 250 paintings from the Stern gallery auctioned off in 1937 by the Lempertz house in Cologne. How it ended up in the United States was also not made known.

Confirming that this was in fact the same painting was not easy, Korte added, because it was listed under a different title and was not illustrated in the Lempertz catalogue. Investigators positively identified it by the measurements. They then called Epstein.

Stern probably received only "a few cents on the dollar" of the discount prices the lot went for, Epstein said. Soon after, Stern fled to Britain, from which he was deported as an enemy alien in 1941 to an internment camp in Quebec. After the war, Stern tried to recover the art, but only managed to get back a few works, Epstein said.

Aimee arrived at Concordia coincidentally with the opening of a text and photo exhibition the art faculty and students have created, titled "Auktion 392: Reclaiming the Galerie Stern, Dusseldorf," which traces the history of the gallery, opened in 1913 by Max's father Julius, and its destruction under Nazi propaganda chief Josef Goebbel's plan to eliminate Jews from the art trade.

That is the number assigned by Lempertz to the lot auctioned off in 1937, and the exhibit, which continues until Nov. 13, includes reproductions from the lavishly illustrated catalogue and other historical documents. *Aimee* will be on display for a few weeks at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts by the end of this month, said chief curator Nathalie Bondil. Stern was a benefactor of the museum, she noted, and the museum is committed to the search for ill-gotten artwork. The painting will then tour with "Auktion 392" to elsewhere in North America, Europe and Israel for the next two years.

Epstein noted that Stern's losses represent just a fraction of the 140,000 artworks believed to have been confiscated, sold under duress or gone missing during the Nazi era, and the great majority have never been recovered.

The Stern estate is working closely with the Holocaust claims processing office of the New York State Banking Department. Sherri North Cohen, a lawyer with the office, said the Nazis violated international law by forcing Jews to sell their art. Korte, however, added that there are no simple legal remedies to restore looted art, and outside of North America and the "Anglo-Saxon" world, there is less sympathy for claims. He tries to use a combination of moral, political and finally legal arguments in each case, and it can take years.

The Stern estate is currently in a legal battle in a Rhode Island court for a 19th-century painting by Franz Xavier Winterhalter, owned by an elderly German baroness, Maria-Louise Bissonnette. Her stepfather bought it at the 1937 Lempertz auction. In September, it came to light that she had spirited the painting out of the country to Germany where she wants a court there to decide what should be done.

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Court's ruling expected to have far-reaching consequences

Continued from page 1

– unanimously ruled that Superior Court Justice Israel Mass had been wrong 2½ years earlier when he decided that Marcovitz had entered into a contract and therefore it was civilly enforceable, despite the fact that it obliged him to participate in a religious act. The original Superior Court decision was hailed by advocates for the rights of agunot, women whose husbands withhold a *get* from them when their marriage dissolves.

The Court of Appeal said the federal Divorce Act does not give courts jurisdiction to force anyone to issue a *get*, no matter what the divorcing parties have previously consented to. It also ruled that the 1990 amendment to the act requiring spouses to remove barriers to the other's religious remarriage before a civil divorce is granted was not relevant in this case because of a legal technicality.

Marcovitz and Bruker married in 1969 and were divorced in 1981, when she was 31. She was almost 47 when she received the *get* from him.

Bruker's lawyer Alan Stein said the Supreme Court's ruling will have far-reaching consequences for not only the Jewish community but for all Canadians, because it will affect the validity of any agreement of a religious or moral nature.

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The Canadian Civil Liberties Association is intervening in the case "because we see this as important and potentially precedent-setting on the manner in which religious practices and obligations are treated by the courts," said its counsel, Andrew Lokan of Toronto. The *Lawyers Weekly*, a journal for the legal community, featured the case on its front page earlier this month.

Stein thinks his client is entitled to damages just as a woman who sues for breach of promise after a fiance backs out of a planned religious wedding is. "The courts can't force the man to marry her, but there's still a civil obligation to pay damages."

Although the Supreme Court is not expected to pronounce specifically on the Divorce Act amendment, Stein believes that if the high court agrees with the Quebec appellate court about it, "it's sure someone will attack [the Divorce Act amendment] constitutionality."

Stein said he knows a lawyer awaiting the outcome of the case before he proceeds with one he thinks it will have a bearing on. He is representing a non-Jewish woman who is being refused burial in the cemetery of the Reform congregation where her late Jewish husband is interred. The couple was married at the congregation.

The Quebec court's rejection of the relevance of the Divorce Act amendment had weakened its impact, Stein believes. He calls it a blow to the long struggle to gain some legal protection for Jewish women whose estranged husbands use the *get* for blackmail or revenge.

Bruker, who now lives in New York now, launched a $500,000 lawsuit against Marcovitz in 1989 (it was increased to $1.35 million in 1995 after the *get* was granted). The following year, she filed an affidavit under the just-passed amendment.

Marcovitz's lawyer, Anne-France Goldwater, said the Court of Appeal made a good decision because it reinforces that courts "cannot interfere in matters of faith and conscience." Goldwater had argued that the case was not justiciable and that the Divorce Act amendment was unconstitutional. (No ruling was made on the latter point.)

Court of Appeal justice Allan Hilton wrote: "Although one cannot help but be sympathetic to the plight of a Jewish woman whose former husband delays or denies her a *get*, whether or not he has entered into a prenuptial agreement to do so or (as in the case) in the context of a consent to corollary relief, I have concluded that the substance of the former husband's obligation is religious in nature, irrespective of the form in which the obligation is stated and, accordingly, that an alleged breach of the obligation is not enforceable by the secular courts to obtain damages or specific performance."

He continued that it was not the courts' role to "palliate the discriminatory effect" of non-issuance of the *get* on Jewish women any more than it would be appropriate for the courts to get involved in other disputes within religions, such as women not being able to be clergy or same-sex couples not being allowed to marry in a religious ceremony.

Hilton also wrote that even if the courts did force a man to issue a *get*, it would be regarded as coercion by rabbinical authorities and, therefore, not acceptable because participation in the *get* must be voluntary.

The three judges reached this conclusion despite the fact that three rabbis testified that Marcovitz had freely given his consent to appear before the rabbinical court in signing the agreement. They included Rabbi Mendel Epstein of New York, author of *A Woman's Guide to the Get Process*, who appeared for Marcovitz.

In a summary of the case issued by the Supreme Court, it's noted that shortly after the divorce, Bruker, personally and through various lawyers, called on Marcovitz to comply with the agreement, but he refused to do so on the grounds that Bruker's "behaviour since the divorce constituted harassment and an attempt by her to alienate him from his children."

Goldwater said that if the Supreme Court restores Judge Mass' decision, it will have an impact on all clauses in marriage contracts, and not only those of a religious nature. "Family law lawyers would have to be careful about what we write in agreements. You would never again put in any touchy obligations… because you would expose your client to being sued," she told the *Lawyers Weekly*.

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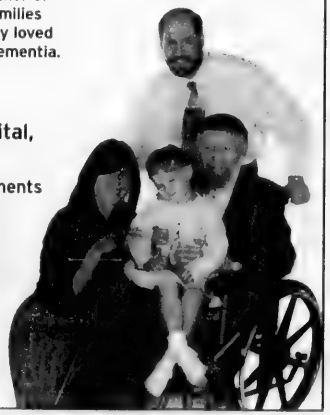

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Free Jewish genetic disease screening launched

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL —For the first time, free screening for three of the most common Ashkenazi Jewish genetic diseases is being made available through the Montreal Children's Hospital (MCH), as part of an effort by the medical and Jewish communities to raise awareness about prevention.

Anyone can be tested, without appointment, on Nov. 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the MCH's Amphitheatre D 182, 2300 Tupper St. It is hoped more such screening and information sessions will be held at different locations, perhaps at community institutions, by the MCH, in collaboration with the Jewish General Hospital and the new Montreal Jewish Hereditary Disease Fund, which raises money for the screenings.

As of last week, the testing is available outside screening days for couples already expecting a child.

With a single blood sample, the test detects carriers of Tay-Sachs, Canavan and Familial Dysautonomia (FD), all incurable. Those with the first two disorders usually die in early childhood; sufferers of FD have a longer average life expectancy through symptom management, but only 65 per cent reach age 30.

The announcement of the initiative was made by Dr. John Mitchell, director of the MCH's genetic screening program at a public panel discussion sponsored by the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and the Montreal Neurological Institute, where it was held.

The MCH is an international pioneer in wide-scale Tay-Sachs screening, primarily in high schools. Since the early 1970s, Mitchell said more than 40,000 Jewish teens have been tested.

The numbers taking the test have dropped off to about 600 a year now, partly due to demographics, but also because of the difficulty today of locating students who do not attend Jewish schools. In addition, not all Jewish schools participate in the program.

In screening for the other two disorders, Quebec, however, is behind Ontario, the United States and Israel where it has become standard practice for doctors to offer these tests to Jewish patients.

The plan is to eventually expand the testing in the schools to include Canavan and FD, he said. As has been the case with Tay-Sachs, the individual student's participation would be voluntary. The Quebec government covers the costs of the Tay-Sachs school screening, and it is hoped that it will also in time support a broader screening program, he said. The goal of the Jewish Hereditary Disease Fund, which was established in July, is to reach all Jewish high school students in Montreal as soon as possible, as well as provide free screening to all persons of childbearing age at risk.

Done privately, these tests cost over $600 per person, and private insurance may cover only a small portion.

The fund plans to reach out to rabbis and doctors to make them more aware of these diseases. The JGH Auxiliary and National Council of Jewish Women are assisting in public education.

The impetus for the creation of the fund was the unexpected appearance of Canavan within a Montreal Jewish family this year.

Recent guidelines issued to doctors by the Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Canada and the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists recommend carrier screening for Canavan and FD, in addition to Tay-Sachs, for Ashkenazi Jews.

Speaker Dr. Annette Feigenbaum, a genetic disease specialist at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, said a Jewish couple has a one in 368 chance of having a child affected by the dozen or so genetic diseases prevalent in the community. The most common is Gaucher disease; one in 10 to 15 Ashkenazim is a carrier, she said. She urged governments to recognize that this is a serious public health issue and to provide adequate resources for ongoing screening programs.

For information on the MCH screening, call Elizabeth Hillyer, 412-4418, or email john.mitchell@muhc.mcgill.ca. To reach the Montreal Jewish Hereditary Disease Fund, phone 904-1642.

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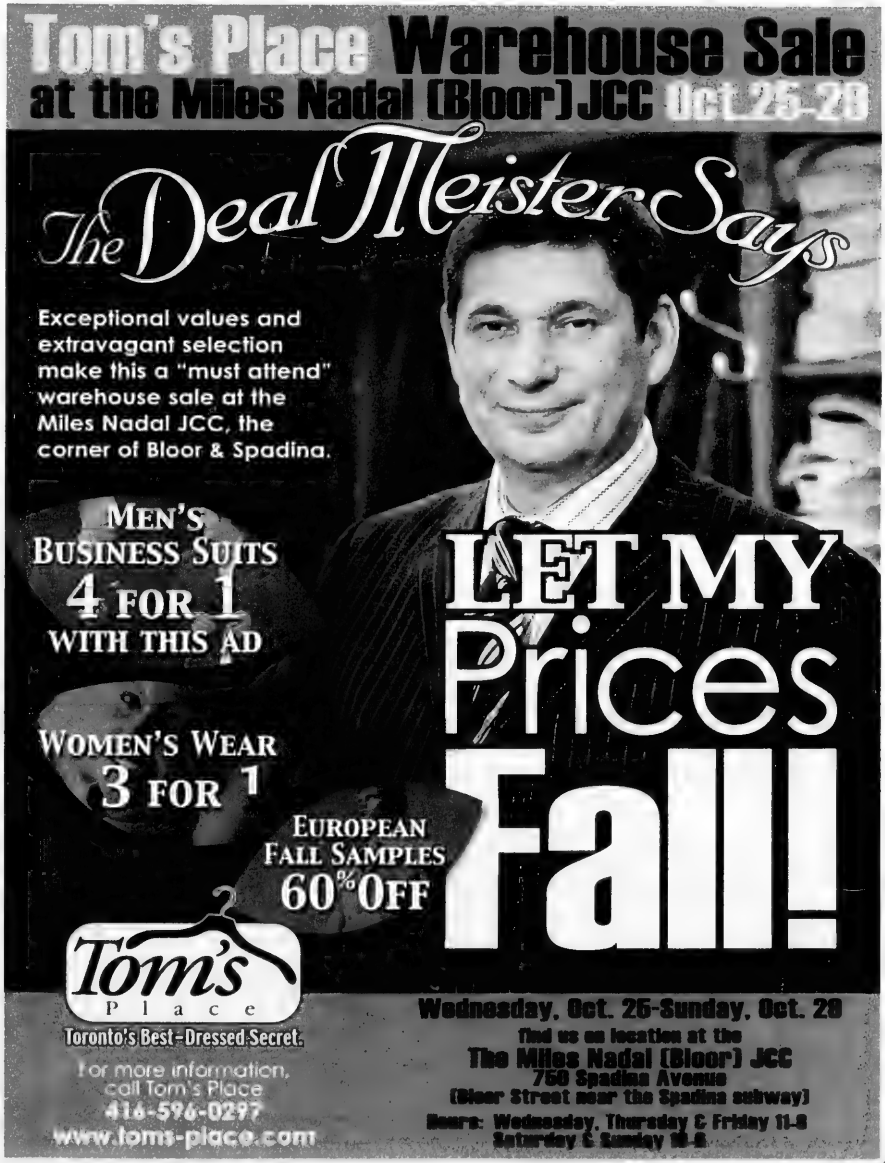

Quebec committee to look into chassidic schools

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Charley Levy, the executive director of the Association of Jewish Day Schools, has been appointed to a Quebec government committee formed to study the "integration and reasonable accommodation" of children from minority groups within the province's school system.

It's expected that one of the issues the consultative body will examine is chassidic schools that are operating without a permit and whose students are not being taught the province's mandatory curriculum.

Levy told *The CJN* that the education ministry has told him of three schools that are allegedly not obeying the law: the secondary schools for boys operated by the Skver and Belzer communities, and the Rabbinical College of Canada's high school, which is under Lubavitch auspices. They have a total of about 400 students, he said.

The Skver school, Toldos Yakov Yosef, in Outremont was firebombed over the Labour Day weekend.

Not only are these schools unlicensed, they are not following the Regime Pedagogique. The Education Act stipulates that all children in Quebec from six to 16 years of age must be in a legal school program and taught the mandatory curriculum. This applies equally to schools receiving government funding or not, and to children who are home-schooled.

At the three schools in question, high school-age boys concentrate on religious studies.

These schools are not affiliated with AJDS, but their boys' elementary sections, which are in the same buildings, and the girls' elementary and high schools, have permits and teach the prescribed curriculum, Levy said.

Levy said he has had no personal discussions with those in charge of the three chassidic schools operating without a permit.

The consultative committee was announced Oct. 11 by Education Minister Jean-Marc Fournier and is scheduled to have its first meeting Oct. 30. Chaired by Bergman Fleury, a consulant in education and intercultural relations, it includes representatives of school associations, the Quebec Human Rights Commission, teachers' unions, and the education and immigration and cultural communities ministries.

Besides Levy, the outside experts named are R'kia Laroui, an education professor at the Université du Québec à Rimouski, and Marie McAndrew, who holds the ethnic relations chair at the Université de Montréal.

Fournier said the main aim of the committee is to come up with guidelines and tools on how to "tactfully" reconcile situations where students' religious and cultural beliefs and practices clash with "the values of Quebec institutions." The committee has been also asked to formulate a clear definition of what constitutes reasonable accommodation of religious and cultural differences.

Fournier also alluded to the government's determination that all children get the education set out in the law.

"It is a question of seeing that all youth receive the education to which they have a right while respecting their convictions, but equally respecting our laws, our democratic institutions and our traditions," he said.

"It's a right for them, an obligation of their parents and a priority for the government," he said in a press release.

The committee is slated to issue its report in June.

Levy said he couldn't comment on the committee's mandate or what he would like to see it accomplish because, "at this point, I don't know enough about it… I can't even begin to comment until I see what is on our plate." He expects to learn more at its first meeting next week.

He believes he was named because of his "sensitivity to the Jewish community" and lengthy experience in education.

Before coming to the AJDS in 2003, Levy worked for the former Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal and then the English Montreal School Board for a total of 37 years, including the last three years as the board's director-general.

Last month, Federation CJA said it supports efforts to "regularize" the status of chassidic schools that may not be complying with the law.

"It goes without saying that all Quebecers are bound by the laws of society. The situation is clearly a delicate one involving the religious sensibilities of a particular segment of the Orthodox Jewish community," federation first vice-president Marc Gold said in a statement.

"We are encouraged that the approach taken by the government is one of dialogue and discussion with the institutions and parents and we look forward to a satisfactory resolution of this issue."

It would appear that the government has been aware of the situation at certain chassidic schools for years and tolerated it until francophone media reports about the schools' legality appeared after the Toldos Yakov Yosef firebombing.

In fact, the situation likely existed long before the creation of the education ministry in 1964. The Rabbinical College, for example, was founded in 1941 by the late Rabbi Leib Kramer.

Alex Werzberger, president of the Coalition of Outremont Chassidic Organizations, called the whole issue a "red herring."

With the exception of the Satmar schools, Werzberger said boys at all the Outremont area chassidic schools are following the provincial curriculum up to age 12 or 13.

After that, there are a couple of years where they are not, he admitted. After 15, the great majority of boys leave Montreal to go to New York, Israel and elsewhere to continue their studies, returning to Montreal when they marry, he said. Only a very small percentage remain in Montreal after 15, he said.

The girls of all ages are following the curriculum "to the letter of the law," except for certain aspects of biology and sex education, Werzberger said.

"There was a deal made [with the government] years and years ago about this," he said.

Werzberger, who is a member of the Satmar community, acknowledged that Satmar schools have not complied fully with the law at any grade level.

"They have refused, and for 35 or 40 years the government knew it, but closed their eyes. Now we have a problem, and I don't know what can be done about it."

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Coast to Coast

Lubavitch fundraiser seeks to make a deal

VANCOUVER — Lubavitch B.C. will combine the art of giving with the art of the deal at its annual fundraiser.

This year's gala evening, to be held Nov. 2, is inspired by the popular TV show *Deal Or No Deal*, hosted by Howie Mandel. Local talent and reasonable Howie facsimile, Howard Blank, will host *Gesheft* or No *Gesheft* (gesheft is Yiddish for business), in which guests can win cash or prizes totalling $50,000, including first class tickets to New York on Cathay Pacific Airways and a luxury condo stay in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

To be held in Vancouver's Rocky Mountaineer Train Station, the event features "silver" tickets for $400, which admit one for dinner and yield one game ticket, and "gold" tickets, which admit two for dinner and yield five game tickets. Tickets are tax receiptable.

Lubavitch B.C.'s founder and director, Rabbi Yitzchak Wineberg, expects that "the unique venue and the exciting event will attract between 350 and 400 guests." He added that "members of both the Jewish and general communities… plan to buy tickets to simply support our work."

Proceeds will support Lubavitch work such as study groups, crisis intervention, adult education, immigration assistance, camps and counselling.

For more information, contact Lubavitch B.C. at 604-266-1313.

ART CLASS: Using marbling and collage techniques, Grade 4 students at Netivot HaTorah Day School created a variety of habitat representations under the direction of art teacher Rochelle Diamond. Pictured, clockwise from top left: Ayelet Reese, Ari Raphael, Esti Margolis, Adi Moran and Elana Joseph. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

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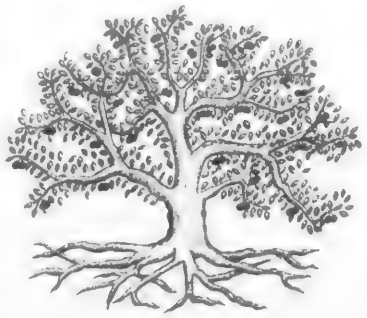

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This class is designed for parents of children newborn to age five. No prior experience or Hebrew knowledge is required.

Join us Tuesday evenings from 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm starting October 31 OR Wednesday mornings from 10:00 am - 11:30 am (childcare provided) starting November 1.

Ikkarim will meet at The Family Resource Centre at the Promenade Mall (Bathurst St. between Clark and Centre streets).

Cost for 19-week course: $250 per person (includes all materials).
Actual cost of the course is subsidized by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Space is limited, so register now by calling **416.635.2883 ext 185** or email: **ikkarim@ujafed.org**

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The Lainer Centre for Jewish Knowledge & Heritage of UJA Federation
Ikkarim is an adult learning program initiated and designed by Hebrew College and the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston

Anti-Israel slanders mar the CBC's *Big Picture*

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Is the CBC trying to recreate the bad old days of *Counterspin*, when discussions about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict devolved into outrageous anti-Israel attacks? That seemed to be the case in a recent episode of *The Big Picture with Avi Lewis* (CBC Newsworld, Oct. 4).

The show featured the Israeli documentary *Hot House*, which was followed by a discussion panel. The film, which explored how Israel's high-security prisons have become incubators of Palestinian political activism, was stimulating and insightful. The discussion that followed was not.

The *Big Picture*'s producers said they were striving for a balanced discussion, and even consulted the Canada-Israel Committee about panel members. But while there was, as usual, a diversity of views on the "pro-Israel" side – though M.J. Rosenberg of the Israel Policy Forum and Arik Bernstein, the producer of *Hot House*, were often critical of Israeli policy and political leaders – there was only the standard monolithically anti-Israel attitude on the other side. Left to make the case for Israel were Moshe Ronen, co-chair of the CIC, and Jonathan Halevi, a former Israeli intelligence officer. On the Palestinian side were Adam Hanieh and Rafeef Ziadeh of the Sumoud Palestinian Political Prisoner Solidarity Group, and Ahmed Hanoud Sholi, described as a former "political" prisoner.

The final panel member was Norman Finkelstein, the author of *Beyond Chutzpah: On the Misuse of Anti-Semitism* and the *Abuse of History*. Finkelstein is a well-known anti-Israel extremist, and his inclusion signalled that instead of the "nuanced" discussion moderator Avi Lewis said he was looking for, viewers were in for a more polarized debate.

Ronen tried make the point that Israel has long sought peace with its neighbours. Israel favours the creation of a Palestinian state, but is now confronted with rejectionist political forces, such as Hamas, that refuse to even recognize Israel's right to exist, Ronen argued.

Somehow this moderate, realistic view seemed to irk Lewis, who repeatedly challenged Ronen. But when Finkelstein alleged that for 30 years, the United States and Israel have refused to accept "a two-state solution as understood by the entire international community," Lewis didn't question him, though his statement was utterly false.

Ziadeh made also the extraordinary allegation that "when Palestinian mothers give birth inside Israeli jails, both their legs and hands are handcuffed to the posts." Once again, this extremely serious and damning indictment of Israel was not challenged by Lewis.

In fact, a 2003 report by Israel-based group Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) on the practice of shackling prisoners during medical treatment found only one incident, dating to 1990, in which a Palestinian prisoner had her hands cuffed while giving birth in an Israeli hospital. As a result of PHR's intervention, "the prisoner's restraints were removed and her mother was allowed to sit by her side in the hospital."

Ziadeh distorted a report of a single case of a prisoner restrained during childbirth and made it appear to be a widely practised form of cruel and inhumane treatment in Israel.

It's no wonder that an exasperated Bernstein said to Lewis: "In many ways the talks that the prisoners have [in the film] are a lot more constructive than the thoughts we're hearing from this audience." Lewis agreed: "Yes, I thought so, too. I saw the movie."

Sadly, the irony was lost on Lewis. While *The Big Picture*'s intentions may have been honourable, its integrity was irrevocably damaged by a biased handling of the discussion portion of the program.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Thursday, Nov. 9th • 4:30-6pm or 7-8:30pm Now accepting applications for JK and grade three.

www.bssonca

Coast to Coast

Vancouver Hillel students serve up PB & J

Vancouver Hillel students, joined by members of the Ismaili Students' Association at the University of British Columbia, made 2,000 sandwiches in a day-long Peanut Butter and Jam-a-thon on Oct. 16. The food was distributed throughout B.C.'s Lower Mainland by homeless shelters and social service agencies. It was Hillel's fourth annual tzedakah event aimed at alleviating hunger. [Photo courtesy of Vancouver Hillel]

The Canadian Jewish news

CONGRATULATIONS

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If you wish, please enclose a photo - we'd be honoured to publish it in an upcoming issue.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Paul Finewax: Happy 96th birthday Dad, on Nov. 7, from Mollie and the family. Wow!

Mazel tov

Andy & Sandi Vajda, and Margaret Goldberg & Dmitri Chamchad are delighted to announce the engagement of their children,

Daniel & Veronika

Mazel Tov and all our love to you both.

Mazel tov to Debbie Wahiche & Michael David on your engagement. From parents Janet & Raphael David, Eva & Marc Wahiche.

Mazel tov to Sarah Isaacs on your bat mitzvah on July 20 in Jerusalem. From your family.

Congratulations Jeremy & Vanessa Blumer on the birth of Madeleine, sister to Ryan. Grandparents, Ron Blumer & Peggy Fleming, Steve & Maureen Stack, great-grandmother Eva Gora.

Asaf, Lori and brother Tyler announce the arrival of Rylee Macy, born Aug. 31. Grandparents, Meir & Liora Ben-Haim and Marvin & Lynne Stein of London, Ont.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos (25 words or less) and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4

JNF
Say it with Trees
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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

CJN DATING
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JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

What's New deadlines: Monday, Oct. 30 is the deadline for the Nov. 9 issue and Monday, Nov. 6 is the deadline for the Nov. 16 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK

This annual event returns to synagogues, churches, schools and community centres throughout the GTA. Choose from more than 100 free programs, films, and compelling speakers. For more info, call 416-631-5689 or visit www.holocausteducationweek.com. Here are a number of events worth catching:

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents the opening program, **Bob Rae** on "Lawyers Without Rights: When the Law Does Not Protect Human Rights," Wed. Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. During Holocaust Education Week, Beth Tzedec will display the travelling exhibit "Lawyers Without Rights," which highlights the fate of Jewish lawyers and the destruction of the legal justice system in Germany after 1933. 416-781-3511

Am Shalom Congregation in Barrie presents the film *Paper Clips* followed by a discussion facilitated by **Marilyn Herbert**, Thurs. Nov. 2, 7 p.m. 767 Huronia Rd. For info contact, 705-792-3949, e-mail amshalomcongregation@bellnet.ca or visit www.amshalom.ca

Beth David Congregation presents **Prof. Arnold Ages** on "Spain: The Expulsion and the Inquisition: The First Holocaust?" Thurs. Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 416-633-5500

Solel Congregation in Mississauga hosts **Myrna Riback** speaking on "Journey In and Out of Time." Discussion to follow. Friday, Nov. 3, 8 p.m. Call 905-820-5915 for directions.

The Beach Synagogue presents a music, poetry and reading featuring **Kent Bowman**, **Steven Michael Berzensky** and **Sharon Singer** to commemorat Kristallnacht, Sat. Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. 109 Kenilworth Ave. 416-694-7942

National Council of Jewish Women hosts "Trauma and Holocaust Survivor Familigs: Overview and Dramatic Enactment of Scenes from the novel *The House on Lippincott*," Sat. Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism and **Runnymede United Church** present *Uprising*, Ballet Espressivo dramatizing the events in Warsaw Ghetto, narrated by **Donna Greenberg**. Sat. Nov. 4, 8 p.m. 432 Runnymede Rd. Free. RSVP 416-385-3910 or info@oraynu.org.

The Winchevsky Centre hosts "Out of the Ashes: A Jewish-First Nations Dialogue on Cultural Renewal after Genocide," a dialogue between **Ben Carniol**, a hidden child during the Holocaust, and **Anne Solomon**, an Anishnawbe-kew of the Bear Clan, on how to rebuild culture through education and the arts. Sun. Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. Free. 416-789-5502

Medina Theatre Ensemble presents a staged reading of *Sun In My Eyes* by **Jack Kuper**, based on the author's life as a child in Poland during the German occupation. Mon. Nov. 6, 8 p.m. at Temple Sinai Congregation. Free. 416-633-2057

Saturday, Oct. 28

PARSHAH DISCUSSION

Helen Cooper will discuss the weekly portions, *Noach*, 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

PATINKIN IN CONCERT

BBYO presents "**Mandy Patinkin** in Concert" at Massey Hall. For tickets call, 416-398-2004.

DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA

Join the BAYT Sisterhood for a women only evening of simchah and salsa dancing. 8:30 p.m. $25, students $10. 905-731-0351.

LASER QUEST LOCK-IN

BBYO presents "Laser Quest Lock-In." Spend the night playing laser tag, singing Karaoke, and watching movies. Drop off 11:30 p.m. Information, 416-398-2004.

Continued on page 35

TORAH In MOTION
Confronting the Challenges of Modernity
5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Renewing Our Spirit
Self, Family, Nation
In memory of Nathan Noteh Krauss z"l
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, 470 Glencairn Avenue

SATURDAY, November 4 • 8:15 - 10:30pm (Registration 7:45pm)

ENGAGEMENT AND DISENGAGEMENT The Future of Religion in the Land of Israel
with Rabbi Chaim Brovender, Dr. Adam Ferziger, Rabbi Pinchas Hayman and Rabbi Francis Nataf. Moderator: Dr. Elliott Malamet

SUNDAY, November 5 • 9:00am - 5:00pm (Registration 8:30am)

■ 9:00am
MINDY RIBNER: The Art of Torah Greatness: How Rav Yitzchok Kirzner z"l Transformed my Life
GIL STUDENT: Blogs - The New Frontier of the Jewish Community

■ 10:00am
RABBI DANIEL FELDMAN: Embarrassing Others in Public: Jewish Ethics and the Protection of Dignity
DR. SAMUEL HEILMAN: Sliding to the Right: The Shift in Contemporary Orthodoxy

■ 11:15am
DR. ADAM FERZIGER: Brother or Other: Orthodoxy and the non-Observant Jew
DR. MARVIN SCHICK: Can Jewish Education Save North American Jewry?

■ 12:20pm Lunch and Mincha

■ 1:15pm PANEL
DR. ADAM FERZIGER, DR. SAMUEL HEILMAN, DR. MARVIN SCHICK and RABBI GIL STUDENT
Moderator: Dr. Elliott Malamet
Orthodoxy Encounters Modernity: A Dialogue on the Issues that Face Us
MALKA ADATTO: The Decline of the Generations: The State of the Debate

■ 3:00pm
RABBI CHAIM BROVENDER: The Bigger Picture: Using Art to Inspire Service of G-d in Religious Education
RABBI PINCHAS HAYMAN: Method Or Madness: The Impact of Education on the Willingness to Think

■ 4:00pm
RABBI DANIEL FELDMAN: Competing Needs. Prioritizing our Charitable Dollars
RABBI FRANCIS NATAF: Religious Censorship in the Information Age
MINDY RIBNER: What is Jewish Meditation? An Experiential Workshop

Thank you Shaarei Shomayim Cong for hosting this program

For info. and to register: www.torahinmotion.org 416.633.5770

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Donna Holbrook and Rose Ziner
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6:30 in the evening
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email: i_david@sympatico.ca

What's New

Continued from page 34

Sunday, Oct. 29

GIANT GARAGE SALE

The Beth David Sisterhood holds a giant garage sale of clothing, books, housewares. 9 a.m.-noon. 55 Yeomans Rd. 416-633-5500

WEIZMANN ANNUAL MTG

Weizmann Science Canada holds its annual meeting where they will launch an alternative energy campaign. 10 a.m. at the Park Hyatt Hotel. 416-733-9220.

HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

Oraynu Congregation presents "Introduction to Humanistic Judaism: What We Believe, How We Celebrate, Impact on our Lives, Secular or Cultural Jew?" 10:15 a.m. at 131 Fenn Ave. RSVP, 416-385-3910 or info@oraynu.org.

SINGLES MIX AND MINGLE

For information on a get-together tonight for singles 50-70, call **Leon** at 905-731-9705.

Monday, Oct. 30

BOOK AND FILM CLUB

Beth Tzedec Library's Contemporary Jewish Book and Film Club hosts **Ruby Newman** reviewing *History of Love* by **Nicole Krauss**. 1:30 p.m. $14, dessert served. Registration call 416-781-3514, ext. 25 or email library@beth-tzedec.org.

RADICAL ISLAM

Joe Hodes, of York University, will discuss "Understanding Radical Islam." 7:30 p.m. at the First Narayever Congregation, 7:30 p.m. 187 Brunswick Ave. www.narayever.com

RABBINIC JEWRY

Rabbi Lazar Gurkow speaks on "The History of Rabbinic Jewry" 7:30 p.m. at Or Shalom, London.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

SAR-EL INFO MEETING

Find out about the Sar-El program, civilian volunteers working on Israeli army supply/maintenance bases. 7:30 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-781-6089 or www.sarelcanada.org.

G-D, ETHICS AND RELIGION

Join Torah in Motion for "G-d, Ethics and Religion," Monday nights, Oct. 30-Dec. 4, for 7:30 pm "Jewish Ethics: Religious or Moral Roots" with **Chaim Klein** at 7:30 p.m. and "Thinking About G-d" with **Rabbi Michael Skobac** at 8:35 p.m. Or Chaim Yeshiva, 159 Almore Ave.

CHUG HATANACH

Shmuel Pupko will lead a study group in a discussion of *The Book of Ruth*, chapter 2. 8 p.m. at Beth David Congregation. All welcome.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

ODYSSEY & HOMECOMING

The Canadian Institute For Mediterranean Studies presents **Dr. Nicholas Maes**, of University of Waterloo and CHAT, on "The Odyssey and the Concept of Homecoming" 5:30-6:30 p.m. St. Michael's College, 100 St. Joseph St. Room 404. Free.

PENNA OPEN HOUSE

Penna Downtown Jewish Day School will hold an open house for parents interested in senior kindergarten to Grade 6, 7:30 p.m. at the Miles Nadal JCC. RSVP to 416-928-3537.

MISSIONARY IMPOSSIBLE

Learn Jewish responses to the claims of Christian missionaries with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**. Five-week course begins tonight, 8 p.m. at the Village Shul. Free, register at 905-761-0040.

HEBREW CRASH COURSE

Beth Emeth Synagogue will run the Hebrew Reading Crash Course, beginner's level starting tonight at 8 p.m. and continuing for 6 weeks. Free, register at 416-633-3838.

Other News

NCJW PROGRAMS

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada invite the public to join them for the following programs, **Ellen Schwartz** discussing her new book *Lessons From Jacob: Coping with Adversity*, Saturday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. and "Working Together To Fight Child Poverty" with **Olivia Chow**, Sunday, Oct. 29, 1 p.m. Admission, $10 per event. 4700 Bathurst St. Information or to RSVP call 416-633-5100.

BOOK REVIEW CLUBS

"Treasures in Jewish Literature Series" continues with **Celine Kessler** reviewing *The Five Books of Moses Lapinsky* by **Karen X. Tulchinsky** at the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage, Tuesday, Oct. 31, 1-3 p.m. and again at the Reena Battle Centre, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 8-10 p.m. $15. For information visit www.jewishtoronto.com/treasures. To register contact 416-635-2883, ext. 111 or jewishpubliclibrary@ujafed.org.

PORTRAITS OF SURVIVAL

One Family Fund and Holy Blossom Temple present the photographic exhibition "Portraits of Survival," photos by **Jason Schwartz, Gillian Laub** and **Ziv Koren**. Nov. 1-31 at Holy Blossom. Free. Join them Tuesday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m. for a reception with guest speakers. $18. RSVP 416-644-4955 or linda@onefamilyfund.org

RENEWING OUR SPIRIT

Torah in Motion presents "Renewing our Spirit: Fifth Annual Conference." Sat. Nov. 4, "Engagement and Disengagement: The Future of Religion in the Land of Israel," a panel discussion, 8:15-10:30 p.m. and Sun. Nov. 5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $50, $40 before Oct. 30, lunch included. Information, 416-633-5770, www.torahinmotion.org.

AGING WELL STARTS NOW

Baycrest Centre presents a one-day forum on "Healthy Aging For Boomers and Beyond." Workshops include discussions on memory and conquering chronic pain. Sunday, Nov. 5 at the Wagman Centre. Registration $80, includes lunch and parking. Call 416-785-2850 or visit www.baycrest.org.

LONDON BAZAAR

London Hadassah-WIZO will hold their annual bazaar on Sunday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the London Jewish Community Centre.

BETH DAVID FASHION SHOW

The Beth David Sisterhood's annual fashion show and boutiques will be held on Sunday Nov. 5. Boutiques open at noon, the show begins at 2 p.m. Tickets at the door $25. Refreshments and prizes with raffle proceeds to gynecological cancer research at Princess Margaret Hospital in memory of **Goldie Risenman**. 416-633-5500.

BROTHERHOOD DINNER

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation's annual Brotherhood dinner and draw will honour **Jerry Genesove** and **Benny Stark**. Tuesday, Nov. 7, 6:30 p.m. For ticket call 416-789-3213.

EATING: FINDING A SOLUTION

National Council host "Eating: Is There a Solution to the Confusion," with **Dr Joe Schwarcz**. Wednesday, Nov. 8, 8 p.m. $15. 4700 Bathurst St. Tickets, 416-633-5100.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Sunday Dance, Oct. 29, 7:15-10:15 p.m.; Casino Rama, Wed, Nov. 8; Bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; Hebrew Conversation, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Jewish Roots of Broadway," lecture with **Jordan Klapman**, Sun. Oct. 29, 2:15 p.m. $2, guests $4.

Rabin Memorial, Monday, Oct. 31, 7 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Current Events, Thurs. Oct. 26, 12:45-2:15 p.m. Room 120. **Abe Levine**, will discuss his experiences fighting in Israel's War of Independence. Member $1, non-member $2.

Winter course registration now on: Ballroom Dance, Mondays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Latin/Ballroom Dance, Mondays 8:15-9:15 p.m.; Beginners Bridge, Tuesdays, 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Intermediate Bridge, Tuesdays, 2:30-4:40 p.m.; Intermediate Mah Jongg, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; Beg. Mah Jongg, Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.; Yoga, Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m.; Computer Classes, new session every month. Call ext. 235.

Exhibition opening and reception for Toronto artist and musician, **Daren Yorsten**, in the Koffler Loggia, Thursday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Free.

The Koffler Chamber Orchestra directed by TSO concertmaster **Jacques Israelievitch** and featuring TSO clarinetist **Joaquin Valdepenas** will play **Handel**'s *Concerto Grosso*, **Mozart**'s *Eine Kleine Nachtmusic*, **Hugo Wolf**'s *Italian Serenade* and **Weber**'s *Clarinet Quintet for String Orchestra*. Tuesday, Nov.14, 8 p.m. at The Leah Posluns Theatre. Tickets $20, seniors and students $18. Call ext. 228.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

"Spotlight Israel," *Avi, Avi*, a documentary film by **Avi Lev** and an art exhibition of paintings from the film, by **Avi Ziv-Av**. Saturday Oct. 28, 8 p.m. Al Green Theatre.

The Toronto Jewish Film Society presents "The *Jazz Singer* Marathon," five versions of the film in one day, Sunday, Oct. 29, 1-10:30 p.m. $8 per film, marathon $25.

"From Tin Pan Alley to Broadway: Great Jewish Composers," 9 lectures beginning Sunday, Oct. 29, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. $50 series, $8/lecture. Call ext. 111 to register.

SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Eva Winick	Oct 5/06	6101 Bathurst St
Gayle Friendly	Oct 6/06	103 Romfield Circuit
Goldie Cohen	Oct 6/06	12 Kereven St
Ronald D. Lyon	Oct 7/06	3 Glenshaw Cres
Sam Gluckstein	Oct 7/06	30 Dolsen Rd
Myra Grean (Greenspoon)	Oct 8/06	866 Sheppard Ave
Selma Adler	Oct 9/06	625 Roeselawn Ave
Janet Drukarsh	Oct 9/06	28 Canyon Ave
Harold Hoffman	Oct 9/06	94 Longford Dr
Freda Lilker	Oct 10/06	11 Markdale Ave
Herbey Rosove	Oct 10/06	4005 Bayview Ave
Livia Singer	Oct 11/06	144 Bannatyne Dr
Berel Mair	Oct 12/06	65 McMorran Cres
Rachel Baher	Oct 14/06	268 Ridley Blvd
Hugo Schwabacher	Oct 14/06	29 Limcombe Dr

HEBREW DASIC BURIAL

Aubrey Heller	Oct 9/06	3560 Bathurst St
Leonard Lipsey	Oct 9/06	1 Maison Parc Crt
Mark Pollock	Oct 10/06	16 Carluke Cres
Sophie Godfrey	Oct 13/06	11 Shallmar Blvd
Ruth Novak	Oct 14/06	601 Clark Ave W

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RIWA MAC ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 29th, 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Jewish Lithuanian Farband Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
CARL H. KELLEN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 29th, 2:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Linitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DIANA RUBIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 29th, 2:00 p.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Sons of Jacob, Section "O"
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BRONIA SHLAGBAUM ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 29th, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
National Order of Hatzofim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ABRAHAM (ABE) BLADY ז"ל
Beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle & friend
will take place
Sunday, October 29th at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst South of Steeles, Lodzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EVELYN LEVENSTEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, November 5th at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Clanton Park Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

Soloway, Pearl - Peacefully at her home on September 27, 2006. Beloved wife of Irving Soloway. Caring daughter of the late Bella and Zelig Schwartz. Loving mother and mother-in-law of Lavi Soloway of New York, Zelig Soloway, Rachelle Soloway and Rick Henderson. Devoted grandmother of Brandon and Ethan. Cherished sister and sister-in-law of Rhea and the late Tom Cohen, Sylvia and Charles Smith, and the late Abraham Schwartz, all of Montreal. Dear niece of Donald Axelrod. Remembered by her nieces, nephew and cousins. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Soldiers of Israel Fund 416-783-3053.

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May we all be comforted among the mourners of Zion

On Campus

Law student helps rape victims

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Instead of taking a year off school to travel the world, as many students tend to do, Sherri Matta decided to spend that time working towards improving the quality of life for Israeli victims of sexual violence.

The 24-year-old Thornhill native, who obtained her criminology and psychology degree at the University of Ottawa, spent the last year living in Israel and working as the resource development intern with the Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel (ARCCI).

She said what attracted her to Israel, and wanting to work in Israel, was her experience on a birthright israel trip two years ago and a trip to Poland with her father six months before that.

Matta said she joined her father, a Holocaust survivor, on a trip to Poland for the 60th anniversary of the liquidation of the Lodtz ghetto.

Sheri Matta hiking in Eilat last December

"I had never had a strong Jewish identity before. The combination of both experiences, birthright and the trip to Poland, I did feel very strongly connected to Judaism and Israel and I wanted to spend time there," said Matta who is currently a first-year law student at the University of Western Ontario.

"My undergraduate degree was in criminology and I have always been particularly interested in victims of crime."

She contacted the Jewish Agency and asked to be placed at an organization in Israel that helped victims of crime.

At the ARCCI, which is an umbrella organization for 10 rape crisis centres in Israel, Matta mainly worked on fundraising, since the association is not government funded, and relies heavily on donations.

"ARCCI tries to change social perspectives by awareness raising activities and legislative reform. They deal a lot with members of Knesset and Knesset committees. They do national campaigns and commercials. They run conferences as well," Matta said.

While the association was developed in 1990, the centres from Eilat to Kiryat Shmona have been around since the 1970s, offering aid and support to the thousands of victims of rape and sexual abuse regardless of gender, age, and religious observance. In fact, eight of the centres are regional and serve women in their respective areas, one is designed to address the needs of Arab women, and another is meant for the haredi community.

Services provided by the centres include a national 24-hour crisis line, support and accompaniment during medical procedures, accompaniment during criminal and legal procedures, and organizing education and prevention campaigns.

According to the ARCCI website, reports of sexual assault in Israel have increased in 2005, particularly in cases concerning minors.

Continued on page 37

On Campus

Centre received more than 33,000 calls in 2005

Continued from page 36

Based on their own data, the ARCCI publishes a report each year that details the number of calls received by the centres. The findings suggest that only 32 per cent of callers to the centres report the crime to police.

In 2005 alone, the centres received more than 33,000 calls, of which almost 9,000 were new reports of sexual assault – an 11.4 per cent increase from 2004.

FAST HONOREES: The University of Haifa will be granting honorary degrees to the president and CEO of BMO Financial Group, Tony Comper, and his wife, Elizabeth, co-founders of the group Fighting Anti-Semitism Together (FAST), at a Nov. 19 tribute dinner at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

Thirty four per cent of the new cases were reported by 13 to 18 year olds, and almost 40 per cent of their attackers were under the age of 25.

To combat the increase of incidents among youths, ARCCI is focusing on creating education and awareness programs aimed at informing teachers, parents and students, and plans on collaborating with the Israeli Ministry of Education to implement two initiatives.

The association will promote legislation that would make a course about the symptoms of sexual abuse mandatory for teachers, and the ARCCI hopes to organize a campaign for secondary schools to raise awareness about the prevalence of sexual violence among youth.

Matta said that some people don't realize how big a problem sexual violence is in Israel, and the psychological effects it can have on a victim.

"Living in Canada, we take for granted a lot of freedoms, a lot of rights. Israel is a first-world country, it is a western nation, we sometimes don't realize how far back they are," she said, adding that more attention is paid to the religious and political conflict, than social issues.

Matta talked about a woman named Efrat Gil, who was a victim of incest and gang rape on a kibbutz throughout her childhood.

Gil reached out for help from the centres for years. When former director Hilla Kerner-Soliman was working with Knesset members to protect women from sexual violence, she asked Gil to write a letter to the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women describing her experience. She did so – two days before she committed suicide.

"Because [her case] was so extreme and because she couldn't get help from the hospitals, and the centres didn't have the right psychological models in place to help her… she committed suicide," Matta said.

But because of her testimony, June 2005 was the first time that the kibbutz movement recognized the problem of sexual violence in kibbutzim by holding a conference in Tel Aviv to discuss the problem.

Despite this progress, Matta said that within religious circles and the diverse communities, some feel like they would rather deal with it within the community, rather than seek outside help.

"People don't know where to get help. Women and men are very reluctant to get help from centres like these. In the orthodox community for example, if the centres aren't approved by the rabbi, then women and men won't go the centre to get help. They might even be attacked if anyone finds out that they went," she said.

"With Arab communities, they may be reluctant to get help from Israel. Even though the association is independent and non-governmental, there is still some animosity towards anything related to Israel."

Despite the difficult task of opening Israelis' eyes to a widespread problem that many are reluctant to talk about, Matta feels like she is making a difference.

"Having the opportunity to work with women to create such significant change is so rewarding. The women are so strong and independent, and I very much thought of them as my role models. Working with them and feeling like I'm a part of something that is having an effect on Israeli society is definitely very rewarding."

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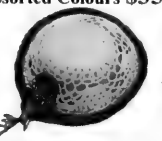
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On Campus

Israeli archeologist to share her findings

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Ayelet Gilboa, co-director of the Tel Dor excavation – one of Israel's most important archeological sites – is coming to Toronto next month to lecture at the University of Toronto about the relevance of the findings over the past 25 years.

Gilboa, a professor at Haifa University who has excavated at Dor since 1980, was invited to Toronto by the Canadian Institute of Mediterranean Studies to lecture students and those interested in archeology.

The lecture titled, "Tel Dor in the Iron Age: Sea People, Phoenicians and Israelites," will be held at Bancroft Hall at U of T on Nov. 13 at 6:30 pm and is free of admission.

Although the excavation at Tel Dor is an Israeli project run by Gilboa and Ilan Sharon of Hebrew University, groups from all over the world have participated in uncovering ancient artifacts that help fill in the blanks about the people who lived in the region hundreds of years ago.

Participating universities include the University of California, Berkeley; University of Washington in Seattle; the University of South Africa; the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, as well as independent American groups.

Ayelet Gilboa

In July, Alex Gropper, the president of the Canadian Institute of Mediterranean Studies at St. Michael's College, led a group of Canadians to Israel to excavate the Tel Dor site.

"Dor is a unique place to try to define the material culture and debate all kinds of cultural phenomena that relate to other Sea Peoples, which many believe were the Philistines' kin," Gilboa said.

She said that the presence of Sea Peoples – a loose confederation of people from the eastern Mediterranean who attempted to invade Egyptian territory around 1200 BCE – in the early Iron Age contradicts what was written in the Bible, that Dor was part of the area conquered by the Israelites, by Joshua.

"According to the Bible, Dor in 10th century BCE, became part of David and Solomon's united monarchy… he divided the kingdom into districts and each of them had a capital. Dor was a capital of the fourth district and the governor there was his son-in-law Ben-Aminadav, spouse of his daughter Tafat," Gilboa said.

"According to the Bible, it was an important place. Apparently it was the main harbour of the Solomonic kingdom."

But, she added the way in which the Israelites conquered the area is one of the most debated issues in history, archeology and biblical interpretation.

"At Dor, there is very clear archeological evidence for an Israelite presence. What we're trying to do is date it because one of the big questions is when actually the Israelites had control of the coast. We are conducting a very expensive and comprehensive dating project by scientific methods, by 14C (carbon 14) dating."

She added that the collaboration with the Weizmann Institute has led to extensive research in the area of sediment analysis and the use of mathematics in archeology.

Gilboa said that it is believed that the Northern Israelite kingdom was annihilated by the Assyrians in late 8th century BCE, but biblical and Assyrian sources only refer to the Galilee, only to parts of Israel, while conquests of the coastal area are never mentioned.

She added that archeological evidence suggests that Dor may have been destroyed earlier in 8th century BCE than originally thought.

"Maybe we have to offer a totally new, totally different interpretation for the end of the Israeli coastal sites. Maybe it was an Aramean conquest, which seems to be a fairly good option, but this is only a possibility that we cannot prove right now. One possible candidate for the bad guy is Hazael King of Aram-Damascus," Gilboa said.

Iron Age Phoenician ceramics

She said that some biblical scholars say that the idea that Judahites – who were deported to Babylon and were eventually allowed to return to the coastal region – returned to an empty land is "a total fiction, a political construct, an imaginative construct destined to serve a very specific political end. Again, this debate of whether it is true that the country was empty in the 6th century or not is ongoing in biblical circles, and has infiltrated into archeology."

Eat, drink and lose weight — really!

BY NORENE GILLETZ
Special to The CJN

I met Dr. Walter C. Willett at a culinary conference a few years ago when he spoke on a panel on healthy eating and nutrition. Willett is the head of Harvard School of Public Health's Department of Nutrition. I was so impressed that I invested in an audio tape of the lecture. His sensible comments and advice have helped shape my thinking – and my waistline!

I own a well-worn copy of his first book, *Eat, Drink and Be Healthy* and have been able to expand my nutritional knowledge and shrink my body size, in spite of all the recipe testing that goes on in my kitchen! Thank you, Dr. Willett!

As you can imagine, I was thrilled to learn about the release of his second book, *Eat, Drink and Weigh Less: A Flexible and Delicious Way to Shrink Your Waist Without Going Hungry!* (Hyperion), co-authored with well-known cookbook author Mollie Katzen. I absolutely love this book and recommend it highly!

Eat, Drink and Weigh Less is based on sound science and represents years of top research conducted by Willett. It blends science, creative thinking and practical applications to empower you to a new "weigh" of thinking.

This is not about what you can't eat, it's about what you can! *Eat, Drink and Weigh Less* is about making simple changes in your daily diet decisions. These small changes add up to big weight loss.

Willett and Katzen have teamed up to present what they refer to as the "Nine Turning Points" and include more than 100 easy, delicious recipes, requiring very little prep time. Recipes include Whole-Grain French Toast, Pistachio-Currant Halvah No-Bake Nuggets, Balsamic Glaze, Amazing Mushroom Gravy and Kasha Varnishkes.

This flexible diet is not a fad diet – it deprives you of absolutely nothing. The concept is simple but the science behind it is not. If you choose foods according to these nine principles, you'll lose your weight for good. These points include:

1. Eat lots of vegetables and fruits.
2. Say yes to good fats.
3. Upgrade your carbohydrates.
4. Choose healthy proteins.
5. Stay hydrated.
6. Drink alcohol in moderation (optional).
7. Take a multi-vitamin every day.
8. Move more.
9. Eat mindfully all day long.

1. Try to eat five to nine servings of fruits and vegetables each day. They are mostly low in calories and can be enjoyed in generous quantities. Unfortunately, potatoes and french fries are not counted in this category!
2. Don't indiscriminately cut fat. Eat less saturated fat and avoid trans fat, but do eat plenty of unsaturated fat. It can improve levels of cholesterol and other fat particles in the blood, strengthen the heart against dangerous erratic heartbeats and fight the gradual clogging of arteries. Remember, fat isn't any more fattening than other calorie sources.
3. All carbs are not created equal. Shift from more refined carbs (such as white bread) and quickly digested starches (such as potatoes and white rice) to whole-grain, high-fibre foods (such as whole wheat bread and grains such as brown rice), beans and other legumes. They'll give you longer-lasting energy and lower your risk of heart disease and diabetes.
4. Eat more protein from vegetable sources, such as beans and nuts – supplemented by fish and poultry – and less red meat and dairy products. You'll consume less saturated fat and cholesterol and more fibre, vitamins, minerals and healthy unsaturated fats.
5. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water and avoid drinking empty calories, especially from sugared beverages.
6. For most adults (but not everyone), a daily glass of wine – or any alcohol in moderation – is actually beneficial to health.
7. Multi-vitamins can't replace healthy eating but are a good, cheap "nutritional insurance" – a way to fill nutrient gaps that can show up from time to time, even in a healthy diet.
8. Getting about 30 minutes of just about any kind of physical activity is an important part of weight control, but it's more than that. Other than not smoking and eating right, it's the best thing you can do to get healthy – or stay healthy – and reduce your risk of chronic disease.
9. Eat a nourishing breakfast, lunch and dinner. If necessary, choose healthy, modest, nutritionally significant snacks between meals to keep your energy even. Eat slowly, savouring and enjoying your food. You'll feel more satisfied and will probably eat less.

The book is packed with interesting sidebars and nutrition notes. Here are just two of many interesting facts in the book:

Skin is in! If you are eating poultry in moderation, you really don't need to skip the skin. Cook it with the skin on to keep the meat moist. You can remove the skin before serving to reduce the amount of calories you're eating, but from a fat standpoint it's okay to eat it because it contains mostly unsaturated fat. Fish skin is okay too.

Cracking the myth: eggs are high in cholesterol but they are also very low in saturated fat and packed with valuable nutrients, including protein polyunsaturated fats, folic acid and other B-vitamins. Research has shown that people eating up to an egg a day are no more likely to have more heart attack or strokes than those who eat less than an egg a week. Enjoy them in moderation – about seven a week. Note: People with diabetes do metabolize cholesterol differently, so for them, limiting intake to two eggs per week makes sense.

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- An Election Official will hand you a ballot and a secrecy folder.
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- Mark the ballot with an "X" in the box like this, [X] with the pen provided.
- Place your marked ballot inside the secrecy folder.
- Go to the voting machine where your ballot will be inserted and safely recorded.

JOHN D. LEACH, City Clerk
First Published: October 18, 2006

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2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOTICE OF ADVANCE VOTING

Who can vote at the Advance Voting?
If you are eligible to vote in the 2006 Municipal Election and expect to be unable to vote on Monday, November 13, 2006 (Voting Day) at your designated location, you are encouraged to vote on one of the Advance Voting days.

Sight Impaired Voters
All Advance Voting locations are accessible to persons who have a physical disability or a mobility impairment. In addition, sight impaired voters will be able to vote on one of the advance voting days at the Civic Centre location only. Transportation will be provided for sight impaired voters who wish to vote on one of the advance voting days. Please contact Larry Glass at 905-832-8504 ext. 8691

When will the Advance Voting be held?

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 and SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2006
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6 to THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2006
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Where will the Advance Voting be held?

WARD 1	**Vaughan Civic Centre** **2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Maple**
WARD 2	**Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre** **8141 Martin Grove Road, Woodbridge**
WARD 3	**Chancellor Community Centre** **350 Ansley Grove Road, Woodbridge**
WARD 4	**Dufferin Clark Library** **1441 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill**
WARD 5	**Garnet A. Williams Community Centre** **501 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill**

Questions?
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JOHN D. LEACH, City Clerk
First Published: October 18, 2006

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Kolel class does more than cook

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A new class offered by Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning will explore how Jewish foods nourish Jewish identity.

Titled "Soul Food: Exploring Judaism Through the Kitchen," it runs Thursday mornings for eight weeks beginning Oct. 26 (another session will run in the spring). Suzanne Kaye, who is leading the class, says that participants will assist in "preparing and tasting a wide variety of traditional Jewish culinary delights while learning how food connects Jews around the world."

But rather than being simply a cooking class, Kaye says, each week will feature a conversation about Judaism and food.

Kaye, whose husband is Zac Kaye, executive director of Hillel of Greater Toronto, says she remembers always talking at the kitchen table as a young girl growing up in England.

"All the women in my life talked while they cooked. They would perform basic cooking tasks by heart, and have great conversations."

She plans to look at different foods each week. "With challah, for example, we'll talk about the blessings, the meaning of the different shapes, and the fact that a lot of women say prayers while baking challah," she says.

"I'll talk about my own favourite challah recipes, such as whole wheat topped with honey, hazelnuts and walnuts. What a combination of flavours it creates in the mouth."

As well as talking about traditional holiday foods – the last class will feature sufganiyot and latkes for Chanukah – Kaye will also focus on lifecycle events.

"When a baby is born, we have chick peas on the table, and when we are in mourning, we are served lentil soup, because that's the soup that Isaac was given by Jacob."

Every family has its own traditions, she says. "My mother always made strudel for Simchat Torah, and I make Jerusalem kugel for every celebration. Every time we have something to celebrate, there is a Jerusalem kugel on the table.

"For every one recipe, there are 10 others, and I'm hoping that people will share their own recipes. Maybe we'll put together a cookbook at the end of the year."

The class, "is a good excuse for me to do what I love. I love to cook, I love to talk, and I love Judaism. I want to share all that. I want people to learn things about Judaism by being together in the kitchen," Kaye says.

She hopes the class will attract a wide variety of people.

"It's for traditional Jews and those who are new to Judaism. No one will walk away without finding out something they didn't know. Even if they come out with one new recipe, they'll have a lot of information about why food is important to us as a people."

The class takes place in a non-meat kitchen at the the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, she says, so all cooked food will be pareve or dairy, but Kaye will supply meat recipes, she says.

"I'm hoping our cooking smells will waft into the BJCC lobby."

For information, visit bjcc.ca, kolel.org, or call 416-636-1880 ext. 255.

Message to *CJN* Snowbirds

If you will be spending all or part of this winter outside of Canada, there are three options available to you regarding delivery of your *Canadian Jewish News*.

1/ Continue regular delivery to your home, and arrange for Canada Post to forward *The CJN* on with your other mail each week.

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Groups hope new UN head makes body fairer to Israel

By BEN HARRIS
JTA

NEW YORK — Jewish officials are greeting the selection of Ban Ki-moon as the next UN secretary general with cautious optimism, hopeful that the South Korean foreign minister will use the office to push for fairer treatment of Israel and more equitable application of international human rights standards.

The Security Council endorsed Ban, 62, by acclamation Monday, Oct. 16, choosing him from a field of seven candidates. The General Assembly confirmed him last Friday afternoon.

"If the selection process is any indicator, then the journey of his tenure might be smoother than what we've seen until now," said Rabbi Levi Shemtov, director of American Friends of Lubavitch and Chabad's chief envoy in Washington, who met with Ban and other UN candidates. "There's something smooth, quiet, yet effective about him, and as we get to know him better, I hope it's going to bring us closer to a better and more peaceful world."

Ban will replace Kofi Annan of Ghana, who has a mixed record on issues of Jewish concern. UN observers say it's difficult to predict whether Ban will fare any better, particularly given his reputation as a moderate who prizes consensus building.

Hillel Neuer, executive director of the Geneva-based UN Watch, says powerful groups like the Non-Aligned Movement – an alliance of developing countries that includes the 56-member Muslim bloc – could obstruct any significant changes Ban seeks to implement.

"It would be naive to expect radical change," Neuer said. "The most important decisions are made by member states which are organized into certain powerful alliances."

If the Non-Aligned Movement "wants to play the spoiler role, the secretary general is limited in what he can accomplish," he said.

Neuer's skepticism echoes criticism aimed at Ban ahead of his selection. Some said he was too weak for the UN's top job, chosen more for his inoffensiveness than his potential to reform an organization still tarnished by the oil-for-food scandal and allegations of sexual misconduct by UN peacekeepers.

As Ban emerged as front runner, UN staff reportedly worried that the career diplomat lacked the mettle to take the organization out from under the cloud of controversy that has marred Annan's second term. Annan will step down as secretary general Dec. 31.

Ban earned a BA in international relations from Seoul National University in 1970, and holds a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Often described as soft-spoken and lacking charisma, Ban rose steadily through the ranks of South Korea's Foreign Ministry, becoming foreign minister in January 2004. His previous postings include New Delhi, Washington, Vienna and New York, and in 2005 he became the first South Korean foreign minister to visit Israel.

"He seems to be a good man and has all the necessary qualifications to be a good secretary general," said Aaron Jacob, associate director of international affairs for the American Jewish Committee, who met with Ban in late September.

At the meeting, Ban was noncommittal in response to AJCommittee concerns about Iran, human rights and reports that UN peacekeepers in southern Lebanon are narrowly interpreting their mandate. Given the Security Council's imminent vote on his nomination, however, that reticence was to be expected, Jacob said.

"He said that he understood our concerns, but understandably did not go into details," Jacob said.

Ban has said he would make reforming the United Nations – a cause close to the hearts of Jewish organizations who say the world body treats Israel unfairly – a top priority. He also has pledged to try to broker a settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The UN charter "was crafted to give the member states ample flexibility in adapting the UN machinery to respond to novel threats in a changing world," Ban told world leaders in September at the opening of the UN General Assembly in New York. "But our tools need sharpening."

Unlike Neuer, who would like the new secretary general to take a bold stance on key issues, many of those who have met Ban believe a more subdued approach – unlike the very public pronouncements that have been a hallmark of Annan's tenure – may be more effective in achieving long-term change.

"Although he doesn't come across as a high-profile champion of causes, he does have a human-rights background and has been able to advance some of those issues behind the scenes," said Shai Franklin, director of international organizations for the World Jewish Congress. "It would be a mistake to dismiss his low-key public style as a lack of interest or resolve on human rights or other issues that we as Jews take very seriously."

"I think he's going to surprise the skeptics," agreed Michael Landau, who heads the Coalition of Orthodox Jewish Organizations of the West Side, a Manhattan-based umbrella group representing 27 groups, and who attended the AJCommittee meeting with Ban. We see Kofi Annan "as being more vocal a leader than Ban Ki-moon, who will speak less and do a lot."

Olmert calls for boycott of Ahmadinejad

Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert appealed to the international community on Monday to ostracize Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, saying the world must not "bury its head in the sand" while he calls for Israel's destruction.

"It is inconceivable that… a member of the United Nations continues to be received throughout the world as a legitimate leader while he stands up and says that another UN member state should be wiped off the map," Olmert told a business conference in Tel Aviv.

"We shall never repeat the mistakes of 60 years ago of burying our heads in the sand, ignoring what was being heard then when it was still possible to save lives," he added, in an allusion to the Nazis who killed six million Jews in Europe.

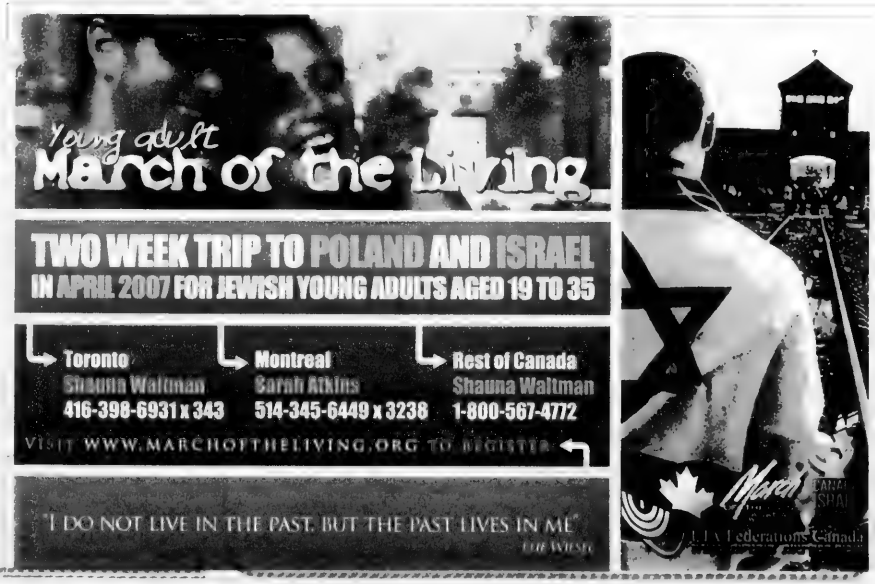
Israel considers Iran to be the greatest threat to its survival, and rejects Tehran's claim that its nuclear program is peaceful. Ahmadinejad has repeatedly called for the Jewish state's destruction, and Iran already has missiles capable of carrying payloads to Israel.

In Israel's sharpest warning yet, Olmert warned last week that Tehran would have "a price to pay" if it does not back down from its atomic ambitions.

Olmert did not specifically threaten to cripple Iran's nuclear program in a military strike, as Israel did 25 years ago in Iraq when it bombed an unfinished nuclear reactor there. But Olmert has been saying that the Iranians "have to be afraid" of the consequences of their intransigence.

Last Friday, at a Tehran rally for Al-Quds Day, held on the last Friday of Ramadan to assert Islamic claims to Jerusalem, Ahmadinejad said Israel no longer had any reason to exist and would soon disappear.

"This regime, thanks to God, has lost the reason for its existence," Ahmadinejad told a crowd of thousands. "Efforts to stabilize this fake [Israeli] regime, by the grace of God, have completely failed… You should believe that this regime is disappearing," he said.



Calls for Gaza re-occupation grow as Israeli patience wears thin

By DAN BARON
JTA

JERUSALEM — Israel's patience with the growing menace of the Gaza Strip appears to be wearing thin.

Government and military officials spoke openly Sunday of the need to move fast to stop Palestinian terrorists from turning the coastal territory into a "second Lebanon" threatening southern Israel.

At the heart of the concerns is the so-called Philadelphi route, Gaza's seven-mile-long southern border, which, since Israel's withdrawal of soldiers and settlers last year, has seen unbridled arms smuggling from neighbouring Egypt.

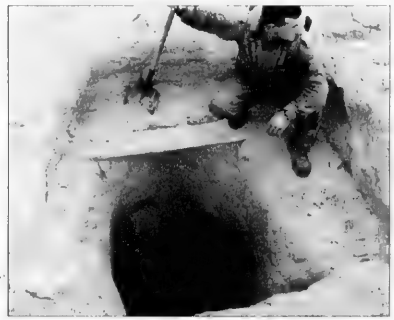
"When we left the Philadelphi route, I said that abandoning it was to open the gates of hell. We might have to find a way to retake it," Industry and Trade Minister Eli Yishai said Sunday before the weekly cabinet meeting.

The call was echoed by at least two other ministers. Already, Israeli forces are carrying out pinpoint missions at the border to uncover and destroy underground tunnels which provide the main conduit for Egyptian contraband.

There is more at stake than the regular rocket barrages by Palestinian terrorists, or the fate of the Israeli soldier, Cpl. Gilad Shalit, who was abducted to Gaza on June 25 in a cross-border raid.

Still recovering from the Lebanon war, Israel wants to stop Hamas and other Palestinian factions from adopting Hezbollah's methods and turning Gaza into a second front against the Jewish state.

"We should prevent Hamas from replicating what happened with Hezbollah in Lebanon. This would have to take place in the coming days or weeks," said Yom-Tov Samia, a retired Israeli army major general who was called up for emergency reserve duty as deputy chief of military forces around Gaza.



IDF units operating along the Philadelphi Route, which separates Egypt from the Gaza Strip, have uncovered at least five weapon smuggling tunnels used to transfer weapons, ammunition and personnel from Egypt into Gaza. [Isranet photo]

He called for Israel to retake Philadelphi and massively expand its buffer zone in order to enable a large-scale tunnel hunt. This would almost certainly entail razing Palestinian homes en masse along the frontier.

"There is no other way to control Philadelphi," Samia told Army Radio. "We must simply go in there, and stay there until peace and quiet reign for 25 straight years."

The question remains whether Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is in a position to order such sweeping moves.

Israelis remember Olmert as the most vocal champion of the Gaza withdrawal, which was masterminded by his predecessor, Ariel Sharon.

But since the Lebanon war, Olmert has made no secret of having to redesign his diplomatic vision. With right-wing parties such as Yisrael Beiteinu widely expected to join the coalition government, the prime minister may have an extra incentive to crack down in Gaza.

Political sources said Olmert would likely convene his security cabinet this week to decide on the option of a major Philadelphi operation. But few expect Olmert to initiate such an operation before his trip next month to the United States, which will include both consultations with U.S President George W. Bush and an appearance at the 75th United Jewish Communities' General Assembly in Los Angeles.

Then again, the timing may be hijacked by the Palestinians.

"The decision to embark on an operation will be made in Israel an hour after a Qassam kills two small children in Sderot," Nahum Barnea wrote in *Yediot Achronot*, referring to an Israeli town just outside Gaza's border.

Peace with Syria 'worth exploring': Peretz

By HILARY LEILA KRIEGER
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Defence Minister Amir Peretz said Sunday that Israel should explore the possibility of making peace with Syria.

"Israel needs to demonstrate its willingness to make painful concessions if our main interests are [to be] maintained," he said, while stressing that Israel has to be "ready for every scenario of military confrontation" with its neighbor along the northeast border.

Peretz noted that Syrian President Bashar Assad has recently made overtures of peace as well as threats of military confrontation in interviews with the international press.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has dismissed Assad's remarks about peace with Israel and recently declared that he would never give back the Golan Heights.

But Peretz said the government should "consider" each of the Baathist leader's positions. More broadly, he said that Israel needs to be engaging moderate Arab leaders, specifically Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas.

"Israel should not withdraw its hand from diplomatic efforts," he said. "A stalemate is not on the agenda."

At the same time, Peretz, who was speaking to the Jewish Agency's board of governors in Jerusalem, stressed the need for the Israel Defence Forces to take stronger action against the Qassam rockets plaguing the parts of Israel that border Gaza.

In the past, Israel would seek out the party responsible for each rocket before reaction, Peretz said. Now "the IDF will act against all the sources of terrorism without distinguishing between the landlords, so to speak," of the attack.

He also pressed the international community to take seriously Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threats against Israel, and chastised those groups that have given him a forum for airing his views, which in the past have included Holocaust denial and calls to wipe Israel off the map.

"It is inconceivable that the free world has become an open platform for a person [who] preaches such hate," he said.

Yet he questioned why there should be any conflict between Iran and Israel, noting the countries don't share a border.

"We don't threaten them. We don't negate their right to exist," he said.

Israel Briefs

Olmert seeks talks

Israel called for peace talks with Lebanon. Addressing the opening of the Knesset's fall session, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel made gains against Hezbollah during this past summer's war in Lebanon. He also voiced hope the Aug. 14 ceasefire could be parlayed into peace talks with Beirut. "I want to take this opportunity to call on Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora to meet me, face to face," Olmert said, adding that he hoped for "direct talks that would bring peace to our peoples." Siniora, who has been at pains to offset the postwar appeal of Hezbollah among many Lebanese, rebuffed Olmert's overture.

Katsav should go, poll says

Two in three Israelis believe embattled President Moshe Katsav should resign, a survey published Oct. 20 in *Yediot Achronot* found. Twenty-four per cent said Katsav, who faces possible prosecution for allegedly raping and sexually harassing several former female coworkers, shouldn't resign, while 10 per cent were undecided. Katsav has denied any wrongdoing.

A female president?

A former Israeli consul-general in New York announced her bid to become the Jewish state's first woman president. Colette Avital, now a senior Labor Party member, said last week she would like to succeed the embattled President Moshe Katsav when he steps down. "We are beginning to put together a campaign staff. In the meantime, I am speaking to Knesset members, because that is the main work," she told Israel Radio. Israel's ceremonial president is chosen by a Knesset vote for a seven-year term. Katsav is scheduled to end his term in 2007, but he's widely expected to resign early, as he is facing possible rape charges. Also touted as candidates are Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, former Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin, and Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who lost to Katsav in 2000.

Militia used cluster bombs

Hezbollah used cluster bombs against Israel during the Lebanon war, a watchdog group found. In an Oct 19 report, Human Rights Watch said the Lebanese militia fired more than 100 rockets with such bombs into northern Israel. Israel itself has been criticized for using similar munitions against suspected Hezbollah hideouts in the 34-day war.

Iran scuppers swap deal

Iran reportedly bribed the top Hamas leader to prevent the release of an Israeli soldier being held in Gaza. Israel and the Palestinian Authority were recently on the verge of sealing a deal for the recovery of Cpl. Gilad Shalit, but an Iranian delegation paid Hamas' leader Khaled Meshal $50 million (US) to scupper it, *Yediot Achronot* reported Oct. 19. Meshal, who lives in Syria, has confirmed ordering the June 25 border raid in which Palestinian gunmen killed two Israeli soldiers and took Shalit to Gaza. Meshal has demanded a sweeping amnesty for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails in exchange for the hostage, but a more limited swap had been agreed upon between Israel and the PA before Meshal scrapped the deal, the paper reported.

Arad missing for 20 years

Israel marked 20 years since air force navigator Ron Arad went missing in action. Schools held commemorative classes and TV and radio stations aired discussions Oct. 16 on Arad, who bailed out of his crippled plane over Lebanon on Oct. 16, 1986. Defence Minister Amir Peretz said Israel would continue its efforts to recover Arad, based on the assumption he is alive. Arad was held by a Lebanese Shiite militia before disappearing.

Google expands in Israel

The leading Internet search engine said it plans to open a research and development centre in Tel Aviv next year. The centre will seek to build partnerships with Israeli universities and institutions, Google said. The firm already has an office in Haifa.

Yuschenko trip a 'hoax'

Ukraine's president won't visit Israel early next month, contrary to reports. A press officer for Viktor Yuschenko told JTA that reports of a state visit to Israel were "a newspaper hoax." Earlier this month, some media reported from Berlin that Yuschenko had announced his upcoming visit to Israel when he and Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres, received a prestigious international award in the German capital. A member of Yuschenko's administration told JTA the visit is likely to take place at a later date, but could not specify when.

Egypt intercepts arms

Egyptian police intercepted a large arms shipment headed for Gaza on Oct. 20. The shipment of some 200 crates of automatic weapons and ammunition raised concerns that Palestinians may be planning to attack a kibbutz on the Gaza border, *Ha'aretz* reported. The weapons were seized on a truck some 60 miles east of the Gaza-Egypt border, the paper reported. Israel also destroyed a weapons-smuggling tunnel inside a home in Gaza on Oct. 20. Israel was searching for tunnels in Gaza last week and had found 13 as of Oct. 20, the army said.

–with files from JTA

Jewish groups oppose French railway lawsuits

By BRETT KLINE
JTA

PARIS — Mayer Grosman thinks back to Feb. 2, 1944, all the time.

French policemen and militia members came to his parents' apartment in Paris with orders to take two Grosman males – Grosman, age 6, and his father.

But Grosman's grandfather, whose name was not on the paper, insisted on going in place of six-year-old Mayer. After jewelry and money exchanged hands, the police and militia agreed.

Grosman's father and grandfather, both Polish-born Jews, were taken on a train of the Société Nationale Des Chemins De Fer Français (SNCF), the French national railway, to the Drancy internment camp north of Paris. From there, another SNCF train took them to Auschwitz, where they were gassed.

Grosman's mother took him and his sister and hit the road, hiding in French homes and churches. They survived the war.

Grosman, along with other deportees' families, received a settlement worth about $24,000 from the French government in 2000. But when Alain Lipietz, a French deputy in the European Parliament, whose father and uncle were rounded up and sent to a holding area during the war, won a cash indemnity worth about $77,000 from the SNCF – the railway is appealing the case – Grosman decided he'd sue as well.

"I've never forgotten and never forgiven," said Grosman, 68. "I want recognition, and if my children and grandchildren can receive financial compensation, all the better."

More than 1,000 people, both Jews and non-Jews, have filed similar claim letters since the Lipietz case in Toulouse last summer. Under French law, the SNCF must respond to each letter individually within two months, or legal proceedings begin automatically.

Jewish community leaders in France have come out against claims on the SNCF. They argue that of all the state-run institutions active during World War II – including banks, insurance companies, the education system and many others run by high-level civil servants in prestigious posts – SNCF officials have made the greatest effort to be transparent and truthful in explaining their wartime activities to the French public.

"I understand the families," said Roger Cukierman, head of the CRIF, the umbrella organization of French Jewish groups. "I can feel their pain, but the SNCF has really made an effort to put together exhibits in train stations and other educational tools. If people take the SNCF to court, they could begin doing the same with other state-run groups such as the police, and then why not private companies? I understand the claims, but is this the right path to take?"

CRIF officials and community leaders – such as Serge Klarsfeld, the well-known Nazi-hunter, lawyer and head of the Sons and Daughters of Jewish Deportees from France – have criticized the lawsuits, but the CRIF has taken no official position.

The story gets more complicated. Klarsfeld's son, Arno, was highly praised in 1998 for representing plaintiffs in the trial against Maurice Papon, a Vichy police boss who directed deportations from Bordeaux and went on to a decorated civil service career.

Arno Klarsfeld now represents the SNCF in New York, where deportees' families filed a class action suit against the French railway. He also works closely with Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy on providing legal papers to certain illegal immigrants in France, leading some to charge that his SNCF work is politically motivated.

Neither Serge nor Arno Klarsfeld returned phone calls for this article.

Historians consider the Holocaust the industrialization of mass murder on an unprecedented scale. In France, that industrialization is represented by the SNCF's efficiency in deporting mostly Jews, but also Resistance fighters and even railway workers who joined the Resistance.

"Right after the war, [French president Charles] de Gaulle did a brilliant thing," said Corinne Hershkovitch, a lawyer representing some 500 families who have launched claims against the SNCF. "All the major institutions, the banks, insurance companies, construction companies and so on, were issued a presidential pardon for collaborating with the Nazi regime, in the interest of French national unity. He managed to convince the French people that France had won the war."

Among the groups receiving the pardon, which was political and not judicial, was the SNCF. But now the railway has a dilemma on its hands: there are no class action suits in France, so each of those 1,000 letters could lead to a hearing or trial.

An SNCF official said the letters were being answered individually and not with a form response.

However, SNCF General Director Guillaume Pepy told a Paris TV station earlier this year that "the SNCF board has decided to reject the requests by plaintiffs for cash indemnities to be paid by the railway. The SNCF was requisitioned and was acting under constraints from the Nazi regime. We think it would be unfair and a historical error to find the SNCF guilty for the deportations."

Hershkovitch disagrees.

"This is the continuation of the Papon trial. Papon was the first individual to take the stand, and the SNCF may be the first company," she said.

The SNCF officially opened its wartime archives in 1992. The Bachelier Report, commissioned by the SNCF and written by a private French institute, was issued in 1996 and made available to the public in 1998, revealing some ugly details.

For example, the report noted that the Nazis asked for big barrels of water to be placed in each train car so people could quench their thirst on the trip to Auschwitz.

"French SNCF officials at the time refused to do so," Hershkovitch said. "They said putting barrels of water in each car could easily delay the trains and upset the schedule. They said that their job was to keep the trains rolling on time."

Another lawyer handling more than 400 claims, Avi Bitton, said it was normal to ask for financial reparations, "even though the French quickly link the money with the claimants being mostly Jews, and that is negative.

"The SNCF role was about money from the very beginning," Bitton said. "According to the Bachelier Report, the French railway billed the Vichy government for every person who was deported. And they billed Vichy for the use of third-class cars, but put the deportees in cattle wagons."

"The high-level officials at the SNCF knew exactly what they were doing," said William Wajnryb, who also is suing the railway. "The French police arrested my father on May 8, 1941. The SNCF took him to the Pithiviers camp in France and then to Auschwitz, where he was gassed 48 hours later. They made money by deporting my father."

Wajnryb saw the Lipietz case on TV, and found his lawyer on an American website.

The Lipietz case "opened a breach, and I jumped in," he said.

Wajnryb said he had asked for about $220,000, but is sure it will be refused. He figures that an out-of-court settlement is probably the best solution for everyone, because trials and appeals could take years.

"I never knew my father," Wajnryb said. "I never did anything for him. By making a claim like this, I feel like I'm walking hand in hand with him. I'm bringing him back from the dead across the time barrier. This is how I feel."

FACE TO FACE: **Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin held a joint news conference at the Kremlin on Oct. 18. Olmert said he raised concerns about Iran's nuclear program in talks with Putin. [Reuters photo]**

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A recovery of a faraway place

***Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the Eighteenth Century* by Gershon David Hundert, University of California Press.**

By NORMAN RAVVIN

Scholarly writing rarely makes its way into the hands of the common reader. In Canada, figures like Jane Jacobs, Marshall McLuhan and Mark Kingwell have bridged the gap between academic discussion and the popular imagination. The unlikeliness of this sort of double life for a demanding writer's work is nicely sent up in Woody Allen's *Annie Hall*, when, in a movie lineup, Allen can no longer bear a neighbour's pontification about McLuhan and presents the philosopher of media himself to offer a down-to-earth rendering of big ideas.

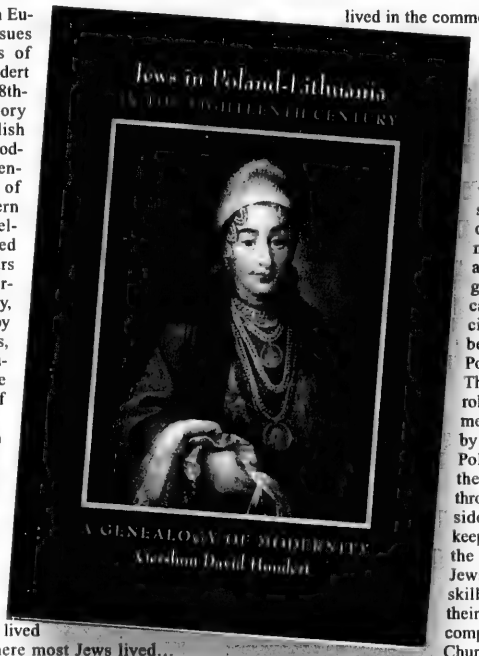
Norman Ravvin

Books & Authors

Gershon Hundert's *Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the Eighteenth Century* is the real thing in scholarly terms – its arguments ride on a career's worth of exploration of other historians' work, as well as on careful gleanings from Polish archives and little-known Hebrew and Yiddish documents. But, like the Allen gag, Hundert's book aims to disarm both the specialist who would aim scholarly work above the head of the average reader, and that reader herself, who might fear her interest and curiosity will not be enough to allow her an entree into scholarly research.

Eighteenth-century Poland offers a tableau against which to explore the rise of Chassidism, the popularization of Kabbalah, the role of Jewish communal leadership, and the impact of the Catholic Church on European anti-Semitism. These issues continue to define discussions of modern Jewish identity, yet, Hundert argues, the formative events of 18th-century Polish and Jewish history remain understudied. Since Polish Jews were not influential in the modernizing Enlightenment movements of central and western Europe, their communal and intellectual life has not been explored with care by mainstream scholars and writers. This quirk in our perception of European Jewish history, Hundert argues, is made stranger by the fact that "the majority of Jews, living in the largest Jewish community" have been relegated to the margins of historians' study of modern identity and faith.

Hundert's book aims to overturn accepted ways of thinking about Jewish history in Europe: "I believe that there are grave distortions in the way scholars have described modernity in Jewish history. Historians have placed too much emphasis on... religious behaviour and belief as indicators of change; too much emphasis on regions where few Jews lived and not enough on the areas where most Jews lived... Because the ancestors of about 80 per cent of world Jewry lived in the commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania in the 18th century, it is they who must be placed at the centre of any understanding of the Jewish experience."



What comes into view, as Hundert shifts the focus of our attention, are a number of unique and precarious entanglements – one could call them dependencies – that existed between Jews and Poles in the 1700s. These include the key roles played by Jews as merchants; the control by Jews of much of Poland's liquor trade; the presence of Jews throughout the countryside as tavern and inn keepers; the reliance, by the Polish gentry, on Jews for management skills and investment in their ancestral lands; the competition between the Church – by far the most anti-Jewish institution of the period – and the Polish nobility for influence over the Polish Parliament's edicts regarding Jewish civil rights.

With an understanding of these formative relationships, based in economics, religious institutions, constitutional change and political allegiances, we can better appreciate Polish-Jewish entanglements as they took shape as recently as the outbreak of World War II.

Hundert also explores how 18th-century Polish Jewry expressed a "positive sense of Jewish identity, the central ingredient of the eastern European Jewish mentalité," by drawing on what he calls "the palette of Jewish culture." This phrase, which recurs in various chapters, is suggestive of such phenomena as Chassidism, Kabbalah, and the organization of Jewish communal life under the leadership of semi-autonomous *kahals*, all of which can be seen as expressions of Jewish independence and creativity and as subtle forms of resistance to mainstream European trends in favour of assimilation and integration.

Hundert's chapters on *The Popularization of Kabbalah* and *The Contexts of Hasidism* offer a short and easily digestible view of material he has explored in greater detail elsewhere. But the average reader will come away from these essays with a far clearer sense of how Chassidism developed, in what ways it is and is not a break from traditional Polish Jewish expressions of faith, and in what way it is responsible for making Kabbalah a "part of the grammar of Jewish culture." (Inadvertently – though this is not a part of Hundert's argument – he helps us understand more recent, much stranger and superficial popularizations of kabbalistic ideas and practice). These subjects remain, in ways, marginal and underground areas of study, but Hundert makes a clear argument for their centrality.

Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the Eighteenth Century is social history at its most satisfying. In its depth of knowledge and reference and its easygoing style, Hundert merges the confidence of scholarly argument with the storyteller's consideration for his audience.

Norman Ravvin chairs the Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies. His books include A House of Words: Jewish Writing, Identity and Memory *and* Hidden Canada: An Intimate Travelogue.

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Arts & Travel

A novel approach to classic kids' tunes

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

When a group of veteran musicians get together the last thing on their minds is probably children. But for Hamilton resident Candace Alper, music and kids go hand in hand.

Alper runs Name Your Tune, a company that creates CDs loaded with personalized kids' songs. More than 1,600 names can be inserted into classic tracks including *Old MacDonald*, *Wheels On The Bus* and *Head and Shoulders*.

"As a parent I wanted to make something different, that people can interact with," she says on the phone from her home. "Most of the other CDs like this are original songs and American."

Instead of crafting originals, Alper "went with the classics." She chose 14 familiar tracks so parents and grandparents could sing along, and, she says, these are songs kids are learning in school.

Alper started Name Your Tune in 2003 after she gave birth to her first child, Hannah. She was working retail at the time, but hoped she'd land a job as a high school teacher. The job never came, though, because Alper decided working from home would suit her and her daughter best. She came up with the idea of making a customized kids' CD after singing songs to her daughter and inserting her name into the lyrics. She knew right away she had a good idea.

Candace Alper and her daughter Hannah

But turning her brainstorm into an actual product was a monumental task. She had to find willing musicians, money to rent a recording studio, and the patience to record hundreds of different names. Luckily, Alper has a lot of musical friends. Her husband is a publicist for Koch records, an international record label, so she had a stable of musicians she could approach.

"The first thing I did was talk to friends of ours that are performers. They all jumped at the opportunity. For the most part this was something they had never done before."

Alper settled on Paul Humphrey, former singer in popular Toronto new wave band Blue Peter, Barbara Vermeulen, a trained opera singer, and Lenny Graf, the only professional kids' musician of the bunch. "Lenny thought it would be a riot. It really takes a certain kind of person to be a kids' performer and they all had a really good time doing it."

Alper and her trio of musicians started recording in 2003, with a list of about 700 names. She culled the list from websites of popular baby names and now she takes requests. "There are a lot of interesting names that have multiple pronunciations," she says, adding that she records every variation of a name. "Rowan can be pronounced different ways, and people are making up names too. You put together Bradley and Logan and you have Brogan."

Adding each name into a song isn't a matter of cutting and pasting. The band has to sing and re-sing most of each track so the name fits properly. "It's a little like getting the caramel into the Caramilk Bar," she says. "They don't just sing the name and try and work it in. They sing enough of the song to make it work. It's incredibly time consuming."

Fortunately, all the hours in the studio are paying off. Alper just opened a Vancouver office in order to facilitate her orders out west and she says she's "selling a lot." While most of her customers are your average parents and gift buyers, she does have a few unusual clients.

"(Actors) Erik McCormack, Debra Messing, (CNN anchorman) Soledad O'Brien," says Alper rattling off her celebrity clientele. This former JCC camp counselor makes it a point to send her CDs to celebs who've recently given birth. Thanks to CNN anchor O'Brien, one record made its way to Brad Pitt.

"A few weeks after I sent a CD to Soledad, she ordered a dozen more for her friends. She said she was interviewing Brad Pitt and if I could Fedex her a copy. She emailed me after, from her BlackBerry and said she put a CD into his hands."

Matt Damon, Adam Sandler, and Lauralee Bell, who plays Cricket on *Young and the Restless*, all have copies too. "Lauralee wrote back a lovely email. She said my son, who's not much of a dancer has been rocking out for two days to this."

With her CDs selling well, Alper's offering other kid related products on her website, www.nameyourtune.com, such as customized baby blankets, personalized jewelry and other kids' albums of original tunes. But her baby is definitely the Name Your Tune CDs.

"The impact of music for children is undeniable," she says. "When children hear their name in a song it captures both their attention and their imagination since each song is all about them. Each song was chosen for what it can bring to a child - interaction, activity, learning, relaxing - they are all qualities that are important to me."

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Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

BOMB IN THE BASEMENT AUTHOR MICHAEL KARPIN OPENS JEWISH BOOK FAIR

Michael Karpin, Israeli author of *The Bomb in the Basement: How Israel Went Nuclear and What That Means for The World* opens the 30th annual Jewish Book Fair in the Leah Posluns Theatre on Saturday, Nov. 4, 8 p.m. Tickets to his talk, sponsored by Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, are $10.

The book, published by Simon and Schuster, is a timely examination of Israel's nuclear capabilities and why they have never set off the world's alarm bells as have those of Iran and North Korea.

Unlike those rogue nations, Israel never signed the nuclear non-proliferation agreement and has always maintained a policy of ambiguity about its nuclear program, Karpin notes. Also, Israel has never heated up regional relations by making idle boasts and references to its nuclear option, which it views not as an offensive tool but as a last-resort deterrent against annihilation.

Authors featured at the book fair (Nov. 4 to 12) are **Rafi Aaron**, **Howard Akler**, **Anne-Marie Baila Asner**, **Bonnie Burstow**, **Bernice Eisenstein**, **Norene Gilletz**, **Bill Gladstone**, **Gershom Gorenberg**, **David Pryce-Jones**, **Kathy Kacer**, **Elliott R. Katz**, **Kati Marton**, **Lorne Miller**, **Ruth Panofsky**, **Sarah Chana Radcliffe**, **Marla Shapiro**, **Simcha Simchovitch**, **Harold Troper** and **Gil Troy**.

Also, **Eugene Orenstein** speaks in Yiddish and English about **Sholem Aleichem** – whose legacy, along with that of **I. L. Peretz**, is celebrated in a separate event by **Nathan Garnick**, **Jeannette Stein**, **Faye Zeidman** and **Paul Mathew**.

For tickets and information, please phone 416-636-1880 ext. 368.

* * *

Names in the News: American author **Jonathan Safran Foer**, who was in Toronto last week for the International Festival of Authors, has just won a People's Choice award after his 2004 novel, *Everything Is Illuminated*, was named the decade's best work of Jewish fiction. More than 1,500 people voted online in making the choice. Runners-up included *The Plot Against America* by **Philip Roth**, *The Puttermesser Papers* by **Cynthia Ozick**, *Ravelstein* by **Saul Bellow**, *In the Image* by **Dara Horn** and *The Wedding Jester* by **Steven Stern**.

* * *

Mandy Patinkin

Music Notes

• Pianist **Ron Davis** and band perform a Sayonara Concert as part of the jazz series at the Nadal JCC. Al Green Theatre. $20. Thursday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 0, or harrietw@mnjcc.org

• **Mandy Patinkin** sings at Massey Hall accompanied by pianist Paul Ford, Oct. 28, 8 p.m. $79.50-$59.50. www.ticketmaster.ca or 416 872-4255

• Musician **Jordan Klapman** presents a series of nine entertaining lectures on great Jewish writers, lyricists and composers of the 20th century. Select Sundays, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29: "Tin Pan Alley's Origins." $8 per lecture at the door or $50 for full series. 416-924-6211, ext. 111.

• *Bowfire*, a show that calls itself "the total string experience," takes audiences on a journey through jazz, classical, bluegrass, celtic, rock, gypsy, Texas swing and Cape Breton styles of fiddle playing. Under director **Lenny Solomon**, the show has been touring the United States for almost four years. It comes to Hamilton Place, Nov. 3, 8 p.m. $51.50-$36.50. 905-527-7666, www.ticketmaster.ca

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Encore Entertainment presents *Sylvia* by **A. R. Gurney**, a play set in Manhattan involving a middle-aged couple whose lives are revitalized by the lovely and street-smart Sylvia – a dog. $26.50-$25. Toronto Centre for the Arts, Oct. 26 to Nov. 5. 416-733-0558, www.encoreshows.com

• *Uprising*, a ballet dramatizing events of the Warsaw Ghetto presented by Ballet Espressivo and choreographer-narrator **Donna Greenberg**, focuses on the story of **Mordecai Anielewicz**, leader of the Jewish resistance. Runnymede United Church, 432 Runnymede Rd. Saturday, Nov. 4, 8 p.m. Presented by Oraynu as part of Holocaust Education Week. Free. 416-385-3910

• Jewish Karaoke and Dance Night with **Jennifer Barkely**. $7. Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Oct. 20, 8 p.m. 416-789-5502

• The exhibit "Lawyers Without Rights: What Happened To The German Jewish Lawyers After 1933" recalls the fate of Jewish judges, prosecuting attorneys and lawyers under the Nazi regime. It opens with Liberal leadership candidate **Bob Rae** as keynote speaker; sponsored by Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center to launch Holocaust Education Week at Beth Tzedec Synagogue. Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

At the Galleries: Thornhill Visual Artists fall studio tour and sale takes place Nov. 3, 4 and 5 at various locations in Thornhill. Participating artists are **Annette Blady**, **Jeremy Bortz**, **Susan M. Cohen**, **Ruth Devor**, **Ita Pechenick**, **Iska Preter**, **Rosalie Seidelman**, **Esther Silver**, **Sveta Shvedenkova** and **Lezlie Winemaker**. www.thornhillva.com

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2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOTICE OF ELECTION

When Is The Election?
Voting Day is Monday, November 13, 2006. Polls will be open from 10:00 a.m to 8:00 p.m

How Many Candidates/Offices Can You Elect? You may vote for

Members of Council
One (1) candidate for Mayor
Three (3) candidates for Local and Regional Councillors
One (1) candidate for Ward Councillor

In addition, if you qualify, you may vote for:

York Region District School Board
Area 1 - One (1) Member to be elected by electors in Wards 1, 2 and 3
Area 2 - One (1) Member to be elected by electors in Wards 4 and 5

York Catholic District School Board
Area 1 - One (1) Member to be elected by electors in Ward 1
Area 2 - One (1) Member to be elected by electors in Ward 2
Area 3 - One (1) Member to be elected by electors in Ward 3
Area 4 - One (1) Member to be elected by electors in Wards 4 and 5

Le Conseil Scolaire de District du Centre-Sud-Ouest
One (1) Member

Le Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud
One (1) Member - ACCLAIMED

Who Can Vote?
A person can vote in the municipal election if he or she is a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old, resides in the City of Vaughan or is the owner or tenant of land in Vaughan, or is the spouse of such person and is not prohibited from voting by law. Note: Corporations or Limited companies are not eligible to vote

Where Do You Vote?
A notice will be sent to each voter appearing on the Voters' List advising of the location of your polling station. This notice will also contain information such as your ward, poll number, school support and residency status. Please watch for your notice during the month of October and, if any of the information listed is incorrect, or, if you do not receive your notice, contact our office

Advance Voting Dates And Times
You will be able to vote at one of the Advance Voting days to be held on November 4 and 5, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m and on November 6, 7, 8 and 9, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Watch for notices in the local papers regarding Advance Voting locations

Questions?
For further information, please contact the Clerk's Office at 905-832-8504

JOHN D. LEACH, City Clerk
First Published: October 18, 2006

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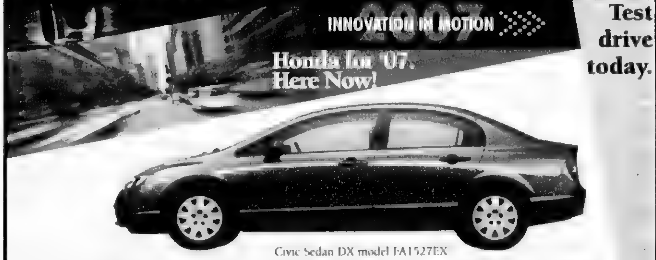

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Arts & Travel

College Street's immigrant/Jewish past celebrated in a book of essays and photos

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

College Street is to Toronto what St. Lawrence Street is to Montreal – a vital thoroughfare that reflects the ethnic and cultural diversity of an ever changing, pulsating city.

A newly published book, *College Street – Little Italy Toronto's Renaissance Strip* (Mansfield Press), edited by Denis De Klerck and Corrado Paina, explores this colourful artery through the medium of thoughtful essays and nostalgic photographs.

One chapter, *The Jewish Experience*, charts the important historic Jewish presence on College Street.

It is written by Richard Menkis, a professor of modern Jewish history at the University of British Columbia, and Harold Troper, a University of Toronto historian and the co-author of that Canadian classic, *None Is Too Many: Canada and the Jews of Europe 1933-1945*.

Until about World War I, as they point out in their lucid essay, the vast majority of Jews in Toronto lived in the densely populated St. John's ward, bordered on the east by Yonge Street, on the west by University Avenue, on the south by Queen Street and on the north by College Street.

The area north of College was a bastion of Anglo-Protestant institutions that, they say, "might just as well been a million miles away" from the neighbourhoods familiar to Jews.

Louis Rasminsky

But after 1918, there was a shift and College Street and environs replaced St. John's Ward as the heartland of Toronto's Jewish community.

By that point, Jews were the largest non-Christian minority in Toronto, and they retained this status until the end of World War II.

Pulsing with activity, College Street, rolling westward from Spadina Avenue and including such streets as Major, Markham, Euclid and Palmerston, morphed into the centre of Jewish Toronto.

Among its residents were J.B. Salsberg, the trade unionist, politician and raconteur; Sammy Luftspring, the professional boxer and winner of the Canadian welterweight title in 1938; Nathan Phillips, the alderman who would be Toronto's first Jewish mayor; and Louis Rasminsky, the Harbord Collegiate graduate who, in 1961, became the first Jewish governor of the Bank of Canada.

Holocaust survivors gravitated to the College Street hub, but as the 1940s and 1950s wore on, Jews moved northward to Davenport, St. Clair West and beyond.

Jewish institutions and synagogues, and Jewish-owned shops, cafes and restaurants joined the exodus.

College Street is all but bereft of Jews today. Italian, Portuguese, Chinese and Vietnamese immigrants have taken their place and made their respective contributions to what is arguably Canada's most cosmopolitan metropolis.

Yet, as the authors observe, a new generation of Jews – young, upwardly mobile professionals – is returning.

"Perhaps College Street may not only have a Jewish past," they write. "Maybe it has a Jewish future as well. And perhaps, then, it may yet be too soon to say *kaddish* for the Jewish presence on College."

Exactly.

Fan learns about being Jewish from Streisand

By KRYSTYNA LAGOWSKI
Special to The CJN

When Barbra Streisand rose up through the stage at Toronto's Air Canada Centre last week, an uncontainable surge of raw happiness bubbled up inside of me and I squealed, "Bar-bra." And so did 19,000 Streisand fans who just happened to be there with me.

To most of her fans, Streisand is a musical phenomenon with a golden throat, whose magnetic presence lights up every inch of film she inhabits. That she is also one of the most visible, in-your-face Jews in the entertainment business, is secondary.

But to me, Barbra Streisand is my rabbi.

When I was 12 years old, my mother took me to see the movie *Funny Girl*, in which Streisand portrayed Jewish comedic songstress Fanny Brice. Completely taken by Streisand's charms, I strolled my high school halls sporting winged black eyeliner and long tapered fingernails, and spoke with my best Brooklyn accent.

This was in the 1970s, in Oakville. At home, I would answer the phone with "Hello, gorgeous." My speech was peppered with Yiddishisms like meshugene.

I didn't know just how much I really had in common with Streisand. I didn't know I was actually Jewish.

Our family was Polish Catholic, my parents having emigrated from Poland after World War II. My first brush with anti-Semitism came when Ted Lewiecki, a Polish Catholic family friend, was having Christmas dinner with us. "She is just like all those ugly Jewish girls I went to school with," he sneered.

Then I put Streisand's Christmas album on the family stereo. "Now, if Barbra Streisand could sing a song like that," he said, pointing to the stereo where Streisand was belting out *Ave Maria*, in Latin, no less. I giggled and told him that it was Streisand. He turned beet red and ignored me for the rest of the evening.

I was only 15 and unaware of my Jewish heritage. I also didn't know what anti-Semitism was.

Then, a little over 10 years ago, I found out my mother was a Holocaust survivor who had sat on her secret for more than 40 years. That meant I was Jewish. It's safe to say most of what I knew about being Jewish was from being a Streisand fan.

Funny Girl was as much about Streisand as it was Brice. Streisand refused to change her name or her nose to fit convention. (Ironically, Brice was born Fania Borach, and had plastic surgery – as Dorothy Parker famously put it, "she cut off her nose to spite her race.")

Right away, I learned that to be Jewish is to be different, and that it was not only okay to be different but you could also win an Academy Award for it. I watched Streisand serenade former Israeli prime minister Golda Meir on Israel's 30th birthday, and saw how powerful Jewish women could be. Where else, in the 60s and 70s, was a woman the leader of her country?

In *Yentl*, I saw how Jewish women were once forbidden to study Talmud. Now Jewish women study Talmud and are respected as rabbis and scholars.

I learned about Jewish generosity, giving back to community, in Streisand's charitable foundations, and concerts where ticket sales go to causes like the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

Streisand received death threats before her June 1967 open-air concert in New York's Central Park, just weeks after Israel's Six Day War. The show went on. In 1996, the now-defunct *George* magazine quoted her as saying, "I'm a liberal, opinionated Jewish feminist – I push a lot of buttons." Recently, she made headlines around the world for cussing out a heckler at her New York concert who objected to a skit in which she hosted a U.S. President George W. Bush imitator onstage to whom she posed questions.

Here at Toronto's Air Canada Centre, 19,000 Streisand fans had to pass through metal detectors one by one. Bottled water had to be poured into cups before it could enter the stadium. It may be de rigueur south of the border, but unusual in Canada. Is this the price of being a liberal, opinionated Jewish feminist?

I hope not.

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Mother of fatally ill child writes a book

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

We have written about Jacob Schwartz before. He is an incredibly handsome child, with an infectious smile.

Jacob is now nine years old. He has Canavan disease, a genetic disease found predominantly, although not exclusively, in Ashkenazi Jews. He cannot see, talk, lift his head, move or eat. Since he can't swallow, fluid has to be suctioned frequently from his throat. Seizures and bouts of pneumonia have weakened him.

Canavan disease is a neurological birth disorder in which the white matter of the brain degenerates into spongy tissue riddled with microscopic fluid-filled spaces. It causes imperfect growth or development of the myelin sheath, the fatty covering that insulates nerve fibres in the brain.

As the gene for the disease is recessive, both parents of a child with the disease must be carriers of the gene mutation. There is a one in four chance with each pregnancy that the child will be affected with Canavan disease. There is no cure, and death usually occurs by the age of 10.

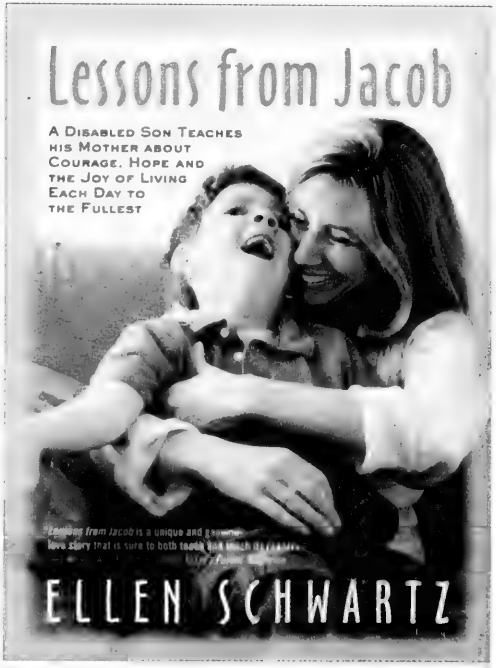
That smile on Jacob's face surely comes from the incredible care and loving he gets from his family – parents Ellen and Jeff, siblings Beverley and Ben, grandparents, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

She focuses on what she considers the lessons she has gleaned from Jacob

Mother Ellen manages to juggle caring for Jacob, running a household and caring for her two other children, teaching fourth grade at Eitz Chaim's Viewmount branch, and running Jacob's Ladder, an organization to raise awareness and funds for Canavan and other genetic neurodegenerative diseases.

One might expect, even forgive, her being resentful, bitter or depressed. Sometimes, she acknowledges, she is. But most of the time, she focuses on what she considers the lessons she has gleaned from Jacob.

She has described those lessons, and her life, in a new book, *Lessons from Jacob* (Key Porter), which was launched at the beginning of October.



Like all parents, the Schwartzes expected to have a normal, healthy child. At first, everything appeared fine. But when Jacob failed to meet developmental milestones, they became worried and took him for evaluation. That's when they got the devastating diagnosis.

"It hit us like a bolt out of the blue," Jeff told *The CJN* in a previous interview.

Nevertheless, the family adjusted, with a lot of support from their families and friends. They sent Jacob to school, first to Play and Learn, a program integrating special needs children with regular students, and then to Beverley School, a school for children with developmental or physical disabilities.

Since he can hear, great efforts are made to expose him to music, and to the sounds of other children playing and talking to him. His response is always happy smiles.

Ellen Schwartz has a firm philosophy: Jacob is part of their family, and where they go he goes. During the summer, the whole family, including Jacob, all the paraphernalia he needs and his caregiver, went to a family cottage in the country. There, he enjoyed the sounds, smells and ambience of a holiday, and being part of a large, enthusiastic family.

Although Ellen projects a positive image, *Lessons from Jacob* doesn't flinch from talking about the other side of the situation: the constant worry; the lack of sleep, since she and Jeff alternate a night of sleep with a night of duty – changing Jacob's position in bed, changing his diaper, suctioning; the fear of his frequent illnesses.

She speaks movingly about the time she called a good friend for a "pity party." The two went for a long walk, and she cried and screamed out her frustrations, exhaustion, the unfairness of everything.

Sometimes, during Jacob's frequent hospitalizations, she would jog the eight kilometres from their home to the hospital, crying all the way.

She recognizes what will inevitably happen to her little boy, but she chooses to live day by day, enjoying his happy moments, admiring his patience, his joy in playing in the water or his bath, his enjoyment of music, and just loving him.

The family formed Jacob's Ladder: The Canadian Foundation for Control of Neurodegenerative Disease in 2001 to help fund research into diseases such as Canavan, as well as encouraging genetic screening. A simple blood test can determine if someone is a carrier of the gene mutation or if a fetus has the disease.

Fundraising efforts include this year's Jacob's Ladder Giving Gala, scheduled for Nov. 5 at the Liberty Grand, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tickets are $25 each, or $100 for a family of five. Activities include Sony Playstation 2, Spin Master Toy Zone, carnival games, clowns, magicians, balloon making, dancers and inflatables, as well as performances by Kayla, Sho Mo & the Monkey Bunch, Craig Douglas, and the Stylamanders, and a visit by several residents of the Toronto Zoo.

Lessons from Jacob is on sale at local bookstores.

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To view, call **Heather J. Lake,** *Sales Representative,* Royal LePage R.E. Serv. Ltd./Johnston & Daniel Division **416-489-2121**

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BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING
3 BEDROOM, 2 STOREY on 50 ft. lot facing Dell Park. Plans & permits included for new renovation & addition. $539,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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3000 BATHURST CONDO — NEW LISTING
SPACIOUS, RENOVATED & DECORATED 2 BDRM. Faces west. **ONLY $279,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — BLOWOUT PRICE!

BRAND NEW custom executive home, over 3,000 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., luxurious finishes, 4 + 2 bdrms., 6 baths, gleaming hrdwd. floors throughout, 10 ft. ceilings on main floor, 9-10 ft. ceilings on 2nd level. Extensive use of granite, marble, cherry & ash. Stone front, interlock driveway. **REDUCED TO $999,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW PRICE
Very spacious ranch bungalow on gorgeous 57 x 132 ft. lot, approx. 2,400 sq. ft. + finished basement with separate entry, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 4 baths. **REDUCED $50,000 TO $649,000 — ACT NOW!** Also available for rent @ $3,250 / mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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8 COVINGTON CONDO
GORGEOUS 2 BDRM. UNIT. Showpiece with features galore! 2 baths, upgraded & designer decorated throughout. "Shaw" laminate flooring, Italian tile & marble. $319,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / COLDSTREAM
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BRIDLE PATH MANSION
$6,500,000. Luxurious Gated French chateau. Estate sized lot (100' x 300'). Bellagio kitchen overlooks gardens & pool. Indoor spa & pool, media room & wine cellar. 2 bedroom apartment above 4-car garage w/ sep entrance. Guest house.

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$2,825,000. The Prince Arthur. One of the most prestigious condo buildings in Toronto. Approx 3,100 sq. ft. Floor to ceiling windows, 3 bedrooms and library. Steps to Bloor St. and Yorkville.

FOREST HILL ROAD
$2,895,000. Elegant and spacious (approx. 5,022 sq. ft.). Wonderful kitchen, breakfast area and family room with fireplace and walk-out to terrace and pool. Finished lower level w/recreation room with fireplace, sauna and 2 bedrooms with ensuites. Great location on belt line.

UNIQUE LANDMARK ESTATE
$10,800,000. Rarely available in Forest Hill estate sized lot (150' x 170'). Neo-Classic limestone residence, impeccably restored while retaining its architectural detailing. Grand principal rooms, lavish gardens, 75' lap pool.

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BATHURST/CENTRE
Large 5 Bdrm home, Approx 4100 sq.ft Fin bsmt, Hardwood, Grand Foyer, Fab Layout, Built-ins, Extra's Galore, Shows Great!!! *Mark Waxman, Sales Rep

* * *

"ROSEDALE NORTH" EXEC. TOWNHOUSE
Great Location!, Lrg 3 Bdrm, Updated Kit. (Cer. Flr., Granite c.t, Mirrored B/Splash, W/o to Deck!), Cent Air, Cvac,Alarm, Egdo and much more!!! Close to All amenities!!! Call now! *Leon Ikka, Sales Rep

* * *

"THORNWOOCD AREA"
3 Bdrm townhouse, Close to all amenities!Many upgrades, Shows Well! Must See!! Mary Fenyes, Sales Rep

* * *

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BATHURST/STEELES "PRIMROSE"
Immac. 2 Bdrm, 2 full baths,Parking, Storage Locker, Large Eat-in Kit, Newer Washer & Dryer. Over 1200 Sq.ft in 1101 Steeles "Vacant" Must Be Sold. *Perry Waisglass, Sales Rep

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BATHURST/STEELES – FAB. APPROX 1400 SQ.FT
With balcony, 1 Bdrm + Den, 6 Appliances, Underground Parking, Value ++ Asking $199,900 *Ted Waxman, Sales Rep

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BATHURST/STEELES "THE COURTLAND"
Large 2 Bdrm, Approx 1400 Sq.ft Hardwood, Huge Condo living, open Concept, Ensuite Ldry & Storage, Appl, Incredible Value!! Asking $220,000 *Ted Waxman, Sales Rep

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Stunning 4 bdrm/5 bath. Incredible finishes + design. Huge principle rooms. Shows to perfection. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

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179 FENN AVENUE – BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS
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BATHURST/AVENUE/LAWRENCE $839,900
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CENTRAL PROPERTIES CONT'D.

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1790 sq.ft., Premium South Facing Courtyard Unit, Loaded with Upgrades, 3 Bdrms, 3 Baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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Meticulous 4 bdrm. home. 48' front to back foyer, spectacular landscaping and pool, main floor fam. room, south facing lot, new heat & air system. Call to see. William Greisman* ext. 278

10 PRUE AVENUE UNIT #203
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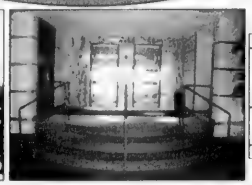

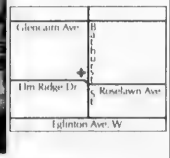

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Longboat Key, Castillian, 3/2.5 corner gulfside unit. Newly reno'd. kitchen. Photos available. $5500/mo. US. Please call 734-662-1878, rkcohen@aol.com

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Sunrise Lake, Ft. Lauderdale, 2 bdrm., 2 bath, kosher, on golf course. Call 416-560-2496.

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Century Village, West Palm, 2 bed., ground floor, corner, 1.5 bath, CAC, many ammens., fully furn'd., 3 mos. min. Please call 856-696-2658, leave msg.

Ft. Lauderdale, Commercial/University, Oakbrook Village, 1 bed., 1 1/2 bath, equipped. $1250/mo. US plus utilities. 3 mos. minimum. Please call 416-636-3845.

3 Islands, 1 bdrm., 1.5 baths, S.E. view, open kitchen, 3-4 mos., $2000/mo. US. 416-481-9152.

Ft. Lauderdale, 1 bdrm. + sol., 1 1/2 baths, fully furn. & equip., for seas., nr. amen. 905-881-1516.

Aventura, 2 bdrm., 2 bath, fully furnished. Avail. Dec. 1st to March 31st. Call 905-886-2373.

Hallandale, 1 bdrm., convertible, 1 1/2 baths, available Jan. 10, 4 wks., non-smokers. $600/wk. US. Please call 416-781-7241.

Boca Raton, 2 bdrm., 1 1/2 baths, water view, seasonal. Call 561-504-2771.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

Delray Beach, Gleneagles CC. 2 bdrm., 2 bath; 3 brdm., 3 bath condos from $199M-$369M/US. Let's make a deal! Seasonal rentals available, 3 mos. min. Call Doody Caplan @ 561-702-3744.

Boca Raton, Century Village, 2 bdrm., 1.5 baths, corner, furn'd. **For rent** 4 mos. **For sale** please discuss details. 905-886-7290.

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Advertising Feature — Advertising Feature

PANAMA – THE NEXT GOLD RUSH!

Once upon a time there was a small river, one of the many in Canada's Yukon Territory. Nobody would ever have known its name but for one fact. In 1896 ***GOLD*** was found in the ***KLONDIKE*** River. When the three prospectors discovered it they had no idea they would set off one of the greatest gold rushes in history. With cries of ***"Gold! Gold! in the Klondike!"***, an army of hopeful goldseekers, headed north toward the vision of riches to be had for the taking.

The GOLD RUSH of the KLONDIKE has been referred to as **THE LAST GRAND ADVENTURE!** That is until 110 years later – when we discovered the potential of ***PANAMA!***

That was 1896 – 2006 the equivalent is PANAMA! Almost everyone has heard of Panama – if not the country certainly the PANAMA CANAL. Just like our nemesis the Klondike - Panama is about to explode. Investors and retirees are flocking to Panama, not just for the balmy climate and affordable lifestyle, "THERE IS GOLD IN THEM THERE HILLS!!!!"

Eleonora Michailov is a well known realtor in Toronto, and she is sure that Panama is the most remarkable place for investment now. Just like the prospectors in the Klondike the first to arrive made the largest incomes. The pioneers who are investing in Panama now are reaping great rewards.

Let us share an interview with Eleonora Michailov:

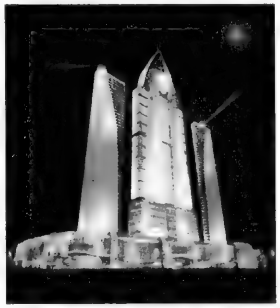
"Eleonora, what are your predictions on the astounding profits from investments in Panama properties based on?

"I just want to mention that these are not predictions, this is a reality. We came to the Panama real estate market one year ago. Those who broke new ground were able to at least double their investments. Here is an example: in March one of my clients purchased a one bedroom suite, 100 square meters for $248,000. His first installment was 10% of the total purchase price, which was $24,800. The unit was sold 5 months later for $340,000, this was before the second installment was due. After all service fees were paid, our client received $75,000 plus his initial deposit. Could you tell me what legal business is able to give such a great profit?

We have several similar examples. And this gives us the right to state: there is no alternative market at the present time that is giving our clients even close to the same rate of return. Even if we are extremely cautious, estimating the challenges of current investments, we could talk about 50%-100% annual profit."

The numbers you mention are very impressive and the profit margins are very generous, but isn't $250,000 a lot to pay for a one bedroom suite? Aren't there lower and more attractive prices?

"Everything depends on what you are looking for. For example: a pensioner is interested in the Panama lifestyle, the wonderful climate, first class medical care and fantastic service at every turn all of the things we all want in our "golden years". In this case you can find units with a much lower price, because you are buying for your own use and not just for investment. However, when we speak about the investment potential and your objective is to make healthy profits, you have to invest your money into prestigious properties. Only this type of housing brings you the intended effect. The projects, such as Los Faros De Panama, Ice Tower and Trump Ocean Club, are situated in the most fashionable areas of Panama City and are in great demand. The prices for them heat up, outpacing the construction time. You can judge the level of these projects yourself. Take for example Trump Ocean Club. A huge building made in the form of sailing ship. It is reminiscent of a famous building in Dubai. Their residents automatically have the membership to a yacht club, 6 star hotel, world renowned SPA, the International Trump Casino and one of the most beautiful islands off the coast of Panama belongs to this project. The owners of this condo will be brought to the beaches of this island by high speed boats. To make the picture complete, I must add that on arrival in Panama the owners will be taken from the airport by special limousine in true TRUMP style!



One cannot but agree that all this costs money. Trust my experience that the price will grow, despite that it already up for 30 % from the initial price list.

Those who were the first were the winners as usual, but now those who will occupy or buy several apartments which are left will not lose. For the successful resale of the apartments of such level - three or four months will be quite enough. You must understand, clearly we are not offering a one time deal. The Real Estate boom which has begun in Panama will continue until the prices become stable. The predictionas are that will take no less than five to seven years. That means that at least in the course of this term you can invest money and earn money."

How can you explain such an unexpected splash of interest to this country?

The government of Panama is going to approvea tremendous plan of the Canal expansion. Billions of dollars will be released, very serious investors are involved in this plan, and the labor market grew up considerably. No other country of this region experienced such a rise. Besides, it is necessary to take into consideration that Panama is an offshore zone with magnificent legislature which strongly protects investments.

Also, an unprecedented housing construction is going on. In the near future there will be a release of one of the most important projects in the business centre of the capital city – Trump World Centre. We are accepting deposits already which will give the opportunity to our clients to buy apartments in these projects. As well we have the exclusive rights to sell apartments in the other projects which provides our clients with great advantages. Very shortly we'll be announcing another elite project – " Armani ". Based on Panama's booming industry, we definitely are at the right place at the right time. Our clients are on our team. When I'm saying "we" I mean particularly this team united by the trust in success. By the way, some of those who have managed to buy apartments and sell them in a short time, used there profits and went even further. They bought pieces of land and became developers themselves. Now they have provided us with the exclusive right to sell the property built by them.

Panama City is the home to many cultures. Many of the builders and developers in Panama are from the Jewish Community. There is a very strong Jewish Community with five Synagogues in Panama City.

No matter how much one talks about Panama - to feel the atmosphere, soak up the unique and surprising aura and energy which gives new strength and youthfulness, is only possible by experiencing it first hand. There, in the connection between two great oceans lies Panama! Our next tour has been scheduled for the 13th of November, and there is still a chance to order tickets.

Whoever decides to buy property in Panama during the tour will get a refund of their money on the plane tickets.
Please call:
416-450-8114 – Eleonora
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Raptors too much for Maccabi this year

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

One year ago, Maccabi Tel Aviv became the first international team to beat an NBA squad in more than 15 years when it defeated the Toronto Raptors in a pre-season game on Anthony Parker's last-second heroics.

Last Thursday night, Maccabi, Israel's dominant basketball team, came into the Air Canada Centre eager to repeat history, and to play against Parker, their former teammate and leader, in his new role as a Raptor small forward.

But this year, they couldn't get it done without him.

Parker, the Euroleague MVP in 2005 and 2006, played for Maccabi for five seasons and led them to the 2005 Euroleague championship. Known as the best player not playing in the NBA, he was signed by the Raptors this past summer.

Despite his return to North America, the American hoopster remains an Israeli fan favourite and still commands the respect of his former team.

"I'm looking forward to it," Yaniv Green, Maccabi's third-year centre, said before the game. "We hope we'll [get] the same result we did last year. It's gonna be harder without him."

It was, although the Israeli team gave the Raptors a bit of a scare for the first two quarters.

The atmosphere at the ACC was electric. Maccabi fans hung Israeli flags off handrails in every corner of the arena, and when the national anthems were sung prior to the game, *Hatikvah* was echoed back energetically by the highly partisan pro-Israeli crowd. Chants of "Ma-cca-bi!" could also be heard throughout the game.

The support seemed to inspire Tel Aviv to a strong start, and they came out playing a high-tempo, focused team passing game.

Sparkplug point guard Will Bynum, in his first season with Maccabi, breezed by Raptors defenders for most of the first half, making acrobatic passes, opening up room for his teammates and penetrating the Toronto zone for easy lay-ups.

Noel Felix, Maccabi's recently acquired 6-7 power forward, further thrilled the pro-Maccabi crowd with several slam dunks, while forward Simas Jasaitis seemed unable to miss from three-point range.

The style played havoc with Toronto's defensive schemes.

With only four minutes left in the second quarter, Maccabi had opened up a 13-point lead on the stunned Raptors.

But that was as good as it would get for the Israeli team.

Raptors coach Sam Mitchell made adjustments, and by halftime, Toronto had stormed back to narrow the gap to just two points, making the score 55-53 in favour of Maccabi.

But the second half was all Raptors.

At one point in the third quarter, Toronto went on a 20-2 run, outpacing a visibly tired Maccabi side that committed 12 fouls and looked to be feeling the effects of its long, pre-season travel schedule. Just two nights prior, the team lost 93-67 to the Cleveland Cavaliers.

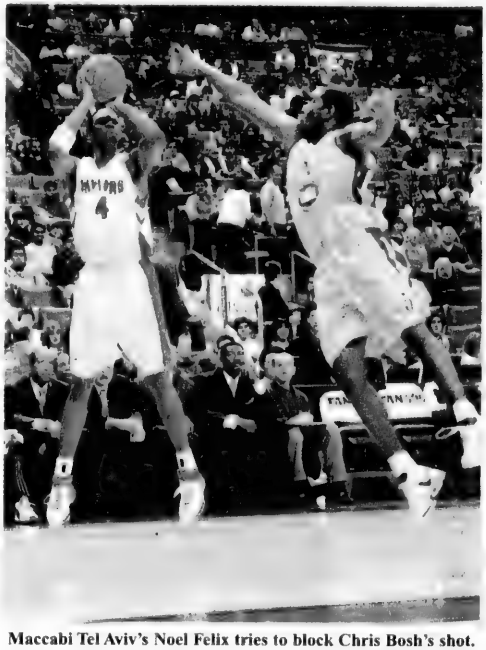
Throughout the second half, Tel Aviv coach Nevan Spahija kept shouting at his players to "Play defence!" Despite Spahija's efforts, his team continued to lose its cohesiveness in the face of a re-energized Raptors squad that dominated the rest of the way and eventually won 118-84.

At game's end, Parker ran over to his former team and hugged Maccabi coaches and players.

He said he was glad to put the emotional reunion with his old team behind him.

"It started with the Israeli national anthem. I haven't heard it in so long, but I was humming along. That was special for me," he said.

"It was weird to see those guys... and me not being on their side. It was great [playing in Israel]. They really rally around you, and for an American going overseas, I think it's the best place to be, both in terms of basketball and social life. It's a great culture."



Maccabi Tel Aviv's Noel Felix tries to block Chris Bosh's shot. [Photo By Tal]

They weren't making any excuses, but Maccabi players said they were happy to be done with their North American tour and ready to head back home.

"It felt good to play NBA opponents to help us prepare for the Euroleague," Felix said.

For their part, the Raptors had nothing but praise for Maccabi.

"We got a good workout from them. I really didn't expect that," said Chris Bosh, the Raptors' star forward.

Coach Mitchell concurred. "You gotta give them credit. But I feel better than I did this time last year," he said with a grin.

Maccabi headed back to Israel the following day to prepare for their Euroleague home opener Oct. 26 against Spain's Unicaja Malaga.

The danger of curbside tfillin-pushers

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

Two twentysomething males walk through a pedestrian mall in a chassidic neighbourhood (in Israel, Canada, New York). The first – his kippah in plain view, tzitzit swinging side-to-side – clearly reveals that he is an Orthodox Jew, while the other, in jeans and a baseball cap, discloses no outward details of his faith.

New Views

A chassidic man, black hat and all, stands on the curb with a pair of unwrapped tfillin in his hands. He asks the second stroller – and only the second stroller – "Have you made the blessing over the tfillin today?"

What happens next?

Some possibilities:

• The walker of ambiguous faith could admit that he had not yet prayed or donned tfillin – maybe he hasn't even tried them on in years. "Sure," he replies. "I'll put them on and say the blessing."

• "No," the angered walker barks. "I don't believe in God, and I don't want anything to do with your prayers." When asked by the ever-smiling Chassid to explain his position, he says, "How can I possibly respect the demands of a God who for so long has disrespected and betrayed his own people?"

• "What do you think?" the walker snaps back. "Do you think I put on tfillin today?" The Chassid, now put off and in uncomfortable territory, stammers that he's not quite sure whether his interrogator has performed the mitzah. The walker takes off his baseball cap, revealing a knit kippah. "If I wasn't wearing my hat, would you still have asked me whether I had put on tfillin?" "No, probably not," comes the reply.

"Kiruv," the term used by Orthodox Jews to define the movement to bring other Jews into their fold, is a tricky business. It is, by all accounts, an attempt to right a wrong. Kiruv-inclined Orthodox Jews firmly believe that they (and only they) practise the correct form of Judaism – based on (some) tradition, the 613 commandments set out in the Bible, and a long list of talmudic and rabbinic interpretation.

In their minds, if you aren't putting on tfillin every morning, you should be. If you don't uphold kashrut to the level they deem sufficient, you're getting it wrong. And they want to help you fix the problem.

The fact that this dangerous message often gets lost in those early, let's-put-on-tfillin moments is not particularly alarming. In fact, for those Jews previously unaffiliated with Orthodoxy who want to give tfillin a try, the offer to don them is a rather kind act – and an opportunity that might not have arisen otherwise. Maybe, the kiruv community speculates, the tfillin-tryer will enjoy the experience enough to want to learn more. And in the broaden-your-horizons 21st century, there's no harm in introducing new concepts to the previously unaware.

Still, the belief that everyone should be putting on tfillin is precisely what puts off the man who has absolutely no interest in indulging the Chassid. He has spent years coming to the conclusion that Orthodoxy is not his way (there may be no religious way for him, or he may enjoy a different religious experience), and the rude Chassid – with his undertones of right versus wrong– presents an unpardonable intrusion. But that risk never keeps the Chassid from asking his question. If unsure, he prefers to err on the side of caution – the possibility of insult is far outweighed by the prospect of a conversion initiated.

The tfillin question can open the door to a new and potentially positive experience. But it can also pit one form of Judaism against another for the person who has already come to a vastly different conclusion than the Chassid.

As well, the query may be a slap in the face for the Orthodox Jew who keeps the same mitzvot as the Chassid but happens to prefer different clothes

You never know what might be lurking underneath a baseball cap.

Apple-glazed carrots

A great accompaniment for roast chicken.

1 tblsp pareve margarine
1 16 oz. package peeled trimmed baby carrots
1 c unsweetened apple juice
1 tsp honey
1 tblsp minced green onion tops

Melt margarine in large skillet over medium-high heat. Add carrots; sauté until carrots begin to brown slightly, about 8 min. Add apple juice and honey; bring to boil. Reduce heat, simmer until carrots are tender and liquid is reduced to glaze, stirring occasionally, about 15 min. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Transfer to bowl. Sprinkle with green onion tops and serve.

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ISRU CHAG: Jews at a shul in Jerusalem's Mea Shearim neighbourhood celebrate the renewal of the Torah readings for the coming year. Unlike in the Diaspora, Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are celebrated on the same day in Israel. As the following day isn't a yom tov, the celebration that began the previous evening with dancing with the Torah is extended to the next day for what's known as an "isru chag" – which literally means "the binding of the festival." [Israel photo]

The barber shop

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

"A man never forgets his boyhood barbershop." So writes Craig Marberry, the author of *Cuttin' Up* – a book on conversations in barber shops across America – places he describes as somewhere we celebrate "the laid-back fellowship of men" and "go to be among ourselves, to be ourselves, to unmask."

URBAN WRITER

My first visit to the barbershop was a memorable one, in a traumatic sort of way. My hair flowed with long brown curls – a childhood mane. I had become very attached to my hair and had no interest in losing it – perhaps because, as the black "barber shop sages" say in Marberry's book, "the top of your head is where your soul lies."

The image I see when I look back at that day is of three well-coiffed men struggling to hold me down as I fought like a lion, using all the strength my tiny three-year-old arms could muster up and all the wriggling power my miniscule body could produce. In the end, however, the barbers won and tears rolled down my cheeks. I exited the shop hoping never to return. Alas, I wasn't a man yet, but I had been unmasked.

My oldest friend, Dave Nefesh Middleman from Michigan, told me his hair-cutting memories. However, his barbershop was at home.

"Every couple of months, when I was a kid, old Mr. Silver came to our home to give my dad, my brother and I haircuts in our basement. He always had a smile for us and things to say in his mild Yiddish accent. Mr. Silver dressed quite plain but always very neat. He was fairly bald but did have some silver patches of hair left. I'll never forget Mr. Silver paid close attention to the way I liked my bangs, nice and long until just above my eyebrows. I always appreciated him for that. The rest of my head was pretty closely shaven, the way my dad would insist, and that was fine for me.

"Yes, those were the days. Memory traces of a time long past. And while it is now more than 30 years later, those remnants are no less visible in my memory, of a time when the men in the household came together – relaxed, chatted and sometimes laughed – around this subtle form of pampering and body care."

A barber shop, according to Marberry, is the place we go for "a haircut, of course, but we also come to connect, to converse among our brethren." Ain't that the truth. When I was a teenager, I frequented a shop around Sheppard and Bathurst. The Italian owners seemed Jewish by osmosis and had an intimate knowledge of many Jewish community members after shearing and trimming thousands of their heads and beards.

I recall sitting in a red, beaten leather chair and eavesdropping on the chitchat and tittle-tattle of the Morrises and Marvins sitting next to me – discussing their BB days (before baldness) and bantering on about shul members, neighbours and business partners. Often, I knew the person gossiped about and would learn some pretty hairy stuff about our community – scandalous things way too steamy for these pages.

There is nothing like taking your son to the barber for the very first time. Marberry writes, "I know a boy's first haircut is a daddy thing… it's a rite of passage and a whole ritual surrounds it."

Miriam and I have decided we will wait a year before we take Noah River to the barber. For now, however, we'll have to do some serious research on which barber will most suit our Little Man's needs. The last thing we would want to do is choose the wrong barber. It's like choosing the wrong mohel. The memories could be harrowing.

(Dedicated to Jake, who at almost two had his first haircut, and sat there bravely and quietly throughout.)

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TOGETHER WITH ISRAEL

A salute to our community and its volunteers

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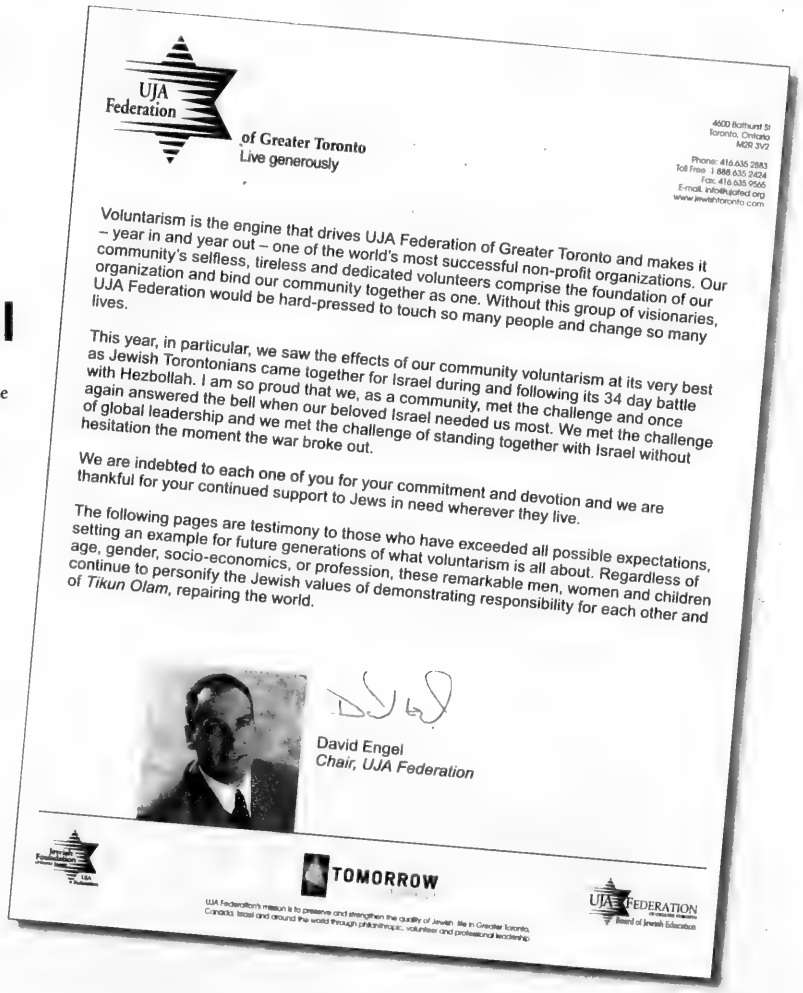
The unrelenting resolve, dedication and spirit of Jewish Toronto's remarkable volunteers never fail to amaze and inspire us. Their generosity – both financially and in terms of their time – is second to none throughout the Diaspora. Toronto was the world's first Jewish community to launch an Israel Emergency Campaign and the first to send dollars to Israel as soon as the war broke out, none of which could have happened without the leadership shown by our community's volunteers and donors.

Following the war, our volunteers made their way to Israel aboard UJA Federation solidarity missions – at their own expense – to let Israelis know they are not alone. Many not only visited Israel but rolled up their sleeves to help wherever they could. Our reputation as a generous, caring and compassionate community is well known throughout the world, and it's all thanks to our volunteers.

We are truly one big family and a family as big and determined as this one is destined to achieve greatness. We are both so proud to be chairs of UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 where we are witnessing, firsthand, this outpouring of support and generosity from everyone. Our community's generosity truly defines tzedakah.

Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks
Chairs, UJA Federation
Israel Emergency Campaign 2007



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Voluntarism is the engine that drives UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and makes it – year in and year out – one of the world's most successful non-profit organizations. Our community's selfless, tireless and dedicated volunteers comprise the foundation of our organization and bind our community together as one. Without this group of visionaries, UJA Federation would be hard-pressed to touch so many people and change so many lives.

This year, in particular, we saw the effects of our community voluntarism at its very best as Jewish Torontonians came together for Israel during and following its 34 day battle with Hezbollah. I am so proud that we, as a community, met the challenge and once again answered the bell when our beloved Israel needed us most. We met the challenge of global leadership and we met the challenge of standing together with Israel without hesitation the moment the war broke out.

We are indebted to each one of you for your commitment and devotion and we are thankful for your continued support to Jews in need wherever they live.

The following pages are testimony to those who have exceeded all possible expectations, setting an example for future generations of what voluntarism is all about. Regardless of age, gender, socio-economics, or profession, these remarkable men, women and children continue to personify the Jewish values of demonstrating responsibility for each other and of *Tikun Olam*, repairing the world.

David Engel
Chair, UJA Federation

TOMORROW

UJA Federation's mission is to preserve and strengthen the quality of Jewish life in Greater Toronto, Canada, Israel and around the world through philanthropic, volunteer and professional leadership.

UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto Board of Jewish Education

Volunteering – What You Give Comes Back

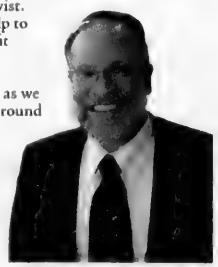
In Modern Hebrew the word for "volunteer" is "mitnadave." In Hebrew grammar the word is reflexive, which means the actions being done refer back onto the individual himself. How does this work? How does the activity undertaken by a volunteer, ostensibly for the benefit of another, refer back onto the volunteer himself?

Our Sages teach that to understand a word in *Tanach*, it is often helpful to study the first time the word appears. The root of this word is first used in the Torah in *Parshat Va'era* (Exodus 6.23) where we are told that Aaron names his first born son "Nadav," which means "a gift." It is interesting that this verse identifies Aaron's wife as Elisheva bat Aminadav. The *Ramban* (Nachmanides) explains that Aminadav was a *tzadik*, a righteous man, and a leader of the tribe of Judah. Perhaps part of what made Aminadav so special was that his righteousness was presented to his people (ami = my people) as a gift (nadav). While I did not see that any of the standard commentators say this, it is not difficult to assume that Aaron named his eldest child Nadav to reflect the royal gift that his son represented to him.

At the beginning of *Parshat Trumah* the commentators introduce us to the phrase "n'dirut lebo" which means "the offering of his heart." This is, in fact, the most common usage of the word. The second verse in Chapter 25 of *Sefer Shmot* (Exodus 25.2) speaks of a person whose heart motivates him to present an offering to G-d. There is clearly a spiritual element in the offering of this gift. One whose spirit moves him will be motivated to give. Such selflessness is characteristic of the Jewish people who see *Chessed* (acts of loving kindness) as a primary focus of daily life. We are involved in *Chessed* - not for any thought of personal gain - but simply because it is the right thing to do. We recognize the inherent value in helping others and we are elevated spiritually by acting righteously.

A volunteer is one who truly offers of himself for the benefit of another - but this "offering of the heart" has a pronounced spiritual twist. Some have called this the "boomerang effect" - we provide help to others, but are often amazed at how much we ourselves benefit psychologically, emotionally and, of course, spiritually.

To volunteer is to be involved in holy work. In this New Year, as we focus on how we can improve our lives and the lives of those around us, there is nothing better than giving of oneself through volunteering. This activity strengthens our community, assists those in need and, in truth, makes us better people.



Rabbi Ronald Weiss is Director of Chaplaincy Services at Jewish Family & Child Service.

Day School students volunteer their time and talents for Israel

Students of all ages and their teachers from a wide variety of Jewish schools throughout the Greater Toronto Area are doing what they can to show their support for Israel in light of this summer's war with Hezbollah.

The UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education held a workshop in order to assist the schools, during which participants discussed how to bring Israel into the schools in a meaningful way. The workshop also offered school principals the resources to do so.

At Tanenbaum CHAT Richmond Hill, the school year began with an assembly covering not only the events of the summer, but background and history as well, to ensure that the students were properly informed. The students there are currently volunteering their time to work with a high school in the northern community of Kiryat Shmona that was bombed, so far raising more than $1,000.

At Netivot HaTorah Day School, each grade is being twinned with a family in northern Israel. "Everyone feels a concern," says Vice Principal of Jewish Studies Rabbi Elliott Diamond. "We have a lot of connections, and, in a time of war, our concerns were that much more intense."

At the Kamin Campus of Associated Hebrew Schools, the situation in Israel is being covered in both the formal and informal curriculum. In the first two weeks of school, the students learned songs of peace and hope and volunteered their spare time to prepare banners and plan a rally in which all 1,700 students participated. "We all marched and rallied for Israel with flags, and all the children sang songs," says Kathy Friedman, Principal of the Kamin campus. "It was a powerful voice."

At Bialik Hebrew Day School, the student council continues to raise money that will go to help rebuild day care centres in northern Israel. Students from Junior Kindergarten to grade 8 have all chipped in to help raise the funds.

Meanwhile, students at Leo Baeck Day School have raised more than $2,000 for its counterpart school in Haifa. Students continue to volunteer for Israel through a number of fundraising initiatives, including the design and sale of greeting cards and a bake sale in the school's parking lot. Students also took the time to send Rosh Hashanah cards to students in Haifa to show their support and solidarity.

1,700 students from all grades at the Kamin Campus of Associated Hebrew Schools participated in a recent rally where they marched in support of Israel.

Israelis open their hearts – and homes – to help northern neighbours

As the barrage of rocket attacks began falling on northern Israel this past summer, life immediately came to a standstill for more than one million Israeli residents, many of whom were forced to spend far too much time in bomb shelters to escape the carnage.

To give these beleaguered families a temporary respite from the ongoing danger and stress, volunteers from the southern region of Eilat/Eilot opened their doors – and their hearts to make their lives better.

Eilat welcomes northern neighbours.

Once the war began, more than 50,000 people from shell-shocked northern Israeli towns and cities temporarily moved to Eilat, UJA Federation's twinned community along with the surrounding Eilot area, some to hotels at reduced rates or for free, some with Eilat families, and some at an absorption centre that was opened specially for guests from the north.

With the new visitors, the population of the Eilot region jumped by 50 percent to 4,500 people, as it played host to some 1,500 residents from the north at homes, youth clubs, and several kibbutzim.

"Immediately upon the falling of the first rockets, Eilat Mayor Meir Yitzhak Halevy established a headquarters to organize local host families who welcomed with open arms these strangers into their homes," said Hagit Shilo, The Jewish Agency for Israel's (JAFI) regional manager. "These incredible families were so excited to volunteer themselves and their homes for their northern neighbours. They were just so thrilled to help. Without the many, many volunteers who not only welcomed strangers in their homes, but helped our new visitors on a day-to-day basis, this would probably not have gone as smoothly as it did."

Many of the children temporarily living in the Eilat/Eilot region spent their mornings and early afternoons in special summer camps. Later in the day they participated in organized trips to various attractions, including Eilat's famous underwater observatory, beaches, theatres, and sporting activities – all made possible by the generosity of countless volunteers. Social workers and volunteers also worked with the children from the north, helping them – often through art therapy – to deal with their fears.

Toronto teachers grateful for volunteer opportunity in Israel

This August, UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education (BJE) led a delegation of Toronto Jewish school teachers on a mission to Eilat, which, along with Eilot, is UJA Federation's partnership region. There they volunteered at a summer camp with children from northern Israel who, thanks to Israel Emergency Campaign funds, had been relocated from the north, which was under constant terrorist rocket attack. In this article, Associated Hebrew Schools Principal Eric Golombek describes the camp experience of the Toronto delegation.

At most camps, when the number of kids goes down, people start to worry. But for all of us, a reduction in numbers was only good news. This is because the camp we helped run this summer was for children from Israel's north, children who fled the barrage of katyusha rockets which destroyed many of their homes and shattered their lives.

Volunteer teachers from left, Eric Golombek, Marla Figdor, Lisa Hemi, Avee Helfand, Adi Sugerman Maidany, Zeev Steinfeld, Tova Steinfeld & Ora Schwartz Goldin.

The community centre camp is one of a number of projects that we have been involved with. Our group, under the leadership of USDS teacher Adi Sugerman Maidany, went to Eilat to work with the children of the north, providing them with programming to distract them from the trauma they were going through. At the camp, we ran a range of activities, providing much needed relief to the overworked staff who remained at camp, despite August being their vacation month.

In addition to our daily work at the camp, we led a variety of programs for displaced families who were staying at the Goldwater High School. To see families living in such poor conditions was difficult, indeed shocking, for all of us. Typically, four families were crowded into one classroom. Mattresses were spread on the floor for the adults, and children generally would lie on the floor itself. The mood at the high school was depressing.

This situation left many children under-supervised and with little to do. For these children, we set up arts and crafts tables and we ran evening programs. Ora Goldin, a percussion instructor and teacher at Beth Torah, ran rhythm workshops and CHAT teacher, Zeev Steinfeld, led groups in song with his guitar. "Never did I work so hard," said Steinfeld, "but, it was totally worth it. These kids so desperately needed us. I am so grateful that I had a chance to really make a difference." This sentiment was shared by all the participants of our group. Each evening, the group debriefed and planned the next day's activities, a process which often lasted into the early hours.

"You watch the news on TV in Toronto and you feel helpless," said Associated kindergarten teacher, Lisa Hemi. "That's why being in Israel was so important to me. It gave me a chance to do something, however small, to help."

Teachers from UJA Federation's BJE spend time with youngsters from northern Israel during their volunteer mission. The youngsters and their families were invited guests in Eilat, allowing them to escape the war in the north.

Volunteer Excellence: The Community Honours Its Own

The men and women pictured on pages B4 and B5 have made tzedakah and community involvement constant priorities in their lives. Their unrelenting commitment to Jewish values helps enrich the lives of so many. They will receive their awards at a UJA Federation Awards Night on April 25, 2007.

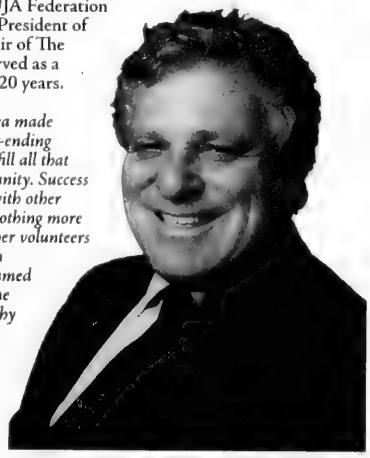
DAVID GOLDSTEIN NAMED SADOWSKI AWARD WINNER

The Ben Sadowski Award of Merit, established in 1961, is this community's most prestigious volunteer recognition award.

David Goldstein personifies voluntarism. A tireless, dedicated and passionate community volunteer, he has an impressive and varied resume.

As a supporter of a number of important community initiatives, David has assumed a leadership role in planning for the future. He currently sits on UJA Federation's Tomorrow Campaign Leadership Cabinet and on UJA Federation's Board of Directors. In addition, he serves on the Boards of Toronto General Hospital, Western Hospital Foundation, and the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee.

David is a Past Chair of UJA Federation's Integrated Development Committee and the UJA Federation annual campaign. He is also a Past President of UIA Federations Canada, Past Chair of The Baycrest Centre Foundation and served as a Director of the Baycrest Centre for 20 years.



"Community is an all-encompassing sea made up of people, facilities, ideas and never-ending needs. No one person or group can fulfill all that is required to build a successful community. Success is reached only when one joins forces with other members of the community. There is nothing more gratifying than being involved with other volunteers and creative, savvy professional staff in achieving tasks and goals that are dreamed about – and making those dreams come true. This is satisfaction and that is why I love to volunteer."

Sherry Firestone Receives Granovsky Award

The Phil Granovsky Award for Campaign Excellence honours individuals who exemplify the best in UJA Federation campaigning.

A relative newcomer to the annual UJA Federation campaign, Sherry Firestone has displayed an uncommon drive and commitment to community voluntarism. Her spirit and determination have made her one of UJA Federation's most effective fundraisers. Since becoming involved as a Major Gifts Vice-chair in 2005, she has gone on to co-chair Major Gifts for both the 2006 and 2007 campaigns. Sherry is a regular at UJA Federation telethons and served as a member of the Telethon Task Force in preparation for the current Israel Emergency Campaign 2007.

"I am incredibly moved and honoured to receive this award. Although I never had the good fortune of meeting Phil Granovsky, his legacy and philanthropic contributions to UJA Federation and the Jewish community were monumental and truly inspirational.

It is the responsibility of all Jews to take care of one another. The Toronto community rallied together in the most incredible way this year to launch the Israel Emergency campaign. The incredible spirit of the community - volunteers, donors and UJA staff - was truly remarkable. This amazing response has not only benefited the recipients of this philanthropy, but has inspired our children to continue the legacy of leadership and giving."

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

This Award of Excellence recognizes professionals in the Jewish community whose outstanding long-term contributions benefit the Foundation, lawyers, accountants, estate planners and charitable organizations.

Samuel Gotfrid, Q.C.

There is an old Yiddish proverb that states: "As you get older, you realize that you can't be everything, so you should be more of something." Samuel Gotfrid is quite something, indeed.

As he approaches his one-hundredth year, Samuel – who graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1931 – continues to be involved with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, with which he has been affiliated since his first year in university, demonstrating his vision and commitment from an early age. He served on UJA Federation's Executive and Budget Committees, and still canvasses for its annual campaign. Using his reputation and vast influence, Samuel became involved with UJA Federation's Endowment Fund – now the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto – from its inception, and helped it create several multi-million dollar endowments which have been distributed for Jews in need here and in Israel.

"I've been involved in Jewish philanthropy for over 70 years. Most of my time was spent at meetings or delivering talks. I was first motivated by the simple phrase Mr. Sokol addressed to his students at his cheder. He told us that a Jew was obliged to help other Jews whenever required. I have never forgotten that. Additionally, I did other things that I felt would be beneficial for the Jewish community, such as joining with Wilfred Posluns in establishing a new organization that eventually led to the Jewish Foundation. I am also responsible for writing Saul Wagman's will to achieve his wish to create a fund for the education of Jewish children."

HAROLD LEDERMAN AWARD

This Award is presented to an outstanding philanthropic leader and volunteer extraordinaire in our community.

Miles Nadal

Miles Nadal has set a new standard when it comes to community voluntarism, leadership and philanthropy. He is a man to be emulated in order to ensure the future vibrancy and success of Toronto's Jewish community.

As a leader, Miles recruited, encouraged and most importantly – motivated others to get involved with UJA Federation's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT) campaign. He not only set an example as a mentor but also as a lead contributor to JTT's downtown campus. His skills, vision and generosity have improved the quality of life for Jews – and non-Jews – throughout the downtown core through the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre.

In addition, Miles plays key roles with a number of community organizations, including Mount Sinai Hospital, Baycrest Hospital, Reena Foundation, and the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

"The philosophy I've always had is that it's a privilege to give. Philanthropy and business are very similar. You need to identify opportunities and then use energy, vision and drive to accomplish things. I've been told, at 48, I'm one of the younger philanthropists in the Jewish community. That's not by accident. Most people wait until they're older or even gone to give back to the community. I get the benefit of seeing the fruits of my labour from year to year, share it with my children and educate them about it."

Leadership Development Awards

The Leadership Development Awards, established to encourage young men and women to assume community leadership roles, are presented to those individuals who demonstrate extraordinary commitment and service.

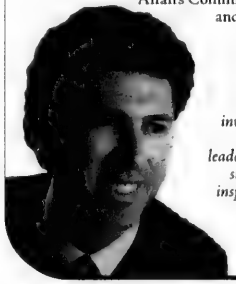
MELISSA MUSKAT

Melissa has been an active volunteer for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto for many years. From her start as a canvasser in 1990, she has assumed such leadership roles as Vice-chair of the Young Professionals' Network, Young Lawyers Division and Lawyers Division. During Campaign 2006, she was Co-chair of Canvasser Training and, in the current Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, she is Co-chair of Volunteer Relations.

"As a first generation Canadian, I learned, at a very young age, to be incredibly appreciative of the opportunities that my family was able to provide for me here. As I grew up, my Jewish day school education, Jewish camp experiences and Jewish upbringing at home, instilled in me a deep and passionate commitment to Israel and to the Jewish principle of Tikun Olam. *UJA Federation has provided, and continues to provide, me with incredibly fulfilling volunteer and leadership opportunities as I share in its mission to preserve and strengthen the quality of Jewish life at home, in Israel and around the world."*

MARK WALDMAN

Having begun his volunteer involvement in his 20s, Mark has gone on to many prominent leadership roles within UJA Federation. Currently on the Board of Directors, he chaired the New Gifts Initiative in 2006 and the Major Gifts Division in 2004 and 2005. He founded and chaired the Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund and has led UJA missions to Israel and Washington, D.C. In addition, he is a founder and Chair of the fundraising committee of the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee and sits on the Boards of the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation and Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center. Mark is also a member of the United Jewish Communities National Young Leadership Cabinet.



"UJA opened the doors of Jewish philanthropy to me and gave me a new-found love for Israel. I joined ATID (UJA Federation's division for the children of leading donors), in my late 20s and was approached to get involved in campaign. I chaired a mission to Israel and, by age 35, I chaired Major Gifts. These experiences inspired me to many different non-profit leadership positions, including joining the UJA Federation Board. I developed strong relationships, experienced great missions and gained access to many inspiring Jewish leaders. My volunteer experience became my passion and so I have devoted my time for the past four years exclusively to philanthropic work for Israel and the Jewish community."

Shem Tov Honourees

The Shem Tov Awards are presented to leaders representing the highest levels of excellence in volunteer service in Toronto's Jewish community.

EVELINE BERGER
Kehilla Residential Programme
Eveline is currently President of the Kehilla Residential Programme. An Executive Member of the Board since 1991, she previously served two terms each as Treasurer and Secretary. She is a Past President of the Avenal and Mutually Assisting Residential Community (MARC) Board and currently sits on the Board of National Council of Jewish Women Canada (Toronto Section) and on the Steering Committee of Kids on the Block.

"Giving back to the community is very important to me. Volunteering and knowing that I am able to help others gives me a deep sense of fulfillment. I am most grateful for this opportunity."

GLORIA CLAMEN
Circle of Care
Gloria's involvement in the Jewish community is long and varied. A member of the Circle of Care Board of Directors since 1989, she has served as a member of the Service Review Committee, Secretary of the Board and President of the Board from 1997-2001. She is also a past member of the Circle of Care Foundation Board of Directors. She has served as Co-chair of the UJA Federation Walk with Israel and is a Past President of Jewish Women International of Toronto.

"I volunteer because I can. It's my expression of commitment to Tikun Olam *and I consider it a lifetime activity. Volunteering is 'the gold standard' by which we measure our commitment to one another."*

JACQUELINE FRIEDLAND
Miles Nadal JCC
As a volunteer at the Miles Nadal JCC, Jacqueline has either chaired or served on numerous committees before becoming President of the Board. During the construction of the centre three years ago, she weathered constant challenges - reshaping and encouraging the Board and working to enhance the JCC's relationship with UJA Federation. From the reopening in November 2004 to August 2006, under her leadership, membership increased from 790 to a near maximum capacity of 3,400.

"I volunteer because my mom does! Some of my earliest childhood memories are of stuffing envelopes, sorting clothes at a thrift shop, adopting a new immigrant family. My mother's activities became family activities. It was just natural that I would continue as an adult. I've always believed that I gain more from volunteer experience than those I help."

HOWARD GLOWINSKY
Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa - G'Milath Chaosdim Association
Howard first volunteered at Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa in 1994 as an interviewer on the personal and educational loan committees. Since then, he has served in various capacities as an Executive Board member, including President. He is currently Chairman of the Executive Committee. During his involvement, he has worked to broaden partnerships with other free loan organizations around the world.

"Volunteering at Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa allows me to help those less fortunate than myself. Through detailed examination of the needs of others, I am able to see with clarity the blessings G-d has granted me in my life."

HOWARD PRICE
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto
Howard's volunteer involvement in UJA is extensive. Currently, he is Co-chair of the UJA Federation Partners' Circle. He is a past Vice-chair of the UJA Federation annual campaign and a past Co-chair of both the Physicians Division and Professions Cabinet. Howard is the founding Co-chair of UJA Federation's Maimonides Society and has led the last six UJA Federation Medical Missions to Israel.

"I have enjoyed volunteering for a number of reasons. Firstly, UJA Federation dollars are so necessary here in Canada as well as Israel. Secondly, by volunteering, I have had the pleasure to work with many dedicated professionals and other volunteers. Lastly, UJA Federation provides a tremendous vehicle to get many people involved in the Jewish community."

DAVID ROSENBAUM
Hillel of Greater Toronto
President of Hillel of Greater Toronto until 2008, David has been involved for close to ten years. During that time, he has played an instrumental role in Israel affairs, fundraising, and developing the leadership of the Board and students. Committed to increasing Israel awareness on campus through advocacy, education and dialogue, he has made it possible for speakers such as Alan Dershowitz, Dennis Ross and Elie Wiesel to appear on campus.

"Our Jewish university and college students are our future. Thankfully, our community recognizes that and has been a strong and loyal supporter of Hillel's activities. It gives me great satisfaction to contribute to our Jewish future through my work with Hillel."

ROSALIE SHARP
Ashkenaz Foundation
A past Chair of the Board of Ashkenaz Foundation, Rosalie remains an avid supporter and fundraiser. She is currently Chancellor of the Ontario College of Art and Design and a past Chair of the Board of Trustees there. Rosalie also sits on the Board of the Gardiner Museum. Her latest book, *Rifke, Just a Few Steps from the Shtetl*, will be published in the spring of 2007.

"The Talmud suggests that everyone give 10% of their worth to charity. Personally, I think this is a low number. Tzedakah is both a duty and a privilege with the emphasis on privilege."

Voluntarism at its best

This past summer, Israel faced one of its most critical moments since the founding of the State. For 34 days, northern Israelis lived directly in the firing line of daily Hezbollah rocket barrages. They were forced from their homes and into bomb shelters to escape the carnage. Their peace of mind was shattered as were their homes and businesses.

Once again, our committed Jewish community stood **TOGETHER WITH ISRAEL**. By donating financially or volunteering their time and talent, each in their own way, they helped make a positive difference in the lives of our Israeli brothers and sisters.

As chairs of UJA Federation's Leadership Development initiatives, we are buoyed by the selflessness and dedication demonstrated by our community's volunteers, and we look forward to working with the leaders listed in the following pages who are committed to ensuring a bright and prosperous Jewish world for generations to come.

Finally, we thank all our community agencies, schools, congregations and organizations for participating in this, our 12th annual Volunteer Recognition Supplement. Their work is a testament to the strength and integrity of our community and is a tremendous source of pride for us all.

Judy Engel
Abe Glowinsky

Co-Chairs, Leadership Development
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Adath Israel Synagogue

Perpetuates and promotes Conservative Judaism and the Jewish way of life. www.adathisrael.com

MARK E. ALTER

"A vibrant synagogue is of great importance in sustaining Judaism in the Diaspora. I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to bring meaningful programs to our members and the community."

Ashkenaz*

Committed to raising the profile of Jewish diasporic culture by programming festivals that profile both local and international artists and to setting the stage for many new up-and-coming performers. Ashkenaz also introduces or reintroduces many unaffiliated Jews to their cultural identity and provides a window to the broader community on the most cutting edge elements of Yiddish culture. www.ashkenazfestival.com

HEATHER HOFFMAN

"The Ashkenaz Foundation depends on a small group of volunteers. On Labour Day weekend, artists from all genres joined us from around the world and touched our hearts and souls. This is why I love being an Ashkenaz volunteer."

Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto*

Provides students with an excellent Jewish and General Studies education based on Torah values in a safe and supportive environment. www.associatedhebrewschools.com

SUSAN BATIST

"To suggest that volunteering is an altruistic act is to ignore all that it offers the volunteer. Indeed, it is a means to make a difference, to say thank you and to recognize the administrators, teachers and staff who have made living and learning at Associated Hebrew Schools richer and better through their time and effort. I volunteer with joy because I want to participate in the Associated experience and contribute what I can to ensure that our school and our community of students flourish."

Association for Soldiers of Israel

The only non-profit organization in Canada that supports Israeli soldiers on active duty, partnered with The Association for the Wellbeing of Israel's Soldiers. We fund social, educational, and recreational programs to ease the burdens faced by young soldiers on duty, their loved ones, and, when the unfortunate need arises, their survivors. shiffmary@aol.com

WILF SHIFF

"Without a strong army, Israel would not survive. These young men and women need to know that they are not alone. We have to show them we care by making their lives a little easier."

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre*- Centre Camp

A community organization providing quality programs and services that meet the social, educational, cultural, recreational and citizenship needs of our constituents. www.bjcc.ca

THE SOBERMAN FAMILY (Dov, Riki, Molly Rose, Reuben and Gideon)

"We volunteered to host Israeli shlichot during their summer in Canada because of our love of Israel and a desire to show Israeli youth that they are supported by Diaspora Jewry. Our guests are wonderful and gracious and bring into the home the thoughtful and sophisticated Israeli perspective and resilience we so admire. Our children really enjoy the busier home environment and are learning great lessons about sharing, generosity and Israel. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience - no imposition, no downside. We feel that our family has gotten as much out of the undertaking as have our guests."

Baycrest

The mission of Baycrest is to enrich the quality of life of the elderly, guided always by the principles of Judaism. www.baycrest.org

MATILDA BIGIO

"My love of people and my knowledge of many languages enhances my volunteering at Baycrest - period. The joy I see in people's faces when I am singing, feeding and interacting is very special to me. It makes my day complete."

BBYO*

A youth-led, worldwide organization that provides opportunities for Jewish youth to develop their leadership potential, a positive Jewish identity and commitment to their personal development. www.bbyo.on.ca

IRV HANDLER

"Voluntarism is the backbone of Jewish culture, contributing to our continuity and resilience. My greatest nachus comes from seeing our teens graduate out of BBYO and return a few years later as volunteers themselves, giving back to the organization that meant so much to them as youths."

Beit Rayim Synagogue

A warm family-oriented Egalitarian Conservative Synagogue that seeks to enrich the Jewish life of members and Hebrew School students through a celebration of Jewish tradition and love of learning. www.beitrayim.org

EVA BLAFF

"Volunteering is not only my way of giving back to my community, but is also a very rewarding experience and one which allows me to feel as though I am helping to make a difference."

ESTHER SALVE-HINDEL

Esther has been a volunteer at Beit Rayim since its inception. After participating on many committees, including the Board, she has settled into involvement with the Women's Group and running the Judaica Shop.

* Denotes 2006-2007 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Beit Halochem Canada

Raises funds to help support the disabled veterans in Israel, and establishes meaningful relationships between the veterans and the Jewish community in Canada. www.advi.ca

ALEX EISEN
"I have been involved in Beit Halochem for 27 years. The disabled veterans were in the forefront of many wars. We cannot restore their lives to normal but through our generosity we can make their lives more comfortable."

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living*

A learning and wellness centre committed to maximizing the quality of life for seniors in the community and reflecting Jewish values. www.betelcentre.org

ESTHER SHIP
"I was one of the lucky ones to find the Bernard Betel Centre. I am involved in many things, from committees to drama. The most important thing at the Centre is the many new friends I have made."

Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre

Addresses the needs – social, educational, material, cultural and spiritual – of Israeli immigrants in Toronto by providing programs, services and networking resources within a warm and friendly atmosphere. Helps support, guide and unify the Hebrew-speaking immigrant community; educates its youth in leadership responsibilities with an emphasis on the values of tolerance, interdependence and contribution to society; and helps facilitate the successful integration of Israeli immigrants into the greater Jewish community. www.hebrewchabad.com

YEHUDA KLEIN
"I believe in the importance of giving. I deeply admire Rabbi Landa and I derive great satisfaction from knowing that our organization is unique in its heartfelt acceptance of everyone. I also feel it is essential to maintain a Hebrew-speaking shul."

* Denotes 2006-2007 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation

Dedicated to cultivating, developing and sustaining Judaism and Jewish living in accordance with the ideas and standards of the Conservative Movement. www.bethdavid.com

STEVEN PICOV
"It is very important that people give back to the community and especially to their shul."

Beth Sholom Synagogue

Seeks to enrich the lives of our congregants and community through the ideals of Torah, *Gemillut Hasidim* (Social Action) and *Achdut* (Jewish Unity). www.bethsholom.net

JACK HERSON
"It is a great honour to have served on the Board of Governors over the past 20 years. I have also had the privilege of being President of the Beth Sholom Brotherhood. One of my most rewarding endeavours has been in the capacity of Bingo Chairman. Voluntarism is a way to realize the value of the many activities in our community."

Beth Tikvah Synagogue

A vibrant forward-looking Conservative Synagogue dedicated to fostering spiritual and Judaic growth and fulfillment through meaningful rituals, activities and exciting educational programs. A sensitive and caring congregation attractive to all ages and responsive to the individual needs of our members. www.bethtikvah.on.ca

SYD SELTZER
"I chair the Social Action Committee and Calendar Diary to give back some of what I receive. Beth Tikvah is my hope, my heart and my home. It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Beth Tzedec Congregation

Founded to preserve Judaism, to inculcate belief in G-d and reverence for our heritage, to translate Jewish spiritual values into terms of present day thought and action, to revitalize Jewish traditional practices in synagogue and home, and to cultivate Hebrew language and literature. www.beth-tzedec.org

ELAINE STEINER
"I am very fortunate to be a small part of a dedicated community of clergy, professionals and volunteers. Beth Tzedec cares about its members as individuals and encourages us to learn and grow Jewishly."

Bialik Hebrew Day School*

(Parent Teachers Association)
Contributes to an enriched learning environment for our students as well as strengthens the bonds throughout the Bialik community. www.bialik.ca

PERRI KIRSHENBLATT & MAUREEN TANZ
"Volunteering at Bialik for the past 12 years has been an incredibly gratifying experience. Our involvement in the school has given us a unique perspective into what takes place behind the scenes and how our work benefits our school community."

Camp Moshava

A religious Zionist camp committed to instilling, nurturing and developing in our campers and staff a dedication to and love for a Torah way of life, the State of Israel and the Jewish people, as well as stimulating intellectual, physical, emotional and social growth through a safe and enjoyable summer experience. www.campmoshava.org

Camp Moshava would like to thank all of our volunteers who, selflessly, give of their time and efforts in order to help enrich, strengthen and advance the importance of the experience that our camp provides. A *Yashar Cochachem* to all of you. May we continue to work together and go from strength to strength.

Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Dedicated to the advancement of higher education and knowledge while contributing to the growth and vitality of Israel and the Negev. www.bgu.ac.il

MITCHELL OELBAUM
"My mother, my late father and all my family have been associated with Ben-Gurion University since its inception. I am proud to continue my family's tradition of supporting one of Israel's great institutions of higher learning."

Canadian Friends of Israel Elwyn

To promote the independence and dignity of children and adults with special needs throughout Israel. www.israelelwyn.org.il

WENDI RECHTSMAN
"Working with a dynamic group of people who have a mission to support and encourage those less fortunate has been inspirational. It is both an honour and a privilege to volunteer on behalf of Israel Elwyn. Together we have overcome challenges and given back to others."

Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital

Israel's foremost centre for geriatric and psychiatric medicine, treating the effects of advancing age and mental instability using advanced medical technologies, professional expertise, compassion and care. herzoghosp@on.aibn.com

MEIR ROTENBERG
"I began volunteering when I discovered that my background as a financial advisor could help care for elderly and psychiatric patients in Israel. I continue to volunteer after seeing the difference we make in people's lives."

Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital

Laniado Hospital serves over 250,000 people in Netanya, and is the only Israeli hospital with a no strike policy. Laniado's high standard of medicine is practiced with compassion and kindness to all. friends@laniado.ca

DAVID ANISMAN
"I have been a volunteer fundraiser for Laniado Hospital for over six years. I am very proud to support the hospital and I am especially impressed with the new Neonatal addition which has just been completed."

"One glorious chain of love, of giving and receiving, unites all creatures."

- Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch

WALK WITH ISRAEL 2006

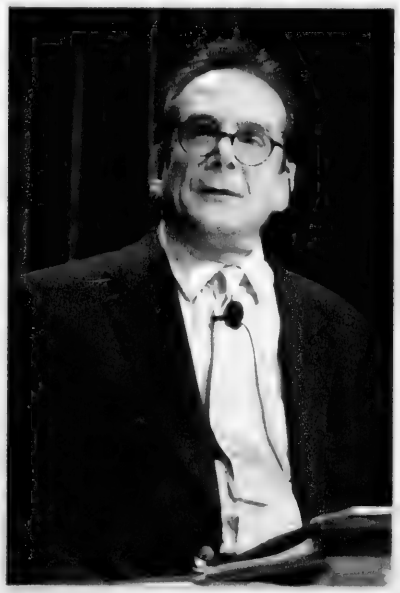
More than 15,000 walkers, sponsors and volunteers took part in this year's UJA Federation Walk With Israel – the largest Israel solidarity walk outside Israel itself. Led by Toronto Mayor David Miller and Police Chief Bill Blair, men, women and children of all ages walked as one proud community in support of at-risk youth in Toronto, Israel and around the world.

....Through celebration t TOGETHER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ISRAEL!

What a party! More than 3,000 people showed their unwavering support for Israel on Yom Ha'atzmaut – Israel's Independence Day – to mark the Jewish State's 58th birthday. The celebration offered fun for the whole family, with singing, dancing, activities for children, a kosher BBQ and live entertainment. The community event was co-sponsored by the Bathurst JCC, Miles Nadal JCC, Schwartz/Reisman Centre, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education, Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge & Heritage of UJA Federation and the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life.

EMERGENCY COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT ISRAEL



In response to Israel's war with Hezbollah, UJA Federation immediately launched an Israel Emergency Campaign to meet the human needs of Israelis caught in the northern war zone. An overflow crowd of more than 2,500 people attended the launch of Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 to show their support for Israel and to hear political commentator Charles Krauthammer. They also heard an impassioned address by Yair Goldwasser, brother of Ehud Goldwasser, one of the Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah.

FEDERATION
Live generously

STAND WITH ISRAEL

It was a giant rally beyond all expectations! More than 8,000 Jewish and non-Jewish community members filled the Toronto Centre for the Arts, with an overflow at Mel Lastman Square, in support of Israel during its time of crisis. They heard from retired Major-General Lewis MacKenzie, an internationally respected military analyst and one of Canada's most decorated peacekeepers. The rally also featured a live satellite broadcast from northern Israel, where its citizens were being subjected to aggressive attacks by Hezbollah. A highlight of the broadcast was an emotional reunion between Israeli commander Guy Markizano and his brother, Motti, who sat in the Toronto audience fighting back tears. The two brothers sent each other words of comfort and love.

(above) Motti Markizano, lower right, speaks with his brother Guy in Israel during the satellite broadcast.

o crisis

WITH ISRAEL

COMMUNITY TELETHON RAISES FUNDS FOR ISRAEL

Nearly 1,000 Jewish community volunteers participated in a massive iniative on behalf of UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2007. What has become known as UJA Federation's Super Sunday, followed by Super Week, raised more than $2.6 million for urgent social needs in northern Israel, devastated by Hezbollah rocket attacks. Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 now stands at more than $61 million, with over $18 million specifically designated for Israel's emergency requirements.

(photo: Igor Ellyn)

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Several UJA Federation solidarity missions to northern Israel took dozens of volunteers to a number of northern communities devastated by the war with Hezbollah, including Haifa, Nahariya, Metulla, Kiryat Shmona and Kibbutz Misgav Am, a northern community that overlooks Lebanon. While participants found lingering anguish from the incessant rocket attacks, they saw enormous resilience, as well, among the Israeli citizens.

Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University

Provides support for the educational goals of Tel Aviv University through public awareness and fundraising; encourages the participation of Canadian students in TAU's academic programs; and promotes scholarly exchanges between Tel Aviv University and institutions of higher education in Canada.
cftau@interlog.com

ARTHUR SIEGEL
"Toronto Friends help support the remarkable achievement of Tel Aviv University in the sciences, arts and medicine. In 50 years, Tel Aviv University has become one of the world's leading universities."

Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University

Develops and promotes awareness, leadership and financial support for the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
www.cfhu.org

On behalf of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, we proudly acknowledge the contribution of our dedicated volunteers and lay leaders whose efforts continue to promote awareness of and support for the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Each volunteer adds a vibrancy and unique approach to our efforts and for this we are grateful.

Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation

To support and promote educational, research and patient care programs at Shaare Zedek Hospital Centre in Jerusalem.
www.hospitalwithaheart.ca

JARROD SALTZMAN
"Volunteering with Shaare Zedek can be summed up in one word – inspirational. I have been able to meet and work with amazing people. I was fortunate to travel to Israel on a mission trip to visit Shaare Zedek. Truly an amazing place, it made me realize how important the work we do is to Israel. I was overwhelmed with pride and accomplishment. Together we can make a difference!"

Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science (Weizmann Science Canada)

Expresses commitment of the Canadian Jewish community to help the Weizmann Institute maintain its standards of excellence and its significant contributions to world science and Israel. www.weizmann.ca

CHERYL GOLDBERG & GERTIE UGER
"Volunteering at the Weizmann and being with Michael Meyer and Sheri Federman is like visiting family. We are privileged to play a small role in their momentous efforts in science both here and in Israel."

Canadian Society for Yad Vashem

Ensures that future generations will know what befell the Jewish people and so many others through education, research and remembrance in the hope that the lessons of the Holocaust will not be forgotten.
www.yadvashem.ca

SHAWNA SPIEGELMAN
"To make sure that current and future generations are well versed and highly informed about the atrocities of the Holocaust, Yad Vashem gives me the opportunity to keep the memory of the victims of the Shoah alive."

Canadian Volunteers for Israel/SAR-EL Canada

Encourages and facilitates Canadians in volunteering as civilians on Israeli army supply bases.
www.sarelcanada.org

ESTHER SCHILLING
"My love of Israel drew me to my first trip as a Sar-El volunteer. Since then I have been many times. When I returned after that first trip in 1987, I became a Toronto office volunteer and eventually served as President for seven years."

Chabad Torah Tots Pre-School

Offers a warm, friendly and creative Jewish environment where a child's unique style is valued and nurtured by caring teachers. Provides the excitement of new discoveries and development of responsible and independent thought. Children learn basic attitudes, skills and an ability to study that will always stay with them.

HEATHER AARON
"Volunteering for Torah Tots' Parents' Advisory Council gave me a strong connection to community, invigorated my soul, and allowed me to meet people who enriched my life tremendously. Above all, I hope it inspired my children with a sense of chessed *and* tikun olam."

Chabad Lubavitch Friendship Circle

A youth-oriented volunteer program that matches children with special needs with teenage/young adult mentors. friendshipcircle@chabad.ca

NECHAMA SHUBOV
"I enjoy volunteering for children with special needs as it gives me a sense of accomplishment. I have gained special qualities from the experience, such as responsibility and sensitivity. I am thankful to be able to contribute to this organization."

Chabad Lubavitch of Markham

Non-judgmental and friendly philosophy, with the belief that, regardless of education background or affiliation, it is the inalienable right of every Jewish person to learn and participate in our heritage which belongs to us all equally.
www.chabadmarkham.org

MONIQUE ISAACSON
"Voluntarism is part of my upbringing. Generally, it is more fulfilling to do than to receive. My children must know that it is important to help others and what better way than to lead by example. Ultimately, the best way to be a part of a community is to be involved in that community."

Chabad Lubavitch of Ontario

Strives ceaselessly to preserve and perpetuate traditional Jewish values. With its numerous affiliate satellite centres throughout the GTA and beyond, Chabad Lubavitch of Ontario is an affiliate of a worldwide organization dedicated to the welfare of the Jewish community.
www.chabad.ca

STEVEN MAIZELS
"For some people, volunteering is a reflexive action. You don't think about it; you just do what needs to be done."

Circle of Care*

Supports individual independence and sustains and enhances quality of life in the community.
www.circleofcare.com

LEAH SEGALOWITZ
"For fourteen years Circle of Care has given me a new purpose in life. As a retired nurse I always felt left out and not needed. The palliative care home visiting gave me a new lease on life."

Congregation Darchei Noam – Social Action Committee

We, as Jews, are committed to addressing the pain and suffering of people who are homeless by offering food, shelter and friendship as a Jewish solution to a community problem. www.darcheinoam.on.ca

LYNDA CHAMPAGNE
"I began as part of a group working to ease the struggle of homelessness, even if just for one night each week. Now Thursdays have become a time to host friends, those very same people I once thought of as 'the homeless'."

Downtown Jewish Community School*

Provides Jewish students with a basis for Jewish identity in a pluralistic community. Students are taught the concepts and skills necessary to live a Jewish life and to feel comfortable within a Jewish setting. www.djcs.org

PAUL BAIN
"DJCS has provided an excellent Jewish education to thousands of Jewish children in downtown Toronto over the past quarter century. Schools like the DJCS are the key to Jewish continuity in Toronto."

Stand TOGETHER WITH ISRAEL – Become a Volunteer!

You, too, can share your expertise or talents – offer your time to someone who needs you – make new friends and contacts – experience the satisfaction that comes from helping others – develop a stronger connection to our Jewish community and to Israel.

For information, visit *www.jewishtoronto.com* (click Doing Jewish in Toronto Volunteering)

* Denotes 2006-2007 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School, Sara and Sam Hennick Educational Centre*

Canada's first and only Jewish school for children with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders. Programs are designed to help students reach their personal and academic potential by providing them with strategies to manage their difficulties. faigied@shearim.ca

RUTHIE MAMMON
"For the past four years I have enjoyed giving my time as the Treasurer of the Parents' League. It has allowed me to take an active role in this special school for children with learning disabilities and to get to know most of the parents. As well, I have enjoyed working with the She'arim staff, a community of devoted people who want to see both the school and its students grow and succeed. I am proud to be a part of the She'arim family and look forward to continuing my volunteer work at the school."

Eastern Canadian Region of United Synagogue Youth - (ECRUSY)

Serving grades 6-12, the youth arm of the Conservative Movement, affiliated with The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Offers middle and high school students opportunities to immerse themselves in various Jewish and social activities while forming friendships that will last a lifetime. www.ecrusy.org

PHIL BIRNBAUM
"Through my volunteering with USY I have been able to build life-long bonds to the Jewish community. I love being able to strengthen the Jewish community and hope to stay involved for years to come."

Emunah Women of Toronto

The largest religious Zionist women's organization in the world, it aims to strengthen religious consciousness, provide social care and religious and secular education for children and youth, with selective vocational and academic training. www.emunahcanada.org

ESTY YERES
"I am proud to be on the executive and to work alongside other dedicated volunteers. Through our fundraising efforts, Emunah provides care and support for underprivileged children and adults in Israel, aiding them to become productive members of society."

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

Combats antisemitism and hate by promoting tolerance, justice and human rights worldwide through education and advocacy. www.wiesenthal.com

ESTHER LITZ
"As a parent and grandparent, I must do everything possible to protect my children. Through my work with FSWC, I know that I am making a positive contribution through their mission of fostering tolerance and understanding through community involvement. We must continue to make this world a better place for everyone."

Friends of Yiddish of Toronto

Promotes the preservation of our Yiddish language and culture and fosters its continued contribution to Jewish life.

LILLIAN FRIENDLY-EIGLES
"For 23 years, Friends of Yiddish has raised awareness of the importance and beauty of our Yiddish culture, literature and language. I am so proud to be a part of this."

Habayit Shelanu Seniors Residences Corporation

A unique living environment based on recognition of the changing needs of older adults. Committed to providing an environment that fosters a positive Jewish identity. afoss@circleofcare.com

WENDY PAPERNICK
"I joined the Board of Directors because I am impressed with the organization's important work ensuring that seniors have optimum care and support. I want to use my skills as a chartered accountant at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to assist the Board in providing a secure future for Habayit Shelanu."

Hillel of Greater Toronto*

The address for Jewish student life in Toronto. Through exciting and creative programming and events, Hillel promotes Jewish identity, student leadership, and religious and political diversity in a dynamic and inclusive environment for all Jewish students. www.hilleltoronto.org

MICHAEL FERMAN
Hillel – City Wide Student Council
"I volunteer with Hillel because I strongly believe in its mandate to engage Jewish students in Jewish life. My involvement is deeply rewarding and has intensified my active engagement in Jewish communal life."

JONATHAN VANDERSLUIS
Hillel @ Ryerson
"My role in Hillel allows me the privilege of instilling Judaism into the lives of university students in the hope that they will maintain strong ties to Judaism now and in the future."

KIM GUIGUI
Hillel @ U of T Mississauga
"It is crucial to have other Jewish students, staff, and faculty to rely on, and to know that they can also count on us in return. Without this solidarity, we and other students would feel unrepresented and unheard on campus."

HAGAI KUPERMAN
Hillel @ U of T St. George
"I remember the first time I set foot on a university campus and all I really wanted to do was connect with Jewish students and be involved with a campus club. Getting involved with Hillel at the University of Toronto allowed me to pursue the kind of Jewish activities that were really important to me and, even more, it helped develop my inner leadership qualities that have made me a stronger individual in all areas of my life."

ADAM HUMMEL
Hillel @ York University
"I believe that Jewish campus life is the most important way to support Israel and the Jewish community. Jewish students today have incredible opportunities, and it is important for every single one to feel comfortable and proud at university. Volunteering for Hillel, an organization that provides students with the chance to take advantage of these options, allows me to generate meaningful experiences for others, and give Jewish students a more active and vocal role in the overall community."

Hebrew Club for the Blind

Provides social programs in a pleasant environment for its visually impaired members of all ages. The togetherness and camaraderie that comes from the unique membership of the club often leads to lasting friendships. Shoshana at 905-660-4780

On behalf of the Hebrew Club for the Blind, we would like to thank our volunteers for the dedication, patience and enthusiasm you have shown over the years. It would be impossible without you to run a successful club and allow those to participate who otherwise would not have been able to. Your hard work will always be appreciated and admired. Each and every one of you is a blessing for us. Thank you with all our hearts!
- Anny Heitz, Volunteer Coordinator

Holy Blossom Temple

A vibrant, liberal, religious synagogue community. www.holyblossom.org

HENRIETTA CHESNIE
"As a Past President of the Temple, I realize that no Chair of a committee ever works alone and I am honoured to have worked with so many volunteers who are integral to any organization."

Israel Cancer Research Fund

Supports scientists working in institutions, hospitals and health centres throughout Israel, enabling them to engage in innovative cancer research to the benefit of all. www.icrfonline.org

FAITH SHERMAN
"Cancer affects too many people. My ambition is to spread ICRF's positive messages that each day scientific discoveries are improving the battle against cancer and that the excellence and humanitarianism of Israeli scientists are unparalleled."

"On three things the world stands: on Torah, on service, and on Acts of Loving Kindness"

- Pirke Avot

* Denotes 2006-2007 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Israeli Forum*

A newly established not-for-profit organization representing and catering to the needs of the Israeli Canadian community.
gsarner@ujafed.org

GIL BLUTRICH
"The Israeli community can be proud of establishing the Israeli Forum that will not only address the needs of the Israelis in Toronto but will strengthen the connections between the Jewish community and the growing Israeli community. As a local source of power, we will help Israel the way we supported the northern cities and their residents during the Lebanon war. We were proud to help and the Israeli authorities were grateful for that."

DAVID ZALTZMAN
"I have been volunteering most of my life, but here in Toronto, volunteering for the Israeli community has some added value: a new world of 'doing' has been open to me. The more I volunteer in the Israeli Forum and the Israeli school Kachol-Lavan, the more I know about the needs of the Israeli community and about the many important things that should be done jointly by the Jewish and Israeli communities."

JACS (Jewish Alcoholics Chemically Dependent Persons & Significant Others)*

An organization led by volunteers dedicated to encouraging and assisting alcoholics, chemically dependent persons and their families, friends and associates to explore recovery in a nurturing Jewish environment. JACS exists to provide support for Jews in recovery and to be an information resource on the effects of alcoholism and drug dependency on Jewish family life. www.jacstoronto.org

JILL GOTLIEB
"I got involved as a result of seeing how this organization has helped people. JACS gives people a place to turn to and find assistance while dealing with the chaos of substance abuse."

ART SILBER
"I feel privileged to be a part of the program at JACS that shines the light on a very dark area by bringing awareness and safety to teenagers and their families in addiction crises."

* Denotes 2006-2007 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Jewish Camp Council of Toronto*

Provides residential, recreational camping services to the community, geared to the social needs of the recipient, regardless of ability to pay. Camping services for children provide an opportunity to learn and enjoy recreational skills, while gaining independence and self-sufficiency in a caring Jewish environment.
www.campnbb.com

ANDREA SHARE
"Helping to shape Camp Northland-B'nai Brith for years to come is especially gratifying for me. The experience of summer camp is invaluable regardless of economic background as it promotes positive values, ideals and deep-rooted friendships."

Jewish Canadian Military Museum*

Strives to strengthen the awareness of both the Jewish and general communities to honour Jewish Canadian veterans for their contributions and sacrifices. Preserves the history and educates the public about the Jewish role in the Canadian Armed Forces from the beginning of our country.
arwings1@rogers.com

We would like to thank and acknowledge all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

Jewish Family & Child Service*

Supports and promotes the development of individuals and families through prevention, protection, counseling, education and advocacy services within the context of Jewish values.
www.jfandcs.com

WENDY WOLFISH
"When children were actually enthusiastic to come to the Homework Club to do their work I knew I was contributing to something special. I found it extremely gratifying to help them develop academically and socially."

Chaplaincy Services*

ERNIE & LORI GERSHON
"As chaplains we bring Torah, avodah, gemilut chasadim to the lives of seniors. Volunteering is something we have always done and encourage others to do. Volunteers provide not only their own knowledge and capabilities but, more important, their heart."

Jewish National Fund of Toronto

Given primary responsibility with regard to afforestation and reforestation in Israel. As well, JNF has constructed over 138 water reservoirs in the last decade, has prepared the infrastructure, providing employment for new immigrants and is the prime protector of Israel's environment.
tor@jnf-canada.org

MENA SHUPAK
"Fundraising with JNF helps me feel connected to the people of Israel. Money raised by JNF is used to improve and preserve the environment. I am proud to be serving in the community for our nation, Israel."

Jewish War Veterans of Canada – Toronto Region

Made up of citizens, residents and landed immigrants of Jewish faith who served in the wars of Canada and/or its allies, who have formed an association in order that we may be of greater service to our country and to one another. www.jwvc.com

LORRAINE POLLOCK
"Volunteering has always been part of my life. The opportunity to volunteer with Jewish War Veterans provides the opportunity to work with 'heroes' and to honour their sacrifices to bring peace and democracy to our world."

Jewish Women International of Canada

JWIC is a force for social change dedicated to ending violence against women. www.jwicanada.com

CHARLOTTE LEFLER
"'Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others.' This quote by Danny Thomas very aptly describes my feelings about the value of volunteering and giving back to the community. I am proud of my involvement with JWIC and my role in making a difference."

Jews for Judaism*

Dedicated to counteracting the multi-million dollar efforts of numerous cults and missionary groups that target Jews for conversion, offering an extensive variety of preventive education programs, materials and specialized counseling services that keep Jews Jewish.
www.jewsforjudaism.org

CHARLES GLINA
"Having first-hand experience with Christian missionaries, I know the work of Jews for Judaism is unparalleled. By confronting missionaries on street corners, educating and counseling Jews and distributing literature, Jews for Judaism is saving Jewish souls."

JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto*

Facilitates the lawful entry and resettlement of Jewish refugees and immigrants arriving in Toronto. Advances their well-being by providing transition and orientation services for integration into the Jewish community and Canadian society-at-large. www.jiastoronto.org

JIAS Toronto extends its thanks to the group of nine dedicated volunteers of the Give The Kids Foundation, who make the birthdays of over 150 newcomer children a year all the more special by giving each one a knapsack filled with gifts when they celebrate their first birthday in their new home. In many cases, this is the first gift a new immigrant child receives in Toronto, and it comes with a message to the whole family that Toronto is a caring, welcoming city. These women display a rare type of generosity and thoughtfulness, which is all about tzedakah at its best.

JVS Toronto*

Working in strong partnership with government and business for over 60 years to assist people to achieve their educational and employment potential. www.jvstoronto.org

CAROLIN MICHAELS
"I volunteer at JVS Toronto because it is a wonderful dynamic organization where volunteers are sincerely respected and greatly appreciated."

"The Jewish people, ever since David slew Goliath, have never considered youth as a barrier to leadership."

- President John F. Kennedy

Kehilla Residential Programme*

Identifies and champions affordable housing initiatives responsive to the needs of the Jewish community through education and advocacy, project sponsorship, development consultation, research and management. www.kehilla.ca

MICHAEL LONG
"In volunteering with Kehilla, I am able to give back to the Jewish community. But more importantly, I'm becoming more connected to the community."

Kehillat Shaarei Torah

Serving the Bayview-York Mills area, this modern Orthodox Synagogue prides itself on providing an open and welcoming setting where all feel at home. www.shaareitorah.com

HAROLD & SHARON KLUG
"Volunteering at Kehillat Shaarei Torah gives us a sense of self gratification to see our shul on Bayview grow and play an active role in the Orthodox community throughout the city."

KOLEL: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning

A pluralistic, egalitarian progressive community adult education and outreach centre that, through the study of traditional texts, gives students an opportunity to enhance their identity and understand their heritage. www.kolel.org

DR. JACOB LANGER & FERNE SHERKIN LANGER
"Kolel provides a unique, non-threatening learning environment within the liberal Toronto Jewish community, and its programming has enriched the lives of countless numbers of Jews, young and old, over the past 15 years. We believe in Kolel's mission and its importance to our community, and we're proud to be Kolel's volunteers of the year."

L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women

A patient support group for Jewish women who are presently undergoing cancer treatment, offering informal peer support in a non-judgmental, caring and confidential manner, with an understanding of both the cancer experience and issues specific to Jewish women. In addition, L'Chaim is committed to raising cancer awareness in the Jewish community.

L'Chaim wishes to thank all our volunteers who generously give of their time to help newly diagnosed women feel "not alone." We thank you for making a difference and providing the support needed.

Leo Baeck Day School*

Reform Jewish day school where families, professionals and Board members together create a child-centered learning environment in which each student experiences a multi-faceted educational program. www.leobaeck.ca

LIZ WOLFE
"Providing a Jewish education for our children is a strategic priority for our community. Leo Baeck serves an important role in developing Jewish identity and commitment. It is a privilege for me to contribute to that effort."

Limmud Canada

Dedicated to enhancing informal Jewish education to the entire community in all its diversity and to all ages of participants from children to adults. Limmud Canada's activities aim to provide opportunities for Jewish education, development and inspiration for each of its participants. www.limmud.ca

RUTH MARGLES
"The Festival of Jewish Learning was both challenging and rewarding, encompassing programming on Israel, history, arts and culture, text study and contemporary issues. I was proud to be a part of Limmud's approach to offer an opportunity for people from all sectors of the Jewish community to openly gather and learn from each other solely for the joy of learning."

"...the greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more."

- Jonas Salk

Maccabi Canada

Promotes Jewish identity and traditions through athletic, cultural, social and educational activities for both youth and adults and promotes a bond with the State of Israel, both domestically and abroad. www.maccabicanada.com

We have the talented athletes. We have the dedicated coaches. We have a strong administrative team. But what we also have at Maccabi Canada is something very special – the volunteers who give of their precious time – over and over again – to help Jewish athletes get the support needed to compete at the Maccabiah Games held every four years in Israel. And so, there are many wonderful things that might never get done if it wasn't for the kind of volunteers like ours across the country. Success in life is not what you do for yourself; it's what you do for others. To all our volunteers - thank you. *Chazak v'Amatz.*

MAZON Canada

The national Jewish response to hunger, MAZON Canada raises funds primarily from within the Jewish community and distributes those funds, on a non-denominational basis, to Canadian organizations battling hunger on the front lines. Based on the tradition of *tikun olam* (healing the world), our organization strives to link public awareness about the issue of poverty and hunger with the *mitzvah* of tzedakah. www.mazoncanada.ca

CAROL KORANYI
"As a volunteer for MAZON Canada, I am supporting my belief in the fundamental right of every Canadian to have shelter and sufficient nutrition for a healthy life. MAZON enables me to help others achieve dignity."

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women

An institute of Jewish learning for women of all backgrounds and beliefs, with the primary goal of making accessible to its students the full range of traditional Jewish texts. In an atmosphere of spiritual and intellectual growth, Mekorot aims to provide the basic tools for intensive study, a steady development of knowledge and a strengthened respect for and understanding of Torah text and values. www.mekorot.ca

REBECCA ROTENBERG NADLER
"When volunteering, the reward is seeing a program succeed and the participants thrive. In the case of Mekorot, students discover, through study and inquiry, the richness of their Jewish heritage, enhancing their lives as Jews."

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre*

Dedicated to serving the cultural, educational and recreational needs of downtown Toronto through programs and services guided by Jewish values. Open to all members of the community. www.mnjcc.org

JACQUELINE FRIEDLAND
"I believe JCCs are one of the most important institutions within our community to help promote continuity and affiliation. JCCs attract all types through a myriad of programs – educational, cultural and art, fitness and recreation."

Mosaic Outdoor Club of Ontario

A voluntary, not-for-profit organization that provides quality group experiences to foster the development of outdoor knowledge and a respect for the environment in a Jewish context. www.mosaictoronto.org

JEFFREY KAY
"Volunteering with Mosaic has enabled me to share my appreciation of the diversity of Toronto by leading walking tours through a variety of neighbourhoods. I have met many new friends through Mosaic who share my interests."

Mount Sinai Hospital

A world-class health care facility discovering and delivering the best in patient care, teaching and research with the heart and values true to our heritage. www.mtsinai.on.ca

MARILYN SCOLNICK
"As a graduate nurse I get great satisfaction in helping others. I work alongside the most excellent doctors, nurses and staff in Oncology. As a cancer patient myself, I hope that when patients see my positive attitude, I will instill courage in them."

Na'amat Canada

The first to embrace feminist ideals, the women of Na'amat will continue to be innovative leaders in meeting the needs of an ever-changing world. www.naamat.com

HEATHER FREED
"When I first arrived in Toronto from Montreal, I joined Na'amat to make friends. At the time, I had no idea how much my Na'amat family would come to mean and how much satisfaction I would get from helping others."

* Denotes 2006-2007 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY)

Connects Jewish teenagers to the Jewish people and Israel so they will identify themselves as Jews and take a leadership role in the Jewish community. www.ncsy.ca

RHONDA SYRTASH

NCSY would like to thank Rhonda and her family for their countless contributions to NCSY. Rhonda has arranged and attended the NCSY sponsored Jewish Culture Club at Thornhill Secondary School for many years. Together we have given a little pizza and a lot of Judaism to many unaffiliated Jewish kids over the years. We hope you enjoy your well-deserved sabbatical year. And to John Syrtash, Josh, Elana, and Jeremy, thanks for the many and varied ways you've assisted us in reaching out to the Jewish teens in the GTA.

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section

A non-profit service organization committed to enhancing the lives of individuals in our community through education, service and social action by meeting the challenges facing the children, seniors, newly arrived and disadvantaged in our community. www.ncjwc-ts.org

PAULA FRISCH

"Volunteering for NCJWC-TS gives me the opportunity to participate in and benefit from diverse activities and interests, meet and spend time with wonderful individuals and, perhaps most importantly, channel my energy and abilities to most effectively give back to the community."

SHEILA MOSTYN

"After 20 years as a dedicated member of NCJWC-TS, I am currently Co-chair of the Membership Portfolio. It was my pleasure to help ensure the continued strength of Toronto Section by promoting the organization, placing new members in an appropriate branch, updating membership data and designing a brochure and information package. My Co-chair and I also formed and mentored branches for single women. Significant growth in membership has been extremely rewarding."

* Denotes 2006-2007 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Netivot HaTorah Day School*

An Orthodox Jewish Day School striving for excellence in a full program of Judaic and General Studies, incorporating the Zioni Dati philosophy and *Halacha and Halachic* principles.
asteinfeld@netivothatorah.com

REBECCA ANSEL

"Netivot HaTorah provides so many wonderful experiences for its students. It has been a thrill to photograph and publicize the students' enthusiasm as they participate in Netivot's many performances and activities."

New Israel Fund

Plays a leading role in promoting the development of a strong civil society and democratic institutions in Israel that reflect Judaism's long tradition of social justice. Raises funds for Israeli organizations that work to safeguard civil and human rights, bridge social and economic gaps, foster tolerance for all Israel's citizens and residents, and create an environment in which Judaism in its many forms of practice can thrive. www.nif.org/canada

ABIGAIL SLATER

"My parents model the importance of giving of one's time and capability to others and my husband and I continue to pass this philosophy on to our own children. It is an honour to be among the supporters of The New Israel Fund of Canada - an organization that strengthens Israel's democracy by enfranchising the marginalized and the disadvantaged."

ORT Toronto

Raises funds in support of education and training programs worldwide; serves Jewish and non-Jewish ORT students providing them with the skills necessary for today and tomorrow.
lmeshwork@ort-toronto.org

RUTH DRUXERMAN

"I became an ORT leader over 40 years ago because of the need to build the organization. I continue to volunteer as ORT is most relevant in educating children of diverse backgrounds and provides crucial skills."

Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School*

Committed to academic excellence in a warm, supportive environment with a distinctive program that integrates Jewish and secular studies while encouraging artistic expression as a tool for learning. www.djds.ca

AVIVA RAJSKY

"For many, this school is 'the connection' to their Jewish heritage. Investing in something I believe in has been extremely gratifying. Working as a team and making such an impact has truly inspired me – I love what I do!"

Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles

Encourages participation and fosters interest in the study and creation of textile art and needlework based on Jewish themes.
www.pomegranateguild.ca

MEIRA JOSEPHY

"I am involved in the Pomegranate Guild because of its Jewish education and Jewish culture emphasis. I can use my background in Jewish art history to teach others as well as learn from others."

Reena*

Enables people with developmental handicaps to realize their full potential by forming life-long partnerships with individuals and their families within a framework of Jewish culture and values.
www.reena.org

JACK PAPOFF

"I get great satisfaction from volunteering at Reena's ElderHome at Crestwood. The clients and staff are wonderful to work with and I assist in any way I can by playing games, taking clients for a walk or helping at meal time."

Schwartz/Reisman Centre*

Committed to developing in York Region a vibrant community characterized by its diversity, unity, compassion, generosity and commitment to Israel and Jewish values. bkeshen@ujafed.org

DORIS AND RAMMY ROCHMAN

"In today's world we feel volunteering has become more important than ever. Through volunteering we live our Jewish values by helping those in need in our own community and in Israel . Volunteering changes the world."

Shaar Shalom Synagogue

Provides for the spiritual, intellectual and social lives of the Conservative Jewish community through religious services and educational, cultural, social and recreational activities.
www.shaarshalom.ca

I. GEORGE GUTFREUND

"Devoting my time to serve this Synagogue through starting a daily minyan, hosting Jewish learning experiences, and being active on the Board of Governors, including fulfilling the role of President, has been an extremely rewarding experience."

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation

A modern Orthodox Synagogue passionately committed to Torah, to Israel and to providing its members and the Jewish community-at-large with unique opportunities for spiritual development through learning and prayer.
www.shomayim.org

MICHAEL GOLDRICH

Michael's lifelong commitment to Shaarei Shomayim Congregation has inspired many to devote their time and efforts on behalf of the congregation. For Michael, no challenge is too big and no job is too small.

State of Israel Bonds

Through the sale of Israel Bonds, provides a steady source of investment capital for the development and expansion of Israel's essential industry and infrastructure.
www.israelbonds.ca

DAVID MATLOW

"Israel Bonds directly assists the economy of Israel which is critical to the realization of the Zionist dream. As a securities lawyer, assisting Israel Bonds allows me to use my professional skills in the service of our homeland."

Tanenbaum CHAT*

Striving for excellence in all aspects of education, CHAT provides each student with a Judaic and General Studies education in a co-educational setting.
www.chattc.org and www.chatrh.org

PAULA BLACKSTEIN-HIRSCH

"The support of the Board and professional staff has made it a pleasure to volunteer at CHAT. It's been a privilege to have the opportunity to contribute a small amount in return for the huge benefits gained by our children."

TEATRON Theatre

Produces Jewish-themed plays from Canada and the world's communities, unveiling the treasures of Jewish tradition, enriching and inspiring the Jewish experience of all theatergoers, leading to better understanding and harmony, while maintaining Jewish values. www.teatrontheatre.com

JACQUELINE WISLESKY
"I volunteer with TEATRON Theatre because my guiding principle as a community development consultant is that sharing common stories through drama builds healthy, compassionate communities. TEATRON Theatre, under Ari Weisberg's leadership, allows me to bring that home by helping deliver our Jewish stories."

Temple Emanu-El

A Reform congregation committed to perpetuating Judaism within the home and the Synagogue through worship and study, emphasizing the celebration of Shabbat, Jewish Holy Days, and life-cycle events through innovative and diverse programming within a caring and supportive community. www.temanuel.com

SHELDON CAPLAN
Sheldon has been a dedicated and invaluable member of this congregation for many years. He has chaired and served on many Temple committees and served as the President of the congregation for three years and, several years later, served as President for another three years, guiding the Temple in a businesslike and efficient manner. Sheldon knows the true meaning of mitzvah and is a modest and caring member of the congregation and the Toronto Jewish community.

Temple Har Zion

Fosters commitment to Judaism through the mitzvot of worship, study and good deeds, in a warm inclusive environment.
www.templeharzion.com

MARY AISEN
"Volunteering helps me feel connected to my Synagogue community and to the Jewish community as a whole. Each volunteer contributes a small or large amount of time depending on our personal circumstances, enriching the variety of programs and services that define our spirit at Temple Har Zion."

Toronto Hadassah-WIZO

A volunteer women's Zionist organization that provides material and moral support to enhance the lives of women, children and youth in Israel through its healthcare, education and social services projects. It fosters and strengthens Jewish ideals and highlights the role of Israel in today's world. In Canada, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO supports educational projects and awareness of women's issues.
www.hadassahwizoto.ca

SHERRI PINSLER LIEBERMAN
"As this year's Bazaar Chair, I have the opportunity to use and develop my leadership skills, work with fantastic women and ensure critical services for women, children and youth at risk in Israel and Toronto."

Toronto Heschel School*

Envisions an educational community in which students develop an appreciation for learning, mutual respect and cooperation, love of Judaism and an understanding of the role of Jews and Judaism in the broader community and in the world.
www.torontoheschel.org

FRANK MILLER
"As Co-Chair of the Board and head of Human Resources at the school, I feel fortunate to have broadened my business experience by learning about the daily challenges of a Jewish Day School. Most importantly, I feel proud to have been part of helping this school secure a long-term location and build its first strategic plan to support the vision of the school."

Toronto Jewish Film Festival*

Aims to be both a window to and mirror of Jewish culture, striving to be inclusive of all aspects of the Toronto community, undertaking to show films of excellence that reflect the diversity of Jewish life.
www.tjff.com

SHARON MONCARZ
"I enjoy the experience immensely. It is my treat to myself every year. I love film and I love the people who come to the Festival. It is always exciting."

Toronto Jewish Film Society*

Dedicated to finding the best available films of interest to our primarily Jewish audience. We program films by Jews or about Jewish life from countries all over the world and endeavor to continue growing, increasing the number of young people both on our committee and in our audience. www.mnjcc.org

MORRIS FELDMAN, MERV GOLLOM, BERNIE AND NORMA RUBIN
"Discussing the pros and cons of the films we may select or reject for viewing by our members has always been a rich, rewarding and stimulating experience which we all thoroughly enjoy."

Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa*

Provides interest-free loans to members of the Jewish community for personal, educational and economic opportunity Start-Up Business needs.
freeloan@ujafed.org

RICK GOODMAN
"Volunteering with TJFLC provides remarkable opportunities to perform mitzvot for those less fortunate. TJFLC allows volunteers an amazing spiritual high by being able to assist others with interest-free loans."

United Synagogue Day School*

A nurturing and respectful community that strives to provide excellence in integrated Judaic and General Studies programming, focusing on the needs and growth of students in order to foster a lifelong love of learning. www.usds.ca

ALLEN GALES
"Volunteering has allowed me the wonderful opportunity to serve and contribute to an organization and purpose I care deeply about."

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Canadian Region

Promotes the role of the Synagogue in Jewish life in order to motivate Conservative Jews to perform *mitzvot* encompassing ethical behaviour, spirituality, Judaic learning, and ritual observance. www.uscj.org

MARION MAYMAN
"Conservative Judaism represents for me the ideal format for expressing my Judaism. I recently moved to Toronto from Ottawa and was delighted by the welcoming environment I received within the Movement. I was invited to sit on the Executive of the Canadian Region of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and to serve as the Youth Commission Co-Chairperson. Working with the younger generation is both inspiring and encouraging. It gives me a great deal of satisfaction to know that the future of Conservative Judaism is in good hands."

Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee

Raises the consciousness of all of its members to the world's ills, and actively engages in efforts to repair the world's inequities and imperfections, as part of the Jewish value of *tikun olam* – "repairing the world."
www.veahavta.org

MAX ZIDEL
"Being a volunteer at Ve'ahavta has always been and still is one of the greatest experiences for me. Going to the office on Mondays is always a highlight of my week. Within weeks of volunteering there, I fell in love with the organization and everything they stand for. I volunteer because I love doing it. I love being part of something so great."

Zareinu Educational Centre of Metropolitan Toronto*

Believes that every child has potential and deserves united efforts in providing therapies and learning strategies that will improve the quality of life for both the child and their family; strives to battle prejudice and encourages inclusion through opportunities for supported integration whenever possible; and works towards increasing acceptance of children with special needs in the community. www.zareinu.org

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"As the Sobey's Sellers of Zareinu Dollars for years, we derive inspiration from the community's support for Zareinu. Our motivation for volunteering comes from the amazing progress made by Zareinu with the special children in the community."

* Denotes 2006-2007 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Committed to preserving and strengthening the quality of Jewish life in Greater Toronto, Canada, Israel and around the world through philanthropic, volunteer and professional leadership.
www.jewishtoronto.com

Annual Campaign**

MARK SATOK

"My parents taught me at an early age the importance of volunteering and standing up for your community. One of the reasons I continue to volunteer year after year is to continue that tradition and teach my children the importance of helping others. UJA has always impressed me with how they deal with Jews in need here in Toronto, Israel and around the world, and I hope with my volunteer work with UJA, I can help make a difference."

Women's Campaign & Advocacy**

ANITA ROBINS

"I have always felt it was my duty to become involved in my community while I have the privilege of staying at home with my kids. When Laurie [Sheff] asked me to get involved in UJA Federation with her, it seemed like a good opportunity to gain insight into UJA and become more involved in the Toronto Jewish community."

LAURIE SHEFF

"I am delighted to be recognized, along with my friend Anita Robins. I have always had the utmost respect for UJA Federation and the work being done there. My family has had a long relationship with Federation and I feel lucky to be able to give some of my time to an organization dedicated to helping our wonderful Jewish community both at home and in Israel. I feel that it is important as a mother and role model to my children that I teach them at a young age how fortunate we are to live in Canada and how meaningful it can be to give back to our community."

** Denotes Committees and Departments of UJA Federation

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Board of Jewish Education **

RANDY SHIFF

"BJE is about much more than subsidizing the educational costs of students. It initiates, implements and monitors scores of programs that enhance the quality of Jewish education in Toronto – formal, informal, supplementary and day schools – which together enrich the quality of Jewish life in Toronto. Much more remains to be done. It is exciting to be part of this enterprise."

Toronto Jewish Youth Council**

Comprised of youth movement professionals and *shlichim*, TJYC is dedicated to strengthening Jewish youth movements in Toronto and enhancing the movement environment as a whole. It strives to develop cooperative projects that enhance the Jewish experiences for our city's youth. The TJYC develops programs that attract, instruct, challenge and encourage the Jewish leaders of tomorrow. dfine@ujafed.org

We wish to thank all those who have volunteered their time in all aspects of their movement's activities. To the participants, youth leaders, adults and parents, thank you for your commitment to the youth of our city. Your investment now will pay tremendous dividends in the future.

Inclusion Committee**

STANLEY KUGELMASS

"My commitment to voluntarism undoubtedly originated from observing my parents' activities in Jewish community life. My own volunteer experiences have not only been personally rewarding but have allowed me to be a positive role model for my own children. Most recently, I have served as founding Chair of UJA Federation's Inclusion Committee. I feel privileged to be participating in a process that encourages our community to include people with special needs and their families in the mainstream of Jewish communal life."

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto***

KAREN MORTON

"In my role as Chair of the Family Philanthropy Forum, I have been inspired by individuals and families who have brought passion, vision and critical analysis into their philanthropic decisions and, subsequently, are making measurable changes in the world. I hope that by introducing these concepts to others, I will motivate and encourage them to become the philanthropists they always wanted to be."

Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge & Heritage**

LORRAINE SANDLER

"Being honored for voluntarism is both a pleasant surprise and a little perplexing. The gift of personal contentment in fulfilling the mitzvah of tikun olam *has always been my reward. It has filled my life with many gifts."*

Committee for Yiddish**

SAM SIMCHOVITZ

Sam brings his love and passion for all things literary to the Committee for Yiddish. In addition to being a published and acclaimed poet, Sam is an active member of the executive board of the Committee for Yiddish. He is also a leading member of the Yiddish Culture Club of the Labour Zionist Alliance, Borochov Centre and the Council for Yiddish Culture. Yiddish is his *mamaloshn*, his mother tongue and he deeply believes that it is worth working to preserve, as Yiddish was the medium in which great literature and culture was created.

Holocaust Centre of Toronto**

MONA BROWN

"It is an honour and privilege to work with the Docents at the Holocaust Centre of Toronto. We have been given the opportunity to pass along lessons of the Holocaust to the thousands of students who visit our Centre every year. Our hope is that our message has an impact on the students – that hatred, bigotry, and prejudice must be confronted and stopped whenever they exist."

Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto**

ELEANOR MINTZ

"JIST is my way of serving our community. In 2005, JIST launched 'Cooking Jewish in Toronto', featuring recipes from over 30 organizations, thus combining food and community - two interests of mine, and from the tremendous response, of great interest to others."

Ontario Jewish Archives**

NANCY DRAPER

"I volunteer because it's important to give in this world. I've enjoyed working at the Ontario Jewish Archives for 25 years. I love the people and the paper!"

Strategic Community Planning and Engagement**

CYREL TROSTER

"I have volunteered with the Archives, Cultural Services, Education, and Strategic Planning. I have worked with wonderful lay leaders and staff. I have seen creativity, and great concern for the quality of Jewish life in Toronto. This to me is the prime reason for being involved in community work."

We gratefully acknowledge the support and generosity of *The Canadian Jewish News*. The Volunteer Recognition Supplement is coordinated by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

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This Week

GTA

Mount Sinai receives record $50-million gift. *Page 6*

'Katyusha girl' Miriam Silverberg visits Toronto. *Page 38*

CJ Profile

Eddie Goldenberg was the most powerful civil servant in Jean Chrétien's Ottawa. *Page 55*

Sports & Leisure

Israeli juniors easily beat Canadian camp team. *Page 62*

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Argentine prosecutors urge arrest of Iranian officials

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Argentine prosecutors last week called for judicial arrest warrants of senior Iranian officials, including a former president and a top Hezbollah leader, for the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish community building that killed 85 people and wounded 300.

Iran responded by dismissing the prosecutors' report on "that stinking file" and suggested it was aimed at "pleasing the Zionists and the Americans while diverting the [sic] world public opinion."

In a news conference in Buenos Aires, prosecutors Alberto Nisman and Marcelo Martinez Burgos called for the arrest of former Iranian president Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani and seven other senior officials, including Ali Akbar Velayati, the former foreign minister, currently the chief foreign policy advisor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei; Maj.-Gen. Ahmad Vahidi, currently deputy defence minister; and Imad Fayez Mugniyeh, commander of Hezbollah's overseas operations.

Blame laid for 1994 AMIA bombing that killed 85 people

"We have proven that the decision to attack the AMIA headquarters on July 18, 1994... was a decision taken by high-ranking authorities in Iran's government at the time," Nisman told news agencies in Buenos Aires. "These authorities ordered the Lebanese Shiite organization Hezbollah to carry out this attack. It is known that this organization is, from all points of view, a sub-organization of the regime in Tehran."

Prosecutors allege the attack was planned on Aug. 14, 1993, in the Iranian city of Mashad in retaliation for the decision by Argentina in 1991 to stop assisting Iran's nuclear technology program.

In Ottawa, Israel's ambassador to Canada Alan Baker said the Argentine prosecutors' report shows just how dangerous Iran and its proxy, Hezbollah, can be.

Baker said the prosecutors' finding that Iran and Hezbollah colluded at the highest levels "confirms to the world at large the danger that exists from both Hezbollah and Iran."

Baker said the prosecutors' investigation reveals "the linkage between them as terrorist entities that will go to any length to kill innocent people. We hope this will open further the eyes of the international community to the dangers of Iran."

Hashemi Rafsanjani

The call for arrest warrants follows previous investigations that had also implicated Iran and Hezbollah, but collapsed when evidence arose of corruption and incompetence A former judge in charge of the case, Juan Jose Galeano, had been disqualified after information came to light that he had bribed a witness.

The judge currently heading up the case, Rodolfo Canicoba Corral, will decide whether to ask for the arrest and extradition of the eight named Iranian suspects.

In a news release posted on the website of the Iranian Embassy in Ottawa, Iran's prosecutor general Hojjatoleslam Qorban-Ali Dorri-Najafabadi was quoted as saying,

Continued on page 48

Wheels of Love

Israel's premier cycling event, the "Wheels of Love" rally, set off last week from Jerusalem for a five-day 620-kilometre ride to Eilat. Some 500 cyclists from Israel and abroad, including many Canadians, took part in the event aimed at helping the Alyn Hospital Pediatric and Adolescent Rehabilitation Center in Jerusalem.

Please see related story on pages 43.

(Isranet photo)

Lech Lecha
Candlelighting: 4:47
Havdalah: 5:52
Greater Toronto Area

Germany to fight troubling rise of right-wing extremism — see page 47

The News in Brief

CANADA

Lawyer Honoured

TORONTO — Litigator Martin Teplitzky, founder of the program Lawyers Feed the Hungry, is being honoured Nov. 8 by the Law Foundation of Ontario with its Guthrie Award. Teplitzky's eight-year-old program runs three days a week out of Toronto's Osgoode Hall and feeds 1,500 weekly meals to the homeless. The award recognizes individuals or groups for public service, for increasing access to justice, or for symbolizing excellence in the legal profession.

Arabs Chide Harper

CAIRO — The head of the Arab League says Prime Minister Stephen Harper's strong support of Israel marks a swing away from traditional Canadian policy and jeopardizes Canada's potential as a neutral arbiter in the Mideast peace process. Amr Moussa, 70, told the *Globe and Mail* last week that he was disappointed with Canada's decision to be among the first countries to cut aid to the Palestinian Authority after Hamas won parliamentary elections this year, and he criticized Harper's "rushed" backing of Israel's recent invasion of Lebanon. "A policy based on total and full bias to one party to an unacceptable proportion will do nothing but damage that [country's] diplomacy," Moussa said.

Cotler Receives Award

BOSTON — Liberal MP and former justice minister Irwin Cotler has been awarded Tufts University's Jean Mayer Global Citizenship Award for his work in international law and human rights. The award is named for the 10th president of Tufts, who was a renowned nutritionist. Previous winners include Iranian Nobel Peace laureate Shirin Ebadi and economist John Kenneth Galbraith.

Radler Buys *Record*

MONTREAL — David Radler is an investor in a company that has bought the *Sherbrooke Record*, the first paper he and his ex-business partner Conrad Black bought in 1969 on their way to creating media giant Hollinger, which is now the subject of criminal investigations. Radler, 64, is part-owner of the privately held Alberta Newspaper Group, which bought the paper last month from a B.C. firm. Radler has pleaded guilty to mail fraud and is co-operating with U.S. investigators who accuse Black and other Hollinger executives of illegally diverting money from the firm to their own pockets.

MPs Call For Cash

OTTAWA — Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel, a group co-chaired by Winnipeg MP Anita Neville and Senator David Smith, wrote to Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Stockwell Day last week to urge him to help offset security costs for at-risk, targeted communities, including Jews. The MPs want funding for groups "who are disproportionately likely to be targeted by terrorist organizations and who require additional security measures to safely function."

WORLD

Art List Goes Online

VIENNA — A list of Nazi-looted art in Austrian collections is now online. The Claims Conference said the still-incomplete list covers items in museum and public collections, and has 7,500 works, each with restitution status. It was set up by the Austrian National Fund, a state initiative that helps with restitution for Austrian Jewish Shoah victims. The German site is www.kunstrestitution.at. An English version will be up in 2007.

Eruv Faces Opposition

LOS ANGELES — An attempt to build an eruv in southern California is running into environmental opposition. Observant Jews have applied for permission to build the eruv in the sands of Venice Beach, but environmentalists say the boundary would violate a state law that protects beachside views and bird habitats. The eruv, which would allow observant Jews to carry things on Shabbat, is the last part of an eruv begun in 2002. A state commission is expected to decide on the $20,000 proposal – the cost would be borne by a local synagogue – this month.

Duke Speaks at Univ.

KIEV — White supremacist David Duke spoke Oct. 19 in Kiev, Ukraine, at a meeting organized by a university with a history of anti-Semitism. Duke spoke at MAUP about alleged "Zionist influence" over U.S. foreign policy and mass media. He also signed copies of his book, *The Jewish Question Through the Eyes of an American*, the school's website said. Duke has appeared at several conferences at MAUP in recent years, and the school recently awarded him with a doctorate.

Graves Desecrated

KIEV — Eighteen tombstones were destroyed in a Jewish cemetery in central Ukraine. The incident at Gluhov cemetery occurred overnight on Oct. 18-19. Police are investigating.

Neo-Nazis Arrested

BERLIN — German police arrested 16 neo-Nazis at an Oct. 22 rally in Berlin supporting Michael Regener, the jailed leader of the banned skinhead rock group Landser, or Foot Soldiers. The protest was organized by the far-right National Democratic Party, which recently won seats in a second regional Parliament.

Congressman Raps Carter Over Book Title

WASHINGTON — A leading U.S. black congressman called former U.S. president Jimmy Carter to chide him for titling his new book *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*.

John Conyers, a Michigan Democrat, said that using apartheid in the title "does not serve the cause of peace and the use of it against the Jewish people in particular, who have been victims of the worst kind of discrimination, discrimination resulting in death, is offensive and wrong."

In an Oct. 25 statement, Conyers – a 20-term representative and a founder of the Congressional Black Caucus – said he called Carter "to express my concerns about the title of the book, and to request that the title be changed. President Carter does not build upon his career as a proponent of peace in the Middle East with this comparison, and I hope he and his publisher will reconsider this decision."

Carter's book is due to be published this month by Simon and Schuster.

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Rabbis organize protest outside home of *get* refuser

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Binson refused to respond to crowd

MONTREAL — Communal pressure on men who refuse to give their ex-wives a *get* was ramped up to an unprecedented level in Montreal last Friday morning when rabbinical authorities organized a demonstration outside the home of Jacob Binson, who has been civilly divorced from Pearl Binson for about seven years.

About 20 people responded to the e-mailed invitation from Rabbi Michael Whitman, president of the Rabbinical Council of Montreal, the main organization of Orthodox synagogue rabbis that is affiliated with the Rabbinical Council of America, to participate in a "forceful yet peaceful rally" in front of Binson's modest apartment building on Beaucourt Street in Cote des Neiges. *The CJN* was among media invited to cover the event.

Rabbi Whitman said the action was taken after Binson failed to respond to the imprecations of numerous rabbis over the years and repeated summons by the Beth Din.

"Every kind of persuasion, everything imaginable, by everyone who knows him, has been tried, all to no avail," he said.

The action was supported by the Vaad Ha'ir (the Jewish Community Council of Montreal) and the Coalition of Jewish Women for the *Get*.

Binson, if he was home, did not respond to the protesters.

Rabbis Whitman of Congregation Adath Israel Poale Zedek Anshei Ozeroff, Chaim Steinmetz of Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem and Asher Jacobson of Congregation Chevra Kadisha-B'nai Jacob, with two reporters and a photographer in tow, went up to his third-floor apartment and knocked on his door repeatedly and called out his name.

The phone number they had for him, which is not listed, was not in service. The number on the apartment door had been altered. A police car arrived on the scene, but soon left.

Rabbi Whitman had with him an extraordinary form that he would have asked Binson to sign, in the presence of two witnesses, which authorizes the completion of the *get* process, without either him or his ex-wife having to go before the Beth Din and him having to formally present the *get* to her.

Simultaneously, a demonstration was held outside the home of his mother, Esther (Lamara) Binson in Boro Park, N.Y., because, according to Rabbi Whitman, she is pressuring her son to continue to refuse a *get* to his wife. "She is enabling his behaviour."

Rabbi Whitman and other local rabbis have spoken to her many times, as recently as a few months ago, and she has reacted angrily to any suggestion that her son release his wife from being an agunah.

The Montreal demonstration, which lasted about half an hour, was held with the approval of Pearl Binson, who lives in Montreal, he said.

The couple, described as religiously observant, were married for at least 12 years and have six or seven children, the oldest of whom are married, he said.

Rabbi Jacobson, who has met with Binson many times, described him as over 50, not remarried, unemployed, quite isolated, and suffering from a deep sense of loss.

There is no evidence that Binson is seeking any money or other compensation for issuing the *get*. Rabbi Jacobson said it appears he believes there is still hope that he can reconcile with his ex-wife.

"He is a broken man, living in his own world… with expectations beyond the norm. Primarily, he wants his family back… He feels giving the *get* would be like giving up everything he has left," Rabbi Jacobson said.

Continued on page 41

In recognition of the continuing generosity of Dr. Anne Tanenbaum, CHAT has been renamed "The Anne & Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto" – in everyday usage "TanenbaumCHAT"

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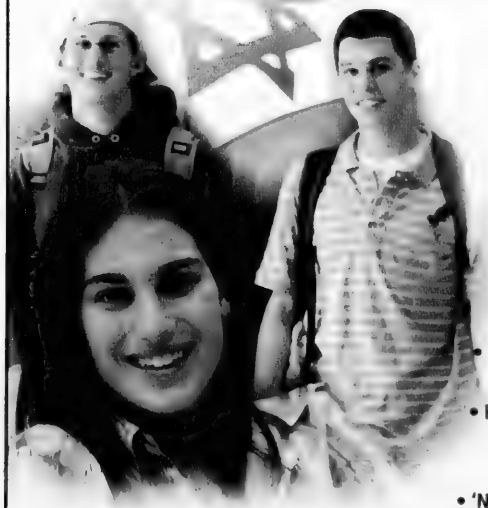

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Greater Toronto Area

Alienation or community?

From the editor's desk

The story appeared on page one of the *Jerusalem Post* last Wednesday. The next day the paper ran a followup item and *Ha'aretz* published a story on the subject, although not as prominently placed as that of the *Post* the day before.

The ostensible subject was the release of a study by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) at a special joint session of the Knesset education and immigrant absorptions committee that found, according to the *Post*, that only 14 per cent of Israeli schools teach anything about American Jewry.

The study, titled *Teaching about American Jewry in Israeli Education*, was conducted by the Levinsky College of Education for the AJC. Rabbi Edward Rettig, one of the co-ordinators and initiators of the study, expressed sadness and disappointment with the results and described them as an "educational failure."

Apparently, Education Minister Yuli Tamir had recently expressed the intention to add curriculum content regarding Diaspora Jewry and broader Jewish studies as a way of "moulding Jewish identity."

But no action to date has yet been undertaken to develop the curriculum. According to the *Post*, the director general of the Education Ministry, Shmuel Abuav said last month that "the agenda here is so crowded that it doesn't leave much ability to deal with issues beyond the boundaries of the state."

But the deeper, far more significant story was the coupling of the results of this AJC study with those of one the committee released only last month in the United States.

Titled *Young Jewish Adults in the United States Today*, the study concluded, according to the *Post*, that only about one-third of young Jewish Americans felt caring about Israel as important to their Jewish identities.

The latter study was itself a compilation and summation of the finds of all the studies conducted in the past few years among the 1.5 million American Jews in their 20s and 30s.

All of these component studies found that Israel was not important to the Jewish identity, such as it is, among young Jewish adults. Indeed, one study cited in the newspaper reports, conducted in 2000, found that Israel placed 11th out of 15 Jewish identity markers suggested by the individuals surveyed.

According to *Ha'aretz*, all the studies found that "the younger the interviewees, the less sympathy they felt for Israel. Indeed, the sense of belonging to the Jewish people also fell the younger the respondent. For example, a study from 2001, found that less than 30 per cent of the young people felt they belonged to 'the Jewish nation' compared to 42 per cent of the 65-year-olds and older."

The implications of the findings of both studies were stark and profoundly disturbing.

Rabbi Rettig sounded the alarm.

"These findings represent a strategic threat for Israel. When 70 per cent of American Jewish young people no longer see caring about Israel as a core component of their identity and 85 per cent of schools in Israel don't expose their children to knowledge about American Jewry, we must realize that we've already slipped quite far down the slope."

"The two communities are developing very different ways of being Jewish that often seem mutually unintelligible. We're reaching a point at which the two centres of the Jewish world won't understand each other," Rettig told the Knesset committee.

The Jews of Israel and the United States comprise more than 80 per cent of the Jewish population of the world, with each community, at this point in time, contributing approximately 40 per cent of the total. Indeed, the Israeli portion has already surpassed the American.

The chairman of the Knesset committee, Labor MK Rabbi Michael Melchior, agreed with Rabbi Rettig's assessment.

"The danger is tremendous," he said. "The core of the problem is Israel's unwillingness to deal with its Jewish identity. Since the establishment of the state, Israel's Jewish identity was a victim of the religious-secular divide. Now, however, we are discovering that when you take the Judaism out of the system, nothing connects Jews here and Jews in the rest of the world."

Melchior's observation, though aimed at the Israeli education system, cut to the very heart of the matter and is as relevant to Jewish education in the Diaspora. It warrants repetition and emphasis: "When you take the Judaism out of the system, nothing connects Jews here and Jews in the rest of the world."

The key to creating and instilling a sense of Jewish peoplehood, interconnectedness and belonging is through Jewish education in its intensive, broad and beautiful sense, irrespective of the particular stream or Jewish affiliation.

The latter AJC study dealt only with American Jewry, but the lessons are many and important for Canadians as well. Every reasonable effort must be made and every possible resource must be mobilized in our communities to secure the affordability, expand the reach and deepen the quality of Jewish education.

Teaching the religion, thought, traditions and history of the Jewish people is the best way to ensure Jewish identity in future generations and the desire to preserve and perpetuate it for all generations to come.

For out of a sense of Jewish identity, inevitably flows that sense of peoplehood and the feeling of responsibility one for the other, which is and has been, after all, at the very heart of communal life and structure wherever Jews live. *–MBD*

See JN

CYCLING THROUGH TUSCANY: While cycling through Tuscany last month, this Toronto group stopped to rest during the heat of the day. The riders from Toronto, who annually participate in the Moveathon in support of the Zareinu Educational Centre, were in training and inspired by "coach" Harold Rosen (centre, in wheelchair). The team raises money to help the children with special needs who attend Zareinu. Seen with Rosen are, from left, Michael Buckstein, Rena Buckstein, Elan Pratzer, Malka Lewittes, team doctor Gili Rosen, Beth Singer, Miguel Singer, Ted Saskin, Ron Zevy. Missing doing bike repairs is Lori Lewittes.

Greater Toronto Area

War affects Bonds sales, UJA donations

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Canadian Jews, galvanized by Israel's war this summer with Hezbollah, have responded by increasing their UJA pledges and buying more State of Israel Bonds.

Canada-wide, there has been an increase in donations of 30 to 50 per cent, said Perry Romberg, director of campaign and regional community services for UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC). "There has been a tremendous response, including in smaller communities."

As of Oct. 18, UIAFC had received more than $23 million in cash donations for Israel, he said. Its goal for the year is $30 million to $40 million.

"There are so many stories," said Ariella Rohringer, this year's UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Israel Emergency campaign co-chair with Fred Waks. "We have people who went from zero to $18,000 and zero to $50,000 [donations]."

In addition, she noted, 63 per cent of Toronto donors have increased their pledges. Thirty-five donors are in the "top gift" category ($50,000 or more) for the first time, and 181 are now "major gift" donors ($10,000 or more).

The 2007 campaign, which winds up in December, is "not what we signed up for, obviously," said Rohringer. However, she said, "it's been so heartwarming to see the response of the Toronto community."

The campaign launched a month early with an Aug. 8 event that attracted an overflow crowd for the first time. Preceding that was an Israel rally in late July attended by 8,000 people.

"We were the first in the world to launch an emergency campaign," said Rohringer. "[It] created a real momentum."

As of last week, this year's emergency campaign in Toronto had raised $66.8 million, already exceeding last year's final total of $58.5 million. Of the funds raised this year, $19 million has been allocated for Israel's emergency needs. The emergency campaign goal is $20 million, which has been added to its initial prewar $61-million goal.

By the end of the campaign, UJA Federation expects to send at least $35 million to Israel for both emergency and regular requirements, said spokesperson Howard English.

The federation is still collecting money in its final campaign phase, called Project Northern Recovery. Emergency allocations will be used to help victims of terror and to fund counselling for children and new immigrants, as well as small business loans for the "suddenly unemployed," post-secondary scholarships, the repair and re-equipment of community facilities, and a new initiative encouraging northern residents to remain and young families to move to the area.

A controversy over UJA campaign allocations that arose in the United States early last month does not apply to Canada, English said.

A mass e-mail circulated by Helen Freedman, former executive director of American Friends for a Safe Israel, a group that opposed Israel's disengagement from Gaza last year, insinuated that 30 per cent of the money allocated by United Jewish Communities was going to support Arab causes. UJC rejected the allegations, saying the actual allocation to non-Jewish causes was three per cent.

In Canada, although the federations are affiliated with UJC, money for Israel is funnelled through UIA Federations Canada.

Campaign money raised in Toronto was not sent to non-Jewish communities in Israel, but there has been funding of mixed communities, also accounting for about three per cent of the total allocated for Israel, English said.

"It's both impossible and illegal to separate Jews from non-Jews when providing assistance to mixed communities," he said. "That's not something we would want to be part of."

* * *

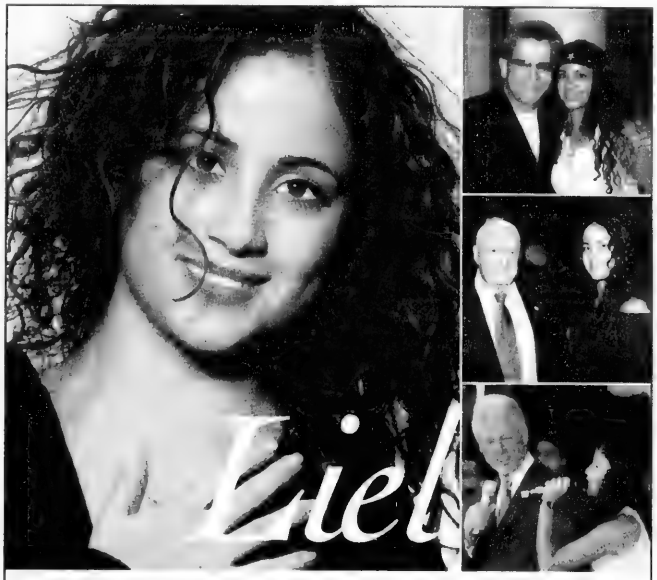
Sales of Israel Bonds have risen by 15 per cent in Canada for the year to date, compared to the same time period last year. However, in July and August, there was an increase in bond sales of more than 80 per cent compared to the same two-month period last year, said Elan Levitan, marketing director and vice-president of State of Israel Bonds Canada.

Even given other factors such as interest rates and maturity dates of existing bonds, Levitan said "there certainly is a spike in sales, and [taking into account] anecdotal evidence, there's little left to conclude other than that the community's responded to the war situation with tremendous solidarity."

Buying bonds, he explained, supports public infrastructure in Israel. "People realize through the media reports that there were substantial damages to infrastructure [during the summer war]".

As of last week, results of Israel Bonds' annual High Holy Day campaign were still being tabulated, but Levitan said indications were "that the campaign this year was healthy."

With files from JTA



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Lebovic brothers give Mount Sinai record gift

Toronto hospital receives $50 million

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Joseph and Wolf Lebovic have donated $50 million to Mount Sinai Hospital, the largest donation to a hospital in Canadian history.

The brothers, land developers and Holocaust survivors who are originally from Czechoslovakia, have a longstanding relationship with Mount Sinai, the hospital's president and CEO Joseph Mapa told *The CJN* following last Friday's announcement of the gift.

Both Lebovics are on the board of directors of the 472-bed teaching hospital, and five of Wolf's six children were born there.

Mapa said he wanted to convey the "excitement of the organization" about the donation. "This is huge."

The gift will help fund the hospital's share of a capital redevelopment program, Mount Sinai said in a statement. An initial $8-million grant from the province of Ontario will also fund the project.

The Lebovic donation will go toward the hospital's "highest priorities," said Mapa, citing patient care, capital redevelopment, facilities, faculty and staff. "This will be a great boost for us."

Upgrading facilities and equipment for the hospital's Women's and Infants' Health Centre of Excellence in the 30-year-old University Avenue building is the first phase of the project.

Wolf, left, and Joseph Lebovic gave $50 million to Mount Sinai, the largest donation ever to a Canadian hospital.

New signs at the hospital's entrances were unveiled in a ceremony last Friday. The "Mount Sinai Hospital: Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Health Complex" includes the entire hospital as well as the three-year-old Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Centre on nearby Murray Street, for which the brothers had already donated $10 million.

Their business, Lebovic Enterprises, was founded by their father, Harry. Starting with single-family homes, it branched out into highrises, as well as commercial and industrial buildings, in Toronto and surrounding areas.

Prior to last week's donation, the largest gift to a Canadian hospital was a $37-million donation by gold magnate Peter Munk to Toronto General Hospital earlier this year. Also this year, philanthropist Lawrence Tanenbaum donated $25 million to Mount Sinai for biomedical research.

The Lebovics, who are said to give away up to 75 per cent of their annual income, provided $20 million for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus, now being built in Vaughan.

The former Jewish National Fund Negev dinner honorees also established the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Chair of Jewish Studies at the University of Waterloo. They support a range of charities including Scarborough Centenary Hospital, Ner Israel Yeshiva, the Weizmann Institute of Science, Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Canadian Opera Company, the National Ballet of Canada, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

The brothers were not available for comment before *The CJN* went to press on Monday.

But in a statement released by the hospital, they said that Mount Sinai "is an incredible institution, a place of extraordinary accomplishment, dedication, compassion and commitment. It gives us great pleasure to be able to give something back to our community."

PROJECT NORTHERN RECOVERY

A Time To Rebuild

Northern Israel may be out of the headlines, but it's not out of difficulty or danger. Terrorist rockets caused untold trauma and an estimated billion dollars in damage and lost income.

That's why UJA Federation is initiating the next phase of Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, PROJECT NORTHERN RECOVERY.

If you have yet to make a commitment to the emergency campaign, please consider this:

- Thousands of small businesses in the north still stand on the brink of bankruptcy.
- Thousands of children -- many of them new immigrants -- are struggling with the after-effects of trauma suffered during the war.
- Hundreds of students cannot afford college this semester because of lost income during the summer.
- Damage at many community facilities, such as hospitals, require repair.

Your gift to Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 is urgently required to help restore normalcy to the north and strengthen the region. Here's what your contribution will provide:

- A re-invigorated Fund for Victims of Terror
- Crucial counseling for children and new immigrants
- Small business loans for the suddenly unemployed
- Scholarships for students who can no longer afford post-secondary education
- Funds to repair and re-equip critical community facilities
- Funding for a new initiative encouraging northern residents to remain and young families to move to the area

Today, the emergency is far from over and the needs are far from being fully met. Your contribution will ensure that northern Israel never feels abandoned or alone.

To make your Campaign contribution,

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The Europeans just don't get it

The propensity of many of Europe's leaders to lecture Israel's leaders regarding the best options for Israeli security is irritating, if not also grossly vain on their part. But their inability to grasp some of the essential truths of Israel's conflict with the Palestinians is discouraging, and in times such as these, when dangers lurk increasingly from rising coalitions of Islamic radicals, even distressing.

Last week, the European Union's (EU) foreign policy chief, Javier Solana was in Israel as part of a six-day tour to the region – he also visited the Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt – as part of an effort to resuscitate the deeply dormant peace process.

In view of the opinions he offered the *Jerusalem Post*, it is unclear how he hopes to achieve this.

"I don't think the essence of Hamas is the destruction of Israel. The essence of Hamas is the liberation of the Palestinians. The liberation of their people, not the destruction of their people."

Even the most charitable interpretation of Solana's remarks can yield only scorn for them. Whether the destruction of Israel is the "essence" of Hamas or a mere manifestation of that essence, whether it is the group's strategic objective or merely a tactical objective, whether their "ends" or their "means," how is it in any way relevant to the situation?

Despite the wishful thinking and earnest importunings of the EU, the leader of Hamas in Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh, and his master in Damascus, Khaled Meshal, refuse to acknowledge the right for Jews to have a sovereign existence in the Middle East. Their charter forbids it. Their aspirations are a pernicious paean to racism, genocide and politicide. The following is but a small sampling:

"The Islamic Resistance Movement believes that the land of Palestine is an Islamic waqf [religious trust] consecrated for future Muslim generations until Judgment Day." (Art. 11) "Initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences, are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement." (Art. 13) "Leaving the circle of struggle with Zionism is high treason, and cursed be he who does that." (Art. 32). They even specifically acknowledge the anti-Semitic *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

No matter how Solana understands these words, he must not try to parse or explain away their elemental meaning.

"I cannot imagine that the religious imperative, the real imperative, can make anybody destroy another country," he told the *Post*.

Where has Solana been? How much incitement to violence and calls to Jihad must he hear, how much terrorism must he actually see before he understands who and what Hamas is?

Canada and a number of other countries consider Hamas to be a terrorist group and treat it as such. So should Solana. But he just does not get it. Unfortunately, it is the Israelis and other peace-seeking peoples in the region who pay the price for his lack of understanding.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

The U.S. Senate approved the sale of five AWAC radar planes planes to Saudi Arabia, as well as equipment such as air-to-air missiles and flying tankers, after president Ronald Reagan promised they weren't a threat to Israel. But Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin called the sale "a new and serious danger."

Dry Bones

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Harper's support of Israel

The unqualified support by Prime Minister Stephen Harper for the State of Israel is a welcome change from the lukewarm platitudes that the former Liberal governments voiced when dealing with Israel ("PM stresses his support for Israel," *CJN*, Oct. 26). Before Jewish audiences, Liberal leaders would profess the right for Israel to survive behind secure borders and then within days Canada's representatives at the United Nations would vote in favour of resolutions that were biased against Israel and more often than not contained unwarranted criticism of instances in which Israel was acting in self-defence. On the odd occasion, Canada would abstain at the United Nations, which is hardly a warm measure of support. For the unambiguous expression of friendship by the prime minister for the State of Israel, it is incumbent when the next federal election is called that every Jew vote Conservative.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

* * *

No prenuptial agreement made

In the article "Supreme Court to hear agunah damages case" (*CJN*, Oct. 26), it was reported that a prenuptial agreement had been made to give a *get* upon civil divorce. That was not the case. In the divorce settlement agreement, an undertaking was made by the man, Jessel (Jason) Markovitz, to give a Jewish *get*. When this was only done after many years, Stephanie Bruker sued for damages arising for breach of his contractual agreement. The Supreme Court will address whether damages arising out of a religious undertaking may be awarded.

If there had been a prenuptial agreement, this dispute may have been avoided. In a prenuptial agreement, the man and woman can agree to submit to binding arbitration before a Beth Din in the event that they have separated and intend to divorce. If in the ruling the Beth Din orders the giving of a *get*, this would be enforceable in a civil court as an arbitration decision. In addition, in Ontario, the civil divorce proceeding can be delayed until such time as any religious impediments to remarriage are removed, meaning the issuing of a *get*. Attorneys should be aware that once the divorce has been granted, this leverage no longer exists. The issue of the *get* should be addressed before the civil divorce has been granted.

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks
Secretary, Beis Din of the Vaad Harabonim
Toronto

* * *

No joy in autism

What a true "joy" that Michael Moon is verbal, a talented painter and able to integrate with his peers ("Art, lecture project part of Autism Awareness Month," *CJN*, Oct. 19). Yet many, or even most, children who are affected by autism are non-verbal, self-injurious and unable to cope with basic life skills, such as toileting, dressing and feeding themselves.

No where in the article was applied behavioural analysis therapy (ABA) mentioned. Early intervention is critical to helping children with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder learn to lead a successful and independent life.

What a gift to hear your child say, "Mommy, I love you" for the first time. It's music to the heart of an exhausted parent. What a shame when the entire classroom receives a birthday party invitation and you find out that your son or daughter with autism was excluded.

There truly is no joy in autism. There is acceptance, amelioration and the determination of parents to help their child or children speak, learn and live a life of quality and independence.

I should know. I am the mother of two young sons with autism, and the greatest joy is their innocent smiles. If only the community would embrace those who are different, we would truly be a better world for it.

Lillian Foldes-Wagman
Toronto

* * *

Curbside tfillin pushers

I have to admit that I'm a little perplexed by Yoni Goldstein's assertion that someone encouraging you to put on tfillin each morning or uphold kashrut is imparting a dangerous message ("The danger of curbside tfillin pushers," *CJN*, Oct. 26). I have some suggestions for him.

If you don't over-tighten the hand tfillin, there's really no possibility of cutting off the circulation to your fingers.

And if you watch the blintzes and kishke, you can control your cholesterol levels quite easily.

Stephen Tannenbaum
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Searching for his birth mother

Since 1990 I have been searching for my birth mother, Rosa Pollak. She was born on Feb. 15, 1924, and married Shaier Pollak, a shoemaker, on June 7, 1945 in Orosken, Romania. Rosa was in displaced person camps at Landsberg and Buchberg. She was sent to Munich, where I was born on June 28, 1946, and given the name Meier Pollak. We were separated as of July 14, 1946. I was adopted in 1950 in the United States by Dr. Joseph Factor and his wife, Bernice.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has any information about my mother.

Sol Factor
Beachwood, Ohio
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Perspectives

A pilgrimage to a post-Shoah Hungary

By JOSEPH YOSSI ADLER

Mauthausen is situated near Linz, Austria, on a mountaintop surrounded by scenic hills and valleys in the picturesque Austrian countryside. Driving up to the town, one cannot ignore the Mauthausen McDonald's and other assorted tourist-oriented shops that dot the scenic landscape on route to our destination. Then one is starkly and suddenly confronted by the brute ugliness forever associated with the town of Mauthausen, the tall and intimidating prison walls of Mauthausen concentration camp. This is the camp where my father was interned during the war, and from where he was later sent to two of its sub-camps, first Melk and then Ebensee. Both sub-camps are within a couple of hours of Mauthausen.

My father, Isser Adler, my brother, Eli, and I recently returned from our trip to Hungary, Austria and Romania. Budapest served as our home base because it was equidistant to the two principal destinations we intended to visit: Mauthausen and Satu-Mare, Romania, our father's hometown and the birthplace of the Satmar Chassidic movement.

I thought I was prepared psychologically, knowing full well that his was going to be a difficult and bittersweet trip, given that this was our father's first visit to Europe in more than 60 years. Visiting this continent as a Holocaust survivor with his two children would understandably evoke painful memories of life under Nazi rule and its impact on our family. My father lost his mother and father and four of his younger siblings, including his 1½-year-old sister. This was the reason he had not returned to see his hometown, Satu-Mare, since the end of the war. Now he wished to visit the grave site of his grandfather, after whom my brother Eli was named. For a very long time, my father had expressed regret over the fact that he had not made this voyage; now he was ready.

Though he was prepared to visit his birthplace, our father was understandably disinclined to visit Mauthausen with us, where, along with its sister camps located within its vicinity, he had been interned during the war. He even attempted to dissuade my brother and me from going altogether. We persisted, because we hoped that this visit would help us understand what our father had experienced there.

Eli and I have been exposed to plenty of material about the Holocaust, including the stories my father had recounted to us since we were children. Still, none of that was like actually being there in person. I walked through the camp trying very hard to feel what it must have been like for my father and others, but between the bright clear September day and the countless monochromatic concentration camp images seared into my memory, I just could not feel what I thought I should have felt. The well-preserved gas chambers, crematoria, detention cells, ghastly instruments of torture and grim barracks all looked too familiar to me from my extensive exposure to the Holocaust, so I am still, weeks later, troubled that the scene did not bring me to tears.

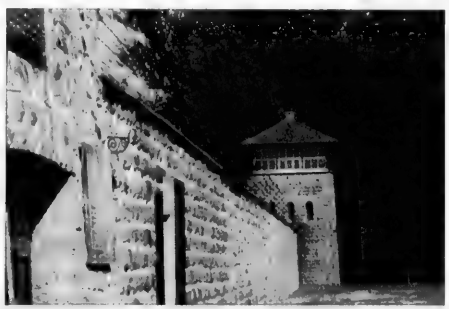
Interestingly, I was considerably more moved by our visit to Satu-Mare, where our father was born and lived before the war. The principal purpose of our trip to Europe was to pray at my grandfather's grave site in Satu-Mare and to otherwise pay homage to the only concrete structure that marked the memory of our father's progenitors.

The cemetery was bordered in by an eight-foot-high wall and lined with barbed wire. There were no signs on these walls indicating that this was a cemetery, simply a few Stars of David that pointed to the Jewish character of this plot of land that seemed to take up a large city block. As I entered the cemetery, I felt a profound sense of loss and that I was somehow eerily disturbing the peace in this wide stretch of land housing the hundreds of tombstones. I was taken aback as I sensed a whirlwind of emotion overtake me. It was as if the tombstones of hundreds of Jewish men, women and children cried out at me, pleading with me to take notice of their lives and deaths.

It is likely that most of the graves of the deceased have not been visited in generations, their children and extended families having died under Nazi rule. I suspect the same is true of the countless other abandoned cemeteries that sprinkle the eastern European landscape where Jews once lived and thrived.

I also felt a deep sense of connection with the lives that once occupied Satu-Mare's vibrant streets. Surrounded by death, I was acutely aware of life. How large a Jewish community must Satu-Mare have been! The dates on the tombstones indicated quite clearly that the vast majority died in the years just prior to the war. The cemetery therefore had much unused space in it to house other deceased members of Satu-Mare, whose lives should have ended in a natural way and whose remains should have been buried there. Yet, approximately 90 per cent of the Satu-Mare Jews were in fact murdered by the Nazis in Auschwitz and then cremated or buried in unmarked mass graves. Historians estimate that approximately 18,000 Jews from the Satu-Mare environs were transported to Auschwitz in May and June 1944. Virtually a whole community wiped out, with no one to pick up the broken pieces or to mourn their absence.

Joseph Adler's father, Isser, in the Satu-Mare cemetery



Mauthausen concentration camp in Mauthausen, Austria.

As I walked across the largely unkempt grounds of the cemetery, I sensed that these people led ordinary lives and had been committed to the faith and tradition of their people. The inscriptions described men and women of valour, of commitment to charity, community, Torah study and good deeds. Why then was this outstanding and upright community snuffed out in such a brutal and unforgiving manner? What in God's name would warrant their utter decimation in such a brutal fashion? I was at a loss for words and emotionally distressed as these questions popped up in my mind and as I traversed the silent and ghostly cemetery.

Following our daylong visit to Satu-Mare, our guide drove our tired souls back to Budapest. Along the way to and from Satu-Mare, we had passed by several familiar-sounding names of villages, towns and cities with previously vibrant Jewish communities, many of which formed the backbone of Hungarian Chassidism. Today, this locale is virtually bereft of Jews, except of course, those such as us, who returned to these parts in an effort to see Jewish life as it once was.

Budapest evoked similar feelings when we visited its Jewish quarter. Several of the synagogues that survived the war are still considered by Europeans to be architectural wonders. One is nevertheless left with the deep and sad impression that the war so brutally interrupted Jewish life there, and that the remaining or returning Jews are living in a time warp, attempting to rebuild a vanquished world.

The current state of Jewish life in Budapest was less difficult to handle than the now-destroyed Jewish community of Satu-Mare. There are many signs that Budapest's Jewish community is growing significantly and is reasserting itself in ways not seen since before the war. A renaissance of Jewish life in Budapest is emerging: Jewish schools, restaurants, museums and community and outreach organizations are being established and expanded. No matter what our enemies have intended in the past, I do believe that the Jewish people appear destined to establish their important presence in Hungary once again.

This Jewish rebirth in Hungary is little comfort to my father, though, as he laments what was and what could have been. He bears bitter feelings for the country in which he was born and raised. Hungary became a Nazi ally during the war; its anti-Semites were at least as ruthless as the Nazis themselves, and the sights and sounds of the Hungarian landscape, including his hometown, which is predominately Hungarian in language and in culture, bring back memories of loss and devastation.

I am eternally thankful that my brother and I had the opportunity to return with our father to his birthplace. Our father was an enriching and ever so nurturing guide. This is a trip that we will forever cherish and will never forget.

Joseph Adler is a lawyer in Toronto.

Opinions

Senseless fate, meaningful destiny

Recently, the absurdity of fate has made headlines. A gunman bursts into Montreal's Dawson College and kills an 18-year-old girl. A highway overpass collapses in Laval, killing five people. Beyond the headlines, everyone has been touched by an unexpected tragedy.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

Fate's seeming absurdity engenders strange reactions. Some become superstitious, nervously clutching rabbit's feet and red strings for protection. Others become fatalistic. While visiting northern Israel during the Lebanese war, I asked our driver Ofer if he was worried about Katyushas hitting us. He said no, because "when it's your time, it's your time."

The question of fate's injustice makes philosophers of us all. Some say they can explain every twist of fate, certain that someone else's sins are the source of any suffering. Others are angry at God, upset that the utopian vision of their childhood has been shattered by reality.

I have an aversion to these philosophical ruminations. Personally, I prefer the view of R. Yanai, who says we don't know why the wicked prosper or the righteous suffer. By accepting fate as a mystery, at least it isn't an insult, an affront to the victims who are often blamed for their own misfortune.

Fate doesn't require an answer, it requires a response. Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik says there are two phases of life: fate and destiny. At times man is helpless, a passive object of fate. Other times, man can control his environment and is the master of his own destiny. Life fluctuates between fate and destiny. But even in our worst moments, fate doesn't reign supreme. We can always choose our response.

That's where a meaningful destiny is found. Do we respond with cowardice and confusion, or with humanity and spirituality?

Rabbi Seth Mandell directs camps for children who have lost a family member to terror. He began this project in memory of his son Koby, who was murdered in a terror attack. Seth told me a story about a girl in his camp who was so grief-stricken that she started cutting herself on the wrist. On the first day of camp, the girl's counsellor saw the cut and remarked that "time heals all wounds." The girl replied angrily, "It does not," a reference to all wounds, psychic and physical. The counsellor persevered in befriending the girl. Toward the end of camp, she stopped cutting herself and the wound healed. Noticing this, the counsellor lightheartedly remarked, "I guess time does heal all wounds." The girl responded, "No, it does not… But love heals all wounds."

This is a formula for transforming fate into destiny. Fate may cut us deeply, leaving us hurt and confused. But with a bit of love, we can find a way to heal our wounds and reclaim control of our destiny.

We must act to free the soldiers

Recently, I gave an audience of 200 involved Jews in Montreal a pop quiz.

"How many of you have heard of Gilad Shalit, Ehud Goldwasser, and Eldad Regev," I asked. Most hands shot up proudly, as people recognized the names of the three Israelis kidnapped this summer – and still held hostage by Hamas and Hezbollah.

I then asked: "How many of you have done anything to support their families or demand their release?" Every single hand dropped, dejectedly.

Shame on us. How could we observe the Jewish holidays without imagining even briefly what it must have been like for these three families with a son, a brother, absent from the table? How could we celebrate without empathizing with these three young men, caught in a hellish purgatory devised to impose pain on them, their families, the State of Israel and the Jewish people?

We cannot sit idly by anymore. We must act.

There are two kinds of constructive responses to the hostage crisis. We can reach out to the three affected families with the simple message of "*anachnu eetchem*," we are with you. Letting these people, wracked by worry, know through cards, letters, children's drawings and little gifts that they are not alone is important. It strengthens them by placing their personal predicament in the broader sweep of Jewish history, the Israeli narrative, and the modern struggle between democracies and Islamist terror. Small gestures can't save the boys, but they can lighten the load, even momentarily, that these three families have borne since the summer with grace.

Gil Troy in Montreal

The person-to-person contact is easy. And, as my family discovered when we tried to help the three soldiers Hezbollah kidnapped – and murdered – in October 2000, the rewards can be tremendous. We as a family bonded so deeply with one of the families, that of Benny Avraham, of blessed memory, that my children now have a special set of Israeli "grandparents."

The greater challenge is determining what kind of political efforts will facilitate their release. This requires a sophisticated analysis of the dynamics surrounding the two separate kidnappings – that of Gilad Shalit, a 19-year-old with a shy smile, by Hamas on the Gaza border; and that of Ehud Goldwasser, a 31-year-old engineer, and Eldad Regev, a 26-year-old pre-law student, by Hezbollah just south of Lebanon.

Clearly, direct pressure on the two terrorist organizations is not likely to work. But constant, relentless, constructive pressure on their supporters or neighbours might help. We need to mobilize a vast coalition of Jews and non-Jews to bombard Lebanese officials and activists for the Palestinian cause – as well as western diplomats who interact with Palestinian and Lebanese officials – with a simple message: free the kidnapped victims today.

Palestinians seeking a resumption of western aid must know that until Shalit is home again, no aid will flow. And those who support the Palestinian cause, waving the flag of humanitarianism, should be challenged to try saving a young kid caught in the crossfire. "Treat him as a human. Make a stand for our common humanity," we should say.

Similarly, as the Lebanese government begs the international community for reconstruction aid, all assistance should be contingent on arranging the release of Goldwasser and Regev. This summer's ceasefire was supposed to secure their release. We cannot allow the world to forget their fates.

In late September, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper refused to join a massive pile-on against Israel at the Francophonie summit. Most of the other 72 countries were ready to approve a resolution lamenting Lebanon's suffering and not Israel's. Standing on principle, Harper forced the leaders of the world's French-speaking nations to acknowledge the suffering of everyone caught in the crossfire. Since then, many have asked how they can thank Harper, and they have responded logically by donating money to his party, by joining his party and by seeking effective candidates who can win in contested districts.

Another way to salute Harper is to emulate his example. We have an opportunity to stand on principle, to rally around a seemingly hopeless cause, and make a statement affirming humanity, democracy and civilization. If we fail, there are at least three families in Israel who will remain grateful for our efforts.

The 'how to' of 'never again'

The deed preceded the word – before we knew what to call it, before we knew it as an entity beyond the immediate horror, there was genocide.

Genocide: the eradication, extermination, evaporation of a nation, a people. No stranger to history, this crime was not conceptualized – not given a name and a definition – until 1943. It was a Lithuanian Jewish lawyer – a refugee from Nazi Germany – who first coined the term, hammered out a definition, and laboured to have genocide recognized as a crime under international law.

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

Raphael Lemkin watched as Hitler came to power and Nazi Germany spread its web of influence throughout Europe. Already a public prosecutor in Warsaw, he struggled to define a crime that as yet had no name. Disturbed by the ferocious pogroms against the Jews of eastern Europe at the turn of the century, the massacre of Armenian people during World War I, and the slaughter of the Assyrian people in Iraq 15 years later, Lemkin wondered why homicide – the murder of an individual – was universally regarded as criminal, but engineering the disappearance of an entire people was not. A combination of historical sensitivity and keen observation of the progress of Nazi ideology impelled him to shape what he first termed the "crime of barbarity."

What Lemkin observed in Nazi-dominated Europe helped him shape his concept. Lemkin understood that it took successive steps to lead to the destruction of a people. These steps included designating a particular group as "outsiders"; setting up conditions and constraints that would lead to the group's physical destruction or cultural dissolution; physical and mental violence; dehumanization; and preventing births or taking away the group's children and raising them without knowledge of their identity.

Lemkin saw such actions as ways that perpetrator cultures disrupted the "national pattern" of the targeted group. He understood that, under certain conditions, one's fellow citizens, the government and the legal system could turn against a segment of the population and become its enemy.

Ultimately, the goal of these actions was to eradicate the group entirely, primarily by murderous violence. By combining "geno," from the Greek word for people or tribe, with "cide," from the Latin word for killing, Lemkin came up with the word "genocide." But unable to rally international intervention on behalf of the besieged Jews of Europe, Lemkin lost most of his family in the Holocaust.

What good then came of giving this atrocity a name?

Lemkin understood that it had to be named in order to be fought. In 1948, thanks to his unceasing efforts, the United Nations accepted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, affirming it to be an international crime, and providing ammunition to counter future genocides.

Sadly, that ammunition is rarely fired. Although, once acknowledged, the horrors of the Holocaust should have made genocide unthinkable, that has not been the case. In the past 20 years, two million people have been killed and twice that many displaced in the southern and central regions of the Sudan. The primary victims were the Dinka, Nuer and Nuba people. In the former Yugoslavia (especially in Bosnia) and particularly in Rwanda, the horrors were condemned largely in retrospect, when it was too late to help. And now, genocidal violence grows in Chechnya and in the Sudan's western region of Darfur.

Equally disturbing, that ammunition is increasingly misfired. Like the term "holocaust," the term "genocide" is misapplied willfully or haphazardly in order to cast a shadow over one's opponents and to delegitimate them in the public eye. Lemkin hoped to empower the nations of the world to combat the one-sided violence that reduces a peaceable people to nothingness. It's one of history's bitter ironies that a term forged by a Jewish refugee in the ashes of the Holocaust is increasingly and unjustly aimed at the Jewish state.

In the end, such wanton use of language will so dilute the public conception of the term genocide that it can no longer serve meaningfully to combat the barbarous crimes that Lemkin saw and foresaw.

What can we do to prevent this cheapening of important language? We can educate ourselves about genocide, so that we know what it is and don't, ourselves, throw the term around randomly. And we can apply it where it rightly belongs, speaking out in the way that our legacy demands.

The Kirshner File

Russia hews to a two-track policy in Mideast

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert went to Moscow late last month to mark the 15th anniversary of Israel's renewal of diplomatic relations with Russia. This was doubtless an important theme of Olmert's trip. Olmert had said that he considered Israel's relationship with Russia to be important, expressed a desire to improve it and described Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, as "a friend" who "would not act against Israel's interests."

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Striking a similarly upbeat tone, Putin – the first sitting Russian president to visit Israel – praised Russia's ties with Israel. Saying that they had been "completely transformed" in the past few years and were now based on "mutual trust," he offered to do everything he could to contribute to a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Beyond the high-flown rhetoric, Olmert found himself at odds with Putin over a number of key issues.

Olmert complained that Hezbollah had acquired Russian anti-tank missiles and had used them to devastating effect during the second war in Lebanon in July and August. He voiced concerns about Russian arms sales to Syria, one of Israel's most intractable enemies. He sought an explanation as to why Russia had invited a Hamas delegation to Moscow last March after other members of the Quartet – the European Union and the United States – and Canada had boycotted Hamas. He had questions about Russia's technological assistance to Iran's nuclear program.

Olmert raised the missile issue because about 50 of the 118 Israeli soldiers killed during the 34-day war in Lebanon were struck by Russian-made Kornet, Metis, Sagger and TOW missiles. Shortly after the war ended in mid-August, an Israeli delegation visited Moscow to discuss the issue. Israel did not accuse Russia of directly supplying the missiles to Hezbollah, but claimed that Hezbollah had acquired them from Syria and Iran.

According to reports, the Israeli army captured 39 such missiles, some of them in their original packaging, which proved capable of piercing the thick armour of Israel's top-rated Merkava tank. Israeli diplomats showed their Russian hosts photographs of the missiles and copies of the documentation, but Russian foreign ministry officials insisted that Russia – one of the world's top arms exporters – maintains strict controls over weapons sales to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said that Israel had provided no incontrovertible evidence that Hezbollah had obtained Russian missiles.

In his talks with Olmert, Ivanov changed his tune a bit, admitting that Hezbollah had indeed deployed Russian missiles, but claiming that Hezbollah had also used U.S. and Israeli weapons. Olmert apparently did not respond to Ivanov's curious claim that Israeli and American military equipment had somehow reached Hezbollah. But Olmert did say he was "satisfied" with Ivanov's assurance that Russia would take firm steps to ensure that Hezbollah would not acquire Russian missiles in the future.

As for Russian arms sales to Syria, Putin told Olmert that Israel had no need to worry, since only defensive weapons had been sold to the Syrians. In line with an earlier pledge, Putin promised that he would not do anything to endanger Israel's security.

During his visit to Israel in April 2005, Putin gave the then-prime minister, Ariel Sharon, identical assurances. He told Sharon that he had vetoed the sale of long-range missiles to Syria, and that Syria would receive only short-range anti-aircraft missiles.

Russia's relations with Hamas were a topic of debate as well. Last February, shortly after Hamas' victory in Palestinian parliamentary elections, Putin invited a Hamas delegation for talks in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. The invitation was issued after major western countries demanded, in vain, that Hamas recognize Israel, renounce terrorism and abide by an assortment of previous agreements that the Palestinian Authority had signed with Israel.

Putin's decision irked Israel. Its foreign minister, Tzipi Livni, warned that the Russian invitation could be a "slippery slope" that could prompt other countries to turn a blind eye to Hamas' charter, which calls for Israel's destruction. Another Israeli cabinet minister, Meir Sheetrit, dispensed with diplomatic niceties and accused Russia of "stabbing Israel in the back."

Russia's view was far different.

Putin said that talks might nudge Hamas to the negotiating table, while Ivanov said that the West had no alternative but to deal with a movement that had won a legitimate democratic election.

In his discussions with the Russian leadership on this incendiary topic, Olmert urged Moscow to adopt a policy that encourages moderates rather than radicals in the Arab world. Lavrov replied that, while he does not support extremist forces, he wants to communicate with them to influence their policies positively. Lavrov counselled patience, urging Olmert not to expect an immediate shift of Hamas' policy toward Israel.

But within days of Lavrov's soothing statement, Mahmoud Zahar, the Hamas foreign minister, confirmed Israel's worst fears. "We will not give up one inch of Palestine," he declared, branding Israel as an "abomination" and "a tumour on Palestinian land that has no legitimacy." He added, "We will never recognize Israel, and the Zionists will share the fate of the Crusaders and the English who left the country."

Ehud Olmert and Vladimir Putin meet in Moscow.

On Iran, Olmert informed the Russians that Israel will not tolerate a nuclear-armed Iran. Lavrov argued that Iran does not pose "a real threat" to Israel's security.

Putin, while in Israel last year, soft-pedalled the issue, too. "We are working with Iran for peaceful nuclear purposes," he said, echoing Iran's claim that its nuclear program is solely designed to generate electricity.

Israel dismisses this argument, contending that Iran – a major oil and gas producer that is in no need of nuclear power– is intent on destroying the Jewish state. In a diatribe against Israel two weeks ago, Iran's fiery president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, predicted that Israel would soon disappear.

Russia, Iran's chief supplier of nuclear technology, is currently building six nuclear reactors in Iran and is bidding to construct 20 more. But Russia has not sold Iran sensitive technologies that would enable its scientists to enrich uranium or produce plutonium.

The Russians regard their dealings with Iran in primarily economic terms, but Israel interprets them as a potential threat to its very existence.

To placate Israel, Russia launched an Eros B satellite on Israel's behalf last April to monitor Iran's nuclear activities and long-range missiles. Nevertheless, Israel remains deeply concerned by Russia's co-operation with Iran.

Russia has called on Israel not to even think of attacking Iran's nuclear facilities. Last week, Putin said, "Any action against Iran will end in disaster." But Israel would be hard-pressed to wipe out these installations because Russia has sold Iran the highly sophisticated Tor M 1 9M330 air defence system.

Moscow's business-as-usual attitude toward Iran is a reflection of its non-ideological two-track Middle Eastern policy.

On the one hand, Russia is interested in forging friendly relations with Israel, a nation it virtually shunned and demonized during much of the Soviet era until 1991.

On the other hand, Russia wants to reclaim the influence it lost in Arab states following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"Russia's policy is neither pro-Arab nor pro-Israel," Lavrov said in a recent interview with the Russian daily *Pravda*. "It is aimed at securing Russian national interests. Maintaining close and friendly ties with the Arab states and Israel is among them."

Probably more than any of his predecessors, Putin has cultivated Israel. "We have added close and constructive co-operation with Israel to our traditional ties with the Arab countries," he said this past summer.

Nowhere is this better reflected than in Israel's commercial relations with Russia. Bilateral annual trade hovers around the $2-billion (US) mark, more than Russia's combined trade with the entire Arab world, and Israel buys a lot of its crude oil from Russia.

In addition, Israel and Russia – which has a Muslim population of some 20 million and has fought two wars in Chechnya – co-operate in the field of counter-terrorism.

Russia and Israel have also joined forces to supply India with a Phalcon airborne reconnaissance system.

Russia, in the main, votes against Israel at the United Nations. Yet Russia supports the "road map" peace plan, as well as all other efforts to defuse the Arab-Israeli dispute, and it's working to free three Israeli soldiers held by Hezbollah and Hamas.

So for Israel, Russia's Mideast policy is a mixed blessing.

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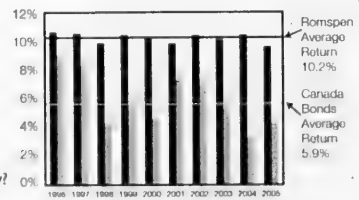

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MORIAH

Parents do their homework to choose right Jewish school

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Toronto parents who want a Jewish education for their children can choose from 39 day-care centres and preschools, 27 day schools, and 44 supplementary programs, spanning a wide range of religious and educational philosophies.

To narrow their options – or fine-tune their already narrowed-down choices – about 350 parents attended last week's fourth annual Jewish Education Fair, formerly titled "Options in Jewish Education."

The event – held this year at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's (CHAT's) south campus – is co-sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Board of Jewish Education (BJE) and Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto.

Thirty schools had display tables, as did Canadian Jewish Congress, which is launching a new website (fundingfairness.ca) on Nov. 1 to provide information about government funding for faith-based education. CJC works with UJA Federation and the BJE, among others, on the issue.

For Sidura Ludwig, 30, cost is a significant issue.

She said Toronto parents are lucky to have such a range of choices in Jewish education, but she finds it "very frustrating" that Jewish day school tuition is significantly less expensive in Winnipeg, where she grew up, because the province of Manitoba provides funding to all independent schools, including faith-based ones.

Ludwig's younger sister recently graduated from Grade 12 at Winnipeg's Gray Academy of Jewish Education, where the maximum annual amount that parents pay is $6,825 per child. Comparable tuition at CHAT is now $15,650. However, Gray Academy head of school Rory Paul noted in a subsequent phone interview that the cost of living in general is higher in Toronto than in Winnipeg.

Ludwig and her husband Jason Schron, who runs a business, are the parents of a 15-month-old boy, and they are expecting their second child in April. Jewish day school is the only option the modern Orthodox couple will consider.

"We'll just have to make that happen, however it's going to happen," said Ludwig, who used to work at Associated Hebrew Schools in marketing and communications.

She noted that many people of her generation have pursued more than one degree and are still paying off student loans.

Aaron Kotick, a 28-year-old director of sales for an education company, and his wife Jasmine Eliav, a PhD student, have a 10-week-old daughter. They were "looking to price [the cost of Jewish education] out, so we know how much to save," Kotick said.

Assia and Felix, a Latvian-born couple who preferred not to have their surname in print, said they hadn't yet decided on day school or supplementary school for their four-year-old son. Assia, who like her husband works with computers, said they were considering day schools but not those that were religiously "strict."

She added that she wants her son "to know that he's Jewish, and to know about Jewish tradition, culture and history."

Location and cost are also important factors for them, her husband added.

Jonathan and Hannah Boulakia, the parents of a three-year-old and a newborn, said they weren't sure what they're looking for. "It's a hard decision," said Jonathan, a lawyer, referring to the question of day school versus public school.

Sidra Rosen from Leo Baeck talks to parents.
[Frances Kraft photo]

Because they speak French at home, French-language education is a factor for them. Cost, "general environment of the school," and, above all, the quality of education will figure in their decision, he said.

As an alumnus of the public school system and a Jewish supplementary school, he said he's "a believer in the public system. I think it served us well." However, they would also consider Jewish day schools, he added.

Ann Rastin and her husband Joe attended the education fair having already decided on a day-school education for their two-year-old son. But the couple, who own their own company, were considering schools as diverse as Leo Baeck Day School, which is affiliated with the Reform movement, and Associated, a community school where the religious teachings hew to Orthodoxy but the student body is diverse.

Ann's main focus is finding a school "where we'll be comfortable," she said.

At least two schools had students on hand to answer parents' questions.

Sidra Rosen, Leo Baeck's registrar, invited prospective parents to an upcoming open house, in addition to fielding their questions. "I think you really have to come and see," she said.

A BJE handout, based on a document from United Synagogue Day School, advises parents to ask about things such as Jewish philosophy, synagogue affiliation, academic track record, adherence to Ministry of Education guidelines, staff-to-student ratio, support services and allergy policies. It also recommends speaking to parents of children at the school.

In Toronto, there are about 11,100 students in Jewish day schools and about 5,300 in supplementary schools, said federation spokesperson Howard English. Overall numbers are up slightly over last year; however, enrolment in elementary day schools is down about one per cent, he said. High school enrolment is up about three per cent.

Greater Toronto Area

Na'amat president juggles volunteer work, business life

'There is no better feeling than to go to Israel and see the work we have done in action'

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

As the daughter of Holocaust survivors, Sue Holtzman, the new president of Na'amat Canada, Toronto, knows first-hand the importance of supporting Israel.

"[My personal history] has shaped my beliefs and my commitment to Israel," says Holtzman, 55, who has belonged to the organization for 34 years.

She's been in Canada since 1956, when she left Hungary with her parents, and she says that many Na'amat members are women like herself, "second and third generation of Holocaust survivors who are dedicated to helping children in need in Israel.

"There are fewer and fewer survivors left. We are the generation carrying on."

A full-time collections manager with CIBC, Holtzman, a mother of two, says she juggles her volunteer career with her business life, because "those who have good jobs and good health have to give back. If we don't, who will?"

She was first introduced to Na'amat as a young bride, she says, "and I was lucky enough to fall into a wonderful network of women. I met a woman at my first meeting in 1972 who lived in my apartment building, and we still go to meetings together."

Over the years, she says, she has taken on a number of positions, including recording secretary, fundraising chair, and club president.

Sue Holtzman

"Fundraising has become more difficult in recent years, and Jewish organizations have fallen on tough times. There are lots of organizations and fewer dollars to go around," she says.

"With so many causes, we have to bring the message forward that we are doing good work, and we need help."

Every three years, her organization takes on a major project.

"There is always something that has to be done. We're now in the midst of our 'Swing into Action' project, which entails rebuilding playgrounds at our day-care centres," Holtzman says.

"There is no better feeling than to go to Israel and see the work we have done in action," she adds.

"When I stayed at Na'amat's agricultural high school, which has a working farm, I met kids who could have ended up on the street. Here they were, working hard."

Added to the challenge of fundraising, she says, is the challenge of increasing Na'amat's membership. "Many women are busy with full-time careers and raising families. If they do want to join an organization, there are many choices out there. We have to work at offering them something they can't get elsewhere.

"I believe that it's the friends that keep women coming back. Working together for a common cause is what bonds them. With more than 400 members in Toronto, we have groups for women of every age, including young singles, seniors, and a group for daughters and granddaughters of Na'amat members."

Women can acquire a number of business skills by doing volunteer work, Holtzman says. "They do public speaking, event planning, bookkeeping, editing – a variety of skills they can take into the workforce."

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Jewish Life

A message about hunger

By RABBI DAVID SEED

RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

When I speak to colleagues or friends about Toronto's Jewish community, I always mention the number and variety of the city's kosher restaurants. I joke with them that you can visit Toronto for at least a week and eat in a different kosher restaurant for lunch and dinner without ever repeating the same type of meal. It speaks to the vibrancy of the Jewish community here, but also to our love of food and the role it plays in our tradition and rituals.

Food is an important focus in the Torah, as we see in this week's portion of Lech Lecha, and, for that matter, throughout the entire book of Bereshit. The reading begins with God's command to Abram (later to be known as Abraham) to "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land that I will show you." Nevertheless, his time in the land of Canaan is short-lived, for no sooner has he traversed the land do we read, "There was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land." (Genesis 12:10) (Note that the famine is mentioned not once, but twice in the same verse.)

The famine that Abram and Sarai (later to be known as Sarah) encounter is only one of many that drive our ancestors out of the Promised Land. For example, in Genesis 26:1, Isaac is forced to flee because of hunger, and then in both 42:1 and 43:1, Joseph's brothers venture down to Egypt because of famine in the land of Canaan.

Rashi, in commenting on Abram's plight, suggests that God was testing the patriarch, as He did so many times throughout his life. Would Abram still stand with God in spite of the fact he was being forced to leave that which had been given to him? As difficult as it might have been to leave, Abram never forgot the land and kept the hope of returning close to his heart.

Yet, this experience of famine and hunger has always been a part of the fabric of the Jewish people. The fact that we're so scrupulous about providing for the hungry at Pesach is just one example. And the opposite is true as well. Recently we concluded the festival of Sukkot, in which we took note of and celebrated the blessings of God's bounty on this earth. We learn that we should never take our food for granted, at any point in our lives.

Unfortunately, we still live in a world in which, by rights, there should be sufficient food for everyone. With all our modern agricultural wonders, no one should go hungry today, but they do. Whether it's poor distribution, war or disease, millions go hungry every day, either because they're forced to leave their land to escape hunger or because they lack the means to seek even the most meagre scraps of food.

Darfur is one name that comes to mind when we speak of hunger, but we must never forget that there are many people in our own country and community, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who don't have enough food to eat, who go to bed with pangs of hunger in their stomachs. Organizations such as Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger attempt to alleviate this problem in the name of the Jewish community, and so that all may know that the lessons of hunger with which our ancestors had to contend are never far from us.

God tested our ancestors through famine to see if they would remember their precious land, and they remembered. And we are also tested, to make sure we don't forget the hunger that afflicts so many in the world.

It's a test we must strive to meet.

Rabbi Seed is associate rabbi at Adath Israel Congregation in Toronto.

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Leo Baeck

A Reform Jewish Day School

Lessons once learned

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Once the High Holy Days have concluded, it seems that Jewish life returns to normal and routines begin again. Yet some of the most interesting Torah readings are beginning.

Starting this week and for a while to come, we meet and spend time with our Jewish ancestors. Abraham and Sarah begin a journey of discovery that they pass on to their son Isaac. He, together with his wife Rebecca, will likewise add their unique piece and pass the journey on to their children. One son, Jacob, will add his unique part and pass a legacy on to his children, who will become the 12 tribes of Israel.

This dynamic, world-changing chain of events begins with the words God utters to Abraham: "lech lecha." It seems to be the beginning of a journey but, in truth, there is another journey that each person begins on his or her own, and eventually the two life journeys will intersect.

According to Judaism, the potential for life begins in the womb. As the body of the infant is developing, so is its soul. The Talmud discusses the activities of a fetus while it develops within the mother. The passage begins by describing the physical positioning of the fetus: it appears "folded in" upon itself in its tucked position. There is a light present that allows it to see to the ends of the world, and the fetus is taught the entire Torah from beginning to end while it is developing inside its mother.

The image – of a fetus in its most protected time engaged in the highest spiritual pursuit – is a beautiful one. The fetus appears "folded in" because its focus is inward. It can see the entire world and is being taught the tools it will need to function positively within that world. And yet the Talmud concludes by saying that once the infant is born, an angel touches the child's upper lip and all the knowledge is forgotten.

This conclusion is perplexing. Why spend nine months mastering the secrets of the universe only to forget them when your life begins?

Possibly the answer lies within the problem itself. One can accept the image of an unborn child glimpsing wisdom that is hidden, but can we truly understand the status of the soul at this stage? The problem is not in the learning – it is in the forgetting. Yet this is the very message of the image.

As we journey through life, we seem to be learning and growing. Yet the talmudic text has told us that all knowledge we attain is truly a remembering of our lessons in the womb. Therefore, we do not discover new horizons but rediscover long-forgotten ones.

When God tells our ancestors to begin a journey of "lech lecha," the second word in the phrase "lecha" means "to you." The spiritual journey is one that leads the person inward to a rediscovery of self. It is the remembrance of lessons taught to us by an angel that fused with our souls and informed our essence.

The High Holy Days may indeed be over for this year, but the exciting part is only beginning.

Jewish Life

Archeology, espresso and archives

By ALEX GROPPER

Past Forward

Most of us are familiar with espresso coffee, either on its own or in its various forms from cappuccinos to lattes. But how many know that Jews were among the first to import coffee into Italy in the early 17th century.

In fact, Jews have had a long history in the Italian peninsula going back to republican times in Rome. We have accounts that Jews were among the supporters of Julius Caesar. One of the earliest synagogues in the Mediterranean world was found amid the ruins of Ostia Antica, ancient Rome's port at the mouth of the Tiber River.

After the first Jewish Revolt against Rome, thousands of Jewish slaves were brought back to the Imperial City, where many of them worked on such grandiose building projects as the Flavian Amphitheatre, more popularly known as the Colosseum. Berenice, the daughter of Herod Agrippa I and the mistress of the Emperor Titus, who destroyed Jerusalem and the Second Temple, as well as building the Colosseum, was Jewish. Archeologists have turned up ancient Jewish tombs throughout Italy; among them are the famous catacombs of Rome.

It is estimated by some sources that Jews may have even constituted up to 10 per cent of the population of the Roman Empire at its height. All of this would change with the Second Jewish Revolt and the adoption of Christianity by Constantine as the official religion of the Empire circa 325 CE. The Emperor Julian the Apostate, circa 361-363 CE, briefly reversed official policy when he passed an edict to rebuild the Temple before his assassination in 363. Shortly thereafter, with the accession of the Emperor Theodosius, persecution of the Jews became official policy. The end of the western Roman Empire and the beginning of the so-called Dark Ages in the next century did not change much for the Jews.

By the time the veil of the Dark Ages lifts, there is once more evidence of a Jewish presence in Italy. Jews are involved in Italian life throughout the length of the peninsula, which by this time was fragmented among various states. By the later Middle Ages, the Aragonese of Spain, whose kingdom was centred on Barcelona, ruled a sizable part of Italy. When the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, the same edict applied to the Spanish possessions in Italy. Jews fled from places they had lived for centuries. More than 30,000 Jews left Sicily. Shortly thereafter, the first ghettos were established, taking their name from the district in Venice where Jews now lived.

This was also the time of the Italian Renaissance when western Europe was rediscovering the classical heritage of Greece and Rome, thanks to scholars such as Petrarch and Boccacio. The Renaissance started in Italy around the beginning of the 14th century. By the middle of the 15th century, there was a chair of Hebrew established at the University of Bologna, one of the oldest universities in Europe. But the Renaissance is most often associated with giants such as da Vinci and Michelangelo.

It was also the age of great patrons such as the Medicis. They founded a free port at Livorno and encouraged Jews to come and live there. It was in Livorno that Jews first imported coffee into Italy in the 17th century.

By the time the last Medici Grand Duke of Tuscany died in the 18th century, the Medicis had left an archive of three million documents. Of these, 40,000 dealt with the Jews of Tuscany. The Medici Archive Project (MAP) is digitizing and studying this collection. The first volume of this project will be published in Toronto by the University of Toronto Press.

The Medici Archive Project is giving us a fascinating insight into the realm of these merchant princes and is revealing the important role Jews played in this region that was at the heart of the Renaissance. As for my connection to Italy – my wife was born in the Trastevere district of Rome, the heart of the Jewish district for the past 2,000 years.

Those who are interested may wish to join me on a Jewish heritage tour to this wonderful land that the great Rashi called the most beautiful in the world. E-mail Merja Kerov of St. Clair Travel at merja@stclairtravel.com or call 416-654-9600.

Solving Israel's water crisis, Pt. 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish Highway

As Israel looks to the skies for rain, we conclude our look at how it is trying to make each drop last.

Reservoirs old: Water problems in the Middle East are nothing new and neither are ingenious solutions. Archeologists have unearthed a network of reservoirs designed to turn the desert green. Located beneath an ancient Judean palace just south of Jerusalem, the waterworks was modified by the Persians who took control of the area from the Babylonians around 539 BCE. **[http://tinyurl.com/y8b76v]** Tel Aviv University archeologist Oded Lipschits has called the Ramat Rachel reservoirs and waterworks unparalleled in Eretz Yisrael. **[http://tinyurl.com/wbsvq]**

Reservoirs new: Although most immediately identified it with trees and making the desert bloom, the Jewish National Fund has long been involved in Israel's water economy. The country's network of 180 dams and reservoirs frees up "enough water to meet the needs of over 1.2 million Israelis each year." **[http://tinyurl.com/npqja]**

Desalination: "Nuclear desalination plant will be ready by 1971" reads the headline in the Dec. 18, 1965, edition of the *Jerusalem Post*. "President Lyndon Johnson has assured Prime Minister Levi Eshkol of U.S. willingness to help finance the joint U.S.-Israel nuclear desalination plant," the article states. **[http://tinyurl.com/kehqq]** The nuclear plant never saw the light of day, but last year Israel opened the largest desalination plant of its kind in the world. When it reaches full capacity, the Ashkelon seawater reverse osmosis plant will provide about 15 per cent of the country's domestic consumer demand. **[http:// tinyurl.com/jmnzl]**

The Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, has conducted an 18-month project titled *Efficient Use of Limited Water Resources: Making Israel a Model State*. You can read the recommendations about the viability of desalination and other critical aspects of Israel's water policy in the extensive English language site. **[http://tinyurl. com/vpcq2]**

Waste-water treatment and reuse: The high cost of desalination can make it prohibitively expensive for agricultural use. But since many crops can tolerate water of lower quality, treated waste water is seen as a source of water for irrigation. You can read more about this at Mekorot, Israel's national water company, **[http://tinyurl.com /jowq2]** and at the Stephen and Nancy Grand Water Research Institute based at the Technion in Haifa. **[http://tinyurl. com/f5jo8]**

Meanwhile, *Business Week* recently had a feature article about how Israel is exporting its water-management technology to parched regions of the globe. **[http://tinyurl .com/eexdu]** And CNET News has a fascinating feature titled Water Wizards in the Desert **[http://tinyurl.com/kx6jq]** as well as an enlightening photo gallery. **[http://tinyurl. com/h3x3g]**

Canals: One of the older proposals for restoring the Dead Sea to its traditional level is through digging a canal linking it to the Mediterranean Sea. The so-called Med-Dead Canal would deliver badly needed water to the Dead Sea, which is falling by a metre per year. The canal would also take advantage of the 400-metre drop between the two bodies of water to generate hydro-electric power. **[http://tinyurl.com/kz5yr]** But the route of that canal would take it through the Gaza Strip, and the United Nations passed a resolution condemning it in 1984. **[http://tinyurl.com/j9rhv]**

More recently, attention has turned to a similar project, the Red-Dead Canal, which would start in the Red Sea and travel north, downward through the Arava Valley shared by Jordan and Israel until it reaches the Dead Sea. **[http://tinyurl.com/odgmg]** So far this project has received support from Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. This summer, it came a step closer to reality when the World Bank agreed to raise $15 million for a feasibility study. **[http://tinyurl.com /yh9y4w]** The king of Jordan enlisted famed British architect Lord Foster to work on the canal. **[http://tinyurl.com/odgmg]** On the other hand, the Friends of the Earth Middle East has raised several concerns about the project including a fear that the "unique Dead Sea mineral composition will certainly be altered by the release of waters" from the Red Sea. **[http://tinyurl.com/ycxol6]** The feasibility study will take about two years.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com

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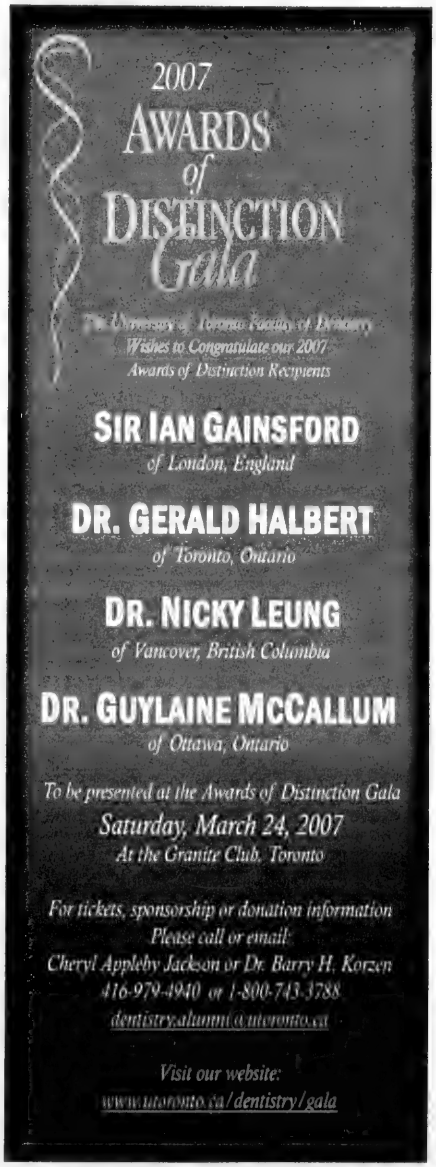

Street naming symbolizes more than just a road

Weldrick Road renamed in honour of Lebovic brothers

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

The name of a road in the City of Vaughan which will be an important route in the lives of Jewish generations to come has been officially changed in honour of the two men whose generosity is the financial force behind a new community campus.

Weldrick Road, west of Bathurst Street, was recently changed to Lebovic Campus Drive, in honour of philanthropists Joseph and Wolf Lebovic, the benefactors of the new Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus at that location (Weldrick, east of Bathurst, will retain the same name). The dedication ceremony – held on the site of the campus – was attended by Jewish community and political leaders.

Joseph Lebovic (left) with Ontario Finance Minister Greg Sorbara. (Photo by Nestor Ponce)

Spread across 50 acres on Bathurst Street, north of Rutherford Road, the Lebovic Jewish Community Campus – an initiative of UJA Federation's $250 million Tomorrow Campaign chaired by Lawrence Tanenbaum and Gerald Schwartz - is a direct response to the requirements of York Region's growing Jewish population. Serving the diverse recreational, educational, social, cultural and wellness needs of families and individuals alike, the campus will house a full recreation facility, an early childhood care centre, schools, a conference centre and multi-purpose theatre, a health and wellness clinic, a variety of meeting spaces, and agency offices.

"It takes great vision and foresight to understand the importance of building a Jewish Toronto for future generations, for people you may never meet or never know," said UJA Federation board chair, David Engel. "Years ago, other visionaries thought to create the Jewish infrastructure we have today: the hospitals, the community centres, synagogues, day schools and more. It is now our turn. We are indebted to people like the Lebovics who are leading the way."

"Over the years, we've seen the Jewish community move north and really become the salt of the earth," said Ontario finance minister Greg Sorbara. "Clearly, the Lebovic brothers know that it's the generosity of spirit that makes a community. This new campus is a testament to how much both of you care for not only the Jewish community, but all of the 12.5 million people who call this province home."

"Anyone can build a house, but the Lebovic brothers build communities," said Vaughan mayor, Michael DiBiase. "I'm so proud of the large and flourishing Jewish community in Vaughan. It is truly an example of how a group can come together and work for one common goal."

Other dignitaries attending the Lebovic street naming dedication included Thornhill Member of Parliament Susan Kadis; Mario Racco, the area's Member of the Legislature and York Region chair, Bill Fisch.

"I've been in the development business for fifty years, and I never thought I'd be standing here for this, but, here we are," said Leo Goldhar, chair of the Lebovic Campus steering committee. "With the backing of some special families we now call the founding families, we were able to purchase the 50 acres that has become the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus. We delivered what we promised."

"It is unbelievable what can be accomplished if you believe and are steadfast in your determination," said Leslie Gales, chair, Tomorrow Leadership Cabinet. "Joe and Wolf believed and look where their vision and belief have taken us."

"We never had any second thoughts about what we were doing," said Joseph Lebovic. "We always wanted this to be a great facility for the Jewish community and for the community in general, and I have no doubt it will be just that. We want to thank everyone who has helped make our dream a reality."

The Tomorrow Campaign also includes two other Jewish community campuses – in downtown Toronto and in the Bathurst and Sheppard area.

Ontario Jewish Archives launches virtual family tree workshops

Thanks to the generosity of a donor to the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto – UJA Federation's endowment arm - members of Toronto's Jewish community will soon know a lot more about their family's historical roots.

The donation, provided to the Foundation by Lynda Weinrib, will fund a series of six workshops on creating family trees online.

"My grandfather told me stories when I was a child and showed me the Book of Jewish Names," says Weinrib. "I couldn't appreciate it then and now I am very interested in learning more about Jewish history."

Starting in January 2007, the workshops will be held in three different locations in Toronto - downtown, mid-town and North York - in order to accommodate community members from across the city regardless of age.

Three generations of Goldstick family members, Toronto, 1912. (OJA, photo #6706).

Their purpose is to teach participants how to use the new Jewish genealogical databases on the Internet to conduct searches into their roots and then rely on a new software product called Family Tree Maker to create sophisticated family trees. The instructor is journalist and avid genealogist Bill Gladstone.

"These types of Internet resources came on board four to five years ago and have revolutionized this type of research, enhancing accessibility to the public and reducing the time involved in locating family-related information," explains Gladstone.

The course will be open and accessible to everyone in the community, but will target bar and bat mitzvah-aged youth who will be accompanied by one of their parents.

As a further incentive to get youngsters involved in this project, The Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora in Tel Aviv, offers three trips to Israel each year as prizes for the best family trees submitted by a bar or bat mitzvah. The UJA Federation Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA) will work with the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and the Jewish schools to promote these workshops and encourage eligible students to participate.

"We are excited about tying these workshops to this competition in order to attract and raise awareness among bar and bat mitzvah-aged kids about the value of historical research through the investigation of their family trees," says Ellen Scheinberg, director of the OJA, which is coordinating this project. "By pairing them with a parent, these courses will inspire the children to delve into their roots and will enable their parents to share in this experience."

For more information, please contact Ellen Scheinberg at 416-635-2883 ext. 187.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

Project Northern Recovery

Eliya Halevi - Israel's Tiniest Hero

UJA Federation has begun Project Northern Recovery to relieve the ongoing emergency-situation in northern Israel, following this summer's terrorist rocket attacks. Project Northern Recovery, the next phase of UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, will be allocating funds for among other initiatives, repairing damage to community facilities, such as hospitals and re-equipping them. The urgent ongoing needs of the north are illustrated through this story of courage to save little lives.

Baby Eliya was born on May 14, 2006, three months premature, weighing only one pound 12 ounces. Displaying an amazing determination to survive, his situation gradually stabilized under the expert care and attention of doctors and staff of the neonatal infant care unit (NIC) at the Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed (Tzfat).

With the outbreak of hostilities in the north, Eliya's father, David Halevi, voiced his concerns to the hospital staff about where the hospital's NIC unit was situated within the hospital.

"The unit was on the top floor of the hospital building, and Eliya's incubator was right near an external window, together with all the other infants," David recalls. "I thought that this was really dangerous. However, the hospital staff assured me that the hospital was out of range of any rockets that Hezbollah had in their arsenal, and that everything would be fine," he continues.

David Halevi with son Eliya.

On the evening of July 17th, their theories were proven wrong. The city of Safed came under fire with rockets landing very close to the hospital, shattering its plate glass windows.

"We were in our home on Kibbutz Amiad, only ten minutes drive from the hospital, when we heard the sirens go off."

David, who made aliyah from Los Angeles last year, recounts their traumatic experience. "We sped our way up to the hospital to see if little Eliya was safe. People were in a state of shock, but we realized that we had to get these babies out of harms way."

David personally assisted the hospital staff throughout the night, moving the entire NIC unit, including the infant patients, to a lower floor where they would be safe. "I think I will remember that feeling for the rest of my life, as I wheeled my son in his incubator to safety," says David. "I felt that this tiny, two-month old innocent human being, weighing only 2 pounds 12 ounces, had been part of another miracle by surviving this attack."

Two of the north's other major hospitals, Western Galilee Hospital in Nahariya and Rambam Medical Center in Haifa took direct rocket hits during the war and suffered extensive damage to the buildings and to medical equipment. With extraordinary acts of courage and bravery, doctors, nurses and paraprofessionals continued to care for the sick and wounded.

As part of its comprehensive plan for Rebuilding the Galilee, the Jewish Agency for Israel (UJA Federation's overseas agency) is investing in building vital communal infrastructure. As critical service providers for the community, hospitals that were directly hit require support, not only to return them to previous levels of working capacity, but to also offer community-wide assistance for those most in need from traumatized children to injured and chronically ill citizens.

Since that fateful evening, Eliya Halevi has undergone laser surgery on his eyes. He is still thriving and gaining weight steadily, having recently passed the 4 pounds, 4 ounces (2 kilo) mark.

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UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign launches new phase

Telethon volunteers raising funds for Project Northern Recovery

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

As UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 (IEC) begins its next phase, Project Northern Recovery, the push to help northern Israel recover from this summer's war against Hezbollah, is still motivating hundreds of Toronto volunteers to do what they can.

Last week's UJA Federation IEC telethons brought out 400 eager volunteers who helped raise more than $1.2 million.

The IEC – chaired by Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks – has so far raised over $68 million, with $18.5 million earmarked for Israel's emergency needs.

Project Northern Recovery is targeted to those who have not yet given an Israel Emergency Campaign gift by focusing on the emergency conditions that still exist in northern Israel.

"The purpose of Project Northern Recovery is to focus on the urgent long and short term needs of northern Israelis and to ensure that we raise $81 million for the Israel Emergency Campaign 2007," said Rohringer. "The money that we have raised to date and sent to Israel has helped substantially, but there is still so much more that we must do to help with the medium and long-term northern recovery efforts. It is critical that we receive the help of each and every one of our donors in order for us to reach our target and meet our promise to Israelis that we will support them at this time of great need."

"Besides donating money, I wanted to help in any way I could," explained telethon volunteer Betty Kruger. "While maybe we couldn't be there physically helping the Israelis during the time of the crisis, we can help them rebuild through our donations and helping to collect donations."

Volunteers of all ages are giving their time to UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign telethons. Last week, four nights of telethons raised over $1.2 million for the next phase of the campaign, Project Northern Recovery.

"Those volunteers who have taken the time to come out to the telethons have done an amazing job," said Richard Bennett, co-chair of UJA Federation telethons along with Helen Silverstein. "This year we have dual campaign goals and responsibilities. We also have to ensure that our local needs in the community are fulfilled. We are asking telethon volunteers to come out in full force now to propel Project Northern Recovery."

To volunteer at UJA Federation telethons, please call 416.631.5854.

Toronto helps make history at Ben-Gurion University

By SHARON SCHWARTZMAN
UJA Federation

Although tourists and Israeli citizens alike flock to Eilat for its stunning landscapes, beautiful weather, and relaxing atmosphere, students have been typically unable to afford the academic opportunities of Israel's southernmost city. As a result, Eilat has suffered the loss of young, motivated individuals who would otherwise serve as catalysts for the city's diversity and growth.

But on October 19th, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and UIA Federations Canada made history. At a ceremony held just beside Ben-Gurion University's Eilat campus, representatives from UJA Federation, The Sacta-Rashi Foundation, The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the Eilat Municipality laid the cornerstone for the city's first residential student dormitories.

The dormitory project will provide students of Eilat's higher education institutions with high-quality, low-cost accommodations. The multi-functional building will also accommodate students and volunteers from Toronto and throughout Canada during the summer recess. This will enable a new community of educated, motivated young people to study in Eilat and help the city.

As Eilat mayor Meir Yitzhak Halevi noted, "A university in Eilat with hundreds of students will boost the population. If Eilat becomes a university town with unique academic opportunities, not only will the educational system in the city improve, but it will enhance Eilat's character and status."

Randy Shiff (far right) and Barbara Bank participate in laying the cornerstone for Eilat's first residential student dormitories at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

This project is just another example of the dedication that Toronto's Jewish community, Eilat's partner, has invested in the city and surrounding Eilot region.

"The dream that is being fulfilled today marks the latest chapter in Toronto's commitment to the region," said Orit Braun, JAFI's representative. "The partnership that you have created here in Eilat and the Eilot region sets the standard for all other partnerships in Israel, not only for its extensive investment in education, but in other fields as well."

Toronto Jewry has always demonstrated an active presence in Israel, explained Brian Schachter, co-chair, along with Morley Brown, of UJA Federation's Partnership 2000 Committee. "This partnership is unique for its warm friendship and its close personal ties with the people of the region."

A live-broadcast to the Lipa Green Building, housing the UJA Federation offices, gave Toronto's Jewish community the opportunity to be present at the event and to celebrate, with their friends in Eilat, the realization of their dream.

"We're so lucky to participate in your dreams," said UJA Federation president, Ted Sokolsky.

Holocaust Education Week

November 1 – 9, 2006

From Wednesday, November 1 to Thursday, November 9, Holocaust Education Week (HEW) - the largest Holocaust education program outside of Israel - returns to the Greater Toronto Area for its 26th year.

HEW, sponsored by the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation, features over 100 programs, speakers and films to inspire and educate.

According to Holocaust Centre chair, Lorraine Sandler, this year's event is very timely in light of the anti-Israel sentiment pervasive in today's world.

"The recent Hezbollah terrorism perpetrated against Israel, and the vulgar and venomous rhetoric that emanates from Iran, is evocative of vitriol heard in 1938. Our antennae are alert," said Sandler.

For more information, visit www.holocausteducationweek.com or call 416.631.5689.

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Prof. Annie Szamosi, will speak about her documentary on the *"Kasztner Affair."*

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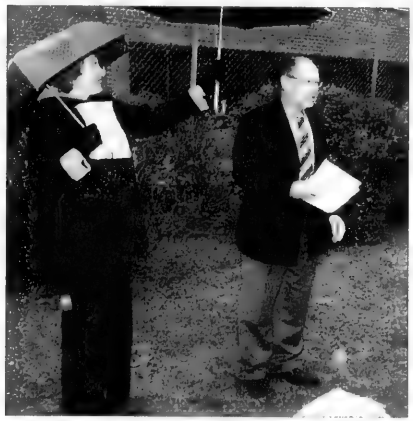
Greater Toronto Area

Jewish cemetery declared historic site

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

At one of the oldest cemeteries in Ontario, 75 members of Holy Blossom Temple gathered in the rain late last month to celebrate the rededication of the Pape Avenue Cemetery, and to designate it as a historical site.



From left, Rivanne Sandler and William Draimin addressed Holy Blossom congregants who gathered to witness the rededication of the Pape Avenue Cemetery, which was also designated as a historical site. Below is a tombstone that marks the burial site of a Torah and a Megillat Esther that were damaged beyond repair. [Paul Hellen photos]

As part of the shul's 150th anniversary celebrations, William Draimin and Rivanne Sandler, co-chairs of the Holy Blossom Temple Pape Avenue Cemetery Committee, recently prepared an application to the Ontario Heritage Trust to have the 157-year old graveyard declared an official historical site.

"I don't think any amount of rain can dampen the significance of this wonderful occasion," Draimin told 75 Holy Blossom congregants, who were huddling under umbrellas at the Oct. 22 event.

He said the Pape Avenue Cemetery, which has been under the custodianship of Holy Blossom Temple since 1849, was singled out by the Ontario Heritage Trust as an official historic site, and it will receive a provincial plaque to label it as such.

"This is a special day not only for Holy Blossom, but also for the Jewish community of Greater Toronto. We continue to take great pride in our history and our reputation," Draimin said.

"Soon we will have a blue and gold plaque here commemorating the significance of the first Jewish cemetery."

Sandler explained that when the plot for the cemetery was purchased in 1849, it was the only Jewish burial ground in the area.

"The closest one was in Buffalo, [N.Y., and travel] would have been by horse and buggy," Sandler said.

"It filled a community need for the Jewish population, which was beginning to augment in the 1840s, when Jewish immigrants from Europe began to come to Toronto and other cities in Ontario. It was the efforts of the leading members of the Jewish community who thought it was important to satisfy the communal and religious need, and were responsible for purchasing this land," she said.

Holy Blossom's spiritual leader, Rabbi John Moscowitz, also spoke at the ceremony, and he read a prayer of rededication before Sheila Smolkin, the organizer of the event, unveiled a tombstone that marks the burial site of a Torah and a Megillat Esther that were damaged beyond repair and buried in 2002.

"This cemetery is a special place, a hallowed location to remember special people who are the real pioneers in our Jewish community in both Upper Canada and the province of Ontario," Draimin said.

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Minister tries to lure Israeli ex-pats back home

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel's minister of absorption, Ze'ev Boim, was in Toronto last week to fulfil a central tenet of Zionism: the ingathering of Jews to Israel.

Boim brought a delegation of officials here to convince Israelis in Canada to return to Israel and thus reverse a growing brain drain.

Sixty per cent of the estimated 700,000 Israelis overseas live in North America. Of these, some 45,000 can be found in Toronto.

"I think we should pay attention to such Israelis," he said in an interview. "We make great efforts in aliyah. Why not reach out to Israelis abroad?"

Toronto was one of several cities in North America visited by Boim – a former mayor of Kiryat Gat – during a hectic 12-day trip.

The other cities on his itinerary were New York, Boston, Miami, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

In every locality, Boim was accompanied by representatives of companies, including Teva and Intel, that have major presences in Israel. In the main, employment opportunities are in hi-tech and engineering.

"The chief consideration for Israelis thinking of going back is jobs," he said.

Asked how many positions are being offered, Boim said, "Thousands."

Thanks to a thriving economy propelled by a high growth rate and increasing foreign investment, Israel is producing a multitude of new jobs.

"The numbers have been very good in the past two years," he observed. "Like China and India."

Boim was particularly interested in luring back Jews from the former Soviet Union who gave up on Israel.

Of the one million Soviet Jews who immigrated to Israel from 1989 onward, 50,000 have returned to their former homes and more than 120,000 have settled in the United States and Canada.

"It's a sad story," he said in reference to Soviet Jewish immigrants who have left Israel. "We failed in absorbing them. We are trying to improve the situation."

Boim decided to launch the current campaign shortly after his appointment last May. He was previously deputy minister of defence.

"This is not a new idea. There are simply too many Israelis living abroad. But until now, we were not really doing anything about it. The time had come to deal with this problem."

Boim said that about 150 Israelis who attended the ministry's workshop and job fair in Toronto, held at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel on Highway 7, showed an interest in returning to Israel.

"I can't predict how many will eventually return, but I hope it will be as many as possible."

Almost 8,000 Israelis, the majority living in North America, returned between 2004 and 2005, according to statistics compiled by the ministry.

"At the end of the day, we can't compete with the United States and Canada," Boim said. "But we hope that the spirit of Israel will persuade Israelis to come back home."

Israel may have to invade border area....please see story page 39.

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at below market rent, to be occupied by foster parents and children in their care. A long-term lease (at least 3 years) is preferred, with location in the Bathurst corridor between Lawrence and Steeles.

For further information, call Selma Elzas, Jewish Family and Child Service, 416.638.7800 ext 298.

Ontario

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK
Closing Program

WE REMEMBER AND HONOUR...
Community Commemoration of
"Kristallnacht – The Night of Broken Glass"

Thursday, November 9 – 7:30 pm
Shaar Shalom Synagogue
2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill

Greta Stanton

The year was 1938 and the women swimmers of Hakoah, Europe's largest and most prestigious Jewish sports club, were fast becoming a legend. But, when the Nazis shut down the club, the swimmers were forced to flee Vienna.

Sixty-five years later, film director Yaron Zilberman met the swim team, now scattered around the world, and arranged a reunion in their old swimming pool. The result is the highly-acclaimed documentary *Watermarks*.

GRETA STANTON, the diving champion featured in the film, and a witness to *Kristallnacht* in Vienna, will recall her memories of the time and discuss the impact of the film on her and her former teammates, some of whom she had not seen since 1939.

"In Berlin...fire engines stood by to protect the nearby main post office while the Oranienburgstrasse synagogue burned."
Photo – *Kristallnacht: the Nazi night of terror* by Anthony Read and David Fisher. Published by Random House

The program will also feature a candle-lighting ceremony to commemorate the 68th anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, the night the stage was set for the "Final Solution" – the annihilation of European Jewry. On November 9-10, 1938, the Nazis organized a massive attack against Jews throughout Germany and Austria. Led by party officials and storm troopers, mobs looted and burned Jewish homes, schools, synagogues and businesses, signaling the beginning of the Holocaust.

Jewish War veterans will also be honoured for their role in World War II.

FREE ADMISSION
For information call 905.889.4975

Generously co-sponsored by Martin Maxwell, in memory of his two sisters, Josefine and Erna Meisels, who died during the Holocaust; and by the Sharon Diamond and Walt Family Fund at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, in loving memory of Sharon B. Diamond and Isidore J. Walt.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK, NOVEMBER 1-9
is coordinated by the **Holocaust Centre of Toronto of UJA Federation**

For a brochure detailing more than 100 programs throughout the GTA, call **416.631.5689** or visit **www.holocausteducationweek.com**

UJA FEDERATION

Relationship between mouth, heart focus of forum

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry is presenting a public forum called Your Mouth and Your Heart: They Have More in Common Than You Might Suspect.

Dr. Howard Tenenbaum

The forum, which takes place on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m. at the mount Sinai Hospital Auditorium,18th floor, will explore the link between oral health and general health, with emphasis on the cardiovascular system. It is presented as a service to the community, with no charge to the public.

Keynote speakers are Dr. Howard Tenenbaum, a professor of periodontology and the associate dean of biology and diagnosis sciences at the U of T faculty of dentistry, and Dr. Joseph Minkowitz, a York Region cardiologist who is on staff at Markham Stouffville Hospital.

Whether the format of instruction is a private or a public forum, it is rare to have a forum in which two different disciplines – dentistry and medicine – get to combine their ideas and thoughts.

Minkowitz said he has a passion for teaching patients about their problem "so that they are a partner in improving their health."

He hopes that the general public will walk away from the public forum with a better understanding of gum disease and the causes of heart disease.

Tenenbaum, head of periodontics at Mount Sinai Hospital, said the jury is still out on the links between cardiovascular disease and gum disease "although the evidence is very tantalizing."

From a statistical standpoint, he said the risk of developing cardiovascular disease is increased if one also has periodontal disease.

Speaking of other risk factors in cardiovascular disease, Tenenbaum added that "even if we cannot yet say with any certainty that having periodontitis causes cardiovascular disease, it might indicate that a patient afflicted with periodontitis could be at risk for the development of heart disease and should look towards management of known risk factors for both diseases, particularly smoking."

Minkowitz said risk factors for heart disease are smoking, hypertension, elevated cholesterol, diabetes, family history, and to a lesser extent, obesity.

"Looking for a less-established smoking gun – pun intended – such as gum disease to divert blame as to why a patient has heart disease is a form of denial and obfuscation by the patient," he added.

But the current accepted theory of atherosclerosis beginning as an inflammatory response early in life followed by chronic inflammation and leading to a cycle that results in hardening of arterial vessel and plaque formation cannot be disregarded, he said.

Dr. Joseph Minkowitz

"The initial event which starts the process may in fact be an infection, possibly oral, since it is so common."

He added that there is a high prevalence of gum disease in patients with heart disease and that perhaps the same process – smoking, for example – that leads to atherosclerosis causes gum disease.

"Thus gum disease can be seen as a marker or sign of possible heart disease," Minkowitz said.

The Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Fall 2006 Lecture Series at Holy Blossom Temple

In Exile or at Home?

Reflections on the Jews, Israel and Anti-Semitism in an Uncertain World

Even after enduring and surviving several millennia, even at a time of statehood and prosperity, Israel and World Jewry struggle for a place among the [illegible]

Malcolm Hoenlein
Mon. Nov. 20, 2006, at 8 p.m.

Malcolm Hoenlein is the Executive Vice Chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He is, perhaps, the foremost spokesperson for Diaspora Jewry. Please join us for the third in this series of four lectures.

Introduction: Rabbi Moshe Shulman

Upcoming lecture
Ehud Ya'ari — Mon. Nov. 27

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE
ק״ק פרחי קדש

1950 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, ON M5P 3K9
www.holyblossom.org

For a complete list of the offerings of our 2006/2007 Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Centre for Jewish Learning Calendar of Events, download a copy online at *www.holyblossom.org* > Publications > Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Centre. Doors open at 7 p.m. for Holy Blossom Temple members and Friends of Holy Blossom Temple with Advance Seating Cards, and at 7.30 p.m. for members of the greater community. Admission is free. To find out how to become a Friend of Holy Blossom, please call Shannon Tramer, at (416) 789-3291, ext. 227, or visit our Web site at *www.holyblossom.org* > Membership > Become a Friend of Holy Blossom.

CHESED חסד

COMMUNITY AWARENESS SYMPOSIUM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2006

6:30 – 9:00 pm

North York Civic Centre, Council Chambers
5100 Yonge Street, North York, Ontario

HONOURED GUEST & KEYNOTE SPEAKER: PAUL GODFREY

President and CEO of The Toronto Blue Jays, former Chairman of Metropolitan Toronto, former Publisher and CEO of the Toronto Sun

To raise awareness of what services and resources are available in our community – for those who are in need of help – and for those who would like to help.

THE NEED IS URGENT!

- A mother and her daughter share an old pair of winter boots.
- An elderly lady snowbound in her house for several days, doesn't know who to call for help.
- An immigrant who was promised a job before arriving is told, upon arrival, that there is no job.
- A child addicted to drugs roams the streets, with nowhere to go.

United Chesed of Toronto works with over 70 Jewish organizations to help needy Jews in our community. We are a hub for many of the major Jewish agencies, synagogues, Chesed committees and outreach action committees in Toronto.

Come and meet with some of our member organizations:

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JACS
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CASA FREE LOAN FUND
THE KOSHER FOOD BANK
JWI
SPARK LEARNING CENTRE
CIRCLE OF CARE
CCAC
REENA
ZAREINU
L'CHAYIM- Cancer Support for Jewish Women
JOHN SYRTASH, Lawyer
ARTHUR BURKE, Seneca College
UNITY REFERRAL NETWORK

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT THE COMMUNITY IS DOING TO HELP THE NEEDY.

FIND OUT WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY.

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP!

UNITED CHESED

UNITED CHESED OF TORONTO
www.unitedchesed.com
(905) 707- 0233

HADASSAH BAZAAR

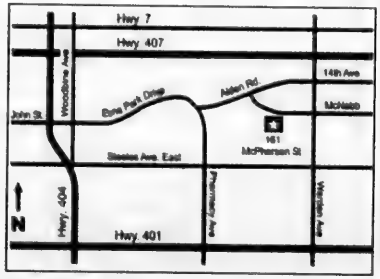
The 82nd annual Hadassah-WIZO Bazaar, held recently at Exhibition Place, attracted a steady stream of shoppers hunting for bargain clothing, accessories, kitchenware, collectibles, books and toys. Money raised from the bazaar goes toward health care services here and in Israel.
[Carolyn Blackman photos]

MIKASA SEMI ANNUAL WAREHOUSE SALE!

NOV. 2nd-5th, 10th-13th 2006!

SAVE UP TO 80% OFF MANUFACTURER'S SUGG. RETAIL PRICES

No dealers please. We reserve the right to limit quantities. Cash, Visa, Mastercards or Interac accepted. No Cheques or Coupons. No Refunds or Exchanges. All Sales Final.



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SHOP EARLY FOR BEST SELECTION

THE SALE THE GTA WAITS FOR IS ALMOST HERE
We have had to expand the dates to get all of the products on the floor. This fall we will have the sale over two weekends with the final day being Holiday Monday Nov. 13/06. This is the perfect sale for your holiday gift giving, personal upgrades to your home and wedding plans in your future. New products will be shown almost every day, shop more than once.

8 DAYS ONLY!

WAREHOUSE SALE HOURS

Thursday, Nov. 2nd	9am - 8pm
Friday, Nov. 3rd	10am - 8pm
Saturday, Nov. 4th	9am - 5pm
Sunday, Nov. 5th	9am - 4pm
Friday, Nov. 10th	9am - 8pm
Saturday, Nov. 11th	9am - 5pm
Sunday, Nov. 12th	9am - 4pm
Monday, Nov. 13th	10am - 5pm

For more information visit: www.mikasa.com

Only paid Mazel tov announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come - first served basis as space allows.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

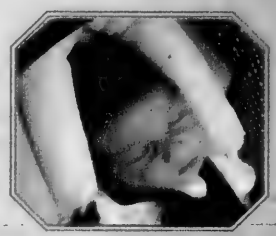
Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words maximum. Send your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., #205 North York, ON. M3B 3K4
or email them to:
cblackman@cjnews.com

Harold & Laya Pelchovitz - happy 60th wedding anniversary. Love from your children and grandchildren.

Mazel tov to the descendants of Louis & Edith Sax who held a reunion to celebarate the 100th anniversary of the Sax family's arrival in Toronto.

Mazel tov to Sherri Klein & David Seigel on their engagement. Both families are very excited on this wonderful occasion. We love you both.



Caleigh Madison born to Matthew & Jenna Sperling of Lansdale, Pa. Ecstatic bubbie & zaidie Brenda & Mel Sperling of Toronto: Health and happiness always.

Mazel tov Tobi Greenberg on achieving your CHRP designation. Love Mom, Dad and family.

Mazel tov to Jessica on graduating from the University of Western Ontario. Good luck in teacher's college. Love, Mom, Lisa, Rob, Benjamin, Mindy & Mike.

Now turned 8 on Oct. 11. Rebekah's zest for life is ever present in her caring nature. Don't ever stop smiling. Love, Maureen, Jonathan and Joshua.

Happy 1st birthday Zoe!! Love Mommy, Abba & Michelle Toby & Joe, Rivka & Leiser, Rachel & Sid, Sarah, Roman, Raanan and family in Israel.

JNF
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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

CJN DATING
MEET YOUR MATCH
www.cjndating.com
powered by JMATCH
JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

What's New deadlines: Monday, Nov. 6 is the deadline for the Nov. 16 issue and Monday, Nov. 13 is the deadline for the Nov. 23 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

JEWISH BOOK FAIR

The Jewish Book fair celebrates its 30th anniversary with events from Sat. Nov. 4 through Sat. Nov. 12. For tickets and information call 416-636-1880, ext. 368. All events take place at the Leah Posluns theatre unless otherwise noted. Here are a few of the many events:

Canadian Friends of Hebrew University present the opening event of the fair, **Michael Karpin** speaking on his book, *The Bomb in the Basement: How Israel Went Nuclear and What That Means to the World*. Sat. Nov. 4, 8 p.m. $10.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK

This annual event continues throughout the GTA. Choose from free programs, films, and compelling speakers. For more info, call 416-631-5689 or visit holocaust educationweek.com. Here are a number of events worth catching:

The Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada presents "Polish-Jewish Relations in Post-Communist Poland: Old Bigotries, New Attitudes," with **Andrew Rajcher**, member of the World Society of Czestochowa Jews and Their Descendants. Thurs. Nov. 2, 4 p.m at the Wolfond Centre, 36 Harbord St.

Darchei Noam Congregation presents "A Memoir in the Family: Survivor Memoirs Across the Generations," three generational perspectives that explore themes of identity, survival and remembrance. Sun. Nov. 5, 7 p.m. 416-638-4783.

Temple Kol Ami presents "Out of the Fire: A Partisan's Memoir" with Faye Schulman. Sunday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. at Indigo Richmond Hill, Yonge & Hwy #7. Free.

Adath Israel Congregation presents **Merle Nudelman**, lawyer, poet and daughter of a Holocaust survivor, on "We, the Women," Mon. Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m.

Tyndale University College presents the film *Neighbours: Freud and Hitler in Vienna*, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m. at 25 Ballyconnor Ct. 416-218-6766

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents "Crossing Swords with Hitler: A Jewish Lawyer Confronts Hitler in Court," with **Douglas G. Morris**, author of *Justice Imperiled: The Anti-Nazi Lawyer Max Hirschberg in Weimar Germany*. Tuesday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3511.

Thursday, Nov. 2

YIDDISH VINKL

Yiddish Vinkl will hear **Judy Perly** discuss Jewish Argentina. 12:15 p.m. 320 College St. RSVP to yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca or **Bess**, 416 630 7222 or **Bill**, 416 665 3081.

Saturday, Nov. 4

BEST OF ALL WORLDS

Holy Blossom Temple host **rabbis Steven Saltzman** and **John Moscowitz** discussing "Is This the Best of All Possible Worlds? Maybe God Should Have Done a Better Job." 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration required, call **Tania Blumenthal**, 416-789-3291.

Sunday, Nov. 5

RENEWING OUR SPIRIT

Torah in Motion presents "Renewing our Spirit: Fifth Annual Conference." Sat. Nov. 4, "Engagement and Disengagement: The Future of Religion in the Land of Israel," a panel discussion, 8:15-10:30 p.m. and Sun. Nov. 5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $50, lunch included. Information, 416-633-5770, www.torahinmotion.org

ARTS EXPERIENCE

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism presents "Jewish Family Arts Experience," explore Jewish culture and values together. Free. 131 Fenn Ave. RSVP, 416-385-3910 or info@oraynu.org/

Continued on page 25

Baycrest Centre for Education on Aging proudly presents

The 2006 Ada Starkman Lecture

Visiting with elders

Learn about strategies to help you have meaningful visits with your loved ones who have Alzheimer's or memory loss

Keynote speaker: ***Ruth Goodman,*** MSW, RSW, Senior Social Worker at Baycrest and author of *Visiting with Elders*, a book that helps families learn new ways of connecting with elderly loved ones who have Alzheimer's or another dementia.

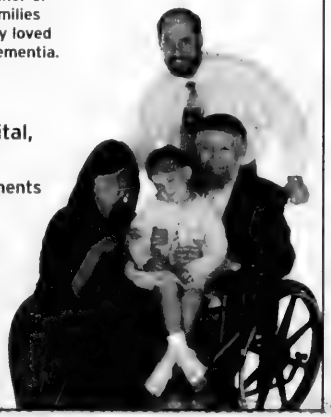
Tuesday, November 14, 2006
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Wortsman Hall, Baycrest Hospital,
3560 Bathurst St.

Free admission, parking and refreshments

RSVP to Paula Ferreira at:
416-785-2500 ext 2363
or e-mail pferreira@baycrest.org

Baycrest Enriching Care, Extending Knowledge, Enlightening Minds

The Annual Ada Starkman Community Education Series is generously sponsored by Beverly Black in honour of her late mother



Discovery

The world renown seminar returns to Toronto!

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aish
Learning Centre
Thornhill Branch

Sunday, November 5, 2006 - 7:30 pm
Aish Thornhill, 949 Clark Avenue West
$10 pre-registration, $18 at the door.
Pre-registration by Thursday, November 2
Visit aishtoronto.com or call 905.764.1818

The extraordinary presentation that combines philosophy, psychology and history to take audiences on a journey into the "why" of being Jewish. Includes "Codes of the Torah". Discovery has had over 250,000 participants in over 120 cities worldwide!

Continued from page 24

WIERZBNIK MEMORIAL

Join the annual memorial commemorating the destruction of Wierzbnik with guest speaker **Avrum Rosensweig**. 2 p.m. at Bialik Hebrew Day School. 416-763-2709

A HEALING SERVICE

The Toronto Healing Project offers a special healing service with **Rabbi Ronald Weiss** and **Judy Shier Weisberg**. 3-4 p.m. at Lipa Green, room 421, 4600 Bathurst St. Wheelchair access. 416-944-3359.

Monday, Nov. 6

CLUB FOR THE BLIND

The Hebrew Club for the Blind and Vision Impaired will hold a meeting at the Bathurst JCC. 7:30 p.m. Entertainment and light refreshments will round out the evening. For information or if you require a lift call **Bess Lokach**, 905-508-2892.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

BOOK REVIEW

The Temple Sinai Social Club hosts **Celine Kessler** reviewing **Nicholaus Maes**' *Dead Man's Float*. 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments. $4, non-members $6. For info call **Rita**, 416-221-6375.

Other News

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Join the Sisterhood of Solel Congregation for Penny Krowitz, of Jewish Women International Canada, who will show the film *To Save a Life, Ending Domestic Violence in Jewish Homes* followed by a discussion on ending domestic violence. Thurs. Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. For info call 905-855-3444 or email laurie.brager@compass-canada.com.

KIDS CONCERT

Beth Sholom presents **Robert Davies** in concert, Sunday, Nov. 12, 4:30 p.m. followed by a pizza party. Adults $8, children $5. Tickets, 416-783-6103.

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

A women's support group meets every second Tuesday to network, share, address concerns AND have fun, in an informal and friendly environment. Join us 10-1:30 a.m. at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. TTC & wheelchair accessible. Free parking available. For additional information please leave a message for Rachel at Council House 416-633-5100 This program is free and is open to all women in the community.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna** ext. 215 for info and registration.

Younger Widow/Widower Bereavement Group, a six-session discussion series for individuals 60 and under who have recently lost a spouse. Begins Tuesday Nov. 7, 7:30-9 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St.

Adult Children Losing a Parent, a six-session group for adults who have recently lost a parent. Learn about coping with grief, loss and legacy and resolving unfinished business. Begins Tuesday Nov. 7, 7:30-9 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St.

Looking Ahead, a 6-session group for newly separated or divorced individuals who are dealing with the initial feelings of loss, anger, loneliness and wanting to let go of the past and move forward. Begins Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7:30- 9 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St.

One Family Two Homes, a three-session series for families experiencing separation and divorce. Children participate in separate age appropriate groups which will help them deal with some of the myths and know where to get support. Parents will discuss keeping kids out of the conflict, trends in family law and the impact of separation and divorce on children. Begins Thursday, Nov. 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Promenade Mall, #313.

FOR SENIORS

Lunch and Learn in Retirement hosts Dr. Nicole Anderson on "Memory and Aging: What's Normal, What's Not and What You Can Do About It." Wed. Nov. 8, 12:30 p.m. Bring dairy lunch, drinks served. $1. 416-789-3291

Darchei Noam Congregation present "Wake Up And Smell The Bagels: Domestic Violence Against Women Happens In Jewish Homes, Too" with **Laura Mestelman**. Nov. 8, 12-2 p.m. Bring lunch, beverages and cookies provided. 416-638-4783

Beth Tikvah Synagogue presents The Variety Players in "Song & Dance," Sunday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m. $18. 416-221-3433, ext. 0.

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Sunday Dance, 7:15-10:15 p.m.; Casino Rama, Wednesday, Nov. 8; Bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; Hebrew conversation, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; Bridge, Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Nov. 2, bingo. Call **Menachem**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka**, 416-631-5574.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

The film *The Void*, a journey by **Pinchus Gutter** and his family, Thurs. Nov. 2, 7 p.m. in the assembly room. Info, call **Brenda**, ext. 2853.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Paper Clip Ride to Remember", Wed. Nov. 8, 1 p.m.

Lecture on The Marx Brothers with **Barry Fluxgold**, Tues. Nov.7, 10 a.m. $2/$4

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Baycrest Jewish Home for the Aged, Apotex Centre is looking for volunteers in a variety of areas, to assist in lighting the Shabbat candles on Friday evenings, help clients participate in weekly pre-Shabbat services on Friday afternoons, escort clients and participate in recreational programs and provide friendly visitors weekdays and weekends. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 2572.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Music presents **David Broza**, Saturday, Dec. 23 at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Tickets, ext. 228.

IDF VISITS BIALIK: Preschool students at Bialik Hebrew Day School recently enjoyed a visit from members of the Israel Defence Forces, who explained to the students that the IDF's job is to protect the land of Israel. Pictured with the Israeli officers are senior kindergarten students and their teacher, Brooke Elsner, left.

SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Freeman, Sylvia	Oct. 9/06	
Landsberg, Wolfred	Oct. 9/06	2075 Bayview Av
Stein, Ernerst Maurice	Oct. 10/06	23 Thorncliffe Park
Morgenthal, Lieselotte	Oct. 10/06	2 Buchan Crt
Leider, Ruth	Oct. 11/06	32 Clarissa Dr
Edson, Henry	Oct. 11/06	
Nakhimova, Gagai	Oct. 14/06	10 Tangreen Crt
Ublansky, Pearl	Oct. 14/06	Private
Satory, Magda	Oct. 16/06	
Beraha, Ian	Oct. 17/06	Private
Kogan, David	Oct. 18/06	233 Rose Green Dr
Grunfeld, Zoltan	Oct. 18/06	Private
Waldman, Harry	Oct. 19/06	866 Sheppard Av W

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Sara Shefsky	Oct 16/06	355 St. Clair Ave W
Carola Wertheim	Oct 12/06	3171 Bathurst St
Benjamin Applebaum	Oct 16/06	21 Almington St
Steven Erdos	Oct 16/06	53 Regina Ave
Leslie Collin	Oct 15/06	5444 Yonge St
Georgia Kelman	Oct 18/06	205 Wynford Dr
Arnold Sprecher	Oct 20/06	784 Centre St
Albert Fisher	Oct 17/06	255 The Donway W
Goldie Gordon	Oct 20/06	20 Toledo Cr
Maria Leiser	Oct 19/06	100 Canyon Blvd
Sandra Marks	Oct 19/06	748 Law St
Gilda Rosen	Oct 21/06	60 Disera Dr
Josef Cohen	Oct 21/06	225 St. George St
Beatrice Corbin	Oct 20/06	18905 NE 25th Ave

HEBREW DASIC

Lillian Onrot	Oct 17/06	21 Dunvegan Dr
Grace Korzen	Oct 16/06	877 Yonge St

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RAY RABIN ז"ל
will take place
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Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Farband Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DOROTHY KURTZ ז"ל
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Jones Avenue Cemetery
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to all of our dear family and friends
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Marilyn Jacobs ז"ל
May we all be comforted among the mourners of Zion

Greater Toronto Area

OMB expected to approve condo project on school land

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The head of a North York ratepayers' association appears resigned to losing a bid to stop construction of a 10-storey condominium building on land owned by an Orthodox Jewish day school in the Bathurst and Finch area.

"There is no question in my mind that the Ontario Municipal Board [OMB] will pass it," said Tom Jutcovitch, president of the Patricia Ratepayers' Association (PRA).

The developer's appeal has been heard by the OMB, which has reserved a decision.

Erection of the 240-unit building on land owned by Eitz Chaim Day School will greatly increase traffic and put the neighbourhood's children at risk, Jutcovitch said.

"The number one concern [of the PRA] has always been the safety of the kids in the street, and not just those from Eitz Chaim. There are too many cars right now, too many kids running across the street and too many parents dropping off their kids," he said.

The PRA has opposed the development for years, arguing the construction plan does not adequately consider the safety of the neighbourhood children.

Construction of the residential building includes parking for 400 cars, which will choke traffic on the narrow street, Jutcovitch said. "We're afraid someone will lose patience and kill a kid crossing the street," he said.

The proposed building was turned down by the North York Community Council and later by Toronto City Council, even after the developer, Vianovus Capital Corporation C/O Cityzen Development, reduced its size to 10 storeys.

The OMB "only looks at the legality of the application," said Ward 10 Councillor Mike Feldman. "The application is within the scheme of things [land use provisions] and the OMB does not see it as that big an issue."

Noting that a building across Bathurst Street is larger than the proposed one, Feldman said he tried to facilitate a compromise on the development, but "the neighbours said 'No, no, no.'"

"I said if we don't do the planning and negotiating, it will go to the OMB."

Feldman said the ratepayers opposed any high-density development and turned down proposed compromises on traffic flow and street widening.

Jutcovitch said the PRA suggested three proposals to mitigate traffic congestion, including reducing the building's size or permitting fewer units. A third suggestion would have limited entry and egress to the building to Bathurst Street.

Feldman said he tried to solve the traffic problem with some innovative suggestions, but they included routing traffic onto Patricia Avenue, which the ratepayers opposed.

As councillor for the ward, Feldman said he has tried his best for the ratepayers' group, but the issue has proven divisive. Some area residents, including parents of children at Eitz Chaim, support the development, he said.

The building will be built on a playground owned by the school and "Eitz Chaim gets paid depending on the density," Feldman said.

"Orthodox power guys came in to see me and push for the deal, as the school needs the money," he added.

Jutcovitch maintained that many Eitz Chaim parents have told him in private they oppose the development, as it will take away an outdoor play area for their children and increase traffic. However, they are remaining silent on the issue.

Jutcovitch was critical of the city for not providing a traffic expert at the OMB hearing to make the case on safety issues. But Feldman said "we couldn't get a credible planner.

"The top five planners did not want to defend opposition to the development," he said.

Representatives of Eitz Chaim were not available for comment at *The CJN*'s deadline.

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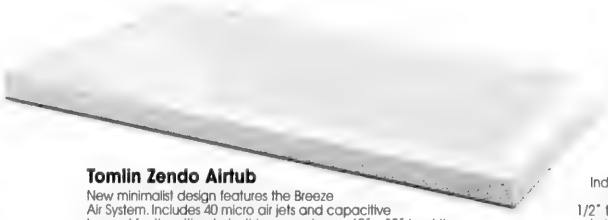

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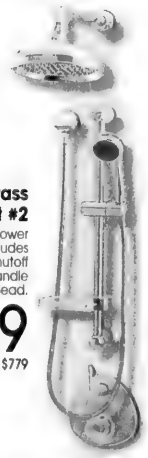

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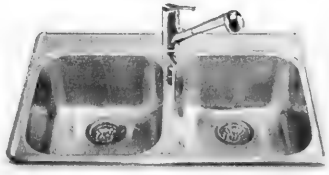

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Innoculating young Muslims against Iranian hate

On Oct. 20, "Jerusalem Day" was celebrated throughout the Islamic world. In yet another rant against Israel and the United States, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad issued an ultimatum that threatened European countries supporting Israel. His threats were widely covered.

The *National Post* carried Farhad Pouladi's Agence France-Presse story under the headline, "Iranians predict 'triumph of Palestine,'" (October 21).

Reporting from Tehran, Pouladi recalled that Ahmandinejad has termed the Holocaust a myth and has called for Israel to be "wiped off the map," and he cited Ahmadinejad's threats to European countries in particular that might support Israel.

"You should know that any government that stands by the Zionist regime from now on will not see any result but the hatred of the people... The wrath of the region's [Muslim] people is boiling... You should not complain that we did not give a warning. We are saying this explicitly now.

"If a hurricane starts, rest assured that the dimensions of this hurricane will not be limited to the geographic borders of Palestine... This regime [Israel] will take its supporters to the bottom of the swamp."

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The *Globe and Mail* editorialized about Ahmadinejad's rant ("Ahmadinejad's routine," Oct. 21). It noted that what makes his threats so chilling is that Iran is in the process of developing nuclear weapons.

The paper called upon the Islamic world to bear the responsibility of speaking out against Ahmadinejad: "If only the Muslim world took some responsibility for insisting that it will not tolerate a clownish leader who preaches hatred against the Jews while complaining of hatred by others. And who uses those complaints of hatred to whip up Islamic fury and to make violent threats against the West. Muslim silence in the face of Mr. Ahmadinejad's foolish rants is highly damaging."

The *Globe* referred to a recent statement by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urging Muslims to promote tolerance and speak out against "extremism and radicalism." However, it failed to note the irony that Egypt continues – with only periodic let-ups – to vilify Israel and to promote anti-Semitic stereotypes through its official and semi-official press.

More importantly, Mubarak's cautionary note is a rare occurrence in Arab and Muslim countries and is virtually non-existent, at least on the public level, where Israel is concerned.

In its Oct. 23 editorial, "The enemy of our enemy," the *National Post* reflected that Ahmadinejad's extremist views have widespread support throughout the Middle East.

"In Gaza, the democratically elected Hamas government refuses to recognize Israel's existence or renounce terrorism. In Lebanon, the euphoria of the 'Cedar Revolution' has given way to an elected government that is dominated by Hezbollah terrorists and their allies. And Iraq's democratic government is controlled by narrow-minded sectarian leaders, many with links to blood-thirsty Islamist militias."

The *Post* might have added that Tehran currently enjoys more influence in Iraqi affairs than any other single power, and that during Jerusalem Day, reportedly, scores of Iraqis took to the streets in Baghdad and Basra to condemn Israel and demand that Jerusalem "be returned" to Palestinian control.

To be sure, as the *Post* observes, the governments of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia are attempting to stand up to the threat of Islamic extremism that imperils their own stability and even survival.

Yet where Israel and Jews are concerned, the record from Saudi Arabia for instance, is far from encouraging. The Saudis are simultaneously attempting to thwart jihadists in their midst while placating Wahhabist extremists by promoting anti-Israel and anti-Jewish rhetoric in the media and madrassas.

Such incitement is infecting the minds of an entire generation of youth, who comprise a large percentage of a burgeoning population spread across a wide area of the globe. Until they are set free from this hatred, there is little chance that moderate Muslims will have any influence against leaders such as Ahmadinejad and his increasingly dangerous like-minded clique of mullahs.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Palestinian media deny Israel's existence: PMW

By KYLE GORDON
Special to The CJN

The Palestinian Authority, through its media and schoolbooks, has perpetuated the ideology that Israel does not have a right to exist, says Itamar Marcus, director of Palestinian Media Watch.

For 10 years, PMW has been monitoring what Palestinians are saying among themselves in Arabic and to their children. Marcus presented some of its findings to a hushed audience at Kehillat Shaarei Torah on Oct. 22.

Marcus referred to Article 11 in the 1988 Hamas Charter to illustrate the roots of radical Islam in the PA.

"The Islamic Resistance Movement believes that the land of Palestine is an Islamic waqf [trust] consecrated for future Muslim generations until Judgment Day. It, or any part of it, should not be squandered. It, or any part of it, should not be given up," Marcus read.

According to the charter, Israel should be destroyed because God wants Muslims to have it, Marcus said.

Mahmoud Al-Zahar, the co-founder of Hamas, reiterated the ideas found in the charter when he said, "there is no place for the State of Israel on this land."

Marcus said the Palestinian Authority is trying to ensure that children internalize Al-Zahar's sentiments.

Educating children not to believe in Israeli's existence and legitimacy is widely found in schoolbooks, Marcus said. Maps in these schoolbooks depict Palestine as encompassing all of Israel.

"Israel does not exist on the map," he said.

The PA has defended these maps, saying that since there are no final borders on them, they don't represent modern Palestine, but rather Mandatory Palestine, Marcus said on the PMW website.

Since 1998, official Palestinian television has been airing a children's music video that claims Israel stole all the Palestinians' land in 1948, Marcus said.

Itamar Marcus
[Kyle Gordon photo]

"In 1948 they took everything. The names they changed. They changed the names," Marcus read from the lyrics.

"The message Palestinian children are taught is that Jews, according to Allah, stole their land, cities, lakes and deserts. It is a total denial of Israel," he added.

Palestinian TV is also responsible for presenting violence as an ideal in children's programming, Marcus said.

He referred to one children's show that discusses the importance of trees. In one episode, a talking chicken tells the host what he would do if someone chopped down his tree.

"I'll fight him and make a big riot, I'll call the whole world and make a riot. I'll bring AK-47s and the whole world, I'll commit a massacre in front of the house," Marcus recounted, reading from a translation of the Oct. 22, 2004, episode of *Tarabisho*.

"It teaches that violence is the preferred way to solve conflicts," he said.

This kind of manipulation is designed to increase the number of children on the front lines of conflict, Marcus said.

Mohammad al-Dura, 12, was killed in a crossfire between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen in Gaza on Sept. 30, 2000. After his death, Al-Dura became a symbol of *shahada*, or "death for Allah," Marcus said.

Al-Dura's image was used in a music video designed to encourage children to become child martyrs, he said.

"How sweet is the fragrance of the martyr," Marcus read from the lyrics of the video that aired on Palestinian TV from 2000 to 2003.

The station stopped airing the video in 2003 due to protests from PMW, Marcus said.

But, on June 28, 2006, when an Israeli soldiers was captured and taken to Gaza, it aired the video once again, he said.

"Palestinians realized that if Israel invaded, they would need children to fight. They expected Israel to invade, so they ran the video again," Marcus said.

According to three different public opinion polls, 70 to 80 per cent of Palestinian children aspire to *shahada*, he said, adding that they've learned that dying for Allah is their life's goal.

"*Shahada* is sweet," an 11-year-old girl says in one of the videos.

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Coast to Coast

Ad campaign turns up possible Nazi suspect

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A last-ditch effort to uncover previously unknown Nazi war criminals has turned up one potential suspect on Canada's West Coast.

The Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) revealed last week it has learned of a former SS captain now living on Vancouver Island thanks to a phone call from the man's neighbour.

The name matches one on a list maintained by the SWC and identifies the suspect as participating in atrocities. The former SS officer will be further investigated to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to involve Canadian police, said Leo Adler, the SWC's director of national affairs.

Adler said the name came to light thanks to an advertisement that offered a $10,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of Nazi war crimes suspects. The reward is part of Operation Last Chance, the centre's eponymous effort to bring to justice aging Nazi war criminals before time runs out.

Launched in Europe four years ago, Operation Last Chance has turned up numerous leads – in Hungary, the SWC received 329 calls in the first few weeks – and at least two high profile suspects.

In Hungary, a former army officer is under investigation for murdering a young Budapest Jew in 1944 for not wearing a yellow star. The officer, Charles Zentai, is now believed to be living in Perth, Australia.

In Croatia, Milivoj Asner, the former police chief of Slavonia Pozega, is under investigation. Asner fled to Klagenfurt, Austria, in July 2004 after his wartime role was exposed.

Operation Last Chance was introduced in Canada on June 6 – the anniversary of D-Day – and the ads in support of the campaign ran in late September and early October.

The quarter-page ads cost the SWC almost $4,000 and appeared in six community newspapers serving the German, Polish, Hungarian and Ukrainian communities, among others. Two papers, aimed at the Estonian and Lithuanian communities, turned down the ads, said SWC spokesperson David Eisenstadt.

A representative for the Lithuanian paper said the picture that accompanied the ad – a wartime photo of a Nazi officer preparing to hang a civilian – was too disturbing to run.

Operation Last Chance was introduced in Canada because "Canada has a very poor track record" in bringing war criminals to justice, Adler stated. Since 1994, only 21 cases have been launched.

The ads were placed in the hopes of "flushing out" suspects, but "few are left alive anyway," Adler acknowledged.

"It's a reminder that there is no statute of limitations on these atrocities," he continued. "The terrorists of today have to be made aware, in no uncertain terms, that they will be held responsible for their atrocities. The only way to credibly do so is to prove to them that time will not be their ally and that they will be hunted down, just as Nazi war criminals are being tracked an prosecuted."

Israel has duty to defend itself: MacKay tells Bonds crowd

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Israel acted within international law in taking "proportionate, measured steps" in defending itself against Hezbollah attacks last summer – and, in fact, had a legal "duty" to protect its citizens, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay told an appreciative audience at a State of Israel Bonds event last week.

He scoffed at critics who say Canada has departed from its traditional neutrality in the conflict. "This is incredible. Where is the neutral ground between defending oneself and Hezbollah attacks? There is no middle ground."

The event was in honour of businessman and Sephardi community leader Ralph Benatar.

MacKay also stressed that his government supports the Palestinians' right to self-determination and a two-state solution through negotiation, not unilateral action.

While he said he believes Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas genuinely wants to end the violence against Israel, MacKay emphasized that his government will never recognize a Hamas-dominated Palestinian government until Hamas renounces violence, recognizes Israel and adheres to the "road map" peace plan, as well as the Oslo accords and other international agreements.

"Some people have said that Hamas was freely elected and that we should recognize that, but I don't think so… Democracy and terrorism are incompatible and any government, whether elected or not, that is involved in terrorism, does not deserve the support of Canada. And as long as we are in office, Hamas will not get our support."

While Canadian funding to the Palestinian Authority has been suspended, MacKay said Canadian humanitarian aid to the Palestinians continues to get through via multinational arrangements and non-governmental organizations, "which we closely monitor to ensure that none of the funds gets diverted to terrorism."

MacKay noted that there has been a "marked change" in Canada's voting pattern at the United Nations on resolutions concerning Israel. He said Canada will not vote for any resolution that is not "balanced" with regard to Israel.

MacKay stressed that the Harper government is seeking an independent Canadian voice on the international scene. "We will not sit back and wait for others to decide for us."

MacKay also affirmed that Canada and Israel stand together in the fight against terror.

"Canada will not be a base for terrorism, nor will it allow terrorism to proliferate elsewhere."

Montreal Vaad beefs up kashrut supervision

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — In the wake of the discovery that repackaged non-kosher chickens were being sold as kosher by a Monsey, N.Y., store, Montreal's main kashrut certifying organization is immediately requiring full-time mashgiachs at all establishments under its supervision that handle meat.

Rabbi Saul Emanuel, director of the Vaad Ha'ir, said its mashgiachs will be present at all times at every phase of distribution from the slaughterhouse until the meat is in the hands of consumers, without exception.

The mashgiachs must be employees of the Vaad. Under the existing system, the supervised establishments pay the cost of the mashgiachs to the Vaad, which then pays the mashgiachs directly.

The new rules apply to the 53 establishments processing, selling or serving any meat product, be they wholesalers, retailers, caterers, restaurants or institutions. The rules apply whether the meat is fresh, cooked or otherwise prepared, packaged or not. In addition, their refrigerators and freezers must be sealed with the Vaad's locks, for which only the mashgiachs have keys.

Mashgiachs will be especially alert whenever meat is packed or repackaged, Rabbi Emanuel said.

In September, it was reported that the wholesaler Shevach Meats was stocking its Hatzlocha Grocery in Monsey, home of many ultra-Orthodox Jews, with cheaper, non-kosher chicken that it repackaged and labelled as kosher.

According to Rabbi Menachem Genack, head of kashrut supervision for the Orthodox Union, the fraud came to light after a slaughterhouse realized that Shevach was still selling its product after the slaughterhouse had stopped supplying Shevach. Shevach is supervised by a private rabbi, not the OU, JTA reported.

Rabbi Emanuel said none of the bogus kosher chicken could have reached MK establishments. In addition to the Montreal company Marvid, the kosher chickens approved by the Vaad come from only two outside suppliers: Chai Poultry of Toronto (a mashgiach is present when its products are packaged in Montreal), and Aaron's Rubashkin of Iowa, whose products come here sealed and are not repackaged.

As part of its stricter measures, the Vaad is about to become the first kashrut certifier in North America to use hologram labels that are almost impossible to counterfeit. Expected to arrive in five weeks, these round stickers, which bear the MK logo, will be applied only by the mashgiach to the meat after it has been packaged. The labels contain a numerical code that's only visible with a special reader.

As a temporary measure, until the hologram labels arrive, the MK is supplying its own numbered labels that allow the product to be traced more easily, he said.

Rabbi Emanuel said the great majority of MK establishments already have a full-time mashgiach. A small number have been permitted to operate with a part-time mashgiach because the Vaad was confident that other religious Jews were always present, he said. Their certification had been issued under those conditions.

Mashgiachs to be present at all times

He acknowledged that some places will find increasing the mashgiach's hours a financial hardship and that he has already received complaints. However, he notes that the mashgiachs are expected to share in the work of the establishments and not just be observers, which may reduce the impact, and ultimately how much of the extra coast will be passed on to the consumer.

Rabbi Emanuel acknowledged that a shortage of mashgiachs existed in Montreal before these new measures were put in place. The Vaad is looking to add another five to 10 to the more than 100 mashgiachs already in its employ. It has been advertising for recruits and will train qualified people. (Rabbinical ordination is not a requirement.)

The Vaad is also looking to hire a second roving inspector to visit each establishment weekly unannounced.

The new level of vigilance has been approved by the Rabbinical Council of Montreal, the main association of Orthodox rabbis.

Council president Rabbi Michael Whitman emphasized that the Monsey incident, which is without known precedent, has shaken all observant Jews and been a wake-up call to kashrut organizations.

"We feel we are doing everything in our power to ensure that such a situation [as in Monsey] does not happen here," Rabbi Emanuel said.

Rabbi Whitman added that the new procedures show that the Vaad is not complacent and is prepared to modify the way it does things to safeguard the consumer.

While the new measures are aimed at meat handling, the Vaad is also paying closer attention to cheese and candies which are often bought in bulk and repackaged, Rabbi Emanuel said.

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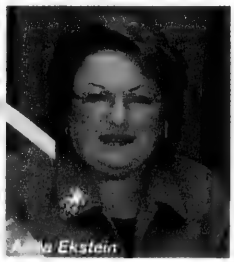
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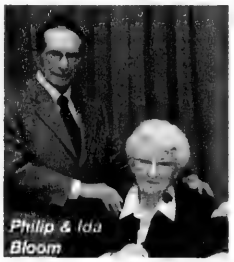
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confirmed their commitment to the future of Toronto's J
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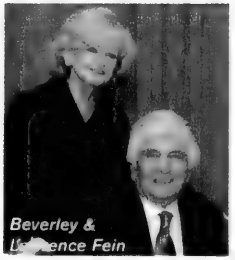
legacy through a life insurance policy or created a bequ
been formally inscribed in the Book of Life, which
perpetual reminder of where this communi

Every life has a story. Every story is a link between
commitment of a family to the commun
Every story represents the

Peter Block


Beverley & L[illegible]ence Fein

Linda Frum Sokolowski

Sheldon & Lindy Goodman

Jeff Springer

[illegible] David M[illegible]

Susan & Norm[illegible]n Mogil

Gerald Halbert

Judy L. Nyman

Rhonda Shusterma

If you would like to find out more about how you can include your story in the Book of Life, please contact Janice Benatar at 416.631.5847 or by email: jbenatar@ujafed.org

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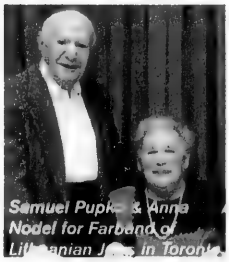
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Alan & Lorraine Sandler

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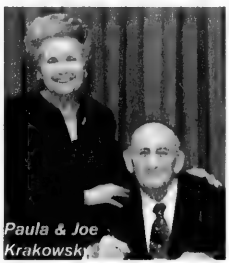
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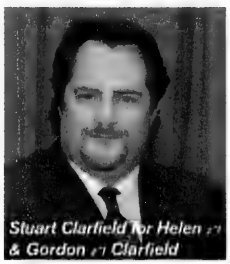
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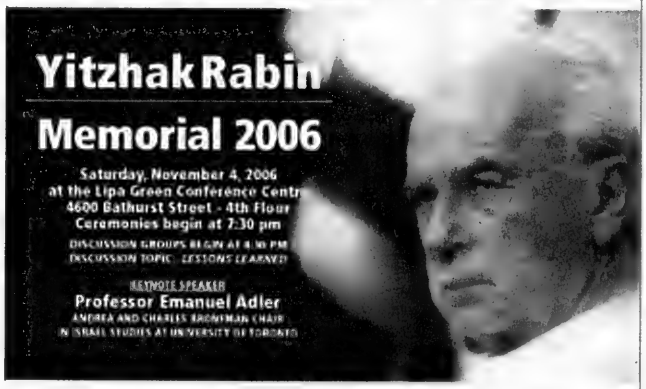

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Coast to Coast

Spotting Nazi-looted art priority for auction houses

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Two of the largest auction houses in the world now routinely research the provenance of art consigned with them to ensure that it was not confiscated during the Nazi era.

The heads of restitution at Sotheby's and Christie's said that, as more and more of the hundreds of thousands works of art the Nazis looted throughout Europe come on the market, they are increasingly acting as intermediaries between possessors and claimants.

Lucian Simmons of Sotheby's and Monica Dugot of Christie's, both lawyers by profession and based in New York, said they have had some success in restituting spoliated property without going to court. Reaching a settlement, however, is typically a very delicate and lengthy process, and varies from surrender of the work to the owner and claimant agreeing to sell it.

Simmons and Dugot were panelists at a program titled "Where Did All the Art Go? Reclaiming Works Looted During the Nazi Period" at Concordia University, as part of the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre's annual education series.

"Today we are checking provenance, in the same way we check condition, authorship and medium. It's part of our everyday life," Simmons said. Both Christie's and Sotheby's generally keep the work until a resolution is found.

Simmons has a team of two full-time lawyers and two art historians, as well as consultants, working on restitution.

Besides being concerned with seeing that justice is done, Simmons said it is "self-preservation" that drives Sotheby's to be so scrupulous in avoiding looted art.

"Sotheby's is very cautious about potential legal exposure, either civil or criminal, varying by country." It's also just good business, because any slip carries the "potential for bad publicity" and, in any case, "nobody would buy [a work] when it is tainted… We are being as paranoid as we can for our own benefit and that of our clients."

There's now a database of 13,000 "sensitive" names that are red flags for possible problems. Research includes checking the work's documentation as far back as possible, and clues on the back of paintings, such as labels and customs stamps. Occasionally, the auctioneers have gone through the Nazis' own records. They also work with the private Art Loss Register based in London, which monitors all sales worldwide, and the Holocaust Claims Processing Office (HCPO), which is part of the New York State Banking Department.

Litigation should be avoided, both panelists said.

"It can be traumatic for the claimant; there's huge financial and emotional costs," said Dugot, adding that it's also complicated because different national jurisdictions may be involved. "Generally speaking, the parties have been reasonable… Often the work was bought in good faith."

One of the biggest cases Simmons has handled was the restoration of a 19th-century Eugene Delacroix painting consigned to Sotheby's in London 3½ years ago. It had belonged to Max Silverberg of Breslau, whose entire major art collection was taken by the Nazis. It took three years, but an out-of-court settlement was reached between the consignors and the Silverberg heirs. The painting sold for more than $2 million (US) in London five months ago.

The vast majority of the looted art is not anywhere near that valuable, and Simmons thinks between 90 to 95 per cent of masterpieces have been restored at least to their original countries, thanks to the effort of the Allies after World War II.

There is always an heir, even if the family was wiped out, he said, adding that it's usually a national or local government.

The recent return of Emile Lecomte-Vernet's *Aimee, a Young Egyptian* to the Max Stern estate took only a few months after the consignor was informed of its history. The party told Sotheby's, "Please give it back."

The great majority of the works that were sold under duress, seized outright or lost when the owners fled remain unclaimed or even located.

Christie's was involved in the restoration this year of the valuable *Herbstsonne* painting by Egon Schiele, which was in the confiscated inventory of Viennese art dealer Karl Grunwald. It was discovered by chance after a private French collector brought it into Christie's in Paris for evaluation.

That was a fairly easy case. The possessor had bought the painting without knowledge of its past, but readily returned it to Grunwald's descendants, who are now scattered in the United States, France and Austria.

Also this year a Philips Koninck drawing that had been looted in 1942 from E.J. Otto was discovered to have been confiscated by the Nazis and attempts were made to return it. As Otto has no known heirs, it was decided to entrust the work to the Leo Baeck Institute, with the understanding that if heirs are found, it will go to them.

The third panelist was Sherri North Cohen, a Holocaust claims specialist with the HCPO, which currently has 130 open art claims, some of which – like the Stern collection – include hundreds of works each. To date, her two-person department has overseen 14 settlements.

Its services are available free of charge to anyone, regardless of the value of a claim.

She said her usual method is "moral and ethical persuasion," trying to impress upon the possessor the unjustness of the circumstances under which the work came into the hands of the Nazis, and emphasizing the personal story of the victim.

It can take years.

"It's not easy to try to convince someone to turn over something they may have bought in good faith 20 years ago… There are often two victims in these cases," she said.

Coast to Coast

Documentary shows IDF battling Hezbollah

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — During the recent war in Lebanon, Israeli journalist Itai Anghel accompanied an Israel Defence Forces unit on a night mission into the Lebanese village of Hule.

As the only reporter embedded with the IDF during the war, Anghel, of the respected Israeli news show *Uvda* (*Fact*), filmed the mission with a night-vision camera, producing a unique on-the-spot documentary of the battle.

Anghel's video was screened for an Ottawa audience on Oct. 22 by Yaron Deckel, Washington bureau chief for the Israeli Broadcasting Authority and one of Israel's top political commentators.

Deckel, a radio and television journalist who has covered Israeli politics for more than 30 years, has served as guest expert on Israeli politics on various American and Canadian programs and was the first Israeli journalist to be granted an exclusive interview with U.S. President George W. Bush at his Texas ranch.

With little introduction, Deckel screened Anghel's video. At the very beginning, as the soldiers entered Lebanon, the camera turns around to show Israel. The narrator tells the audience that as the soldiers look back at Galilee, to the lights where Israeli civilians live, they know that being in Lebanon, they are protecting their fellow citizens.

The soldiers engaged in dangerous, hand-to-hand battle in and around a couple of buildings, encountering Hezbollah fighters dressed in IDF uniforms. The audience got a taste of the terror, confusion, and intensity of the night mission, and breathed an almost-audible sigh of relief when all the soldiers returned to Israel alive. Several were wounded, but only one seriously.

Having just engaged in fierce battle, the soldiers were then seen visiting their comrades in hospital, embracing and kissing the wounded men.

Deckel told the audience in his commentary after the screening that in the following days, when the unit returned to Lebanon, three of the soldiers in the video were killed.

Deckel summarized the goals, successes and failures of the Lebanon war, providing statistics for how many targets were destroyed and how many Hezbollah fighters were killed, and he concluded that "Hezbollah was damaged severely."

He added, however, that Israel's goals were not all achieved. The two soldiers whose kidnapping started the war are still missing and Hezbollah has not even allowed the Red Cross to visit them, he noted

Also, he pointed out that on the last day of the war, before the ceasefire went into effect, 250 rockets were fired from Lebanon into Israel, "which means that Israel was able to diffuse the long-range missiles, but was not able to deal with all the arms of Hezbollah."

The Middle East is not a safer place as a result of the war, Deckel said. "However, Israel is safer due to the ceasefire… tourism is back, northern Israel is safe again… despite the heavy price Israeli society paid with 4,000 rockets during the 33 days, [Hezbollah] didn't manage to break the Israeli spirit. People were still willing to stay in the shelters as long as would be needed in order to let the soldiers do what had to be done."

Although hopeful that his prediction will prove wrong, Deckel concluded that "unfortunately, most Israelis feel it is only a matter of time before the next round."

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USDS STUDENTS HELP TERROR VICTIMS: **From left, Ariella Major, Jacklyn Pivovarov, Caroline Alpert, Tessa Schiller, Courney Burstein, Jordan Rostowsky, Eric Barsky and Ethan Stern were among the students at United Synagogue Day School's Bayview campus who took part in a recent rally for the One Family Fund. The students sold pens and pencils to raise funds for the group, which helps victims of terrorism in Israel.**

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Rabbi Mandel is Director of Outreach for Aish Toronto - Thornhill Branch. He is the co-creator of the Love, Dating and Marriage Seminar of Discovery International and the author of The Fulfillment Formula and Seder for the Soul.

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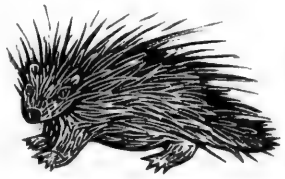
ISRAELIS SHARE STORIES: Grade 5 students at Netivot HaTorah Day School warmly welcomed Masha Silverberg and her daughter Miryam, holding albums, who shared stories and photos about their experiences living in Kiryat Shmonah in northern Israel during the war this past summer. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

usefulideas #23

usefulideas

Things that say, "Do Not Touch."



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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

משה גרודהס מלחמה־מעמואַר

פון שמחה סימכאָוויטש (טאָראָנטאָ)

מאָריס (משה) גרודה איז אַ טאָראָנטער חושב זינט 1948 און אין משך פון די קנאַפּע זעקס צענדליק יאָרן האָט ער זיך דערוואָרבן אַן אָנגענזענעם אָרט אין היגן יידיש־געזעלשאַפטלעכן לעבן וויַ אַ געשעפטסמאַן און נדבן, אָבער פאַר אַלעם — אַ וואַרעמער ייִד. פון זיינע יונגע יאָרן אין האָט ער אַרויסגעוויזן אַ נייגונג צו שרייבן. זיינע לידער און אַרטיקלען וועלן אפּט פאַר־עפנטלעכט אין ניו־יאָרקער „אַלגעמיינער זשורנאַל".

אין מיטן יאָר 2006 איז דערשינען אַ בוך וועגן זיינע איבערלעבונגען אין די ערשטע חדשים פון דער דייטשישער אקופּאַציע אין פּוילן אין 1939 און וועגן די יאָרן פון וואַנגל־און־וואַנדער איבער די ווייטן פון סאָוועט־רוסלאַנד. זיין מעמואַר האָט גרודה געשריבן אין ייִדיש און עס איז איבערגעזעצט און רעדאַגירט געוואָרן אין ענגליש דורך פראָפ. אַדאַם פּירסטענבערג. דאָס בוך פון 265 זייטן, אין וווייכן איינבונד, טראָגט דעם נאָמען: „שפּיצלעך פון גורל: אַנטלויף, אויסהאַל־טונג און רעסטנג 1939–1945" ("Tricks of Fate, Escape, Survival & Rescue 1939-1945").

משה גרודה האָט געלעבט בלויז עטלעכע וואָכן אונטער דער דייטשישער אקופּאַציע אין פּוילן. די מערסטע קאַפּיטלען דערציילן וועגן זיינע איבערלעבונגען אין משך פון די מלחמה־יאָרן וויַ אַ פליט אין סאָוועט־רוסלאַנד. דאָס בוך געהערט דעריבער צו דער געציילטער מעמואַרן־ליטעראַטור וועגן לעבן פון די אָרום דרייַ הונדערט טויזנט יידישע פליטים, וואָס האָבן בעת דער מלחמה געפונען אַ מקום־מיקלט אין סאָוועטן־פאַרבאַנד.

משה גרודה איז געבוירן נעוואָרן אין 1919 אין שטעטל רוזשאַן, 80 קילאָמעטער צפון־מיזרח פון וואַרשע. זיין פאָטער, אַ שוסטער, האָט מיט גרויס שוערייקייט געקאָנט מפרנס זיין דאָס הויזגעזינד פון דרייַ טעכטער און דרייַ זין. מיט דער צייט האָט זיין מוטער, אַן אשת־חיל, געעפנט אַ בעקערייַ און די מערכה פון דער פאַמיליע האָט זיך פאַרבעסערט.

וועגן די דייטשן באַפאַלן פּוילן ווערט משה און זיין משפּחה, וויַ דער רוב פון פּוילישן יידנטום, פאַרמשפּט צו פיין, אומקום, אַדער וואַנדל־און־וואַנדער. די גרודה משפּחה לויפט פון אירן אָרט צו אַ צווייַט ביז זיי קומען אַן אין שטעטל סאַרנע. דאָרט לעבן זיי ווי עס איז ביז ס'ברעכט אויס די דייטשיש־רוסישע מלחמה אין 1941. משהס עלטערן ווילן מער נישט לויפן און בלייבן דאָ מיט זייערע טעכטער. משה מיט זיין עלטערן ברודער שלמה און זייער שוואָגער סרולטשע לויפן זיך ראַטוועט אין טיף־רוסלאַנד.

נאָכן סוף פון דער מלחמה קומט משה אַן אין אַ די־פּי. לאָגער אין דייטשלאַנד, וווּ די געראָטעוועטע פליטים היבן אָן צו באַנייען זייערע לעבנס. משה געפינט דאָ זיין לעבנס־באַשערטע פרוי מאַניע (געשטאַרבן ערשט מיט זעקס חדשים צוריק). נאָך דער חתונה עמיגרירן זיי קיין קאַנאַדע און זיי בויען זייער היים אין טאָראָנטאָ.

משה גרודהס מעמואַר איז געשריבן פשוט און אמתדיק, אָן אויסטראַכטענישן און באַפּוצונגען און איז דערפאַר זייער איבערצייגיק. ער איז אַ גוטער אָב־סערווירער און זיין זיכרון דינט אים גוט. אין בוך זיינען פאַראַן פיינע באַשרייבונגען פון ייִדישן שטייגער־לעבן אין פּוילן, וויַ אויך פּרטימדיקע סצענעס פון דעם, וואָס ער האָט זיך אָנגעזען בעת זיינע וואַנדערונגען איבער דער בריט פון סאָוועט־רוסלאַנד. עס איז, אָן ספק, אַ וויכטיקער ביישטייער צו דער געשיכטע פון ייִדישע ליידן אין משך פון די מלחמה־יאָרן.

Coast to Coast

Famed Torah scholar rues loss of Jewish life, but holds out hope

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — When Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz begins an interview, it is he who poses the first question.

"Tell me about who you are," he exhorts, settling down in a chair at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. His query is a definite sign that this won't be just another Q and A.

Rabbi Steinsaltz does not want to know what you do, but who you are, who you really are.

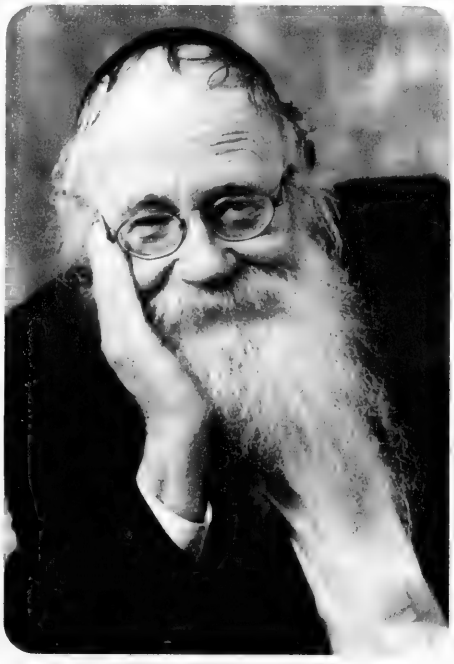
At age 69, he is a revered scholar and mystic who has won the Israel Prize, written more than 60 books, translated the Talmud into modern Hebrew, is resurrecting the Sanhedrin, and is sometimes likened to Rashi and Maimonides – a comparison he rejects.

"All nice words, but I am not in the same category by any means," he said before an informal talk he gave at Chabad Westmount and a day before delivering the Helen and Sam Steinberg Lecture at the Shaar Hashomayim Congregation.

Rabbi Steinsaltz's outward appearance is rabbinic: a full, white beard enveloping a bespectacled, sage visage.

Yet Rabbi Steinsaltz, 69, also sprinkled his replies with humour and references that betrayed his vast, sophisticated knowledge of the modern world. He made references to Voltaire, the late muckraking U.S. southern columnist Harry Golden, Maxim Gorki and others.

Rabbi Steinsaltz provided long, anecdotal answers to the limited number of questions that time allowed.



Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz

But the responses kept returning to the same theme: the need to revive the spark of Judaism within so many lost Jewish souls, "to make Jews more Jewish."

For him, being Jewish does not mean just donning tfillin or observing kashrut, which he described as "points of identity." He also stressed the need for Jews, whether "physicists or shoemakers," to do something significant in life, to make a difference.

Is it possible for a Jew to identify him or herself strongly as a "cultural," even atheistic Jew, and still be Jewish?

Rabbi Steinsaltz's reply was that such Jews are "transistant," in a sort of intermediary stage in which they "clearly have a connection and identification, but it is incomplete.

"Jewish culture is a very theocentric culture," he said. "If you take the centre out of it, it is a hollow shape. How long can a hollow shape stand?

"It is true there are people who fight against God, but they are not atheists. They are believers who have a quarrel with God.

"It's not just the matter of not going to synagogue or not eating kosher. Some people claim they're atheists, but their Jewish knowledge is at a kindergarten level. Jewish people have a notion of belief that is so ingrained that it has to be prodded out."

Rabbi Steinsaltz recalled meeting a Jew who told him how he purposely ate bacon and eggs on Shabbat.

"I asked him if he only did it on Shabbos. He did. So I said: 'You are, in your own way, keeping Shabbos and making the day special. But it's not my way of doing it.'"

He quoted Gorki: "There cannot be a Jewish atheist," because all Jews, even those who claim to be atheists, Rabbi Steinsaltz suggested, cannot renounce their innermost theocentric spark.

At the same time, "Jewish life is an endangered life," he said, lamenting the fact that Jews try to live vicariously through Israel without focusing enough on their personal Jewish identities being lost to intermarriage and assimilation.

Rabbi Steinsaltz cited the case of a remote town in the middle of Sweden where a girl who discovered her Jewish identity travelled several kilometres every week to study her religion.

"When I look at something like what a spark can do in a place where there are no other Jews. She had to, in a way, create it from nothing."

Rabbi Steinsaltz doesn't see himself as someone wielding enough influence to ignite those sparks. "I cannot make an outcry from Winnipeg to Vancouver. I am not here to make a big noise, but a noise that will penetrate," he said.

"A lot of people don't like my speeches," he said, because he sometimes draws an analogy between the gradual erosion of Jewish life with the suicides of "noble Romans," who immersed themselves in warm baths, cut their wrists and let life ebb out of them slowly, comfortably.

"This is what I feel is happening to Jews in so many places: a comfortable death, just draining out of you," he said.

Still, despite that dire scenario, Rabbi Steinsaltz sees the situation as "the worst of all possible worlds where there is hope."

Rabbi Steinsaltz is certain that there is a "nice Jewish Canadian committee" struggling with such issues, but he warned against the actions of "do-gooders" in the area of Jewish continuity who fail to see the long-term potential ramifications of what they do.

"If you want to be a do-gooder, fine," he said, "but are you willing to pay for it for the next 25 years?"

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11-year-old 'Katyusha girl' visits Toronto

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

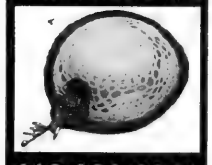
Miriam Silverberg has a hobby that few kids outside of Israel can claim: she collects Katyusha shrapnel.

While Hezbollah was busy firing its rockets at the northern Israeli town of Kiryat Shmonah, the precocious 11-year-old and her 15-year-old brother, Yisroel, decided that collecting pieces of the exploded artillery in their neighbourhood would make a fun pastime while they waited out the war.

Her exploits garnered her much media attention.

Dubbed the "Katyusha Girl of Kiryat Shmonah" by *National Post* blogger Michael Newman and featured on CNN's *Anderson Cooper 360*, Silverberg achieved celebrity status in her hometown. But to her parents, Barry and Masha Silverberg, she was just their daughter and a girl trying to make the best out of a horrific situation.

"We didn't look for [Katyushas], we hunted them," Miriam said. "Every time we finished [hunting] and did good, my brother would say, 'That was a good hunt.'"

BARAK
Crotchet Ladies Kippot

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Masha, a child psychologist trained in stress and trauma counselling, was fearful of her children's "hunting expeditions" at first, but eventually she came to see the activity as beneficial to their mental health.

"It's not the loudness of the explosion, it's what the child or parent says to themselves about the event," said Masha, who believes that physically touching pieces of

Miriam and Masha Silverberg display Katyusha shrapnel that they collected during Israel's conflict with Hezbollah. [Andy Levy-Ajzenkoppf photo]

Katyushas and proactively seeking them out helped her children feel more in control of their circumstances.

"There were frightening times, moments of terror, but there were other times where we were laughing and doing things [together] and that helped," she said. "It was terribly important to keep busy and not focus on fear."

During the war, Masha, who works for the city of Kiryat Shmonah, spent her time counselling in shelters, while Barry, a masseur and teacher, helped doctors stay tension-free by providing massage therapy at local hospitals, and he also helped bring food and medical supplies to people who couldn't leave their homes.

For her part, Miriam enjoyed her newfound fame. Although she felt strange being constantly interviewed by reporters, it was fun because her family became popular, she said.

"I wish they made Katyushas without [the warhead], so we could have a full one and show it around."

Miriam and Masha made their first visit to Canada last week on a whirlwind vacation and speaking tour of Toronto Jewish community schools.

The Silverbergs brought along samples of Katyusha shrapnel, displaying them to local children and relating their experiences during the war with Hezbollah.

The trip, arranged by Newman "to help them forget the terror and fear they lived under for 33 days in July and August," as he wrote in his "Word From the Front Line" blog, gave them much-needed time away from Kiryat Shmonah, where pockmarked buildings continue to remind the family of the war.

The Silverbergs were billeted with a local family during their week-long stay from Oct. 19 to Oct 25.

"You have an amazing country," Masha said after a trip to Niagara Falls last Tuesday.

"It's so big. So much water and everyone's so polite," added Miriam.

Though both were anxious to go back home, they said it was a trip they would not soon forget.

"I will tell my friends about Niagara Falls. That's something you don't see every day," said a still wide-eyed Miriam. "It was all over the place… it's amazing."

"This respite was wonderful," said Miriam. "I have deep gratitude for the acts of kindness that we have been shown by the [Toronto Jewish] community. People have been very kind and generous. To witness and experience that kind of chesed, you learn from it and it deepens you."

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Israel may have to invade border area: minister

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel will have no alternative but to invade the Philadelphi route, the strip of land between Egypt and Gaza, if Palestinian militants continue to use it to smuggle arms and ammunition, Israel's former deputy minister of defence warned last week.

"The Philadelpi route is an autostrada, a highway, for smugglers," Ze'ev Boim said in an interview. "Sophisticated weapons, including anti-tank missiles and anti-aircraft missiles, are being smuggled into Gaza from Egypt. If Egypt doesn't monitor the border seriously, we'll have no choice but to invade the Philadelphi route."

With Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza in the summer of 2005, Egypt assumed responsibility for maintaining security in the narrow corridor known as the Philadelphi route. Until then, it was controlled by the Israeli army.

Since Israel's pullout, Palestinians have been smuggling a deadly array of military equipment through a web of tunnels across the Philadelphi route

But since Israel's pullout, Palestinians have been smuggling a deadly array of military equipment through a web of tunnels across the Philadelphi route, arousing indignation and fear in Israel.

Boim, a former armoured corps company commander and currently Israel's minister of absorption, also warned that Israel will have to adopt "very tough" military measures to stop Palestinians in Gaza from firing Qassam rockets at Israeli border towns.

These measures would include the destruction of buildings used as launch sites, arms storage areas and Qassam manufacturing facilities, he explained.

Boim ruled out the re-occupation of Gaza as a viable option.

"It would be a bad idea. We were there and still, we have to admit, we couldn't totally put an end to the Qassams. It would be of no use to be inside Gaza to deal with that problem."

Boim, a member of the Kadima party who bolted from the Likud, called on the Palestinians to decide whether they want to coexist with Israel.

He described Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, as Israel's potential partner in forging a peace agreement.

"But Abbas is weak and can't deliver the goods. He hasn't taken tough measures to combat terrorism, but he has to take risks."

Charging that Hezbollah and Iranian agents have infiltrated Gaza, Boim called this a "very dangerous development."

As well, he noted somberly, Palestinian militants now regard Hezbollah as a model to be emulated in terms of tactics and strategy.

Turning to the recent war in Lebanon, Boim said that Israel achieved a lot.

"We seriously damaged Hezbollah's military capabilities, though we didn't knock them out. We destroyed 75 per cent of their long-range rockets and all their bases and communication centres. We also killed 700 of their fighters. We have all the names."

But he acknowledged that Hezbollah still exists and that its secretary-general, Hassan Nasrallah, has attained heroic status in Lebanon and throughout the Arab and Muslim worlds.

Asked whether he expects a renewal of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, Boim said, "It depends on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the Lebanese government."

Boim said that if United Nations Resolution 1701 is fully implemented and Hezbollah is no longer regarded as a major military threat in southern Lebanon, there will be no need for another round of warfare.

In his view, Iran's nuclear ambitions and its radical Islamic ideology pose a threat not only to Israel but to the entire world.

"The right way to deal with Iran is for the international community to take action, though diplomatic activity hasn't helped so far. It will be a disaster for non-proliferation if Iran acquires an atomic arsenal."

Boim said that Israel should not resume bilateral peace talks with Syria under current conditions.

"Why should we talk now? Syria played a role in the arming of Hezbollah and still hosts Hamas and Islamic Jihad. So why should we talk?"

But the Israeli government should reopen talks with Syria once its president, Bashar Assad, takes practical, confidence-building steps to assure Israel that he is serious about peace.

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Toronto poet pays homage to Russian master

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Like many cultural festivals, Toronto's Jewish Book Fair usually offers high-profile "bookend" events to open and close its program, which runs this year from Nov. 4 to 12.

The closing event features Toronto poet Rafi Aaron, whose few published volumes have travelled surprisingly far and gained impressive renown in the world.

On Nov. 12, Aaron and friends are due to present a celebration in words and music of the life and poetry of Osip Mandelstam, the legendary Russian-Jewish poet who died in a Stalin-era labour camp in 1938.

Mandelstam is the subject of Aaron's latest collection of poems, *Surviving the Censor: The Unspoken Words of Osip Mandelstam*. Although Seraphim Editions only recently brought out the 86-page volume, its contents have already won renewed critical attention for Aaron, since some of the poems were previously published in journals and were shortlisted for national magazine awards.

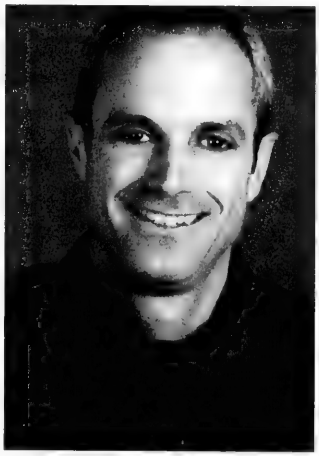
Two years ago, the Canadian foreign ministry invited Aaron to speak about Mandelstam in St. Petersburg, Russia, an adventure he calls "the trip of a lifetime."

Aaron took eight or nine years to complete the collection of 48 prose poems, through which he sought "to pay homage to a master." The poems were written in four voices: of the poet, his wife, a researcher, and a fellow inmate of the camp in which Mandelstam died.

"I set out to tell Mandelstam's story in art," Aaron explained. (He is now writing a play on the same subject.)

For Aaron, a large part of the creative process involved reading many volumes of Russian literature, memoirs and history. "As soon as I learned the facts, I tried to forget them, because I'm trying to convey the spirit of the times – to squeeze the facts to get the juice."

After being arrested in 1934 for a poem attacking Stalin, Mandelstam endured 4½ years of persecution and internal exile before his death at 43. His wife, Nadezhda, and others so revered his state-forbidden writings that they committed many of his poems, fiction, literary criticism and even newspaper articles to memory.



Rafi Aaron

Aaron, born in Ottawa in 1959, said he was "totally blown away" the first time he read Mandelstam's poetry, which "was unlike anything I'd ever read."

"The effect it had on me as a reader was amazing. It's so filled with literary references, it's actually an education just reading one of his poems and trying to come to the end, because there are so many tangents."

After completing courses in Judaic studies at York University, Aaron lived in Israel for nine years and held a senior position with a prominent advertising and public relations firm. His colleagues were astounded when he announced he was leaving the company to write a book.

That first poetry volume, published in 1990 under the title *The Lost and Found*, won the Tel Aviv Foundation prize in Israel, among other awards, and prompted PEN Israel to arrange a reading tour for Aaron to the United States.

His next book was the coffee-table volume *A Seed in the Pocket of Their Blood* (1998), which was republished by Syracuse University Press in 2000. The book, which combined poetry and photographs, became a travelling exhibit seen by many thousands of people in Canada, the United States and Israel.

At Toronto's Jewish Book Fair, Aaron teams up with actors Dmitry Chepovetsky and Shauna MacDonald (who will read in Russian), and musicians Daniel and Carey Domb, to present A Celebration in Reading and Music of the Life and Poetry of Osip Mandelstam.

The event takes place at Leah Posluns Theatre on Nov. 12 at 8 p.m. It costs $5. For tickets, call 416-636-1880, ext. 368.

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2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

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York Catholic District School Board
Area 1 - One (1) Member to be elected by electors in Ward 1
Area 2 - One (1) Member to be elected by electors in Ward 2
Area 3 - One (1) Member to be elected by electors in Ward 3
Area 4 - One (1) Member to be elected by electors in Wards 4 and 5

Le Conseil Scolaire de District du Centre-Sud-Ouest
One (1) Member

Le Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud
One (1) Member - ACCLAIMED

Who Can Vote?
A person can vote in the municipal election if he or she is a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old, resides in the City of Vaughan or is the owner or tenant of land in Vaughan, or is the spouse of such person and is not prohibited from voting by law Note: Corporations or Limited companies are not eligible to vote

Where Do You Vote?
A notice will be sent to each voter appearing on the Voters' List advising of the location of your polling station. This notice will also contain information such as your ward, poll number, school support and residency status. Please watch for your notice during the month of October and, if any of the information listed is incorrect, or, if you do not receive your notice, contact our office

Advance Voting Dates And Times
You will be able to vote at one of the Advance Voting days to be held on November 4 and 5, 2006 from 10 00 a m to 6 00 p m. and on November 6, 7, 8 and 9, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Watch for notices in the local papers regarding Advance Voting locations

Questions?
For further information, please contact the Clerk's Office at 905- 832-8504

JOHN D. LEACH, City Clerk
First Published October 18, 2006

MAKE YOUR MARK!

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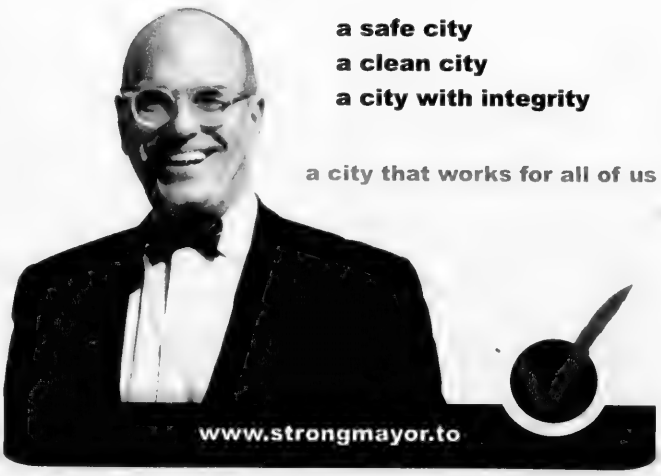
A STRONG MAYOR

ON NOVEMBER 13TH VOTE FOR

LEDREW



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a clean city
a city with integrity

a city that works for all of us

www.strongmayor.to

On Campus

The Holocaust and what it means to remember

By JORDAN PELC
Special to The CJN

Guest Voice

As part of the third generation since the Holocaust, I have grown up with the memory of the Shoah – to the extent that memory can be bestowed on those who were not there to remember – as a constant premise in my life.

Jewish school, my friends' grandparents, family trees, novels I read as a child – the theme of the Holocaust could be found in all these things, and, so far as one can bear witness to what one has not witnessed, I carry its warning with me.

And so as I look to the broader world and see its diminishing memory of the horror, and as the general public displays everything from ignorance to historical confusion to outright denial, it's very difficult to understand this incredible capacity to forget.

From Sinai to pogroms to Nazi Germany, Jews remember. That's what it is to be a Jew.

But then I must ask if we, too, have forgotten, or if there is much that we never knew to remember.

Can we honestly say that we remember the killing fields of Cambodia, where millions were tortured and slaughtered, and do we remember its horrors as we want the world to remember ours?

Do we remember Rwanda, where the United Nations withdrew to watch a million people be killed in 100 days? Do we remember Bengal, Kurdistan, or all the others?

What about Darfur, which is easy to remember, because its horror is still going on, and where even at this moment, new killings are being added to the thousands before them?

All of these genocides have occurred since we promised that the horror of the Holocaust meant "never again." All of these genocides happened despite six million Jewish warnings, *al kiddush HaShem*.

And so I must ask, what purpose is there in remembering? How does it help? There is, of course, value in remembrance itself, for at the very least, victims' lives can be honoured in death. But that's not the danger that I was always told lay in forgetting. That's not "never again." That's not why we've been fighting for 60 years to never forget.

To remember is to prevent. What else could it mean?

If we are to remember the Holocaust so that we never let it happen again, every unstopped genocide means ours was in vain, and every new death is a mockery of the memory of those who died before.

So let's admit to ourselves that we are failing. Let's not be too proud to see that danger. And let's not be too proud to wonder why.

In 10 years of Jewish day school, not once did I hear a word about any other genocide. Not once did I hear about Rwanda, which happened when I was in Grade 4, learning about the Holocaust. Not once was I taught that I could act, that I could help. Not once was I told enough to know that we were not doing enough.

There are no simple answers, and no meaning behind grand statements of "never again" when they are drained of detail and context. There is, rather, a deep and nuanced history of genocide, of "again and again," and also of hot air, UN resolutions, impotent attempts, failed states and failed interventions.

The burden of remembering is the burden of learning all of this, and of understanding that we have the power to fight new holocausts.

For this reason, students at the University of Toronto, York University, and Ryerson University have organized Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Week, which runs until Nov. 9 and brings together films, speakers, survivors and more in order to link our horror to that of others, and to be part of the great effort to remember – to truly remember.

So I challenge you to take this chance to learn what you can, and to begin to figure out what you can do.

Yes, there were and are loud Jewish voices who have fought against past and current genocides, and of course we should be proud of this and not forget that we have tried. And no, we can't expect that it's within our power to stop things that we may simply not be able to stop.

But until we can say collectively that we are exhausted and spent, until we can say with honesty that there was nothing else we could have done, every genocide is an accusation from history that we have allowed ourselves to forget.

Hitler said that "no one remembers the Armenians," and we have grown to not even know who else we don't remember. It has happened again, and it's happening now – and we don't remember. But we must. That's what it means to be a Jew.

For more information about Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Week, visit www.awarenessweek.ca.

Coast to Coast

'The Torah says we cannot stand idly by when anyone is being harmed'

Continued from page 3

Rabbi Whitman said this attempt to publicly shame Binson into releasing his wife is entirely acceptable under Jewish law and is not meddling in a private matter.

"If a man is hurting a woman, every moral person must try to intercede to help her… The Torah says we cannot stand idly by when anyone is being harmed."

The demonstration was also intended to send the message that the *get* cannot be used as leverage in divorce settlements or as a weapon of revenge, he said

Rabbi Steinmetz was even blunter. "The community has to learn that you can't mistreat people under the guise of religion. This is abuse of Jewish law, a crime in Judaism. He is using Judaism to extort and hurt people. He is beating his wife with the Bible. Anyone with any connection to Judaism should be appalled."

The rabbis said similar action may be taken against other offenders. They are aware of three or four other cases of long-term *get* refusal in Montreal.

"We are going to go after the person and the enabler and make them very uncomfortable," Rabbi Steinmetz warned.

The Rabbinical Council declared it a mitzvah for anyone who is able to persuade Binson to agree to give a *get* to free his ex-wife of being an agunah.

The very rare measure of 100 rabbis declaring that a marriage is over without the man's agreement could not likely be used in a case like this, Rabbi Whitman said. The opinion of most rabbinical authorities is that this tool can only be used when, for example, the man is in a persistent vegetative state.

Rabbi Whitman, a native of New Haven, Conn., who has been in Montreal for five years, says he has never heard of a demonstration like this, but he said early on in his career he pledged to use whatever pressure he can to help agunot.

Rabbi Steinmetz agreed that a review of Jewish divorce is needed, but measures like this may have to be used in the short term.

Evelyn Brook, head of the coalition for the *get*, applauded such action, as long as it has the ex-wife's approval. "Pearl Binson is a brave woman," she said.

Also present was Rabbi Moishe New, head of Lubavitch's Montreal Torah Centre, and Saul Deitcher, chair of the Vaad Ha'ir board.

On Campus

Memory of Primrose Club honoured at U of T

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

It's been almost 50 years since the University of Toronto expropriated the building that housed the Primrose Club, an elite Jewish men's club, but last week a plaque was donated to honour the directors of the club and acknowledge the building's history.

In 1959, the building at 41 Willcocks St. was expropriated by U of T and turned into the university's Faculty Club.

"Since 1960, we, the Faculty Club have used that building, but we know that it was originally that of the Primrose Club," said Richard Stren, outgoing president of the Faculty Club and emeritus professor of political science at U of T.

He said that the Jewish men's society was originally founded in 1907 as the Cosmopolitan Club and was incorporated as the Primrose Club in 1919. Two years later, the club bought the building now known as the Faculty Club.

Stren said that the Oct. 25 ceremony came about as a result of a request by Estelle Creed Kaufman, daughter of the late Edmond Creed, who was the last president of the Primrose Club before its building was expropriated by the university.

Kaufman asked the Faculty Club if it would allow her to donate a plaque in honour of her parents, Edmond and Rae Creed, and of the club's founders.

"When she phoned, I thought this would be an interesting opportunity to revisit the history of this building and the history of downtown Toronto," Stren said.

The Primrose Club, which Stren described as a place where men gathered to play cards, eat and socialize, moved to another location on St. Clair Ave. W. between Avenue and Spadina roads, but that property, too, was eventually sold to developers and the club no longer exists.

Marvin Sazant, Creed's nephew and a member of the Faculty Club, unveiled the plaque donated by his cousin, Kaufman, who could not attend the ceremony because she lives in Michigan.

"The Faculty Club is very lucky to have been able to inherit this building. We think it is a wonderful, beautiful property. In fact, we consider it a luxury, one of the most gracious and elegant buildings we have on campus," he said, adding that the Faculty Club at U of T has 2,300 members and is the largest university faculty club in Canada.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

UNIVERSITY of TORONTO FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

YOUR MOUTH & YOUR HEART:
They Have More in Common Than You Might Think

- WHAT IS THE LINK BETWEEN ORAL HEALTH & CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE?
- ARE PATIENTS WITH DENTAL DISEASE AT GREAT RISK OF HEART DISEASE?
- IS ORAL HEALTH AFFECTED BY MEDICAL PROBLEMS?

NOVEMBER 8, '06
7:00 - 8:30PM
Mount Sinai Hospital
600 University Ave.
Dan Sadowski Auditorium
15th Floor

DR. JOSEPH MINKOWITZ,
Consulting Cardiologist, Markham Stouffville Hospital

Dr. Howard C. Tenenbaum,
Associate Dean, University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry

This program made available by a grant from: Colgate sonicare

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for Mayor
of Richmond Hill

www.anastasiosbaxevanidis.com

Together, we can improve
our Richmond Hill

Lawyers Without Rights
The Fate of Jewish Lawyers in Germany after 1933

November 1 - 12, 2006

In 1933 the Nazis classified almost half of Germany's nearly 20,000 lawyers as Jewish. This internationally-acclaimed exhibit shows what happened to them - and to Germany's justice system.

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1700 Bathurst Street, Toronto

Open to the public:
Mon. - Thurs. 9am - 9 pm
Friday 9am - 3 pm
Sunday 9am - 5 pm
Group/School tours 416-635-2883 ext. 114

A TRAVELING EXHIBITION of the German Federal Bar, the Association of German Jurists, the Israel Bar Association and the German-Israeli Lawyers' Association. Co-sponsored by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany; the Consulate General of Israel; and the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

Presented as part of UJA Federation Holocaust Education Week, November 1-9
Visit www.holocausteducationweek.com for details on more than 100 programs.

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

UJA FEDERATION Live generously

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2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION
HOW TO VOTE

VOTING DAY: NOVEMBER 13, 2006
ADVANCE VOTING DAYS: NOVEMBER 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, 2006

- An Election Official will hand you a ballot and a secrecy folder.
- Go behind the voting screen to vote.
- Mark the ballot with an "X" in the box like this, [X] with the pen provided.
- Place your marked ballot inside the secrecy folder.
- Go to the voting machine where your ballot will be inserted and safely recorded.

JOHN D. LEACH, City Clerk
First Published: October 18, 2006

MAKE YOUR MARK!
[X]

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如需要這文件的中文版，可向城市書記處索取；電話號碼是 905-832-8504或本市的網站 www.vaughan.ca

Discover a world of knowledge, fun and fitness!
Nov. 8-Holocaust Education Week - Event, 1pm
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Health & Lifestyles

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Nov. 7-Lecture - The Marx Brothers. 10:00am FREE
The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living
...maximizing the quality of life for seniors in the community
1003 Steeles Avenue West . 416-225-2112 . www.betelcentre.org

Doctor pedals for Jerusalem kids' hospital

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Dr. Ellen Warner knows what it means to face challenges and hold out hope.

The Toronto oncologist has diagnosed, treated and counselled women with breast cancer for almost 20 years. Facing the disease and its victims on a daily basis at the Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre, where she has worked for the past 13 years, takes courage.

So when Warner saw a window of opportunity in her calendar to participate in this year's Wheels of Love international bike marathon in Israel, she signed up immediately to help raise money for some courageous Israeli children.

The marathon, Israel's biggest athletic charity event, benefits Jerusalem's Alyn Hospital, the country's only non-denominational pediatric and adolescent rehabilitation centre. It treats children who have been physically disabled through acts of war, terrorism and natural causes.

Now in its seventh year, the five-day, 483-kilometre event attracts hundreds of participants from around the world and is a crucial one for the non-profit organization.

Alyn receives no government funding and public health insurance only covers up to 70 per cent of patient care. The hospital relies on private sponsors and donations to recoup a yearly funding shortfall of close to $3 million (US).

Warner first heard about Alyn while living in Israel in the early 1980s. The hospital was located around the corner from her home, but she remained unaware of its mission.

"I had no idea what it was," she said.

"But one day my mom came to visit… took one of my kids for a stroll and went by to find out what it was all about. We became so excited about it, that for two of [my] sons' bar mitzvahs, we took Alyn on as our pet project and made donations to them."

Alyn has not been far from her thoughts since.

"A few years ago, a friend in Israel sent me a letter asking me to donate to the Wheels of Love ride. I gave money and I said to myself, 'This looks really cool. I'd love to do that.' I looked at my calendar and thought, 'Some day I'll do it.' And this is the year," she said.

The course takes participants through scenic landscapes, but it's not for the faint of heart. Riders bike more than 480 kilometres to Eilat from Jerusalem over five days. Warner left for Israel last Thursday to be ready for this year's race, which ran from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2.

Warner, who described herself as a "chronic recreational cyclist," bikes to and from work daily. Though well aware that she would not be the fittest participant in the event, Warner knew she would not let Alyn's children down.

"Once I've set a goal, I do it," she said. "I will complete it if it kills me. But I may be the last one."

Participants such as Warner play an integral part in raising Alyn's profile. It's one of the major reasons she's going this year.

"I hate publicity, but if this is going to do good for Alyn, then this is my way of compensating for not being as diligent in fundraising," she said.

To her knowledge, she raised more than $2,500 prior to the event, but she anticipated that some much larger donations would be made in her name before she left.

In an e-mail interview, Eric Kaminsky, Alyn's Canadian liaison, praised Warner's commitment. "We know Dr. Warner is an extremely busy person whose work is depended upon by many people," he said. "So we are pleased that she has chosen our cause as her time away from her busy schedule."

For Warner, it was a decision she was happy to make. She viewed the marathon as an opportunity to recharge mentally and emotionally from her demanding work schedule while contributing to a good cause.

"Part of being a doctor is also having a life, too. People who can't do that are in trouble," she said. "Being able to mesh helping these kids, my love for Israel, the beauty of riding through Israel, and my love of cycling… is a unique, amazing experience."

For more information about Alyn, visit www.alyn.org.

PINE VILLA JAZZ CAFE: Community members and residents of Pine Villa Retirement Residence turned out recently for the residence's jazz cafe. Volunteers running the Heart and Stroke Foundation's information and fundraising table took in more than $100 by selling biscotti and Pine Villa coffee mugs. Shown from left are Mendel Good; Valerie Good; Ema Nuca, director of care; Debbie Heller Raphael, director of marketing; and Gordon Steinberg.

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Beauty Shop

By Stacey Michaels and Francine Birken

Dedicated in memory of Carol Wise.

The sun may still be shining, but don't get fooled – winter is on its way, and it sure can take a toll on your skin. Make sure to cleanse well and exfoliate only where the skin is oily and then apply a heavy moisturizer.

Since the cold wind can irritate your eyes, it's best to use a waterproof mascara, and don't forget your lips! During the winter we have the tendency of licking our lips, which dries them even more. Apply a hydrating lip balm and stay away from matte lipsticks.

This winter the look is understated. Smoky shades of coffee and chocolate are the colours for eyes. Berry, pink, red, honey and coppers are the hot palettes for blush and lips. It's time to get into the holiday spirit and think about your holiday look!

Maurice Fiorio tells us that for this season, the primary focus is to recondition the hair from the summer. Have your stylist perform a deep-conditioning treatment on your hair to restore the moisture and lustre lost from the summer heat. While at home, try once a week to deep-condition your hair using a moisture/protein-based shampoo and conditioner like **Fiorio Revie** (shampoo) and **Restore** (conditioner).

Darker hair shades are predominant. At this time of year, it is better to add pigment to the hair instead of highlighting, which removes pigment. Avoid over-processing the hair through highlighting. Lowlights are be a better alternative. Relaxing and perming are also taxing on hair at this time; however, treating it will help relieve the dryness and keep hair shiny and healthy.

Long hair is always in style, but bringing it up through layers to create soft waves, with a voluminous fuller look, is a trend. And as the festive season approaches – the time for classic, feminine tresses – updos will become dominant.

Redken has reinvented styling and aligned its products on three key pillars – fashion, science and inspiration. The result is sleek new packaging and innovative formulas that can be blended or layered to help customize styles to best suit the individual. Redken has launched two new styling products: **Ringlet 07 Curl Perfector**, a one-of-a-kind formula for curly hair. This lightweight curl perfecting cream-gel activates, defines and controls curls and waves with weightless, anti-frizz medium control, making hair soft, manageable and touchable. **Electric Wax 11 Shine Fused Texturizer**, a multi-benefit product, combines shine-shocking texture with medium control. Made of a unique pliable wax formula, it creates deconstructed definition with bold, chunky forms that are infused with luminous flecks for dimensional shine.

Hair: Sleek, sophisticated styles are captured by **Goody Products, Inc.** in the new **Park Avenue Collection**, an elegant hair accessory line inspired by the world's most stylish women. The collection features velvet headbands, pearl-adorned bobby slides, faux-crocodile claw clips, flower ponypins and enamelled flower ponytail holders in many palettes, including lush golds, brilliant browns, regal purples, milky creams and dramatic blacks.

Ouchless brushes are synonymous with comfortable, effortless styling. **Goody** has extended the unique **Ouchless Collection** to include round and paddle brushes, combs, bobby pins and elastics that have the same emphasis on easy, snagless styling. Don't miss it!

Goody Products Inc. has solved the equation for healthy, shiny hair with **StylingSolutions**, a complete collection of solution-based styling tools that will help you create a look and style that is uniquely you. For anti-frizz protection, a shorter drying time and a sleek polished look, try the **So Hot Collection;** for gentle tools for your sensitive hair and scalp, less damage and breakage and static-free styling, try the **So Natural Collection**; and for low-maintenance styling, static-resistant hair and value, try the **So Smart Collection**.

STACEY'S SPA AND SKIN-CARE TIPS

Lancôme presents **Absolue Premium Bx with Pro-xylane**, a new high-performance, innovative anti-aging active ingredient with excellent facial-skin rejuvenating benefits, which acts to redensify and restructure the fundamental matrix that irrigates the skin's three components. The **Absolue Premium Bx** formulas offer women aged 50 and over a complete skin-care range, with visible and long-lasting results. Included are **Advanced Replenishing Cream and Fluid** each with SPF 15, **Advanced Replenishing Eye Cream** and **Advanced Night Recovery Cream**.

Introducing **Dermaglow Nuvage Anti-Aging Eye Therapy**, which contains a revolutionary ingredient complex called Idebezone that works to repair skin damaged by environmental stresses. It restores the appearance of youthful vitality by minimizing fine lines and wrinkles, and reduces the appearance of under-eye bags and dark circles. In addition, don't miss **Dermaglow Nuvectin Advanced Foaming Cleanser**, a gentle and effective foaming face wash that cleanses smoothes and moisturizes, leaving skin supple and radiant.

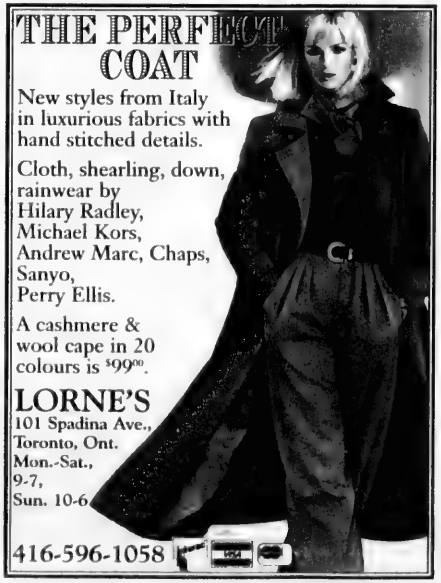
For a more intense anti-aging boost to the skin, **Clinique** introduces the Dream Team – the **Repairwear Retreat** gift set that includes: **Repairwear Deep Wrinkle Concentrate for Face and Eyes**, which will jumpstart natural collagen production; **Repairwear Day SPF 15 Intensive Day,** which blocks out harmful UV rays while helping to repair fine lines and wrinkles; and **Repairwear Intensive Night Cream**, which works all night to help diminish fine lines and wrinkles. Don't miss it!

Fiorio Holiday Hair Photo by Fiorio

Elizabeth Arden unveils **Intervene Pause and Effect Moisture Lotion and Cream**, which promotes slow accelerated aging, delaying the appearance of lines and wrinkles; and **3-in1 Daily Cleanse / Exfoliator / Primer**, which cleanses, gently exfoliates and leaves skin primed to receive maximum moisturizing treatment benefits. New to the eight-hour family is **8 Hour Cream Intensive Moisturizing Body Treatment,** introduced by **Elizabeth Arden.** It provides intense hydration to immediately relieve dry-skin symptoms of chapping, peeling and flaking, is fast-absorbing and has no greasy after-feel, leaving skin feeling soft and hydrated for more than hours.

Sof Sole introduces **Sof Sole Energy**, the first line of foot-care accessories created just for women. The **Sof Sole Energy** insoles feature a narrower width, a deeper heel cup for added stability, a low-profile forefoot area for better fit and a new Aloe Vera infused fabric in the insole top cover, which keeps skin silky soft and smooth; the **Agelity** gel insoles combine the comfort of gel cushioning with stability via an integrated guidance plate; **Shoe blossoms** neutralize odour with a long-lasting super-fresh scent to keep shoes smelling great; and **Refresh Effervescing Soak Tabs** are the perfect way to have a reviving foot-spa experience at home.

Continued on page 45



Continued from page 44

FRANCINE'S MAKEUP AND FRAGRANCE TIPS:

Once your canvas has been properly maintained, **Almay** can finally heal all your acne problems and make you look good at the same time. Apply **Clear Complexion Concealer** to prevent, repair and cover acne. Be sure to also try **Estée Lauder's Double Wear Stay-in-Place Makeup**, a long-wearing formula that will not only stay throughout the holiday celebrations but also creates the perfect base for glamorous holiday makeup. For a smooth and even finish, use **Almay oil-free Clear Complexion Pressed Powder**.

BEAUTY SHOP

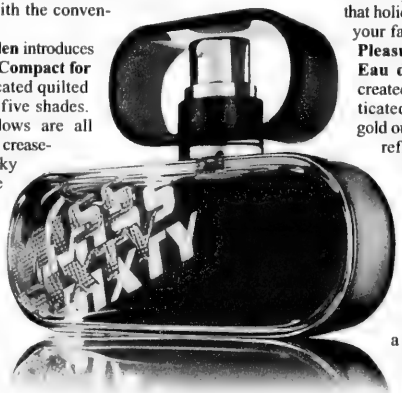
By Stacey Michaels and Francine Birken

Dedicated in memory of Carol Wise.

Cargo has introduced a new product that eliminates the need for a separate foundation and concealer. **OneBase** provides coverage of a concealer, but blends like a foundation to match your skin tone. **Cargo** finishes your look with their new product **Liquid Powder**. It offers the effect of loose powder, with the convenience of a tube.

Elizabeth Arden introduces **Jewels & Velvet Compact for Eyes**, a sophisticated quilted case filled with five shades. These eye shadows are all vitamin-enriched, crease-resistant and silky smooth to provide rich, true colour that lasts all day.

This holiday season, **Clinique** introduces **New Pink Chocolates Holiday Colour Collection**. **Colour Surge Eye Shadow Quad in Pink Chocolate** (a limited edition) is an array of shadows that resist fading, loss of intensity and creasing. These four shades take sweet chic eyes from subtle day to sexy evening. A must to try!



Miss Sixty Fragrance

From au natural to sexy smoky eyes with just a twist, **Rimmel London** introduces **Eye Twist AutomaticDuo Liner and Shadow**. The duo includes eyeliner to accentuate and define the eyes and a creamy shadow stick to provide alluring colour for up to eight hours.

If you are looking for that real glam look, **Lise Watier** introduces **The Cosmopolitan Quartet**. Four outstanding shadow colours in new spectacular packaging featuring a lizard-embossed white iridescent finish, enhanced with a gold ribbon and a crystal-studded buckle.

For a more festive approach, sparkle is the key accessory for dressing up.

Lise Watier's Sizzling Sparkle has you well covered with four brand new moods of eye glitter, the sensational eyeliner that delivers all the shine your eyes desire in one easy step.

Complete your eyes with **Estée Lauder's Magnascopic Maximum Volume Mascara**, a sure guarantee to make those eyes pop!

For extreme length, beautiful definition and feathery volume designed in a double-sided brush/comb applicator, **Clinique** introduces **High Definition Lashes in Chocolate Lustre** (limited edition).

Softer shades of pink are used for blush, and shimmer on the cheekbones is hot! **Chanel** introduces **Irréelle Blush** a silky cheek colour in gold to add that special glow.

Once you have moisturized your lips, **Cargo's Holiday 2006 Collection Daily Gloss** is a 30-day supply of lip gloss packaged in individual tear-away pouches. Each sealed application is filled with **CARGO's signature**, unbeatable lip gloss formulation that provides sheer, long-wearing colour without stickiness.

Chanel's Exclusive Holiday Collection Christmas 2006 introduces **Levrès Multifacettes De Chanel**, a checkerboard lipstick palette made up of harmonies of pink, apricot, nude, lilac and red. Try it and take part in a game of creation!

If you are looking for the two in one, **Rimmel Infinite Colour Lights Double-Ended Lip Colour** is designed with one end of the tube being a quick-drying, moisturizing high impact liquid colour. At the other end is a shiny topcoat gloss that will stay put for up to 10 hours.

Now that your canvas is done, make sure to give yourself that final touch. **Shimmer Powder** by **Elizabeth Arden** completes the look while giving the skin a luminous glow and comes with a soft brush for easy application. Apply to cheekbones, neck and shoulders.

Before you get dressed and head out for that holiday party, remember to put on your favourite fragrance. The new **Pleasures by Gwyneth Paltrow Eau de Parfum** packaging was created based on Paltrow's sophisticated and modern esthetic. The gold outer packaging and pink label reflect her feminine charm and effortless beauty.

For all the ladies who love the television series *Desperate Housewives*, **Coty Canada** introduces **Desperate Housewives Forbidden Fruit**, a sensuous fruity scent that unites luscious fruits with a field of fresh flowers.

The bottle is sophisticated and sexy. Try it today!

For ladies who are fashion conscious, meet **Coty Canada's** new launch, **Miss Sixty** (available in December), a sensual, exciting, and fresh scent for those who want their fragrance to be their signature.

The spirit of one of the worlds leading denim fashion brands is now captured in a bottle. The ladies are set and ready to go, but what about the men? For that citrus scent, **Dolce & Gabbana Parfum Pour Homme** is sign of masculinity, personality and distinction. It is a blend of true irony and casualness.

For the confident and energetic male, **Addidas** presents **Originals**. The scent is evocative, fresh and instantly memorable. The sleek, heavy glass bottle is tinted in signature blue.

Roots celebrates **Canadian Olympic Spirit!** Roots introduces Olympic gold medalist **Adam Van Koeverden** as the face of the new fragrance **Roots Spirit Man**. This aquatic scent was developed by **Coty Canada Inc**. The scent is made up of a unique blend of liquid oxygen accord, mandarin, bergamot and kumquat. Gentlemen, you are ready to join your lady.

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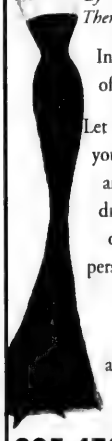

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Feminine nostalgia, space-age fashion hit the runways

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Since the hub of fashion long ago expanded beyond the confines of Parisian couture, it seems that nearly everyone has something to say about fashion.

"Fashion Week" has become a loosely used term to mean the celebration of expression of style in runways in nearly every city from Cape Town to Moscow and other parts of the world. And with such an international interpretation of what's fashionable, it's helpful to pinpoint the most important statements being made this season.

What is most remarkable for spring and summer 2007 is how divergent the two main focuses of designers seemed to be.

On one hand, designers were feeling nostalgic for old-fashioned romanticism. Combining references from the 1920s, '40s and '60's, they seemed to be grasping for that simplistic sense of femininity that has eluded the overly complicated and sexified fashion of the new millennium.

Feminine nostalgia took form in the flowers and greenery that quite literally filled the runways of Yves Saint Laurent (models strutted though a bed of purple violas!), Louis Vuitton and Marc Jacobs. At Vuitton, flowers peeked out of every layer of clothing, creating as casually chic an impression as one would hope for in a modern show. Newcomer Erin Fetherston's debut was no exception as petal shapes reappeared on her dresses, in the models' hair and even tied to their sandals.

In an interesting twist to this retro approach, turbans have been brought back from the Oriental craze of the '20s and appeared atop models at Ralph Lauren and Prada.

From the other end of the trend spectrum, we were projected into the space age of the future in which metallics and gladiator-like protective gear are the norm. In the standout show of the season, Balenciaga had models covered from head to toe in robotic yet strangely sexy uniforms. There were also wearable works of art by Nicolas Ghesquière, who has the uncanny ability to articulate the most outlandish ideas into fashion. By the end of the show, Ghesquière had models legs looking as if they'd been stolen directly off the body of C3PO!

True to form, Miuccia Prada triumphed this vision as well in both the Prada and Miu Miu shows. Referencing the Italian and Russian futurism of the turn of the century, Prada brought these looks into the present with her streamlined shapes and op art-like patterns.

In a blend of the season's two influences, Hussein Chalayan left even the toughest critics speechless as they watched outfits literally transform on the runway. Garments shifted from Victorian suits to flapper dresses in a matter of seconds while on the models! No doubt taking a revolutionary step toward the future of fashion, Chalayan covered a century of clothing in a matter of minutes.

Representative of the frenetic pace of late, the split of fashion messages has only expanded our understanding of the medium. Not only can fashion be an artistic mode of expression of the here and now, it has proven to be a window into the future as well.

> Nostalgia for old-fashioned romanticism

> Russian and Italian futurism

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Germany backs fighting hate as extremists win more votes

By TOBY AXELROD
JTA

BERLIN — Jewish leaders are welcoming announcements that Germany will continue to finance programs aimed at combating right-wing extremism.

The decision to provide an additional $6.3 million (US), announced last week by Chancellor Angela Merkel's government, "does not solve the problems of right-wing extremism in Germany," said Salomon Korn, a vice-president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany. "But the successful and important work of, for example, mobile advisory teams and victims counseling, will now continue."

The government's decision sent a "clear signal" that "democratic parties recognize the seriousness of the situation," Korn said.

According to new crime statistics, 8,000 right-wing hate crimes were reported in the first eight months of 2006, up from 6,605 during the same period in 2005. There were 452 violent anti-Semitic crimes reported in this period, up from 363 in the same period in 2005.

Several recent incidents have drawn particular attention, including the burning of copies of Anne Frank's diary by neo-Nazis earlier this year. In another case, teens in the town of Parey in the former East German state of Saxony-Anhalt recently forced a schoolmate to wear a sign saying, "I am the biggest pig of all because I hang around with Jews." Police reportedly have identified three suspects.

In late September, a Maccabi soccer team left the field after fans of the opposing German team, Altglienicke, threatened the Jewish athletes. Anti-Semitic slogans are typical in some of Germany's lower soccer leagues.

Perhaps most ominously, right-wing extremist parties won just enough votes in September elections to qualify for seats in the state Parliament of Mecklenburg West-Pomerania, making it the fourth state in the country with far-right parties in the legislature.

According to Germany's domestic intelligence agency, of some 40,000 members of neo-Nazi groups here, about 10,000 are considered violent.

Charlotte Knobloch, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said that "the aggressiveness we're experiencing is reminiscent of 1933," the year that Hitler came to power and began enacting anti-Jewish measures.

Korn didn't go as far, but he did call recent election gains by right-wing parties a "warning signal. The Weimar Republic did not fail because of too many Nazis, but because of too few committed democrats," he said.

Meanwhile, Germany's Interior Ministry agreed in Oct. 19 meetings with the Anti-Defamation League to consider cooperation on training programs for law enforcement and nongovernmental organizations. Further meetings are planned, ADL National Director Abraham Foxman told JTA in Berlin.

The ADL recently signed a two-year contract with the Austrian administration to provide a similar program there, Foxman said.

Speed up process for Gaza evacuees: Olmert

By TOVAH LAZAROFF
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert lashed out on Sunday at the red tape hampering the resettlement of the Gaza evacuees.

"We have to take all measures at our disposal to prevent the excessive bureaucracy that is delaying the process," Olmert said at a meeting of the ministerial committee dealing with the resettlement of the 1,700 families evacuated from the Gaza Strip and four northern Samaria communities in the summer of 2005.

While most of the evacuees now live in some form of temporary housing, only 21 families have made it through the bureaucratic process and obtained permission to build permanent homes. It is estimated that some 1,379 families still await authorization to build homes that replicate their Gaza communities. The remaining 300 families are assumed to have sought individual solutions.

It is now estimated by government officials that the time needed to build new homes for the evacuees will be three years, instead of two as originally estimated.

At the end of the meeting, Olmert said, "I hope my words will be put into practice in the field and that we will be able to find solutions within a reasonable time frame."

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British religious groups opposing school bill

By VANESSA BULKACZ
JTA

LONDON — Jews and Muslims in Britain are often at odds on issues of civil liberties and terrorism, but they are united in opposing a bill that would require faith-based private schools to admit 25 per cent of students from outside the main faith.

As the bill was debated last week in the House of Lords, Jewish leaders were joined in their opposition to the bill by Catholic, Sikh and Hindu leaders, as well as Muslims.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews, in conjunction with other faith groups, last Friday announced the launch of a united "community voice" campaign to oppose the bill.

The co-ordinated response comes after Education Secretary Alan Johnson said the government would back an amendment to the Education Bill giving local authorities the option of requiring new faith schools to give 25 per cent of places to pupils from other faiths. At an Oct. 18 news conference, Johnson included existing as well as new faith schools, saying that even existing schools "must do more to defuse community tensions."

Johnson's support was an attempt to respond to criticism that the ruling Labour party's expansion of faith schools will lead to segregation.

The only religious community supporting the bill so far has been the Church of England, leading to questions about whether or not the bill would achieve its goal of integration. According to the Board of Deputies, there are only 40 Jewish schools, as compared with 4,000 Church of England schools and 2,500 Roman Catholic schools.

Some members of Britain's Jewish community fear the bill would signal the end of the Jewish day school system.

"The consequences of Lord Baker's amendment would be to exclude Jewish students from Jewish day schools," said Jon Benjamin, chief executive of the board. "This would frustrate parental choice."

The Jewish community has noted the success of its education system, which also teaches about diversity and inclusion.

The bill was expected to go back to the House of Commons for another reading Oct. 30.

Arabs, Muslims re-emerge in U.S. politics

By CLAUDE R. MARX
JTA

SALEM, Mass. — Arab and Muslim Americans, long in the shadows of American politics, are building on the activism they began in 2004.

Next month's likely election of the first Muslim to Congress, coupled with increased campaign donations and a voter registration drive, indicate that the groups are continuing to raise their profiles after briefly becoming less politically active after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

As of Sept. 30, seven Muslim and Arab political action committees had contributed a total of $160,000 to federal candidates, up from $130,000 at the same time during the last election cycle.

There are 52 Arab Americans seeking office this year, up from 49 in 2004, according to the Arab American Institute, a Washington-based lobbying and advocacy group.

At least 35 Muslims are seeking office, according to the website of the Muslim Alliance, a California-based advocacy group. Keith Ellison, who is heavily favoured, would become the country's highest- ranking Muslim elected official if he wins an open U.S. House of Representatives seat from Minneapolis.

The Washington-based Muslim American Society has launched a renewed effort to get the nation's 2.2 million Muslim registered voters to the polls. The strategy includes a revamped website, more voter education programs and more voter-registration machines in mosques.

In 2004, 84 per cent of registered Muslims voted – far above the national average – compared with 41 per cent in 2000, according to the Muslim American Political Action Committee. University of Akron political scientist John Green said participation levels increased because Muslims and Arab Americans were frustrated by what they felt was the singling out of some community members for harassment after Sept. 11.

The Arab American Institute has a voter registration and get-out-the-vote effort as well. It includes placing signs in English and Arabic in neighbourhoods with many Arab Americans, reading, "our vote is our power."

"The threats to civil liberties from the Patriot Act and concern about the war in Iraq are sources of great concern in our community. That is really motivating our members to vote in greater numbers," said James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute.

His organization has formed alliances with a broad array of politicians, including Pennsylvania Gov. Edward Rendell, a Jew, because Rendell has been responsive to Arab American concerns on economic and civil rights issues.

Officials of four Muslim advocacy organizations did not return requests for comment.

Of the 3.5 million or so Arab Americans in the United States, 60 per cent are Christian. Significant concentrations of Arab Americans live in California, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania, all of which have closely watched races this year.

Approximately 4.7 million Muslims live in the United States, more than 80 per cent of them black Muslims or non-Arabs from South Asia. California, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas have the largest number of mosques, according to the U.S. State Department.

"The Muslim and Arab communities around Detroit can make a significant difference in individual races, but elsewhere they don't have the numbers," the University of Akron's Green said.

In 2004, Arab Americans and Muslims supported Senator John Kerry over President George W. Bush by 72 per cent to 28 per cent. In 2000, Bush received 46 per cent of their support, according to exit polls.

A survey of 1,000 registered Muslim voters by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, released last week, found that 69 per cent believe a "just" resolution to the Palestinian cause would improve America's standing in the Muslim world; 66 per cent support working toward normalization of relations with Iran; 55 per cent are afraid that the war on terrorism has become a war on Islam; 12 per cent believe the war in Iraq was a worthwhile effort; and just 10 per cent support the use of the military to spread democracy in other countries.

'International community must take steps'

Continued from page 1

"To our great sorrow, Argentina is one of the main centres of the Zionists' lobby, but all the same, we expected the judiciary force of that country not to permit a judge to put under question its entire credibility."

Qorban-Ali Dorri-Najafabadi alleged the previous Argentine judge in the case "had been bribed by the Zionists and the Americans" and said that "after the passage of so many years and having declared the file as closed... in order to divert the world public opinion, at the threshold of the International Qods [Jerusalem] Day, a new judge reopens that stinking file anew."

In Canada, meanwhile, Liberal public safety critic Irwin Cotler said the federal government should support issuance of arrest warrants against Rafsanjani, who in 2001, called for Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons to annihilate Israel.

He said that as a party to the Genocide Convention, Canada should refer repeated Iranian calls for the destruction of Israel to the United Nations Security Council and it should file a complaint against Iran to the International Court of Justice. In addition, Canada should draft criminal indictments against current Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Rafsanjani for advocating genocide. That would give Canada the right, under the universal jurisdiction regarding genocide, to call for the extradition of either of them should they leave Iran.

Cotler, who visited Argentina a few weeks ago, said the government of Argentine President Nestor Kirchner is making the AMIA case a priority because it wants "to make human rights part of the national culture of Argentina."

Cotler was told by Alberto Iribarne, Argentina's minister of justice, that "it's the right thing to do for a country committed to human rights, and Argentina's conscience would not be assuaged until these people are brought to justice."

Canadian Jewish Congress welcomed news of the proposed arrests.

"After 12 years, there has finally been confirmation of what earlier probes had long suspected: that Iranian state sponsorship of international terrorism had reached beyond the confines of the Middle East to facilitate Hezbollah's attack on the Jewish community of Argentina," Congress national president Ed Morgan said.

"Rafsanjani's presidential successor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has uttered unequivocal, genocidal threats against Israel," noted CJC CEO Bernie Farber.

"The international community must take steps to nullify the ongoing threat posed by Iran to world peace and stability as well as its longstanding policy of sponsoring terrorist organizations, especially as this rogue state seeks to attain nuclear capability," he added.

With files from JTA.

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Israel Briefs

Katsav urged to step aside

Israel's attorney general says President Moshe Katsav should temporarily resign. Attorney General Menachem Mazuz issued his advisory Sunday in response to a High Court petition by a lawyer who wants Katsav to resign in light of rape allegations against him. Mazuz noted the High Court is not the forum for deciding Katsav's fate, but he said he should consider having the Knesset declare him "temporarily incapacitated" until the investigation against him ends. Mazuz, who is responsible for deciding whether to prosecute Katsav, said if there is a trial, Katsav would have no choice but to step down. Katsav, who is suspected of raping more than one former female employee, has denied wrongdoing.

Schools recall killings

Israeli schools held the first-ever memorial ceremonies for a 1956 massacre of Arabs. Education Minister Yuli Tamir last week ordered that schools hold special coexistence study sessions on Sunday, the 50th anniversary of the killing of 47 residents of the Israeli Arab village of Kafr Kassem by border police. They were shot for violating a wartime curfew that hadn't been announced in advance. Three police officers were jailed.

Fence extension approved

Israel's Supreme Court approved an extension of Israel's security barrier to encompass communities deep inside the West Bank. The court ruled last week that the northern West Bank towns of Emanuel, Maale Shomron and Karnei Shomron merited inclusion because they had been "targets of harsh terror attacks over recent years." Palestinians opposed the extension, one of two that dip deep inside the West Bank, saying it would cut them off from their fields. The court said it will hear appeals if that's the case.

Rebranding Israel abroad

Israel's Foreign Ministry launched a drive to rebrand the country internationally. Senior diplomats and public relations executives, held a two-day conference in Tel Aviv last week to find ways to offset Israel's reputation as a country constantly at war. The strategy, once formulated, is to be implemented in 2007 with a budget of $4.6 million (US). Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni said she wanted to replace Israel's "conflict" image with one of tourism and investment.

Yad Vashem gets large gift

A U.S. couple gave $25 million (US) to Yad Vashem, the largest single donation ever given to Israel's Holocaust memorial. Sheldon and Miriam Adelson gave the gift to enhance Yad Vashem's programs in Holocaust education, documentation and research. Adelson, who made his fortune in Las Vegas real estate, is the world's fifth-richest person, *Forbes Magazine* says. The donation is expected to help expand Yad Vashem's teacher-training activities in Israel and abroad and develop special programs for senior teachers, educational co-ordinators and shapers of public opinion.

Olmert visit to Russia highlights Iran differences

Analysis

By LEV KRICHEVSKY
JTA

Russia and Israel may be on better footing than they were in decades past, but differences between them over Iran's nuclear program still surfaced during Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's visit to Moscow.

Israel has made it clear that it will not tolerate a situation in which Iran gains nuclear weapons, and the Israeli prime minister used talks with President Vladimir Putin two week ago to urge Moscow to exert its influence to help resolve the international crisis surrounding Tehran's nuclear program.

"I leave this meeting with the sense that President Putin understands better than before the danger that is lurking from Iran's direction, should it succeed in realizing its objectives of arming itself with nuclear weapons," Olmert told journalists Oct. 18 after his talks with Putin and Russian Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov.

Putin did not address Israeli concerns directly, focusing instead on Russia's role in the Middle East peace process. Russia is a member of the diplomatic grouping known as the Quartet – which also includes the United States, United Nations and European Union – trying to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Putin's comments dealt mainly with Israel's standoff with Hezbollah, and in fact gave little hope that Moscow would do more to persuade Iran to give up its suspected drive to produce nuclear arms.

"The only way to get out of the vicious circle of violence is to stop making mutual accusations, free hostages and resume peaceful dialogue," Putin said. "Russia, as a member of the Middle East Quartet, intends to assist in a rapid stabilization of the situation and a resumption of the negotiating process."

Olmert's visit to Russia was his first foreign trip since Israel's war against Hezbollah this past summer, and came after Israel complained to Russia that weapons Russia supplied to Syria ended up in Hezbollah hands – just as Israel had warned when the deals were struck.

Olmert's visit also came a week before the UN Security Council again takes up the Iranian nuclear issue.

A draft resolution containing possible sanctions on Tehran is circulating among Security Council members, which include the United States and Russia, this week.

Russia has been instrumental in constructing Iran's first civilian nuclear power station at Bushehr and long has resisted a push for UN sanctions against the Islamic republic, arguing that sanctions could provoke a regional crisis.

Moscow also supplies Iran with sophisticated conventional weapons. In addition, Russia has sizable economic interests in Iran in other spheres aside from military, so any international sanctions could hurt Russian companies working there.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's comments on Iran probably disappointed the Israeli delegation.

Lavrov appeared to say that Iran's nuclear program is not a threat to peace and security in the region.

"It is necessary to act on Iran, but that action should be in direct proportion to what is really happening," the RIA-Novosti Russian news agency quoted Lavrov as saying. "And what is really happening is what the International Atomic Energy Agency reports to us. And the IAEA is not reporting to us about the presence there of a threat to peace and security."

Still, Russian leaders tried to convince the Israelis of their friendship. Olmert's visit coincided with the 15th anniversary of Israel's re-establishment of diplomatic ties with Russia after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Putin said Israel-Russia ties had been "completely transformed" in recent years and now were based on a great degree of trust.

Olmert, for his part, recalled Putin's promise during his visit to Israel last year that "Russia's relations in the Middle East will no longer be one-sided."

Since the collapse of communism, Russia has failed to match the huge influence the Soviet Union once wielded in the Middle East, when it pursued a strongly pro-Arab position to counteract U.S. support for Israel.

Yet Russia today increasingly is acting to counterbalance what it may see as the United States' pro-Israel tilt. Russia often seems to ignore or dismiss Israeli security concerns, but Olmert tried to play down the differences.

Israel understands that Russia "has an independent policy in the region," he told reporters in Moscow. "Of course, we are not always satisfied with this policy. We have our differences. I have said this openly to President Putin."

During an Oct. 19 meeting with members of the Moscow Jewish community, Olmert said he has a positive feeling about Russian-Israeli relations.

"At the meeting with the Russian president, I felt his friendly attitude toward Israel, and I'm convinced that our relations and his commitment to Israel's security are absolutely firm," Olmert said. "Our co-operation is developing in different fields and it influences all spheres of our life – political, economical, scientific, technological, cultural and sports."

With files from JTA correspondent Naomi Zubkova in Moscow.

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Joey Elias highlighted during Canada-wide comedy tour

By BYRON PASCOE & PAUL TELNER
Special to The CJN

"The Jewish people have been through a lot. It was through laughter and music that we survived. Also for some odd reason Jews have a great ability to tell a story," says Montreal-born and raised Jewish comedian Joey Elias.

Joey Elias

"Really, food fell from the heavens and tasted like anything you wanted – now that is some story."

Elias performs during this year's Lipton Just For Laughs Comedy Tour along with Greg Proops of the hit improv show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* Proops has appeared on the late-night shows *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson* and *The Jimmy Kimmel Show* and on prime-time TV shows *The Drew Carey Show* and *Just Shoot Me*. He's sold out the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 17 years running.

The tour also includes standup comedians Todd Lynn, John Caparulo, Jim David, Tommy Tiernan and Tim Nutt.

"In five years time, you'll be talking about all those guys and how you saw them before they were all big stars," Elias says.

"Tommy Tiernan is already Europe's biggest star, and it's only a matter of time before he conquers North America. I can't believe I'm on the same show as these guys. It is an honour."

As a comedian, Elias evolved from being a scared, nervous amateur to a neurotic, storytelling Jewish man, he says. He began performing in 1992 and has since appeared in 10 Just For Laughs Festivals, including this past summer's gala in Montreal.

"As I get older, I talk about more topics. When I was 20, I never talked about health issues because I never really cared about them. Now at 34 and being in a serious relationship, I do talk about them because they matter. So as I get older, my range of topics gets wider, but my character will, hopefully, stay the same," he says.

Technology has had many effects on entertainment, and in the standup comedy world it has meant that people are watching comedy on small, wireless screens.

"It is a great vehicle to get your name out there to the public. If someone sees a 10- to 20-second clip on their cellphone and finds it funny, then hopefully they will look you up and go see you at the local comedy club," Elias says."[But] no matter what, nothing can replace seeing a good comedian live."

Elias has been to Afghanistan to entertain Canadian troops and appeared on the big screen with roles in *The Wool Cap* with William H. Macy and *The Day After Tomorrow* with Dennis Quaid.

The Lipton Just For Laughs Comedy Tour 2006 itinerary includes Montreal (Nov 1), Hamilton (Nov 2), Toronto (Nov 3), London (Nov 4), Ottawa (Nov 5), Thunder Bay (Nov 7), Saskatoon (Nov 9), Regina (Nov 10), Winnipeg (Nov 11), Brandon (Nov 12), Fort McMurray (Nov 14), Banff (Nov 16), Calgary (Nov 17), Lethbridge (Nov 18), Red Deer (Nov 19), Edmonton (Nov 21), Kelowna (Nov 23), Vancouver (Nov 24) and Victoria (Nov. 25).

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Terezin children's poems featured in Oratorio

By MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

An internationally acclaimed choral production featuring poetry penned by children of the Holocaust is coming to Toronto.

Oratorio Terezin will be performed on Nov. 11 and 12 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

Composer Ruth Fazal drew inspiration to write the powerful work after reading the book *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, a collection of children's artwork and poems from the Terezin Concentration Camp.

"As I was reading the book, I just had this feeling that I wanted to tackle the whole question of where is God," notes Fazal, who is a renowned violinist.

"That was a huge task and I kind of set out on this journey."

Fazal used 14 of the children's poems woven together with Hebrew scriptures as the lyrics. She spent two years on the production, which has drawn praise from audiences in North America, Europe and Israel.

The Toronto shows will showcase a symphony orchestra, a children's choir, an adult choir and three soloists.

"For the children's voices, I wanted the piece to contain simple melodies that they would enjoy singing," she reveals.

"I was aiming for their parts to be from the point of view of a child."

An estimated 15,000 children under the age of 15 were imprisoned in Terezin, a ghetto in Czechoslovakia. Only 100 of them are known to have survived.

The artistic creations of the children from the Terezin ghetto reflect both the despair and misery of their surroundings, but also a sense of hope. ,

The hopeful message is one Fazal seeks to convey with the performances.

"I would hope that Oratorio Terezin would spark a hope in the hearts of people whose lives have been affected by the Holocaust that God has not abandoned them," intones Fazal, who is revered for her Christian singing/songwriting.

"I also want people to see that Israel has a very important place in God's heart."

In addition to concerts across the globe, the project has included a Holocaust educational component for the children performers, who range in age from 10 to 16.

"For some of these children, Holocaust education was totally new to them," Fazal says.

"We took them to visit some of the places where this happened and they really connected. Some of the strongest bonds formed between the Jewish and Christian children."

Oratorio Terezin will be performed in the George Weston Recital Hall.

For ticket information, contact ticketmaster at 416-870-8000 or visit www.oratorioterezin.com.

Arts & Travel

Freud and Hitler were unlikely neighbours in Vienna

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Sigmund Freud and Adolf Hitler could not have been more different, but both fancied themselves as revolutionaries.

Freud, the Jewish neurologist and psychotherapist, tried to decipher the human psyche through the medium of psychoanalysis, a treatment he pioneered but which is now increasingly questioned.

Hitler, the Austrian-born German nationalist fixated on the reactionary racial concept of blood purity, aspired to be a painter, but found his niche in politics.

For a brief period between 1906 and 1913, these polar opposites lived cheek by jowl in Vienna, the grand, elegant capital of the soon-to-be-decimated Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Manfred Becker, a German-born Toronto filmmaker, explores these strange parallels in their respective lives in an intriguing one-hour documentary.

Neighbours: Freud and Hitler in Vienna, released in 2003, is scheduled to be screened on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. at Tyndale University College & Seminary during Holocaust Education Week.

Becker, the writer and director, sets out his thesis early in the film: "Each man saw himself as a liberator and sought to convince others of the incontestable truth of his beliefs."

Sophie Freud

Sigmund Freud

Freud, whose theories on dreams, neuroses and sexual repression caused a sensation in mainstream medical circles, strove to liberate humans from the unconscious, the impulses they could not control.

Hitler, the failed artist who became a drifter, wanted to use those instincts and desires to "liberate" the German people from his enemy, the Jews.

Freud and Hitler never met, but they were aware of each other's existence. Hitler regarded psychoanalysis as the product of a deranged Jewish mind, while Freud considered Hitler a twisted soul.

Hitler might have remained an outcast if not for Germany's defeat in World War I. But as he lay in a hospital convalescing from wounds received as a soldier in battle, he had a vision of restoring Germany's greatness.

Freud apparently did not appreciate the significance of Hitler's rise to power in 1933 as Germany's chancellor. But when Germany annexed Austria in 1938, an event marked by Hitler's triumphant return to Vienna in a motorcade, Freud's days there were numbered.

After Freud's daughter, Anna, was arrested and then released, Freud and his family left Austria, settling in London. His four sisters, who remained behind, were murdered in the Treblinka concentration camp.

Neighbours unfolds to the melodious strains of Johann Strauss waltzes and wobbly home movies of Freud in various poses and situations.

It is also punctuated by interviews with, among others, Freud's feisty granddaughter, Sophie, a retired psychology professor in the United States.

It seems evident that she has parted ways with him. "In my eyes," she says, "both Adolf Hitler and my grandfather were false prophets of the 20th century."

Neighbours hammers home that point both explicitly and implicitly.

Mel Gibson's penitential projects

By RONALD C. EPSTEIN
Special to The CJN

In a recent interview with Diane Sawyer on ABC-TV's *Good Morning America*, Mel Gibson expressed his heartfelt regrets for his notorious, drunken anti-Semitic rant.

Some Jews watched the interview, while others did not, for various reasons, including the conviction – shared by talk show host David Letterman – that Mel's *mea culpa* was timed to coincide with the upcoming release of his new film, *Apocalypto*.

Some are more interested in the controversial celebrity's achievements, using the logic that Michael Jackson may share the title of America's Creepiest Chaperone with disgraced former U.S. congressman Mark Foley, but that doesn't stop his 1979 hit *Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough* from being a great song.

Many just want to see Mel's work. If he uses it to make amends with the Jewish community, so much the better.

But the film *The Passion of the Christ* created a rift between the actor/director and Jews. Here are some script proposals that will advance the healing process:

• *Mad Mahmoud*. Mel's production company should acquire this hot property, but he shouldn't play the title role. That honour should go to Tom Cruise. He is short, middle-aged and goofy, just like Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Besides, Tom needs the work. If the script denounces Ahmadinejad's low-down, Israel-hating, Holocaust-denying ways, it will show that his ideology is so over the top that it even offends Mel Gibson!

• *The Michael Ignatieff Story*. Gibson can easily identify with the silver-tongued Liberal leadership candidate, who alienated this country's Jewish population with his televised comments about Israel's recent war. Sigourney Weaver, Mel's co-star in the 1982 political drama, *The Year of Living Dangerously*, can play Ignatieff's former Toronto campaign co-chair, Thornhill MP Susan Kadis. This project may attract a Jewish audience, but it will also appeal to 1980s freaks, who will show up to screenings with padded shoulders and leg warmers.

• *Columcille Ginzberg, L.A. County Deputy*. Mel plays Columcille Ginzberg, a Los Angeles County deputy sheriff who patrols east Los Angeles. His life becomes complicated when his daughter Sara (played by Jennifer Love Hewitt) joins the sheriff's department and is assigned to late-night traffic patrol in Malibu. Columcille goes postal when a drunken celebrity motorist propositions her, after a "DUI" arrest. James Mee, the Jewish deputy who was subjected to Mel's rage, will be the film's technical consultant.

• *Clifford Honohan, Protector of L.A.* I could choose to, as they say in Hollywood, "go in a different direction," a more nepotistic one. A Jewish-American relative of mine, Clifford Honohan, was a Los Angeles County firefighter and reserve deputy sheriff in the 1970s. Honohan would be the film's technical consultant, of course. Mel might not be credible in this role, because he has no Australian accent. Besides, the latter more closely resembles the late Noam Pitlik, a 1960s character actor. In any case, Gibson can always act or direct.

These projects may, or may not, inspire a grand reconciliation between our people and *People* magazine's first-ever "sexiest man alive," but every one is a worthy alternative to *Jackass III*.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

AUTHOR ANNA PORTER DISCUSSES HUNGARIAN *KASZTNER TRAIN*

Veteran Toronto author and publisher **Anna Porter**, a recipient of the Order of Canada, speaks this week about her book-in-progress, *The Kasztner Train*, a non-fiction work that chronicles the heroic efforts of Hungarian Jew **Reszo (Rudolph) Kasztner** to rescue the Jews of Budapest from the Nazis.

The dramatic story of Kasztner's Jewish lives for trucks negotiations with Nazis **Heinrich Himmler** and **Adolf Eichmann** has been called the Hungarian *Schindler's List*. Porter's book is slated for release by publisher Douglas & McIntyre in the fall of 2007.

Along with Porter, Humber College film professor **Annie Szamosi** discusses her documentary on the Kasztner affair. B'nei Torah, 465 Patricia Ave. Saturday, Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Poetry Reading: Guernica Editions hosts a joint book launch for new titles from **Elana Wolff** (*You speak to me in trees*), **David Sobelman** (*After the End*), **Merle Nudelman** (*We, the Women*), **Isabella Colalillo-Katz** (*And Light Remains*) and other authors. Bar Italia, 582 College St. Tuesday, Nov. 7, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. 416-658-9888

* * *

Liel Sings for Children: Israeli singing sensation **Liel Kolet** performs her first full concert in Canada on behalf of Save a Child's Heart Foundation. $100, $50, $40. Toronto Centre for the Arts, Nov. 11, 8 p.m. 416-872-1111. She is also scheduled to sing with student choirs at two Heschel Hebrew day schools on Nov. 10 as a school fund-raiser. www.songsforachildsheart.com

* * *

Holocaust Education at Nadal JCC

• **Tales of the Shoah**, a storytelling event presented by Jewish Storytelling Arts and Congregation Habonim. With **Eli Rubenstein** and others. Free. Room 318, Sunday Nov. 5, 11 a.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 154

•Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Prisoner of Paradise*, an Oscar-nominated documentary about an infamous Nazi propaganda film made about Theresienstadt. $15-$12. Al Green Theatre. Sunday, Nov. 5, 4 & 7 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 606

• Te-Amim Music Theatre and the Nadal JCC present *The Shop on Main Street*, a selection of songs from a new musical by **Bernard Spiro** and **David Nagy**, based on the 1965 film and the novel by **Ladislav Grosman**. With **George Grosman**, the novelist's son, and short performances by **Ballet Espressivo** and the Nadal JCC Choir. Free. Al Green Theatre, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 8 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 606

* * *

Musical Notes

• **KlezFactor**, a six-piece Klezmer-fusion band, performs at the Concord Café, 937 Bloor St. W. (west of Ossington). Thursday, Nov. 9, 8:30 p.m. Pay what you can.

• Arnold Schoenberg: A Portrait is a tribute to the influential 20th-century composer featuring **Ted Dykstra**, **Richard Greenblatt** and **Andrew Burashko**'s **Art of Time Ensemble**. $36-$25. Harbourfront Centre Theatre, Nov. 9 and 10, 8 p.m. 416 973-4000

• **Larry Fogel** and **Moni Arnon** offer a lively rendition of the songs of **Simon & Garfunkel**. $25. CNIB Auditorium, 1929 Bayview Ave., Nov. 10, 8 p.m. Also at Deer Park Church, 1570 Yonge St. (at Heath), Nov. 11, 8 p.m. 416-523-2305 (group)

* * *

Arts in Brief

• **Neighbours:** *Freud and Hitler in Vienna*, the award-winning documentary by Toronto filmmaker **Manfred Becker**, is being screened as part of Holocaust Education Week. Van Norman Study & Worship Centre at Tyndale University College & Seminary, 25 Ballyconnor Crt. Tuesday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m. Admission free. 416-218-6766

* * *

At the Galleries

• **Ettie B. Shuken**'s "House-Speak" paintings are on view at the Thera Gallery, 575 Mount Pleasant Rd., Nov. 1 to 11, and **David Shuken**'s show "The Way I See It" is on view, Nov. 15 to 28.

• **The Willowdale Group of Artists** presents its fall art show. North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St., Nov. 4 to 15.

• The Art Guild of Scarborough presents a show of members' paintings and sculptures. Centennial Recreation Centre, 1967 Ellesmere Rd., Scarborough. Nov. 4 and 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• *Rosa: A Love Story* is an exhibition of photographs by **Judith Leitner** documenting the progress of her mother's Alzheimer's disease over 11 years. On view at the Alzheimer's Society convention, Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Nov. 6.

• "Awe & Humility & Joy," an exhibit of 24 oil paintings by artist and psychologist **Ron Clavier**, pays homage to American author **John Steinbeck**'s literary artistry and social philosophy. Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Ave. Nov. 8. Tickets, www.crescent school.org.

Liel Kolet

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2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOTICE OF ADVANCE VOTING

Who can vote at the Advance Voting?
If you are eligible to vote in the 2006 Municipal Election and expect to be unable to vote on Monday, November 13, 2006 (Voting Day) at your designated location, you are encouraged to vote on one of the Advance Voting days.

Sight Impaired Voters
All Advance Voting locations are accessible to persons who have a physical disability or a mobility impairment. In addition, sight impaired voters will be able to vote on one of the advance voting days at the Civic Centre location only Transportation will be provided for sight impaired voters who wish to vote on one of the advance voting days Please contact Larry Glass at 905-832-8504 ext. 8691

When will the Advance Voting be held?

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 and SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2006
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6 to THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2006
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Where will the Advance Voting be held?

WARD 1	Vaughan Civic Centre 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Maple
WARD 2	Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre 8141 Martin Grove Road, Woodbridge
WARD 3	Chancellor Community Centre 350 Ansley Grove Road, Woodbridge
WARD 4	Dufferin Clark Library 1441 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill
WARD 5	Garnet A. Williams Community Centre 501 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill

Questions?
For further information, please contact the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504

JOHN D. LEACH, City Clerk
First Published October 18, 2006

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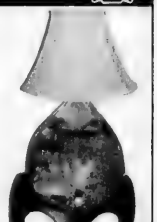

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Former Torontonian writes for film and television

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

If Randy Pearlstein hadn't pursued a career in acting and comedy writing for film and television, he thinks he probably would have become a lawyer and now – at age 35 – would be leaving the law profession to write jokes.

The Toronto native, who acquired a passion for film before he hit his teens, left here after graduating from York Mills Collegiate Institute to study for a bachelor of fine arts in filmmaking at New York University (NYU).

His parents – Dana Kelly, a former teacher at Holy Blossom Temple, and John Pearlstein, a dentist – were "100 per cent supportive," he said.

Randy Pearlstein

As a student, Pearlstein interned for Woody Allen during the filming of *Manhattan Murder Mystery* and *Husbands and Wives*. "It was so much fun," he recalls of the time he spent on the set. "The mood was light and easy."

Pearlstein has been based in New York ever since, stitching together a career that has included acting gigs – among them small roles in the movies *Center Stage* and *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, standup comedy gigs, and, more recently, the teaching of screenwriting and television writing.

He said he's been fortunate in that he hasn't had a lull between jobs.

Although he had some experience acting in small television roles as a teenager, Pearlstein trained as an actor after NYU at the New Actors Workshop, co-founded by Mike Nichols. Nichols himself was Pearlstein's instructor. "He's a master of directing," said Pearlstein. "I couldn't believe my luck."

Pearlstein's current focus is on writing, although he moonlights as an actor. In a sense, he said, it's hard to break into writing "because writing is hard." But, he added, "if you're a good writer, people find you very quickly."

Among his writing credits is the 2002 comedy thriller *Cabin Fever*, and he recently finished a three-year stint writing for Comedy Central's *Chappelle's Show*, in which he appeared as a gay Ku Klux Klansman.

Interned for Woody Allen

Television watchers may also recognize Pearlstein from a Chrysler commercial that aired this past summer. He was the reporter in the passenger seat, interviewing DaimlerChrysler CEO Dieter Zetsche ("Dr. Z") before the latter crashed the vehicle into a wall.

Currently, Pearlstein is working on a romantic comedy film script. In a recent interview in Toronto, when he was in town to run workshops on screenwriting and television writing – with a couple more to follow in mid-November – he said he's trying to base the movie on relationships he's had with women he's gone out with, and also on relationships his friends have had.

"I think relationships are more complex than they're often represented in films," said Pearlstein, who described himself as "single and looking."

As a writer, he believes that "being honest and knowing how you really feel about things" gives more depth to any kind of writing.

Chappelle's Show, he said, had "a significant edge" and was "extremely silly," but its sketches dealt with some very difficult topics, including racism, an undercurrent in all of them.

Pearlstein's own ideas are based on character, he said. "I think the character comes first, and the funny situation follows… [As a writer,] your eyes are always wide open for anything either out of the ordinary or extremely ordinary, and both are very dramatic and cinematic."

For more information, visit www.randypearlstein.com

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Photographer documents mother's battle with Alzheimer's

By BARBARA SILVERTSTEIN
Special to The CJN

When Rosa Leitner was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 1983, her family spent as much time as they could with her, says her youngest child, art educator and photographer Judith Leitner.

"She gave so much love back to us when we were with her."

Leitner decided to document the impact of the illness on her mother, and so for the next 11 years, she took hundreds of pictures of Rosa, alone, and with her family.

Leitner says she worked with these images until 2006, roughly seven years after her mother's death at the age of 84. "It took me 24 years to complete the project."

The photographs will be on display at the upcoming national conference of the Canadian Alzheimer Society, which will be held in the East Metro ballroom of the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel Nov. 6 to Nov. 8. Leitner's exhibition, titled, "Rosa, a Love Story," will be open to the public on Nov. 7.

"Love story" refers to the great affection she and her siblings had for their parents and for each other, Leitner explains. "We were always going home to London [Ont.] All of us – my brother and my two sisters and all our children – would come in from Toronto very frequently."

Photographer Judith Leitner, right, poses with her mother, Rosa Leitner, in 1990.

She recalls these visits as a happy rather than a "tragic" time. "When my children came to see Safta Rosa, they would play with her and sit on her lap. They loved going. It was never a sad time for us. We loved my mother so much."

Leitner, a single mother of two daughters in their 20s, wears several professional hats. She studied photography at Hadassah WIZO Community College in Jerusalem. She later worked as a photographer, and as a photography curator at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. She returned to Canada in 1983 after living in Israel for eight years.

The family left following the first Lebanese war because the situation was too dangerous for her ex-husband, a front-line medic, she explains.

In 1995, she co-founded the Toronto Heschel School, which opened in 1996. She is the school's director of art, a visual arts teacher and a consultant on arts-based education.

Her busy schedule during the academic year left her little time to focus on photography. says Leitner. "Every summer I had six to seven weeks to work the images of my mother."

She says it took time to sift through and develop the hundreds of photographs she had taken during the 11-year span. Her mother lived another three years, but Leitner says that she stopped photographing her because she was no longer a partner in the project. "Her condition was rapidly deteriorating.

Rosa Leitner in the more advanced stages of Alzheimer's disease. [Judith Leitner photo]

"She was no longer truly aware of my presence and the camera. She often looked straight at the camera and smiled at me. Once she couldn't do that, I did not want to take any more pictures."

Leitner opted for a labour-intensive photo-development technique. "I was looking for a photographic mode that would best express my mother's illness and her personality."

She chose Polaroid emulsion lift, a process which lifts the image off its backing so that it can be transferred to another surface.

"The image becomes very painterly and has a translucent quality. The translucent quality of the images and the resilience of the hand-made Japanese paper I used reflects my mother's inner strength and spirit.

"She was a Holocaust survivor. So was my father. (He died in 1997). They were truly an inspiration to all of us. I feel I am honouring them by this exhibit."

In July, she approached the Canadian Alzheimer Society for financial assistance for framing the photographs. "When they saw the pictures they asked me to show the images at the conference. They said I give Alzheimer's a human face."

She says choosing which photographs to display was a tough decision. "There were hundreds of pictures. I printed 135 different images and then I had to edit it all down to 80 for the exhibit."

Leitner says that she was able to document her mother's decline. "You can see the changes. She aged very rapidly.

"You can see her initial confusion and later her sense of being lost completely, but there was always a smile on her face whenever she saw her children and grandchildren."

Leitner recalls that in the earlier stages of the illness her mother could feed herself and light a cigarette. "One of the last things she could do was light the Shabbat candles on her own.

"She could complete the entire ritual from the lighting of the match and the candles to the gestures of gathering in the light and saying the blessing. She would smile and kiss everyone and then she would lose the moment."

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CJN Profile

Chrétien's 'shadow' reflects on long career in gov't

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

For almost 32 years – an eternity in politics – Eddie Goldenberg was variously Jean Chrétien's aide, adviser, consultant, chief of staff and shadow.

In other words, he was one of the most powerful civil servants in Ottawa, particularly during Chrétien's premiership from 1993 to 2003.

Joining his staff as a summer intern in 1972, when Chrétien was still a junior minister in Pierre Trudeau's cabinet, Goldenberg worked for him until his resignation three years ago.

Goldenberg had a hand in preparing federal budgets, calling elections, formulating economic and post-secondary education policy, dealing with two Quebec referendums, managing relations with the United States and determining Canada's policy on two major foreign policy issues, Afghanistan and Iraq.

In addition, he fulfilled an "essential role" as an intermediary between Chrétien and Paul Martin, the ambitious finance minister who succeeded him as prime minister.

Currently a partner in the Ottawa office of the national law firm of Stikeman Elliott, where he dispenses strategic advice on a wide variety of matters, Goldenberg is in the spotlight again now that his memoir, *The Way It Works: Inside Ottawa*, has been published by McClelland & Stewart.

"The purpose of the book is to explain how important decisions are made in Canadian politics and government," said Goldenberg, who dedicates it to Caroline Weber, his wife, and Carl Goldenberg, his late father.

"I draw on big issues in which I was involved to illustrate my points. I had to pick and choose and leave out some to keep to 400 pages."

Goldenberg's interest in government and public service is due in no small part to his father, a distinguished Montreal lawyer, labour arbitrator and academic who advised Canadian prime ministers from Mackenzie King to Chrétien and who served in the Senate.

The younger Goldenberg was formally introduced to the world of politics when he finagled a summer internship in Chrétien's office. Chrétien was then minister of Indian affairs and northern development, while Goldenberg was at the end of his first year of law school at McGill University. John Rae, Chrétien's former executive assistant and an old friend, arranged the job.

Joining Chrétien's ministerial staff full time after his graduation from McGill in 1974, Goldenberg followed his boss to the Treasury Board, and from there to such ministries as finance, justice and energy, mines and resources.

And when Chrétien was leader of the opposition, Goldenberg was his principal secretary.

Having won the first of three federal elections in 1993, Chrétien selected Goldenberg as his senior policy advisor and then as his chief of staff.

In his book, Goldenberg not only dwells on the complexities of decision-making and the crucial importance of personalities and relationships in government, he also focuses on pivotal issues.

On the eve of the war in Iraq in 2003, Chrétien asked Goldenberg and his foreign policy advisor, Claude Laverdure, for recommendations on how Canada should respond to the growing crisis in the Middle East. Britain, at the apparent behest of the United States, had sent a note inquiring whether Canada would participate in military operations against Saddam Hussein's regime. Since the British demanded an answer before noon on that day, Goldenberg regarded the note as nothing less than an ultimatum.

On Chrétien's instructions, he crafted a statement for the prime minister to read in Parliament suggesting that Canada would not take part in a campaign unless it received prior approval from the United Nations Security Council.

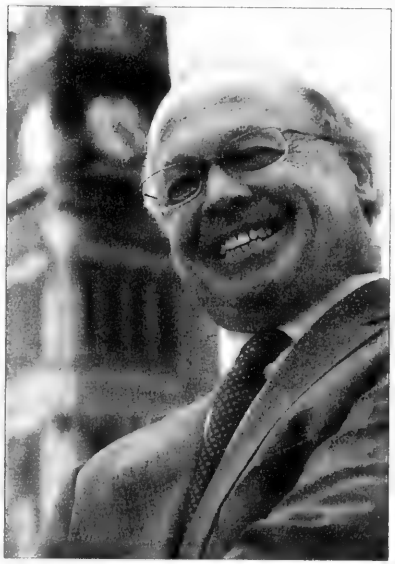
"The fundamental question was whether unilateral military intervention could be justified," Goldenberg said. "The Canadian government believed that the adverse consequences of such an intervention would be far greater than the benefits of bringing down that regime. Time has proven that position to have been very wise."

Yet Canada would have supported a multilateral UN-sanctioned military operation in Iraq, he added.

Goldenberg supports Canada's increasingly costly military presence in Afghanistan, but he has "questions" about its nature and duration.

In *The Way It Works*, he omits Chrétien's first and only official trip to Israel, explaining that the book is neither a biography of Chrétien nor an exhaustive history of his government. But Goldenberg does mention the fact that Yitzhak Rabin, the late Israeli prime minister, was the first foreign leader to visit Ottawa after Chrétien was elected prime minister.

"I met Rabin on two occasions and was tremendously impressed by his courage and his commitment to finding a lasting peace in the Middle East. Chrétien was a strong supporter of Israel, made lasting Israeli friends, and in particular formed a real friendship with [former Israeli prime minister and current deputy prime minister] Shimon Peres."



Eddie Goldenberg

Asked what he thinks of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's strong pro-Israel stance, Goldenberg said, "I don't have any problems with his policy on Israel, but I believe that he has created an impression in Canada and abroad that he is completely tied to [U.S. President] George Bush's foreign policy, and in my view, that impression does not serve Canada well."

In his memoir, Goldenberg reveals that David Berger – a Montreal MP who reluctantly agreed to give up his safe seat to Quebec politician Lucienne Robillard in exchange for the ambassadorship to Israel – enjoyed that posting much less than his role in Parliament.

He also discloses that Herb Gray, the first Jew to be a federal minister and Chrétien's deputy prime minister, was one of two ministers – the other was John Manley – who had "the most impact" in cabinet. Gray, Goldenberg said, "combined seriousness and intelligence with a good sense of humour."

Goldenberg is of the opinion that "ethnic balance" in cabinet serves several objectives. Diversity brings a fresh perspective to discussions, it enhances the integration of new Canadians into mainstream society and, in an era of globalization, it provides Canada with an advantage in international relations.

He agrees that Canada is not the same country it was before World War II, when anti-Semitism was rife and Jewish refugees fleeing fascism in Europe were barely welcomed here.

"There has been enormous progress in Canada since then" noted Goldenberg, who said he never encountered anti-Semitism during his lengthy career. "We are now a progressive, tolerant, multicultural and multiethnic society."

He said that Quebec's former premier, Jacques Parizeau, did not have Jews exclusively in mind when he blamed "money and the ethnic vote" for the separatist defeat in the 1995 referendum.

"[The comment] was aimed at all non-French Canadian ethnic groups in Quebec, not specifically Jews," Goldenberg said.

The most important file he dealt with was Canadian unity, he said.

"It was something that preoccupied me from the first Quebec referendum through to the patriation of the constitution and the enshrining of the Charter of Rights to the second Quebec referendum and the passage of the Clarity Act."

Goldenberg supports Bob Rae for the leadership of the federal Liberal party. "He would unite the progressive forces in the country, and would make an excellent prime minister."

Does he miss the excitement of politics?

"After many years in and around politics, I am focused on my career in the private sector and not on the past. But I am happy to give advice to the leadership of the party if asked."

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KIDDISH

Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

These Waters

based on a true story

It all started out innocently enough. The pasha king and his queen were strolling alongside the stream running though the palatial gardens, followed by an entourage of servants. It was a warm summer's day, and the flowers were in full bloom.

"Beautiful, isn't it?" commented the pasha.

"Uh nuh," replied the queen.

The pasha looked at her, surprised. She was usually more articulate than that. She looked distant. "What is it?" he asked.

"It's the heat," she sighed. "I feel like I'm going to faint."

The pasha nodded in agreement. "I'm feeling rather warm myself. Let's head back to the palace."

"The palace? I don't think I'll make it that far."

"So what do you want to do? Have the servants carry you?"

"I don't know. I need to cool off somehow." Her gaze fell on the bubbling stream beside them.

His eyes followed hers. "So you want to drink from the stream? Not very becoming for a queen, if you ask me."

"I don't have a choice". She kneeled, and began scooping the clear, cool water into her mouth. The pasha cringed.

"So, feeling better?" he finally asked.

"A little. Not enough." She splashed some water on her face. Little rivulets flowed down her royal garments, mixing with mud she was sitting in.

"Stop!" bellowed the pasha. "You are going too far! I am the pasha, and your dignity is my dignity. Get up, now!"

"I don't have the strength," she moaned. "I really feel like I'm going to pass out."

She paused. "I need to go into the water."

"Never!" thundered the pasha. "Let them say the queen fainted a hundred times, but never that she waded into a stream like a peasant girl. Get up now, do you hear me?"

The servants looked at one other uncomfortably. They had never seen the pasha this angry before.

The pasha kept on ranting. "I forbid you to enter these waters! I forbid you!"

The queen looked up, her tears mixing with the water on her her face. "I'm sorry," she sobbed. "I have to."

And with as much dignity as she could manage, she threw herself into the stream.

"I can't believe it," seethed the pasha, turning to his servants. "Can you believe this display of utter impudence?"

The servants looked down, afraid to say anything.

The pasha didn't stop. "To disobey my explicit order? By law, for such rebellion, she has to..."

He froze, as the awful reality set in.

"...She has to die," he finished, in a whisper. "Oh, no. What have I done? It wasn't her fault. She was feeling faint. She had to do it. She's a good queen, really. I don't want her killed!"

But the law is the law.

For days the pasha agonized over his rash words, consulting with all the legal experts of the empire, but the verdict was unanimous. The queen must die.

The law is the law.

The story spread throughout the empire. Everybody felt bad, but there was nothing to be done.

The law is the law.

So when the *chacham* (rabbi) showed up at the palace and said he had a way to spare the queen's life, he was admitted right away. The pasha was desperate, but wary. After all, no one else had thought of anything.

"Will the pasha please tell me exactly what he told the queen?" asked the *chacham*.

For the umpteenth time, the pasha repeated his words, as if reliving a nightmare.

"I forbid you to bathe in these waters."

"And she went in immediately?"

"No, she waited a few seconds...I know where you're going, but the judges have already said that her hesitation does not affect her sentence."

"No, very good, very good. You see, if the pasha had said, 'Don't bathe in the stream,' well,' she did bathe in the stream. Or if it had been a lake, and the pasha said, 'Don't bathe in these waters,' well, she did. But a stream, you see, the water in a stream is constantly flowing. By the time she went in, 'these waters' that she was banned from entering had already moved downstream, replaced by different water, with no such prohibition attached.

"So while in spirit she may have violated the pasha's orders, technically she did nothing wrong."

The pasha looked around, astounded. The expert judges broke out in smiles, amazed at the simple verdict.

"Blessed is the God of the Jews!" exclaimed the pasha. "You have saved me and my family from tragedy."

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How many letters of the Hebrew alphabet can you find in the illustration?

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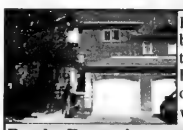

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SPACIOUS, RENOVATED & DECORATED 2 BDRM. Faces west. **ONLY $279,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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A marriage of renaissance elegance and new-age construction. Spectacular 5,000+ sq. ft. home backing onto Earl Bales Park. 5 + 1 bdrms., 10 baths, cathedral ceilings, thermally insulated concrete, sound insulated walls, floors & partitions, radiant floor heat + forced air heat, stone-coated steel roof, upscale appliances, white oak herringbone hrdwd. floors throughout. **RARE FIND AT $2.798 MILLION.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712. Enjoy a virtual tour at **www.eichornrealty.ca**

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VIEWMOUNT AVENUE
MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM HOME on 50 x 140 ft. lot. 4 + 1 bedrooms, 5 baths, exquisite finishes. Unique features include Brazilian cherry floor, upscale dream kitchen, separate boiler for continuous radiant heat in floors. Close to Viewmount Park, Spadina subway. $1,195,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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SPACIOUS 3 BEDROOM CONDO, 2 baths, **PRICED TO SELL AT ONLY $189,900 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK

BATHURST / COLDSTREAM
BRAND NEW custom family home. Approx. 4,000 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., 5 + 2 bdrms., 6 baths, separate entry to in-law suite, main floor library, extensive use of granite, limestone, crown mouldings, custom trim, pot lights. Fabulous location close to TTC, schools ++. $1,179,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

HILLHURST / ALEXANDER WOOD
PALATIAL brand new luxury custom home in prestigious area. Lorne Rose designed, Owens built, with top quality materials and craftsmanship, impeccable taste and incredible attention to detail. Extensive use of natural stone, granite, mahogany, wood panelling. Dream kitchen with upscale appliances. Cedar roof with copper trim. $2,869,000. Call Call David Eichorn, Broker of Record, or Mark Eichorn, Sales Rep. at (416) 787-1712. Enjoy a virtual tour at **www.eichornrealty.ca**

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8 COVINGTON CONDO
GORGEOUS 2 BDRM. UNIT. Showpiece with features galore! 2 baths, upgraded & designer decorated throughout. "Shaw" laminate flooring, Italian tile & marble. $319,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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106 Reiner Road

Over 4000 sq. ft., spectacular home with large Principle rooms! 4+1 bdrms., 5 baths, great kitchen with granite countertops, 2 sinks, top of the line appliances. Amazing jet tub and rain shower in master. Tons of storage! Large Garage! 43x161 feet! **Asking $1,049,000.**

New Luxury Semi on Prestigious Cortleigh Blvd.
401 Cortleigh Boulevard

Luxury New Semi!! Desirable street. Award winning builder. Nestled in one of the cities most prestigious neighbourhoods. This 2150 sq. ft. semi boasts 3+1 bdrms.,1 fin. bsmt., hardwood floors, granite countertops, 10 ft. ceilings, gourmet kitchen, stainless steel appl. Tarion New Home Warranty incl. Impressive master bdrm. w/spa-like ensuite, 2 fireplaces. **Asking $959,000.**

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Team Wagman's Current Listings

358 Douglas Ave.	511 Melrose Ave.
339 Douglas Ave.	18 Wetherfield Pl.
395 Douglas Ave.	301 Broadway Ave.
512 Fairlawn Ave.	29 Edgewood Cres.
116 Haddington Ave.	402 Cranbrooke Ave.
153 Falkirk St.	399 Cortleigh Blvd.

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905-764-7111
BATHURST/STEELES-PRIMROSE
Super 2 bedroom condo, 2 full baths, 5 appls., 2 pkg., Immed. possesion. Asking $249,000.
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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

226 COLDSTREAM AVE! RARE 47X201'!
$2,279K! Avenue Rd/Glencairn! Stunning 5+1Br, 6Bth! Mn Fam+Lau+2Pce! I/g Pool! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

LOWER VILLAGE – BEAUTIFUL RENOVATION SOLD
Charming 2 Storey – 4 Bdrms, 3 Bath + Family Rm, Spacious Principle Rms, Gorgeous Kitchen+Baths. Gary Mitchell** 416-488-2875

BATHURST/WILSON DESIGN BUILD $1,099,000
Superb custom home on magnificent 50 ' lot on most desireable, quiet street. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

LOWER VILLAGE – FIRST AD $985,000
Reno'd Spac Detached 3 Bdrm, 3 Bath, Lrg Mn Flr Fam Rm/Office – Great Lwr Lvl, Steps to the Village. Gary Mitchell** 416-488-2872

154 CHARLTON BLVD! RARE 50X191'!
Yonge N/Finch! Amazing 5+2Br, 5Bth! Mn Fam+Lau+2Pce! W/o Bsmt! Move Right In+Enjoy! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

ELEGANT 4 BDRM, GEORGIAN CENTRE HALL $939,000 SOLD
Updated Eat-in Kitchen, W/o to Large Garden, Sep LR, DR, Main Powder Rm, Garage, 4 Prkng. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

1ST AD! DEER PARK – DETACHED BEAUTY
Gorgeous as New – 3 Bdrm, Reno'd Family Room, Maple/Granite Kitchen, 2 Car Parking. Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

ARMOUR HEIGHTS, FABULOUS ADDITION $799,000
Extremely spacious & well designed 4+1 bdrm, 4 bath on a breathtaking 50'x197' south lot. Patti Pollock* 416 226-1987

27 CEDAR SPRINGS GROVE!$699,900!
"Bathurst Manor" Ravine! Fab 4+1Br, 3Bth, B/S! Mn Fam+Lau+3 Pce! Walk To Schools/Shul! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

YONGE/AVENUE RD/EGLINTON – DUPLEX – REDUCED $489,000
Splendidly Maintained Semi, 2 Lrg, 2 Bdrm Apts w/Classic Flr Plan, Lrg Unfinished Bsmt, Potential Prkng at Rear. Gary Mitchell** 416-488-2875

BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

SENSATIONAL BUNGALOW! $529,000 SOLD
3 Bdrms, 2 Bths, Fin Bsmt, Drive, Gar, Hrdwd Flrs, Maple Kit, Frplc, Great Space, 10++. Cheryl Sniderman* 416-488-2875

123 WHITNEY PLACE! TOTAL RENO!
$458K! Bathurst N/Steeles! Fab 3+1Br, 4Bth! Nanny Ste! W/o Bsmt! Rare 46x112 Irregular Lot! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

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$2.475M. Grand 40 ft. atrium, 42X15 indoor pool, 2 stry. mstr. retreat w/2 bths., 2 w/o's, firepl., sauna. Huge principal rms. Soaring ceilings, European kit. w/ granite island, amazing guest suite, 6 bd., 11 bths., custom finishes, woodwork., built-ins, mouldings thr'out. Sep. sleeping wing, Fully fin. w/o bsmt. w/10' ceilings. Beautifully landscaped 100'x205' lot w/gazebo & sundecks. Tennis/basketball crt. Nanny apt. w/sep. kit.
Jay Kowal, Sales Rep.,
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GLENGROVE AVENUE WEST * $1,495,000
Stunning newer home w/large rms & beautiful flow for entertaining. Main floor den and family rm, 10' ceilings, fin'd lower lvl w/separate entry. Don't miss it! Margaret Marshall* ext. 635

PRESTIGE LAWRENCE/AVENUE ROAD * $1,075,000
Meticulous 4 bdrm home. 48' front to back foyer, spectacular landscaping & pool, main floor family room, south facing lot, new heat & air system. Call to see. William Greisman* ext. 278

FIRST AD – UPPER VILLAGE * $849,000
Lovely, gracious and spacious 3+1 BR home w/huge family rm, large principal rms, library, 4 fireplaces, 2 rec. rms, mod. kit + large breakfast rm, hdwd flrs, skylights, +++ Beautiful yard. Walk to all. Must see! Paula G. Bernstein* ext. 228

343 CLARK AVENUE WEST SUITE 903 * $499,000
Beautiful & elegantly designed 2 bedroom corner suite. Approx. 1,440 sq. ft. Combination of unparalleled design & detail. 2 park-ing, Sab. elevator & much more. Peter Gali* ext. 411

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BATHURST/SHEPPARD
Renovated 3 bdrm, L-shaped liv & din, new kitchen & bath, fin bsmnt, dble drive gar, steps to all.

BATHURST/STEELES
Large 4 bdrm, semi back split, 3 baths, living & dining comb, eat-in kitchen, family room walkout, fin basement, garage, great buy.

TOWNSGATE CONDO
2,780 sq ft corner unit, 4 bdrm, 4 baths, fam rm, 2 balconies, 4 car parking, 2 lockers, Great location.

SHEPPARD/ALLEN ROAD
Commercial unit for rent,1,635 sq ft, drive-in door, ideal for many uses.

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75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Furnished condo/apt, 2 bdrm., Bathurst/Steeles area. Short term lease, imm. Call 613-829-2455.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

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125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

MIAMI BEACH MIMOSA, beautiful 1/1 fully furnished, low floor, oceanview, on boardwalk. Please call 305-933-4000.

Miami Beach condo, great opportunity oceanfront. Excellent extra-large studio, new kitchen and bath. Gorgeous water view. Please call 305-933-4000.

Miami Beach, oceanfront, new condo, 1+2+den, 1 block to Bal Harbour & shul, $449,000/US. Please call 305-766-9868.

Century Village, Deerfield Beach, 1 bdrm., 1 bath, encl. patio, 3 min. walk to club & amenities. Call 905-764-6936.

Delray Bch. Pines West condo, 2/2, bright, clean & upgrd. new prem. sunrm. over 1200 sq. ft., $164,900 US (better deal for fast closing). Call 1-519-438-7174 or marv@printeddrinkware.com

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MIAMI BEACH OCEANFRONT, Carriage. Beautiful 1/1.5 bed., fully furn'd, with balcony. Shul on site. Min. 3 mos. Call 305-933-4000.

100 Arlen House East, 1 bdrm., conv., minimum 4 months. 2nd floor, free daily bus to mall. Please call 416-636-6470.

Longboat Key, Castillian, 3/2.5 corner gulfside unit. Newly reno'd. kitchen. Photos available. $5500/mo. US. Please call 734-662-1878, rkcohen@aol.com

Hollywood Beach, timeshare, 2 rms., 2 baths, 2 TVs, Jan. 20-Feb. 17. Call 416-739-6401.

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Century Village, Deerfield, one 1 1/2, new tiles throughout, freshly painted, furnished and equipped. Seasonal, 4-5 months. $1450/mo. + electricity. Call 450-465-0350; Toronto 905-507-9833.

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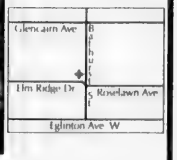

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Landsberg hosts 'honest, passionate talk' on *Off The Record*

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

The return of Canada's national pastime and a change in format was enough of a boost to give the country's longest-running television talk show its best season ever.

TSN's *Off The Record*, which began its 10th season on the air this year, enjoyed a 43 per cent increase in ratings last year thanks primarily to the return of the good old hockey game after the NHL lockout.

Host Michael Landsberg credits the show's resurgence with a decision made prior to last season to devote 75 to 80 per cent of the show to hockey, and he says that proved to be the right call in this country.

Since leaving his job as anchor of the network's flagship SportsCentre back in 1997 to take over a new show, Landsberg has established himself as one of the best-known personalities in Canadian broadcasting because of his ability to ask his guests tough questions.

His no-holds-barred approach with guests in the hot seat has made the daily program a must-see for sports fans over the dinner hour.

"One thing I wanted it to become right away was a place for more honest, passionate talk than existed in sports media at the time, where people would really tell it the way they saw it and not necessarily the way they wanted you to think they saw it," he said.

"My biggest expectations for the show was just that it would be different in that regard, that it would stand out because it was the place where there was less B.S. and more honesty."

The show's success has been attributed to delivering that kind of passion on topics that people care about on a regular basis, and Landsberg makes sure to remind his guests prior to every taping just that. If a show lacks passion, he's well aware that viewers will quickly change the channel.

Most episodes are recorded at the Rogers Centre a couple of hours prior to their 6 p.m. airing, but the show has the flexibility to go live when necessary.

Two new segments were introduced last season, and they've worked out extremely well.

The show opens with a five-minute Up Front interview, a hard-hitting one-on-one session with a key newsmaker, and concludes with Next Question, a rapid-fire question period with the same person that is both sports-related and personal.

A decision was also made last year to do satellite interviews for the first time, opening up the possibility of interviewing a guest wherever they happen to be.

In raising the bar, Landsberg said the show's producers knew they would be losing a lot of the eclectic guests who had appeared in the past, because they wouldn't be able to stand up to the hard-core sports talk that the show now primarily consists of.

Landsberg said he's content with the decision and feels that the job he has had over the past nine years is one of the most interesting in Canadian TV, because it allows him to be himself.

"I could never really been me on [SportsCentre]," said Landsberg, who hosted more than 5,000 episodes of the show from the time he started his broadcasting career with TSN when it came on the air in 1984. "I felt there were opportunities at times to show my personality as a performer. I want to be able to be honest with the audience and say this is who I am."

Gabe Kapler wants to stick with Red Sox

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Gabe Kapler proved to the Boston Red Sox over the final two months of the baseball season that he is once again healthy.

It's now up to Boston management to decide whether to retain his services, as the club's ever-popular utility player was to become a free agent 48 hours after the World Series ends.

The 31-year-old outfielder certainly gave them something to think about in the Red Sox Oct. 1 season finale with a bases clearing three-run double that put him over the 300 career mark in runs batted in.

He said he would love to return to the Sox next spring and was expected to meet with general manager Theo Epstein and skipper Terry Francona in late October to discuss that possibility.

However, just playing again at the major-league level is a phenomenal achievement after what the muscular, 6-2, 210-pound athlete went through over the past year.

Rounding second base on what turned out to be a home run by teammate Tony Graffanino in September 2005 in a game in Toronto, Kapler's left Achilles' tendon popped, and he was wheeled off on a stretcher, unable to complete his trek around the bases.

"I don't think I ever realistically entertained the thought that my career was over, but I certainly understood the severity of the injury," Kapler said while back in Toronto for the team's final road game of the 2006 campaign.

"The surgeon explained that it was shredded. It was in rough shape as it was."

Kapler returned home to Southern California for surgery the following week, but was back with the Red Sox in time for the wild-card clinching celebration and stayed with the ball club throughout its brief playoff run.

Boston was swept by Chicago in three straight in the opening round, a disappointing finish to a season that came on the heels of a World Series championship.

Kapler was a part of history when the Red Sox won it all in 2004, but he left for Japan shortly thereafter for more money and a chance to prove he could be an everyday player.

"It was a rather romantic notion," Kapler said of his abbreviated stay in the Japanese Central League.

"I had this vision of what it would be like, sort of a master plan in place. I would go over there, play every day, and come back [to Boston] and resume my career at a higher level.

"My mom used to say, we make plans and God laughs. This was a classic example of that."

Kapler signed a one-year, $2-million deal with the Yomiuri Giants and hit .153 [17 – 111] with three homers and six RBIs in 38 games. He also received a $700,000 signing bonus, a figure that nearly matched the $750,000 he received from Boston in 2004.

He was placed on the inactive list by mid-season, released from his contract in July, and signed by Boston just a few hours after clearing waivers.

"I was a bit homesick," he said. "I missed my Red Sox teammates and the city of Boston. I felt an empty space in my heart.

"I wasn't healthy over there. I never quite got into a groove, and certainly longed to be back in Boston."

He joined the club at the end of July, following a DL stint and rehab assignment necessitated by a lower back strain.

Being back in Boston also gave him a chance to get back to work on his charity, a family-run organization that was established two years ago to educate the public about domestic violence and help women escape abusive relationships.

He and wife Lisa co-founded the Gabe Kapler Foundation after much talk about wanting to do what they could to prevent other women from suffering as she did. At age 14, Lisa was physically and emotionally abused by her high school boyfriend and suffered at his hands for three long years.

"We are in battered women's shelters in Southern California implementing educational programs for mothers to pick the pieces of their lives back up," Kapler said. "My wife is hands-on in the shelters, and I'm the chief fundraiser.

"It's a small organization, but it makes a large impact. It's a perfect fit for us."

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Israeli juniors thump Canadian camp all-stars

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

The Israeli under-18 hockey team looked as sharp as ever on its recent North American training tour.

On Saturday Oct. 21, the Israeli International Ice Hockey Federation's (IIHF) junior squad concluded its two-week trip with a game against the Jewish Camp Select All-Stars at Toronto's North York Centennial Arena.

Prior to the game, a special ceremony was held at centre ice, followed by a moment of silence, for Thom Farkash, the Toronto-born Israeli soldier killed during Israel's recent conflict with Hezbollah.

A vociferous crowd of nearly 1,000 people came out the game. Fans seemed content to cheer on both teams with equal gusto – as one spectator observed, "Tonight, we're all Israeli."

In the end, it was no contest: the final score was 14-3 in favour of the Israeli juniors.

They dominated play from the outset, displaying superior positioning, discipline and scoring ability. Talented forwards Daniel Erlich and Ethan Wereck tallied 10 and eight points, respectively.

The All-Stars did all they could to keep up with the more polished Israelis, often using a gritty, hard-hitting approach to slow down their opponents, but Israel's skills proved too great for the hastily assembled local team.

"Tonight was not typical," said Jean Perron, Israel's head coach. "We met some better clubs [before this game] and realized that we had to be in better shape. We've got a very young club but we accomplished a lot in the last two weeks."

IIHF chairman Alan Maislin concurred.

"I think we look OK. We're pleasantly surprised at the team in terms of the results," said Maislin, referring to Israel's 5-2 winning record on their trip.

"The progress of the kids has been phenomenal, they've really gotten better over the trip. So we're excited," he said.

Despite the lopsided outcome, the Toronto crowd enjoyed itself. Fans were further thrilled by some high-profile, surprise guests at the game, most notably Liberal MP and former Montreal Canadiens star goalie Ken Dryden, who arrived at the end of the second period to take in the match.

"This is amazing," noted the hockey legend, referring to the enthusiasm of the spectators and the caliber of play being demonstrated by the Israeli team.

He was quickly swamped by autograph-seekers, and he graciously signed as many ticket stubs as he could before being shepherded away by his assistants.

Other notables in attendance included Ted Saskin, executive director of the National Hockey League Players Association and Israel's consul general in Toronto, Ya'acov Brosh.

"They're looking better," Saskin said of the Israeli team. "The coaching and hard work is paying dividends for them."

Speaking to reporters after the game, Perron was upbeat about this year's junior team and their chances in a harder classification level at the world championships in Hungary in April 2007.

"Nobody gives us a chance in division two," he said. "But… we have a chance to stay. This is our goal."

That's why he made it clear to the team that there's only one sure method for success this year: teamwork.

"I told my players this tour… there can be no cliques of Russian-born players or Canadian-born players or Israeli-born players," said Perron. "Everybody has to be together. It's the only way we're gonna survive."

Perron also stressed the importance of a successful Israeli hockey program.

"Every time we go to a championship and win a medal, it's a small step for us as a team, but it's a big step for Israel," he said. "We are ambassadors for Israel. One of our objectives is to fight anti-Semitism. And by playing in North America and playing world championships… we bring a good image about Israel. It's a place where you have great human beings."

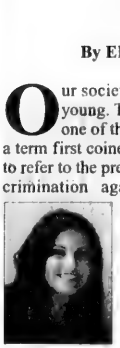
The Israeli junior team headed back home the day after the game. They open training camp in Budapest, Hungary on April 10 in preparation for opening matches on April 14.

Israel's Graviel Karasin, number 14, digs hard for the puck in a face-off in the first period of the Israeli junior squad's game against the Jewish Camp Select All-Stars. [ProShot Event Photography photo]

Age discrimination: why it must end

By ELLIE BERGER

Guest Voice



Our society is obsessed with staying young. The fear of growing older is one of the leading causes of ageism, a term first coined in 1969 by Robert Butler to refer to the prejudice or discrimination against people because of their age.

Age discrimination is an important and often overlooked issue.

Our community, however, perhaps more than others, should be especially attuned to the hardship and injustice that age discrimination can cause.

We have recently emerged from the holiday period during which some of our prayers made specific reference to unique human fears that accompany growing older: *Al tashlichenu l'eit ziknah* – do not cast us aside when we grow old; *Kichlot kocheinu, al t'azveinu* – when our faculties wane, do not abandon us.

These prayers represent a deep-rooted fear that many of us have about our own old age. But how can we expect our prayers to be answered if we do not first take steps as a society to protect today's older population?

While ageism is quite widespread in western societies, and occurs in a variety of arenas (e.g. health care, housing), I would like to provide examples from my research on age discrimination in the workplace. By the year 2015, older workers aged 45-65 will represent close to half of the working-age population. Yet it does not appear that employers' hiring policies reflect the ever-changing reality of workplace demographics.

Once unemployed, older workers take considerably longer than younger ones to become re-employed, due in large part to the existence of age discrimination. Provincial legislation in Canada, such as the Ontario Human Rights Code, is designed to protect workers against discrimination on the basis of age. However, the Ontario Human Rights Commission reports that age discrimination in employment is very much a reality. In fact, the commission suspects that the magnitude of this problem is even greater than documented in statistical reports due to the difficulties of quantifying and proving discrimination in relation to the job-search process.

Research that I have done on employers' "unofficial" attitudes to hiring older workers supports these findings, as older workers believed that employers discriminated against them in the hiring process through both subtle and overt mechanisms.

Older work applicants explained how many employers advertise job vacancies with specific wording targeted at younger job candidates. Some participants also felt that employers scanned resumés to estimate an applicant's age by assessing the numbers of years of experience, number of jobs held, or the year a degree was received. Some respondents believed the job interview was used as a mechanism for hiring based mostly on a visual assessment of their age. Many respondents were told they did not "fit in" to the employer's organizational culture, which essentially meant they looked too old. Finally, some participants were of the view that the language used by prospective employers was a not-so-subtle way of telling them they were considered too old for the job – for example, being considered "overqualified" or "too experienced," or that the organization was too "fast-paced" for them.

Interestingly, in an attempt to avoid being considered "old" in their job searches, many respondents developed strategies to conceal their age.

Some job seekers modified their resumés by removing years of work experience or the years in which they obtained their degrees.

Some job applicants tried to change physical appearance

Many replaced a chronological resumé with a "functional" one, which highlights skills rather than specific jobs.

Some job applicants even tried to change their physical appearance, by for example, dyeing their hair or wearing what they considered to be "young-looking clothes." Several men admitted to contemplating shaving their beards or using toupees.

Overall, the research shows how important the factor of age usually is in the job-search process.

Older workers should not be cast aside – even when their strength does diminish. Employers should try to find alternate work arrangements that can be reasonably made to keep them in the workforce longer. With the aging of the baby-boom population, employers will need to retain and recruit older workers. Some already are. The Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) annually honours the best employers for 50-plus Canadians. But these employers are the exception, unfortunately.

A combination of more sensitive hiring practices from employers and more careful attention to the ongoing age-oriented discrimination from policy-makers can improve things in the future.

But there is room for all of us to help eliminate age-related discrimination. We must treat older individuals in the manner that we would hope to be treated ourselves when we become older. We pray to not be cast aside when we grow older, but first we need to reflect on our practices and attitudes in our own daily lives that are harmfully affecting today's older population.

Ellie Berger is an assistant professor in sociology and gerontology at Nipissing University. Her research focuses on older workers, ageism, gender, retirement and pensions.

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Preheat oven to 400°F. Combine all topping ingredients in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Place fillets individually on sheets of parchment paper; divide topping evenly among them, spreading it over the top. Fold each parchment sheet over fillet to form a packet. Place with folds down, on baking sheet; bake 25-30 min.

Melt margarine in large skillet over med.-high heat. Add carrots; sauté until carrots begin to brown slightly, about 8 min. Add apple juice and honey; bring to boil. Reduce heat, simmer until carrots are tender and liquid is reduced to glaze, stirring occasionally, about 15 min. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Transfer to bowl. Sprinkle with green onion tops and serve.

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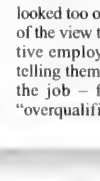
My chevrutah

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER



A few weeks ago, after a more than 20-year absence, I began learning with a chevrutah. A chevrutah is simply defined as a "study friend" – someone of a similar mind who challenges you on points of learning. Often, chevrutot can last for years, establishing a powerful understanding between the partners and creating Torah soulmates, of sorts.

The reason I hadn't learned with a chevrutah in many years stems from my disappointing Torah education and my lack of faith in finding someone whom I could connect with. As I wrote in this column a few weeks ago, Torah Judaism, like other religions, has in many ways been hijacked by fundamentalists who have squeezed the colour and soul out of Judaism, leaving a way of life, and a mode of teaching, that is too imposing, as well as devoid of excitement and the possibility for candid questioning and healthy growth.

When I've been approached by people throughout the years to study, I've been consistently let down by their insular beliefs, their indulgent attitude about truth, and their lack of creative learning ability.

So, over the years, I'd decided to learn on my own, studying little bits here and there. I wouldn't say that I did a great job in better understanding Judaism through my individual Torah pursuits, but I felt more genuine.

Now I'm fortunate to be learning with a fine chevrutah – a very wise Torah scholar.

In our very first session together, my chevrutah talked to me about life and its illusions. He quoted the tractates Babba Batra, Kiddushin and others on the difficulties of understanding the world in which we live, and taking things at face value.

My chevrutah's basic point was that life is intriguing and full of conflict, and that we learn with an appreciation of the many possibilities that exist, yet never quite knowing what indeed hovers around us, or within us.

Our chevrutah is refreshing. It is invigorating and revitalizing. I'm excited to learn about Judaism with this man, and I feel like I'm learning about Judaism and Torah for the very first time.

There are only a few teachers in the Jewish world who have the ability to see the vigorous tensions that comprise our existence and teach it through Torah in a way that projects this fascinating dynamic. Those who study Torah in a way that is accepting of many streams of possibilities are hard to find, and they're frequently marginalized by the mainstream Torah community, which sees their viewpoint as heretical and dangerous.

I believe that far more people would be interested in studying Torah if the Jewish world would appreciate the virtue of my chevrutah – which challenges and compels me in a way that is absorbing, charming, poetic and deeply meaningful.

If we are to be completely honest with ourselves, then we need to ask our yeshiva and day-school graduates – using comprehensive questionnaires and workshops – about what kind of attachment they have to Judaism and Torah learning after spending lengthy periods of time in these institutions.

It would behoove all parents – some of whom spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on their children's Torah education – to find out if their sons and daughters harbour a deep love and appreciation of Torah thought.

And then of course, we need to determine why so many other Jews who have never attended day school or yeshiva have a total lack of interest in anything that even sounds like a Torah thought.

People today are hungry – even starved – for meaning. If Torah is not taught in a more creative and life-enhancing way, our people will not be satiated by it, and we will have to keep trying to figure out why more and more Jews just don't care about the wisdom of the Torah.

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Hussein sentenced to death

Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Iraqi-born Israelis had mixed reactions to the news that deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was sentenced on Sunday to death by hanging for crimes against humanity.

Mordechai Ben-Porat, who led the underground Zionist movement in Iraq in the 1940s and '50s and today heads the Babylonian Jewry Heritage Center in Or Yehuda, said Saddam "was both good and bad for the Jews. When he was deputy president in 1969, he ordered 11 Jews hanged, but when he became president, sometimes he helped them."

Regarding the sentence, Ben-Porat said, "He deserves it. We are used to hanging in Iraq, now it's his turn to test it out."

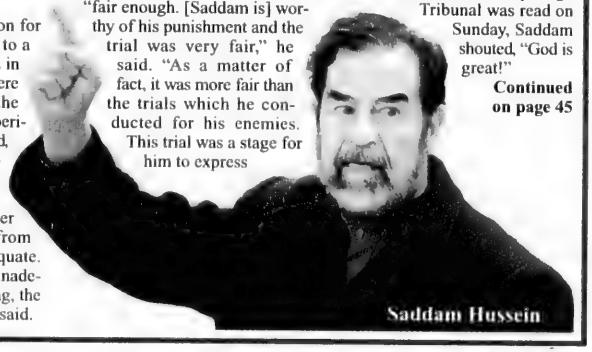
He compared the situation for Jews in Iraq over the years to a "pot of gold with a scorpion in it. From time to time, they were persecuted, and that was the scorpion. But during other periods of quiet, they saw the gold, and Jews were very glad because it was a good time for them."

Shaul Ben-Haim, a former Israeli diplomat originally from Iraq, called the ruling "adequate. The judicial procedure was inadequate, but politically speaking, the verdict was, [adequate]" he said.

Yehezkel Fattal, a lawyer also from Iraq, believes the verdict was "fair enough. [Saddam is] worthy of his punishment and the trial was very fair," he said. "As a matter of fact, it was more fair than the trials which he conducted for his enemies. This trial was a stage for him to express himself, that's what this trial was."

As the verdict of Iraq's High Tribunal was read on Sunday, Saddam shouted, "God is great!"

Continued on page 45



Saddam Hussein

Former *Star* publisher heads to McGill

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Michael Goldbloom, the former publisher of the *Toronto Star*, is going home, back to Montreal where he was born and back to McGill University, where he was a student in the late 1970s after graduating from Harvard.

But Goldbloom, the *Star*'s first Jewish publisher, is not leaving town voluntarily.

In mid-October, he and his hand-picked editor, Giles Gherson, were summarily dismissed, slightly more than two years after they were appointed.

Last week, Goldbloom, a soft-spoken, thoughtful man of 53 who chooses his words carefully, met a reporter to talk about his brief tenure at Canada's largest daily newspaper. He did so on the condition that the circumstances of his dismissal would not be discussed.

Michael Goldbloom

The one-hour interview was conducted in the bright, airy office of the *Star*'s director of human resources.

Goldbloom, a labour lawyer-turned publisher who hails from a prominent Montreal family, starts a new phase of his multi-faceted career in January when he officially starts his job as McGill University's vice-principal of inter-institutional affairs. He was hired by the principal, his old friend Heather Monroe-Blum.

But before he leaves the *Star* and takes up his position at McGill, he plans to put his papers in order and travel with his wife, Fiona Macleod, who was a manager in Montreal's film industry.

Asked how he feels about his unexpected departure, he said, "It's somewhat bittersweet. I guess I'm very proud of what we were able to accomplish in 2½ years. Working at a newspaper is an extraordinarily intense and rewarding experience. You're always thinking about tomorrow's newspaper. It's a unique responsibility."

When he was asked whether he was angry, he paused, then said, "Well, I expected to be here for a longer period of time. I guess angry is a fair word."

He is frustrated as well. "I wanted to have the opportunity to finish initiatives I started," said Goldbloom, clad plainly in a black sports jacket and a shirt open at the collar. "We were looking at a redesign of the Saturday edition, and I had just completed a comprehensive business plan.

Continued on page 40

Candidates speak

The race for the Liberal leadership takes a turn through the pages of *The CJN*, as the candidates address our readers. ***Please see pages 47-51.***

Vayera
Candlelighting: 4:39
Havdalah: 5:44

Greater Toronto Area

Agunot conference cancelled — please see page 43

The News in Brief

CANADA

Kadis Backs Rae

TORONTO — Thornhill Liberal MP Susan Kadis is backing Bob Rae for Liberal leader, she said late last month. Kadis resigned as co-chair of Michael Ignatieff's Toronto leadership campaign last month after he told a French-language Quebec TV interviewer that Israel's bombardment of Qana in south Lebanon was a war crime. In a statement, she said she is supporting Rae because "he's uniquely experienced, truly devoted to public service and his fundamental principles are consistent with my own."

Library Gets Donation

OTTAWA — The Jewish Federation of Otttawa gave the Ottawa Public Library $12,000 last week to mark federation's annual Holocaust Education Week. The money will help enhance the library's Holocaust resources. Some 460 items have been purchased to date, including multiple copies of books and DVDs.

WORLD

Jews Protest Degree

GLASGOW — The umbrella group of British Jewry protested St. Andrews University's granting of an honorary doctorate Oct. 31 to ex-Iranian president Mohammed Khatami for "his efforts to encourage interfaith dialogue." Henry Grunwald, head of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, told the school that since Khatami has praised Hezbollah, "whose leader has called for all Jews to go and live in Israel so that they can be destroyed in one go, it is difficult… to understand what interfaith dialogue he is encouraging."

And the Winner Is?

TEHRAN — A Moroccan won a Holocaust cartoon contest sponsored by the Iranian government. Abdellah Derkaoui took the $12,000 (US) prize Nov. 1 in a contest launched by the official Iranian newspaper *Hamshari* that stirred international controversy. Iran called the contest a response to Danish cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad that angered Muslims worldwide last year. The winning entry shows a wall, with a gate resembling the entrance to the Auschwitz death camp, separating the Al-Aqsa Mosque from the rest of Jerusalem. Iranian Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammed Hossein Saffar-Harandi said the contest broke the "taboo" on questioning whether the Shoah took place. Organizers said they got 1,193 entries from 62 countries.

Cemetery Desecrated

AMSTERDAM — Fifteen of the 20 gravestones in the Jewish cemetery in Beek, the Netherlands, were pushed over. Police suspect the crime was committed Oct. 28. The graveyard, which has been in use since 1846, had just been repaired following its desecration earlier this year.

The Unkindest Cut?

SYDNEY — A Sydney boy's bar mitzvah plans went awry when two rabbis from the Australian city's beit din declared his circumcision unkosher shortly before the event. The boy is the son of the *Sunday Telegraph*'s gossip columnist, Ros Reines, whose father was Jewish but whose mother was not. Reines had her son circumcised by a doctor in the presence of a Reform rabbi. In 2001, she joined Chabad and is in the process of an Orthodox conversion. Last month, five days before his bar mitzvah, Reines' son visited the mikvah with two rabbis who were to take a drop of blood from the penis, ushering him into the Orthodox community.

New Day School Cash

BALTIMORE — A U.S. foundation will offer scholarships worth $11 million (US) for students to attend Jewish day schools in Baltimore. The multi-year grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation will be managed by the Associated, Baltimore's Jewish federation. The federation, which already gives more than $3 million annually to Jewish schools, committed an additional $1 million for each year of the partnership, which it said will allow more kids to attend Jewish schools.

Dawson Shooting Victim Leaves Hospital

MONTREAL — Leslie Markofsky, who was seriously injured in the Sept. 13 shooting incident at Dawson College, was released from hospital late last week.

He is the last of the 11 victims of the incident treated at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) to be released. Dr. Tarek Razek, MUHC's director of trauma, stated that Markofsky, 22, is making an excellent recovery.

His mother, Ida Markofsky, said the family is very grateful for community's support and expressed gratitude to the staff of the Montreal General Hospital of the MUHC for their skill and dedication in caring for all the Dawson.

Markofsky, a Concordia University student, was visiting Dawson on the day of the shooting. He sustained two bullet wounds to the head. Leslie Markofsky and his family were not giving interviews and asked the media to respect their privacy, according to an MUHC press release.

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New BJCC to be built on current site

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Plans to redevelop the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre have been changed so that the current facility will have to be torn down before the new one is built.

And once it is, fees to join will be higher, project officials say.

Zoning approval was received in late September, following a reworking of the plans – including relocation of the proposed new JCC building to approximately the location of the current BJCC site, in compliance with new criteria about building on flood plains that have been set by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

The BJCC will have to be torn down before its replacement is built during Phase 2 of the project, probably beginning in late 2008 or early 2009.

"I think in the end this turned out to be the right thing," said Peter Cohen, chair of the project's development committee. "I think the end result is a better one."

Members will have to make alternate arrangements during construction

An overflow crowd of about 120 people turned up for the 11th annual general meeting of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre on Oct. 29 to learn more about plans for the $100-million redevelopment of the site, which also includes the Lipa Green Building and the Leah Posluns Theatre.

The temporary closure of the JCC was not discussed, but it was mentioned on the last page of an information booklet handed out at the meeting.

Fielding a question about membership fees for the new JCC, Cohen indicated that they would be higher, but he didn't say by how much.

"The more people you have, the less you have to charge each person, but I hope you'll want to pay more, because what you'll get will be way better." He added, however, that fees have to be affordable in order for people to use the facility.

Sherry Kulman, the BJCC's executive director, promised members that inconvenience during construction would be minimized and communication about the project would be ongoing.

According to the booklet handed out at the meeting, alternate arrangements – currently in the works – will be offered to members while the new facility is being built, and an interim location will be sought for the BJCC's summer day camp.

The BJCC has more than 8,000 members, according to its website.

The 27-acre BJCC site is being redeveloped as part of the three-pronged "Tomorrow" project launched by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto in 2000. The working title for the BJCC/Lipa Green site is "Central Square," reflecting its position in the city 14.5 kilometres north of the Miles Nadal JCC, and 6.4 kilometres south of the new 50-acre Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan.

Construction at "Central Square" will begin with the expansion and renovation of the Lipa Green building, said Cohen.

It's expected to begin next fall and last 12 to 15 months. The entire redevelopment is expected to take three to five years.

As part of Phase 1, a separate 30,000-square-foot "family pavilion" will be built between the Lipa Green building and the existing BJCC to serve as an interim home for day care, seniors activities and administrative offices. It will also have a workout area, Cohen said.

Continued on page 26

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Open House
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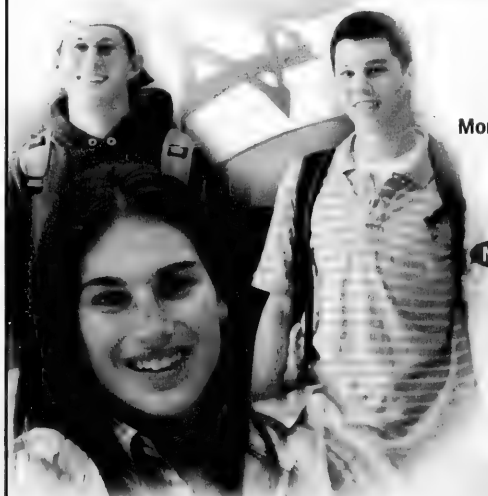
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Greater Toronto Area

Honouring our authors

From the editor's desk

Commanded by God, from the very first forming of His covenant with us at Sinai, to "teach [y]our children" the ways, mores, traditions and laws of the rather unique and thunderously reconfirmed relationship, the Jewish people quickly took to reading and writing.

From that point on, the Book became the beating heart of the Jewish people. To be sure, oral transmission was the main method of teaching. But reading abetted teaching, and the Book (scrolls, at first) was what our teachers and our parents read to their pupils and to their children.

Eventually, over the many unfolding years of our peoplehood, reading and its double corollary – studying and writing – became as deeply embedded into the Jewish nature as flying is to birds. In the same way that most birds could hardly exist, could hardly experience the fullness of who they are without flying, so, too, most must Jews read, write or study.

Our Wisdom literature spills over with countless references to books and our reverence for them as typified by the adoring statements of the 12th-century Spanish scholar, writer and translator Yehuda ibn Tibbon.

"Keep your books well. Keep them from… damage because they are your precious treasure." Or, "Review your books at the beginning of every month. Arrange them in good order so that you need not work too hard to find one when you have need of it."

The reverence for books, however, also extended to the writers of books. For without the travail and the dedication of the writer (scribe), few would be the books available to read.

Yehuda ibn Janah, a Spanish writer who lived a century before ibn Tibbon, expressed the feeling well: "If people knew the many difficulties involved in writing a book, they would not be so derisive of an author when they found trifling errors in his work."

The sentiments of ibn Tibbon and ibn Janah were not merely a product of their time, when books were lovingly and painstakingly written by hand. They were a clarion for all time. Even today, some eight centuries later, they characterize our attachment to books and authors.

Thus, in most communities, at some time in the year, one will find celebrations of authors and their works.

Jewish Book Month is currently underway in Montreal and the Jewish Book Fair, in Toronto. In the spirit of honouring and encouraging our authors and their works, especially young, local writers, I draw readers' attention to *The Rent Collector*, (Véhicule Press), the debut novel by Montrealer B. Glen Rotchin.

The narrative of the story concerns Gershon Stein, an observant Jew who manages a commercial building owned by his survivor father in what was once Montreal's storied garment industry district. The building at 99 Chabanel – a metaphor for much of the depictions in the novel – is laden with problems, creaky and needing of repair in virtually every physical aspect.

But the narrative concerning Stein's collection of the rents and his interactions with the diverse group of tenants, is only the ostensible, first layer of the novel's tale. Much like any garment whose visible, surface texture usually rests upon and is secured by many underlying materials, *The Rent Collector* is a many-textured, many-layered tale.

In addition to the story of the crumbling building and its complicated tenancies, the second layer of the narrative describes the way Stein contends with the many challenges of modern life. As if he were the young patriarchal Jacob wrestling with an angel, Stein is constantly wrestling in his mind with ideas, theories, doubts and beliefs.

As my colleague Janice Arnold observed in *The CJN* last December, "Rotchin has done a masterful job of putting himself inside a fatalistic religious Jew who lives in his head much of the time."

He has a deft manner of expression. His observations are incisive, even cuttingly so, yet conveyed very often delicately. The book is a serious exploration of life, and one can add, Jewish life's important themes. But Rotchin is also playful and quite imaginative with his use of stylistic devices. For example, the following appears in a scene he describes at the kolel (Stein's place of study), where Stein and his colleagues are discussing a local political problem concerning the eruv.

"What's next? I'll tell you. Kristallnacht. Quebec-style

"Gershon had no desire to participate in the debate. He sat back and listened skeptically. Grynzpan always had something meaty on his plate to complain about. For Heller, griping was a favourite pastime…"

Only a handful of readers would likely realize that the Nazis gave the order to launch Kristallnacht, after a young Jewish man, Hershel Grynzpan, shot a German consular official in Paris.

Rotchin has written a very good book.

I commend it to our readers. – ***MBD***

See JN

REMEMBERING RABIN

Israelis light memorial candles in Tel Aviv near the place where then-prime minister Yizhak Rabin was murdered, in commemoration of the 11th anniversary of Rabin's death according to Jewish calender.

[Israel Sun photo]

Greater Toronto Area

U.S. columnist paints dismal Mideast picture

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Syndicated *New York Times* foreign affairs columnist Thomas Friedman painted a dismal picture of Middle East developments in a recent talk at Holy Blossom Temple.

Here to deliver the first Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman lecture of the season, he described the U.S. presence in Iraq as a failure, called Islamic radicalism a greater threat than Soviet Communism and warned of the dangers of Arab rage.

Although he spoke in a folksy style, the message he conveyed was hard as stone and left little room for optimism.

Friedman, a self-described "liberal hawk," supported the 2003 allied invasion of Iraq. But three years on, he said, the U.S. mission to bring stability and democracy to Iraq has turned into "a complete, unmitigated disaster" as waves of violence and sectarianism convulse the Mideast country.

Friedman suggested that the Bush administration did not realize how broken Iraq was on the eve of the invasion, adding that Saddam Hussein's brutal rule and years of United Nations economic sanctions had a devastating effect on that country.

Confessing that he is at a loss at what can be done to improve the currently bleak situation, Friedman said that the United States should now determine whether its Iraqi partners share its goal of creating a multi-ethnic, democratic society in Iraq.

But in his opinion, the minority Sunnis seek the restoration of old-style Baathism, while the majority Shiites aspire to establish an Islamic regime modelled after Iran.

Friedman said that he will know whether the United States has achieved its objectives in Iraq when a Muslim dissident like novelist Salman Rushdie, who has a price on his head thanks to an Iranian religious edict, can openly deliver a lecture in Baghdad without being threatened.

In a stinging critique of American policy in the Arab world, Friedman said that the United States has all too often treated Arab oil producers as "a collection of big gas stations" whose function is to keep the pumps open, maintain low prices, be "nice" to Jews and leave Israel alone.

Saying that the forces of "bin Ladenism," or Muslim extremism, pose a greater threat to U.S. interests than Cold War communism, Friedman added that Islamic radicals are more dangerous because the Soviet Union was "deterrable" while Islamists are largely "undeterrable."

This is the case, because Soviet leaders loved life more than death, while Islamic fundamentalists are ready to kill themselves at the drop of a hat, he said.

In a deeply pessimistic assessment of undercurrents in the contemporary Arab world, Friedman talked about the population explosion, the high youth unemployment rate, the economic stagnancy, the widespread illiteracy, the lack of freedom and the yawning gap between Islam's exalted view of itself and the backwardness of the region.

Friedman said that radical Islamic preachers and rabble-rousers exploit the pent-up anger and humiliation caused by this sorry state of affairs.

The Sept. 11 hijackers – the "people of mass destruction" – emerged precisely from this milieu, he noted.

Friedman said that the Arab-Muslim world is in a dysfunctional state today, and that the United States has a profound interest in trying to improve conditions there.

Weizmann Institute program focuses on alternative energy

By MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Between the mercurial swings of oil prices and the rising use of non-renewable energy, the world often finds itself fuming over fossil fuels.

To help deal with these problems, the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel has launched a new endeavour called the Alternative Energy Initiative, which focuses on innovative research to develop sustainable and alternative forms of energy.

The project was officially kicked off at the Park Hyatt Hotel in Toronto recently at the national annual meeting of the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science.

The meeting celebrated two landmark contributions to the initiative – $5 million from Israeli philanthropist Yossie Hollander and $1 million from Canadian businessman H. Thomas Beck, the former chairman of the board of Weizmann's Canadian society.

"I donated these funds to make sure we will continue to be a leading institution in alternative energy, a matter that is so crucial," Beck said.

The Weizmann institute seeks to raise $20 million for the initiative.

Funds will go toward a variety of research areas, including solar energy, plant sciences and biomass, high-energy physics and theoretical work, such as energy analysis and mathematical modelling.

Energy projects involving Canadians have deep roots at Weizmann.

In the early 1980s, the Canadian Institute for Energies and Applied Research at Weizmann was created, helping to build a solar tower on the research campus.

At that time, alternative forms of energy were rather new and cutting edge, helping the institute get an early start in a field that is skyrocketing today.

"Weizmann is one of the few organizations in the world that has more than 25 years experience dealing with solar energy and other alternative sources of energy," noted Hollander.

"That's why it's an excellent place for this initiative, and our goal is to get more and more people working on it, so that the next generation of students will be drawn to it."

Hollander added that the politics and economics of oil affect Israel's security, making the development of alternative energy particularly important for Israel.

"With trillions of dollars going to [oil producing] countries that don't want Israel around, that money is dangerous," Hollander said. "For me, this project is therefore urgent."

Also at the meeting was the president-elect of the Weizmann Institute of Science, professor Daniel Zajfman.

The particle physics expert outlined Weizmann's main objectives, including attracting more highly qualified students; enhancing research in biomatics, biotechnology, astrophysics and water and climate; and building new facilities at the institute.

"With 2,500 people on campus, Weizmann has a strong multidisciplinary research, strong international ties and excellent infrastructure," Zajfman said. "For the future, our three pillars will be our people, our areas of research and our facilities."

For more information, visit www.weizmann.ca.

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Darchei Noam breaks ground for its new home

Philanthropist underwrites half of $6.4-million project

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Aside from the actual breaking of the ground, most of the formalities for the symbolic Oct. 29 groundbreaking ceremony at Congregation Darchei Noam, Toronto's only Reconstructionist congregation, had to be moved indoors because of high winds.

But an estimated 300 shul members, joined by local rabbis and politicians, generated their own warmth as they celebrated the acquisition and renovation of their own building for the first time in their congregation's 32-year history.

"The joy was overwhelming," said Rabbi Tina Grimberg, who has led Darchei Noam for the past four years.

The congregation has been meeting in rented premises in the B'nai Brith Canada building on Hove Street since 1989. Two years ago, Darchei Noam bought Adath Sholom Synagogue's nearby building, located at 864 Sheppard Ave. W. (Adath Sholom has since merged with Beth Tikvah Synagogue.)

The building, which is more than 30 years old, will undergo a major renovation and expansion, with the help of an unconventional capital campaign that raised $6.4 million in a little more than a year. Philanthropist Leslie Dan and his wife Anna, who had no previous ties to the synagogue, are donating $3.2 million. The rest of the money was raised among congregants.

The renovation is expected to be completed before December 2007.

Six months ago Dan – who founded the generic drug company Novopharm Limited – didn't even know the synagogue existed, he told *The CJN*. He attended services after being approached about the plans, and was impressed by four things, he said.

Among them was the warmth of Rabbi Grimberg as she led the service. The rabbi, who has been with the congregation for four years, "reaches out and creates an atmosphere of study, prayer and camaraderie," said Dan. "It's just nice to be there."

He also cited the vibrancy of the 340-family congregation, the variety of its programs, and the number of small children he saw participating in services.

Rabbi Grimberg said the congregation is "enormously committed" to children and social justice. She noted that children were among those consulted about what they would like to see in the new building.

Dan, who has also provided significant funding for Orthodox and Reform congregations, said he likes to "see the Jewish people come back to Judaism."

Leslie Dan

After touring the Adath Shalom building in June, he challenged the congregation to upgrade its architectural plans, and tripled his initial commitment of $1 million when he saw the new design.

Now Darchei Noam will be able to finish both the interior and exterior of the building "to a very high level," said Alan Levine, co-chair of the synagogue's capital campaign and chair of the construction committee.

In addition to a new front lobby and new floor that will be added above the existing building to house a light-filled sanctuary, the renovated synagogue, designed by Quadrangle Architects, will feature an exterior of glass and Jerusalem stone.

The current sanctuary will become a social hall, and the redone building will be fully accessible, with more than 20,000 square feet of space. Also, Levine said, instead of having to use existing mechanical, plumbing and electrical fixtures, new ones can be incorporated that are "much more environmentally respectful."

Fundraising for the project did not involve a building levy or designated lead donors within the congregation, Levine said.

Instead, he explained – following "one of the key principles of Reconstructionism" – fundraisers used a "very democratic and volunteer-oriented approach" in which a team of canvassers visited members who had been affiliated with the synagogue at least one year, at home, to discuss the project.

Eighty-eight per cent responded by contributing money, including 80 households who gave $10,000 or more.

"Our largest [member] donation was $330,000, which by fundraising standards is a very small percentage," said Levine. "For your lead donor to give 10 per cent and [you] to still achieve your goal is very unusual. Usually you need the lead donor to give 25 or even 50 per cent."

"We're all incredibly excited [about the building], but we're more excited for the future of the community," said Darchei Noam's president Michael Mitchell. "It's a pretty warm and close-knit place. We intend it to stay that way."

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PROJECT NORTHERN RECOVERY

A Time to Rebuild

After a nightmare summer spent in bomb shelters, life is looking up again for Ilanit Sigati.

The 27 year-old third year student at northern Israel's Tel-Hai College in Upper Galilee is among hundreds receiving scholarships from the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), funded by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and other Jewish federations.

During this summer's Hezbollah rocket onslaught that caused death, destruction and trauma across northern Israel, Ilanit stayed on the battle line in Kiryat Shmona to be close to her boyfriend who was serving in a reserve combat unit. But she didn't earn any money toward her college tuition. So UJA Federation and the Jewish Agency stepped in so that Ilanit could return to school.

Now, Project Northern Recovery, the next phase of Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, is underway to restore normal life for thousands like Ilanit. To compensate victims of terror. To provide loans for small businesses on the brink of bankruptcy. To repair and re-equip community facilities and to strengthen northern Israel so that families stay in the area.

Today, the emergency facing northern Israel is far from over and critical needs remain.

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Grotesque is now the Iranian norm

Abdellah Derkaoui has now ascended to the realm of celebrity. He has won his moment of fame, not to mention a prize of $12,000 (US) and the homeric accolades and smug adoration of the Iranian government. He is the sharp-eyed and keen-witted cartoonist from Morocco whose drawing was selected as the winning entry in Iran's Holocaust denial cartoon contest.

The Derkaoui opus that the judges considered worthiest above all others was a depiction of an Israeli crane piling large cement blocks on Israel's security wall obscuring the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. A stylization of the Auschwitz concentration camp appears on the wall.

Israel as Nazi Germany was the message of Derkaoui's drawing. This was an odd choice as winner of a contest devoted to denying the historicity of the Holocaust. Indeed, in his own clumsy, ignorant appropriation of the death camp imagery, Derkaoui actually confirmed the historic significance and unique nature of the Holocaust. That he should have been rewarded rather than punished by the Iranian initiators and sponsors of the contest demonstrates how simple and uncluttered the sole objective of the contest and subsequent exhibit of the cartoons was: to incite hatred and contempt for the Jewish state.

Derkaoui's cartoon was named the winner from among 204 works submitted from Iran and abroad that are currently on display in the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts. It should also be mentioned that there were winners of lesser distinctions and prizes. Together, they formed a wide, international, jagged arc of Holocaust deniers. Carlos Latuff from Brazil and A. Chard from France shared second prize of $8,000, while Shahram Rezai of Iran received $5,000 for third place.

The curator of the display, Masoud Shojai, shed further light on the objectives of the contest launched by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Shojai was so pleased to be among the arbiters of Iranian cultural and creative tastes that he announced the contest would be an annual event. "Actually, we will continue until the destruction of Israel," he said.

Thus, the contest was less an artistic exercise in correcting the historic record than it was an exercise in polemics and propaganda – indeed, it was a worthy inheritor of the frenzied and hateful labours of Julius Streicher for *Der Sturmer*.

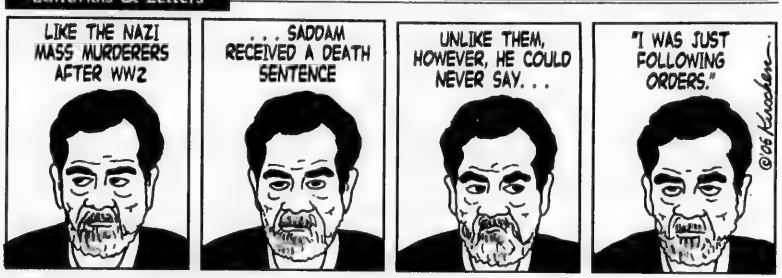
The winners of Ahmadinejad's contest were announced one week before the commemoration of Kristallnacht.

It was in the nighttime and early morning of Nov. 9 and 10, some 68 years ago, that the Nazis unleashed their thugs upon the Jews of Germany. More than 1,000 synagogues were burned to the ground; 91 Jews were killed, and some 30,000 men and boys were rounded up and sent to concentration camps. It was ghoulish, violent grotesquerie finally raised to national policy. Political and historic grotesquerie, alas, has now become the norm in Iran. Pray that it does not hit the streets.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of Israel's Kach party and the Jewish Defence League, was arrested in Toronto for being in Canada without permission. He got a standing ovation at a local shul from 400 people for a speech advocating Israel's annexation of the West Bank and expelling Arabs from Israeli-held territory. He left Canada the next day, before an immigration hearing.

Dry Bones JUDGEMENT



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March awakened Zionist feelings

I am a Holocaust survivor who participated in the March of the Living to Poland and Israel in April 2006. My mission was to transmit my experience of the Shoah – my life as a very young living person for six years under brutal German occupation – to 174 Toronto students who were part of the march.

I walked the streets of Warsaw, Krakow, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Lublin, Majdanek, Treblinka, Tanov and Belzec. If only, I thought, the silent streets could talk and cry for our grandparents and so many other relatives, perhaps we could experience some consolation.

In my younger days, immediately following my liberation I became a Zionist. I was recruited by the Irgun and worked tirelessly for the cause in Italy for a number of years, until events forced my life in a different direction. After spending a week in Poland and Israel with the young students, my Zionist feelings were awakened. I am willing to work for Israel – the protector of all Jews – so the Holocaust and events like in past will never happen again.

Poland was very hard for me. All the time, when we were there, I was crying on the inside. But I did not show it, because I had to be strong for the younger generation who looked to me for support.

I feel every Jewish person born in North America should participate in the March of the Living. The trip helps younger people understand their roots as well as the suffering experienced by their ancestors during the Nazi years.

I will be forever grateful to the organizers of the March of the Living for taking me to the apartment in Lublin where I lived with my parents and family 69 years ago.

I never believed that one day I would march on the main streets of Warsaw with 174 Jewish young adults and chaperones and singing Hebrew songs.

The week in Israel was among the happiest moments of our trip. Visiting Mount Zion and the new Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial were most dramatic and emotional moments for me.

I will never forget the two weeks of the March of the Living.

Amek A. Adler
Thornhill

* * *

Civil right prevails over religious practice

The Court of Appeal in Quebec in its decision in the case brought by Stephanie Bruker appears to have missed the point of her case ("Supreme Court to hear agunah damages case," *CJN*, Oct. 26).

The written document she obtained did not require the court to force any religious act or decree, or to force any person or tribunal to issue a *get*. The contract was a promise be the husband to "apply" to the religious tribunal to obtain a *get*. This created a civil right in the wife to obtain access to the tribunal.

The contract thus had nothing to do with the religious practice or the decision of the tribunal. The contract did not force anyone to issue a *get*. It only required the husband to live up to a promise he made in a written contract to provide access to the tribunal, if his wife so required.

In Canada, where a civil right and a religious practice, or even a so-called "right," are in conflict, the civil right must prevail. For instance, if in a particular religion it's necessary for a husband to beat his wife to show his superior position, in Canada, that would still be an assault, and the religious principle would give way to the civil right.

It has taken centuries for the principle of separation of church and state to become entrenched in our law, and this decision reverses this well-established law. Therefore not only should the wife be entitled to damages, but also to specific performance, since the act of applying was promised, and since there is no other comparable act that will achieve the purpose, the husband should be required to fulfil his promise, and not be able to use his sole application right, to obtain any collateral advantage.

The basic principle of Jewish law, is to promote the purpose of justice. The trial judge achieved this purpose. Hopefully his decision will be confirmed and the decision of the Court of Appeal reversed.

Charles B. Cohen
Toronto

* * *

'Lawyers without Rights' exhibit

It was quite interesting to read the Perspectives article "Lawyers without rights" (*CJN*, Oct. 26).

And while mention was made of the exhibit's Toronto showing, I am afraid that justice wasn't really given to the full extent of the exhibition's run in Canada.

Specifically, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies was instrumental in bringing this exhibit to Canada in, not only Toronto, but also Montreal and Ottawa. Furthermore, this included, for the first time, translating the panels into French, so it could be understood by all Canadians.

Partnering with us were not only the German Federal Bar and the Israel Bar Association, but also the German and Israeli embassies and consulates in the various cities, as well as the Holocaust committees in Montreal and Toronto and the respective locations: Université de Québec à Montréal, Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto and Ottawa City Hall.

Leo Adler
Director of National Affairs
Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

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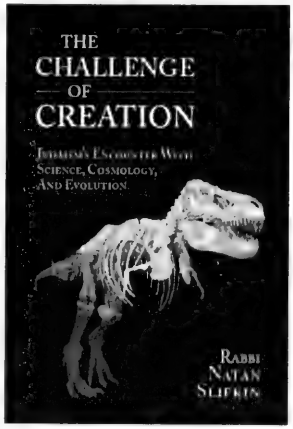
Perspectives

In the beginning: science, Genesis and the wondering Jew

By PAUL SHAVIV

Whether we read the tangled tales of our "founding family," or the mystical account of the origins of morality in the Garden of Eden, Genesis has always been the most engaging and the most challenging of the Five Books of Moses. But no part of it has exercised more attention than the account of Creation described in its opening 34 verses.

Way back, I was comfortable in understanding Genesis – Bereshit – as a majestic, spiritual account of Creation, containing in its short texts infinite spiritual truths. It was not a literal account. In the mid-1960s I first encountered Lubavitch-Chabad Chassidim who argued that the world was exactly five-thousand-and-some years old, and that God created fossils. But no one I knew – including several Orthodox rabbis took them seriously. It was an exotic sideshow to the Chabad "gig," which we all loved, in its uncomplicated, pre-Messianic incarnation.



A little later on, I encountered the "Orthodox Jewish scientists," who sought to demonstrate by elaborate interpretations that the text of the Bible did not contradict any scientific theory. It was noticeable that as the scientific theories changed, so did the explanations. While, again, the arguments were sometimes fascinating, I could never understand why they were necessary. But every year, I loved those few weeks in the fall when the New Year began with the reading of the powerful account of the beginnings of the world as we know it. I could listen to Bereshit being read from the Torah without being troubled.

I am still not troubled, but others are troubling me. For in today's Orthodox community, there are strong and insistent voices saying that you have to believe the world is 5767 years old or you are a heretic, with all the exclusions that are implied. Whether you are meticulous in observing the commandments or not is no longer a sufficient yardstick.

As has been reported in these columns before, the books of Rabbi Natan Slifkin are at the centre of the current controversy. Rabbi Slifkin is a remarkable personality, a brilliant scholar and, as is increasingly evident, a very, very brave and principled young man (he is in his early 30s).

Fascinated with animals since his childhood, and despite the fact that he has no university education, he amassed huge expertise in and enthusiasm for any and every connection between the animal world and Jewish tradition (see his website, www.zootorah.com). This seems to have led him to consider the question of evolution and the question of how to understand the biblical account of Creation from within a traditional framework. His published answers, firmly grounded within classic Jewish sources of impeccable Orthodoxy, nevertheless were not fashionable. The fact that he comes from within the "yeshiva world" itself seems to have particularly annoyed his detractors.

His rational but unfashionable views suggest that the struggle to "reconcile" science and Genesis is essentially superfluous. Since the biblical account of Creation is not, and was never meant to be, a literal historic or scientific account, the methodologies based on "science" or "history" are irrelevant to the Torah text. He goes one step further and embraces science as a wholly legitimate branch of knowledge, capable of illuminating our vision of the world in spiritual as well as utilitarian ways.

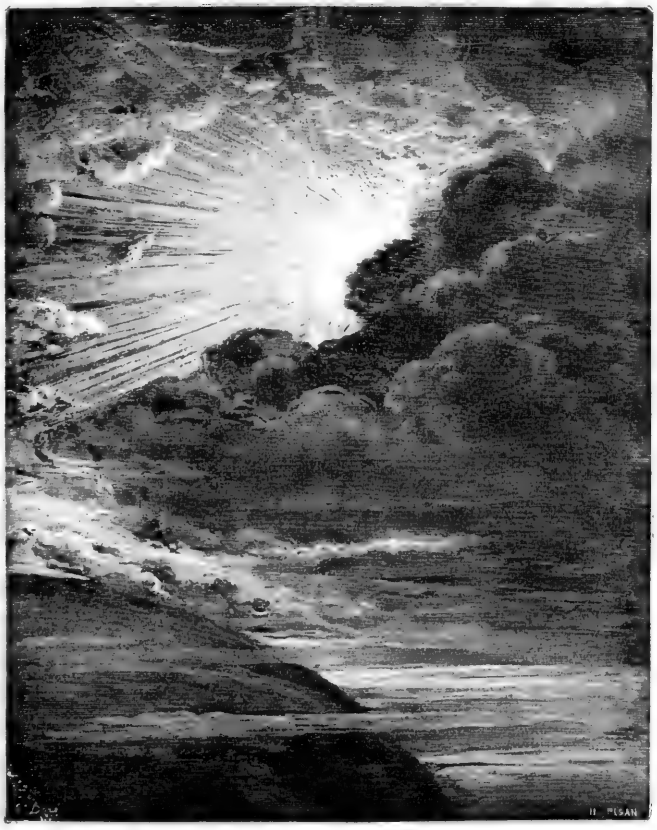
His new book, *The Challenge of Creation* (Yashar Books), a much-expanded and revised version of an earlier work, discusses three major issues – the overall relationship between science and religion, our understanding of Genesis and our understanding of evolution.

It is closely argued and well-written, and not without flashes of humour here and there. The first two chapters deal with the reciprocal relationship between the search for universal structure in the last 200 years of scientific theory, and monotheism. They are riveting – beautifully written and easy to understand.

Rabbi Slifkin goes on to deal with the grounds for conflict between scientific and religious systems and the limits (or otherwise) of religious enquiry. Part 2 of the book deals comprehensively with Jewish approaches to Creation. He surveys – patiently – each of the "literalist" defences of the biblical text – the previously mentioned "God created fossils" approach (first advanced by a 19th-century Anglican clergyman), the "previous worlds" approach, the popular "length of the day in Genesis" approach, and others.

He goes on to show, however, that the recognized boundaries of traditional Jewish belief have always included the legitimate option to regard the account of Creation in the Torah as a deeply spiritual but symbolic and not literal allegory. A secondary, but no less important argument, demonstrates that rabbis have always been ready to reconsider their beliefs according to the evidence or theories of different times and places. The validation of the ability to change, adapt and reinterpret has enabled Jews to encounter and respond to different challenges and cultural/philosophical currents in many different times and places.

Part 3 discusses evolution from a conceptual-theological point of view, surveys how Jews (and Christians) responded to Darwin, and shows – again – that a respectable group of impeccably Orthodox rabbis saw no problem in accepting the theory of evolution.



The Creation of Light **by Gustave Doré (1833 — 1883)** **[H. Pisan engraver]**

The Challenge of Creation is important for two reasons.

The first is that it powerfully and rationally argues that to be Orthodox need not indeed, must not – mean abandoning reason, nor need it mean rejecting science. That is as indicated – a courageous statement in an Orthodox world that has been hurtling in the opposite direction for the last 30 years or so.

Rabbi Slifkin's courage brought a firestorm down on his head. But his book is a powerful injection of calm common sense into an increasingly eccentric community. The small group of Orthodox who yearn to hear voices in Orthodoxy to whom we can relate – we feel like one of Rabbi Slifkin's ecologically endangered species – owe Rabbi Slifkin a huge thank you.

The second, less immediately apparent reason, is that it is a practical complement to recent, and important, books by Menachem Kellner and Marc Shapiro, demonstrating that the parameters of Jewish definition have always been fixed by tests of practice, not tests of belief. Being Jewish was always about what you did, not what you thought. That idea sharply distinguished Judaism from most branches of Christianity, whose test of faith was belief, and it can only be conjectured whether those who want to reverse those parameters actually understand what damage they are doing. (Given the equally strong movement against the study of Jewish history in the same circles, it is entirely possible that they don't.)

You may agree or disagree with Rabbi Slifkin. His book is the most intelligent and interesting I have read on the subject, although I do not share all of his beliefs or all of his approach. It is a remarkable achievement for a young scholar. But he is also making an important statement about the nature of discourse and the acceptable process of "*machlokes l'shem shamayim* – argument for the sake of Heaven" in the contemporary world. This civilized, respectful, erudite, well-argued, beautifully structured book is a revelation in a controversy that has been marked by crude and adversarial public mud-slinging. His opponents could learn major lessons from him in *derech eretz*, let alone in Torah.

Paul Shaviv is the director of education of the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

Opinions

Londonistan and Eurabia

Melanie Phillips' *Londonistan* (Encounter Books, 2006) and Bat Ye'or's *Eurabia: The Euro-Arab Axis* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2005) share common themes. Both address the impact of immigrant Arab populations in Europe – with *Londonistan* mostly reflecting somewhat more recent manifestations of the political and sociocultural phenomena that were so comprehensively described in Bat Ye'or's earlier publication.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

The notion of Eurabia in fact pre-dates the author's analysis of it by many years. The term was first used in the 1970s as the title of a journal that was edited by the president of what was then known as the Association of Franco-Arab Solidarity.

As explained by Andrew Bostom (*American Thinker*, Nov. 15, 2005), "the articles and editorials in that publication called for common Euro-Arab positions at every level – social, economic, commercial – and were contingent upon the fundamental political condition of European support for the Arab (and non-Arab) Muslim *umma*'s jihad against Israel."

Bostom comments further that "these concrete proposals were not the musings of isolated theorists – they in fact represented policy decisions conceived in conjunction with, and actualized by, European state leaders, their ministers of foreign affairs, and European parliamentarians."

For more than 30 years, the Euro-Arab Dialogue (EAD), as it's been termed, has provided the framework for an essentially anti-Zionist (and anti-American) collaboration between members of the European Community (later the European Union) and their counterparts in the Arab League.

And, as a not unexpected consequence of an emerging coziness, Europe opened its doors to mass migrations from Arab countries, thereby – wittingly or unwittingly – promoting a powerful Muslim presence across the continent. It's only within the past few years that the blinkers have come off and, in the face of increasing violence spawned by Islamic extremism, there seems now to be at least some realization that the alliance with Arabia was grossly misguided.

But even if European leaders do eventually emerge from their stupor, it's likely that the enmity towards Israel that was so integral to the EAD will not readily be dispelled. Sadly, such attitudes are also prevalent in a majority of European society in general. As elegantly stated by Phillips in *Londonistan*, "the British have largely swallowed Muslim and Arab propaganda, which has denied historical evidence, replaced it by mythology, lies, and libels, and reversed victim and oppressor in the Middle East conflict."

Londonistan is a relatively easy read; *Eurabia* is longer and a bit ponderous. However the two books complement each other in providing fascinating insights into the pervasive complacency of a Europe that has lost its backbone and steered its moral compass in the direction of appeasement and self deprecation. The lessons for North America are clear. Hopefully it's not too late to heed them.

Oh, that we were normal

Now and then, I get to thinking about how exceptional Israel is, and how, after nearly 60 years of existence, we are anything but the "normal" people we strove to become.

Take, for instance, something so elementary, so fundamental to normalcy and societal health as a precise knowledge of where one's country actually is. Due to a lack of willingness to make the hard decisions regarding what territories under our rule will remain ours, and which of them will not, we are suspended in a permanent state of limbo. For although a firm and courageous stand was taken on Gaza last year, the constant zigzagging in the present government's policy, talking boldly as it did in the beginning of "consolidation" and a two-state solution, only to retreat lately into almost total silence on these subjects, is merely one more manifestation of the same malady that has afflicted Israel for a generation – chronic indecision.

Ross Culiner in Jerusalem

And so Palestinians and Israelis continue to live physically side by side, yet in starkly differing realities with very different rights and freedoms. For we have yet to settle, even among ourselves, whether the West Bank is ours or theirs; whether to cherish it eternally as our Jewish patrimony, or flee from its destructive power; or whether it ought to be energetically annexed, settled and developed, or speedily abandoned.

This unnatural condition of borderless sovereignty continues to undermine our psychological well-being and tarnish the image of democratic integrity we seek to cultivate. And we should not be surprised, therefore, when foreigners call into question the sincerity of our stated aim to build a just and decent society along western lines.

But this is only one aspect of Israel's exceptionalness. There are others. Take, for instance, the intimate engagement of world Jewry in the internal workings of the state, and the far-reaching contribution of the Jewish communities everywhere to its social and economic development. This unparalleled involvement of an external population in the domestic life of a country is part and parcel of the uniqueness of being Jewish, of affiliations characterized by a sense of shared fate and deep identification.

The numerous commemorative plaques dotting the local landscape, the majority of them paying tribute to the generosity of Jews elsewhere, is the hard evidence of the closely-knit ties linking outside with inside. Indeed, the lines of divide can be extremely fuzzy. Witness, for example, the importance that Israeli politicians attach to fundraising and campaigning among Jewish supporters overseas, and the access that foreign Jews sometimes have to the innermost circles of Israeli political power. Though not necessarily commendable in every instance, it's a reflection of the special character of the Jewish people.

Then there are the diverse perceptions of Israel, which are often anything but "normal." More often than not, attitudes are overly passionate and lacking in balance, neutrality or objectivity. They may vary from, at one extreme, feelings of uncompromising hatred toward the Jewish state, vilification of it and even repudiation of its basic right to exist, to an uncritical, even blind support for it at the other extreme.

Adherents of certain evangelical Christian churches, for instance, are prone to view the modern Jewish national experience in exuberantly apocalyptic terms, as the pivotal link in a drama of universal redemption. At the same time, other Christian churches and bodies denounce the tiny country's policies and conduct with equal zeal, and their overly strident condemnations seem to betray an underlying theological discomfort with the very idea of a thriving Jewish political entity in their Holy Land.

Let's sum things up with a brief illustration: the State of Israel, within borders as yet to be defined or located even by its own citizenry, whose very legitimacy and right to exist is still widely called into question, is governed from a capital that practically no country recognizes – called Jerusalem – and from a house of parliament, the Knesset, paid for by a foreign national named Rothschild, on a plot of land leased to it by the official church of Greece which, if it so wished, could theoretically cancel the contract tomorrow and evict our legislature.

What's so terribly abnormal about that?

Culiner@netvision.net.il

The source of Ignatieff's myths

As an Israeli, I don't have a horse in the race between Canada's major political parties and their leaders. But when the contest extends to allegations related to human rights, as in the case of Michael Ignatieff's offhand reference to alleged Israel "war crimes" during the recent bitter conflict against Hezbollah, it gets my attention.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

Ignatieff's statements, or rather misstatements, are important not only because he's a contender for the leadership of the Liberal Party, but also due to his background as a noted academic specializing in human rights. Seen as a neutral expert, his words on this topic carry a great deal of weight.

And this is precisely the problem. Ignatieff's condemnation of Israeli actions betrayed an ignorance of the biases that have become prevalent in the human rights business. In response to the criticism, Ignatieff said he was merely repeating "responsible criticism" made by groups such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch (HRW).

An expert in human rights law should have known that the leaders of these groups and their reports are political and lack credibility (to understate the case), particularly with respect to Israel. As noted by Canadian MP Irwin Cotler, a former justice minister and law professor, as well as another world-renowned expert in this area, human rights is the religion of the 21st century. Political superpowers with huge budgets measured in tens of millions of dollars are the churches, and as in other religions, the power of dogma and belief can be more important than logic and accuracy. This particular dogma includes a great deal of anti-democratic, anti-American and anti-Israel rhetoric.

In the case cited by Ignatieff, HRW and Amnesty condemned Israel for a missile attack on a Hezbollah stronghold in southern Lebanon known as Qana. Lebanese sources at first claimed that more than 50 civilians had died, and this was repeated without question in HRW's press release and by officials in interviews. HRW later lowered the number of alleged victims to 28, but the information was no more reliable. Some of the caskets prepared for burial were draped with Hezbollah flags, and Lebanese reported that some of the bodies were brought in from outside Qana.

In fact, HRW and Amnesty officials have no idea what really happened at Qana. The best they could do was to repeat the claims of "eyewitnesses" who may or may not be inventing a tale designed to promote the political war against Israel. While Israeli civilians were bombarded by almost 4,000 rockets, HRW's "researchers" claimed to have found no cases in which Hezbollah deliberately hid weapons or launched attacks from houses, schools, fields, stores, or mosques. Having already found Israel guilty, they were not looking very hard.

This lack of credibility or consistency is not new – as an expert, Ignatieff should have known the details. For more than a decade, Amnesty and HRW leaders have been involved in campaigns to denounce Israel as one of the worst human rights violators in the world. In the Middle East, the main focus of their publications is not Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria, Libya or the suicide bombers sent by Palestinian leaders, but rather the one democracy in the region – Israel.

HRW and Amnesty were also active participants in the infamous NGO forum of the 2001 Durban UN conference on "racism and xenophobia." The Canadian government (particularly officials in Foreign Affairs) actively promoted this conference, ignoring warnings that it would be abused to demonize Israel.

Since then, the participants have continued to promote the Durban agenda, claiming military expertise that they do not have and exploiting the rhetoric of international law. In Lebanon, as during the Palestinian terror campaign that killed more than 1,000 Israelis, every defensive action was denounced as "indiscriminate" and every weapon was declared to be immoral. In contrast, it took HRW three months to finally discover that Hezbollah was using cluster bombs to hit Israeli cities (Amnesty was only two months behind).

In order to restore the moral basis of universal human rights, it's necessary to end the ease with which unsubstantiated allegations are repeated without question by journalists, academics and politicians. To undo some of the damage, Ignatieff should lead the way.

The Kirshner File

Kristallnacht was a prelude to the Holocaust

Martin Luther, the Protestant theologian and the leader of the German reformation movement, issued an infamous pastoral letter, *On the Jews and Their Lies*, in which he advised Germans to set synagogues on fire and cover the ruins with dirt.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Almost 400 years later, in 1938, his advice was heeded with a vengeance. On Nov. 10, Nazi stormtroopers – some in civilian clothes – and members of the Hitler Youth torched more than 1,000 shuls, ransacked thousands of Jewish-owned shops and homes, arrested 30,000 Jewish men between the ages of 16 and 60 and killed 91 Jews in the worst pogrom in modern European history.

Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass, was a watershed in the Nazi treatment of Jews. From that point, the position of Jews in Germany deteriorated rapidly and sharply.

Martin Gilbert, the British historian, examines this cataclysmic event in a sober, lucidly written book, *Kristallnacht: Prelude to Destruction* (HarperCollins), which is based on his own research, eyewitness testimonies and newspaper accounts.

Many books have been published about Kristallnacht, which set the stage for the deportation and mass murder of German and European Jews in the Holocaust. Although the topic has been heavily mined, Gilbert's relatively concise but comprehensive volume is a worthy addition to the genre.

The expulsion of Polish Jews from Germany and the assassination of a German diplomat in Paris were the twin catalysts of Kristallnacht.

On Oct. 18, 1938, on Adolf Hitler's orders, some 12,000 Polish Jews living in Germany legally were given less than a day to leave their homes. Four thousand Jews were admitted by Poland, but 8,000 were denied entry as they waited at the border.

On Nov. 3, a young man in Paris named Herschel Grynszpan received a postcard from his sister Berta, who, along with her parents, had been expelled from Germany two weeks earlier and now found themselves forlorn and abandoned.

The following day, he read a newspaper story about the plight of the deportees. In a vengeful rage, he bought a pistol.

On Nov. 7, he walked into the German embassy and shot the third secretary, Ernst von Rath. German newspapers denounced the shooting and the German government imposed collective measures against the Jewish community. It was announced that Jewish children could no longer attend "Aryan" schools and that Jewish newspapers and magazines had to cease publication immediately.

On Nov. 9, word reached Berlin that von Rath had died of his wounds. Josef Goebbels, the minister of propaganda, used his death to further pummel the Jews of Germany, who had been subjected to a flurry of anti-Semitic edicts since 1933, the year Hitler was appointed chancellor.

Gilbert flits from one city to the next as he describes the animosity that engulfed German Jews at the instigation of the Nazis.

In Berlin, where the most widely reported violence took place, a naive police lieutenant tried to stop goons from destroying the golden-domed Oranienburger Strasse synagogue. He said that it was a historic landmark, a protected municipal building. The hooligans left, but the police officer was reprimanded.

Smoke fills the synagogue in Baden-Baden.

Elsewhere in Germany's sophisticated capital, however, restraint was thrown out the window. As the correspondent of London's *Daily Telegraph* wrote, "Racial hatred and hysteria seemed to have taken complete control of otherwise decent people."

The U.S. consul in Leipzig reported that the city's three main synagogues "were irreparably gutted by flames." And in Baden-Baden, a Jewish doctor, Arthur Flehinger, was ordered to read passages from Hitler's *Mein Kampf* as the synagogue was readied for desecration.

In Dresden, firebombed by Allied aircraft in 1945, the famous Semper shul, built in a mixture of Byzantine and Moorish styles, was also set alight. When firemen arrived to douse the flames, the SS blocked their path. The mayor of Dresden then proclaimed that "the symbol of the hereditary racial enemy has finally been extinguished."

Greed and theft were part and parcel of Kristallnacht. Arthur Propp, a prosperous Jewish businessman in Konigsberg, was jailed and held imprisoned until he gave up his three properties.

Herschel Grynszpan

Goebbels ascribed Kristallnacht to the "healthy instincts" of Germans. "The German people is anti-Semitic," he wrote in a newspaper article.

Pouring salt on the wounds, the Nazi regime imposed further restrictions on the Jewish community and announced that all damage to Jewish property would have to be paid for by Jews themselves.

The ripples of Kristallnacht reached distant shores.

The American president, Franklin Roosevelt, said that German Jewish refugees already in the United States on visitors' visas could remain indefinitely. But Roosevelt, wary of an anti-Semitic backlash, did not increase the immigration quota.

The Canadian prime minister, William Mackenzie King, told Parliament that Canada – which had taken 6,000 Jewish refugees from Germany since 1933 – would not throw its doors wide open to refugees, but would deal with "special cases on their merits."

Britain was more generous, but the British colony of Bermuda did not admit a single Jewish refugee. Many countries turned away the refugees altogether.

But in the end, Kristallnacht had its greatest impact on Germany.

Shortly after the rampage, the Nazi authorities said that the 3,767 Jewish retail businesses in Berlin had either been transferred to "Aryan" control or closed down, and that Jewish physicians could not treat non-Jews.

In the face of this blatant discrimination, Jews emigrated in droves.

Nearly as many Jews, 120,000, left Germany until the outbreak of the war in 1939 as in the 5½ years before then (150,000), Gilbert says.

On Sept. 19, 1941, in a throwback to medieval times, all German Jews over the age of six were required to wear a yellow star.

A month later, the first deportation train from Germany, filled with 1,000 Jews from Hamburg, pulled into Minsk in Nazi-occupied Russia. Shortly afterward, 17,000 German Jews were deported to the Lodz ghetto in Poland.

Subsequently, Jews from Munich, Nuremberg, Stuttgart, Wurzburg, Furth and smaller towns were deported to the Lithuanian and Latvian cities of Kovno and Riga.

The first deportation of Berlin Jews directly to Auschwitz occurred on Jan. 12, 1943, a month before the surrender of German forces in Stalingrad.

Three of the most prominent members of the community – Rabbi Leo Baeck, Dr. Paul Eppstein and Philip Kusover – were deported to Theresienstadt in the same month.

One of the last deportations took place on April 20, 1943, when 150 youngsters were sent to Auschwitz. They had been living on a farm in preparation for immigration to Palestine, a British Mandate.

Germans who tried to help Jews imperilled themselves. Emmy Erdman, a resident of Trier, gave her identity card to a Jewish friend, who survived the war. Erdman herself was executed.

Such were the tragedies unleashed by Kristallnacht.

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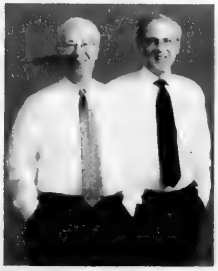

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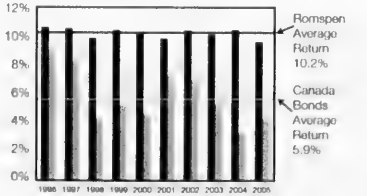

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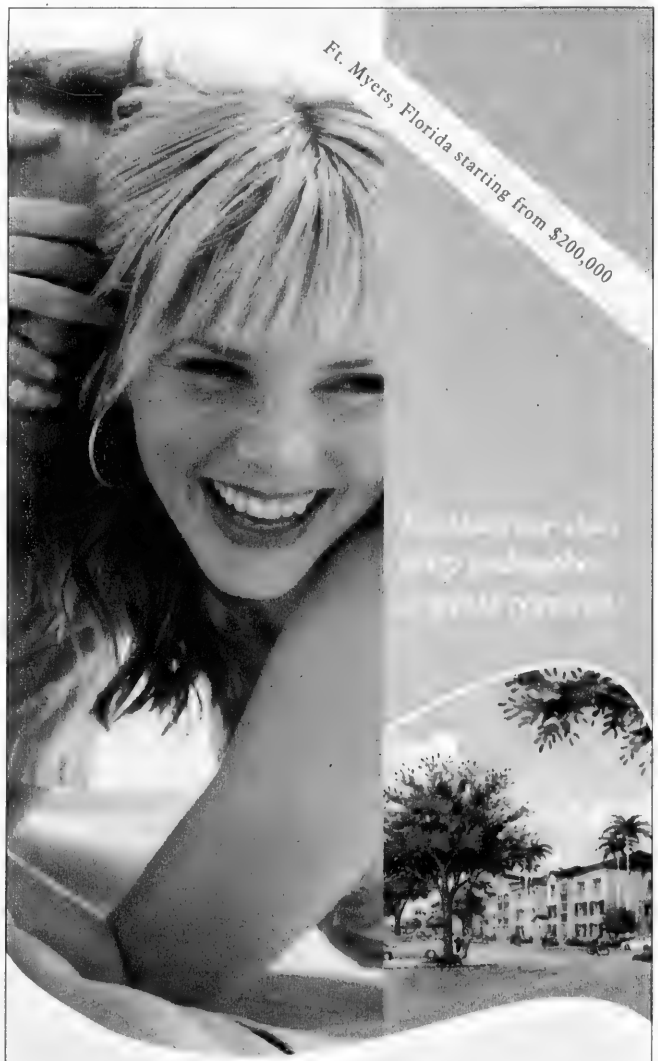

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Greater Toronto Area

Women work for release of missing soldiers

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Helen Cohen and Renanah Goldhar first met when Cohen saw Goldhar standing in the pouring rain collecting signatures for a petition to return the bodies of missing Israeli soldiers.

"I felt badly for her, and I had to introduce myself. She felt so strongly about the issue," says Cohen.

They joined forces and eventually formed the organization Mothers for MIAs, an "informal" group – they are its only two members – that does what it can to spread the word about the soldiers.

Renanah Goldhar and Helen Cohen [Carolyn Blackman photo]

Their inspiration, they say, is Chaim Avraham, father of Benny, one of three soldiers kidnapped and murdered by Hezbollah in October 2000, who they heard speak in Toronto after his son was abducted.

"I can't imagine the fortitude it takes for him to speak out [on his son's behalf and on behalf of all the missing soldiers,]" says Cohen.

"He wanted support in putting pressure on the government, and we really hear him."

In 2001, the pair collected about 10,000 signatures and submitted the petition to Ottawa. "That was all without a formal meeting," Goldhar says.

The petition was on behalf of eight soldiers declared missing in action in or around Lebanon since 1982.

Another petition acknowledges the one from 2001, and thanks the government, along with other governments and international humanitarian organizations, for all of their efforts on the soldiers' behalf, resulting in the return of the remains of three of the MIAs – Omar Souwad, Benny Avraham and Adi Avitan – to their families for proper burial in January 2004.

This petition demands that the status of the five remaining MIAs be ascertained: Yehuda Katz, Tzvi Feldman and Zachary Baumel, all missing since 1982; Ron Arad, missing since 1986; and Guy Hever, missing since 1997

Cohen and Goldhar are also collecting signatures for the return of the remains of Eli Cohen, who was tortured, tried, and convicted as a Mossad agent by the Syrian government, and then hanged in 1965; and on behalf of Gilad Shalit, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, who were abducted this past summer.

The women are connected to Born to Freedom, an Israeli organization that is offering a $10 million reward for the return of missing Israeli soldiers.

"[Our support] means so much to them. They thought they were working in a vacuum," says Cohen.

Goldhar says that what is "absolutely crucial is that the [soldiers] who have been missing since before this summer come back right in front of our eyes.

"These were young boys who were out there for us. I shudder to contemplate the concept of turning away from our own children."

She adds: "Imagine a society that sacrifices its children for its own use without care for their welfare. We want to get the word out and get these guys back."

Working for the soldiers' return is a long and arduous process, Cohen says, "but we feel like we're helping. It's important for our children to see the work we're doing."

They're busy with it all the time, she says. "We've taken copies of petitions to stores on Bathurst Street and to Hebrew day schools. Before [the High Holy Days], we sent out packages to a number of synagogues. We now have to follow them up."

Last summer, she says, they sold rubber bracelets and sent the proceeds to Israel.

Goldhar would like to see an empty seat at every Sabbath and holiday table "to remind us of these boys. Picture a family table that has a sibling missing. If we don't get fully involved in an issue, our Jewish soul dies."

Cohen, who goes to Israel at least twice a year, says that when things go badly for Israel, they will go badly for Jews everywhere. "What we are doing, is practical and 'hearts-on.'

"We're doing so little in the scheme of things, but we're trying to be useful. We're keeping these people in mind," she says.

Redeeming prisoners is a higher mitzvah than keeping Shabbat, Goldhar says.

Rae launches Lawyers Without Rights exhibit

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Former Ontario premier Bob Rae kicked off the 26th annual Holocaust Education Week with a lecture about the way Nazis systematically used law to oppress Jews before World War II.

Holocaust Education Week

Hundreds of people gathered at Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto last week to hear Rae's lecture titled *The Holocaust: From Rule of Law to the Nightmare of Oppression and Back Again*, which described what happened to the rule of law in Germany after 1933 and explained how that kind of discrimination led to the murder of more than six million Jews.

The Holocaust Education Week opening night program coincided with the Toronto opening of the exhibit called *Lawyers Without Rights: The Fate of Jewish Lawyers in Germany after 1933*, which was sponsored by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies and runs until Nov. 12 at Beth Tzedec.

Donning a kippah, Rae, a leadership candidate for the Liberal Party, took to the podium and began his lecture by sharing his story of travelling to Lithuania 16 years ago with his Jewish wife, Arlene, to find out about her mother's family, who were murdered during the war.

They learned from an elderly Lithuanian woman, who knew her mother's family, that after the Nazis occupied Lithuania in 1941, her family and the rest of the Jewish townspeople were rounded up and forced to march to a nearby town where they were executed.

"The anti-Semitism of the Nazis took what was a deep-based prejudice in Europe… and took it to a new and sickening height of murder, of order, and execution," Rae said.

Bob Rae

He said that the when the Nazis seized power in 1932, as many as half of the lawyers and doctors in Berlin were Jewish.

"The theory and then the brutal practice was that Germany had to protect itself from this so-called brutal takeover [by Jews]," Rae said.

"The Nazis began their policy of systematically defining, labelling and excluding Jews from [practising within their] professions. It is here that we confront the difference between what I call, the rule of law and the law of rules."

Rae described the purpose of the well-known Nuremberg laws, which were implemented to define who was a Jew, who was of mixed blood and what the consequences of these distinctions were.

"When we think of the rule of law, we think of the opposite of oppression. But instead, we had this law of rules in which the state was an instrument of oppression, the legal system was an instrument of oppression, and judges and lawyers became active participants in a tyranny that was unmatched in human history," Rae said.

"The implementation of these laws of incredible and excruciating detail and great cruelty, in order to work, required an elaborate structure. Jews were denied citizenship, they couldn't practise their profession, they lost property."

He said that by 1939, about half of Germany's Jewish population, about 250,000 people, fled the country empty-handed, with little money and with the hope that another country would grant them entry.

Canada, he added, was one of the many countries that notoriously turned Jewish refugees away.

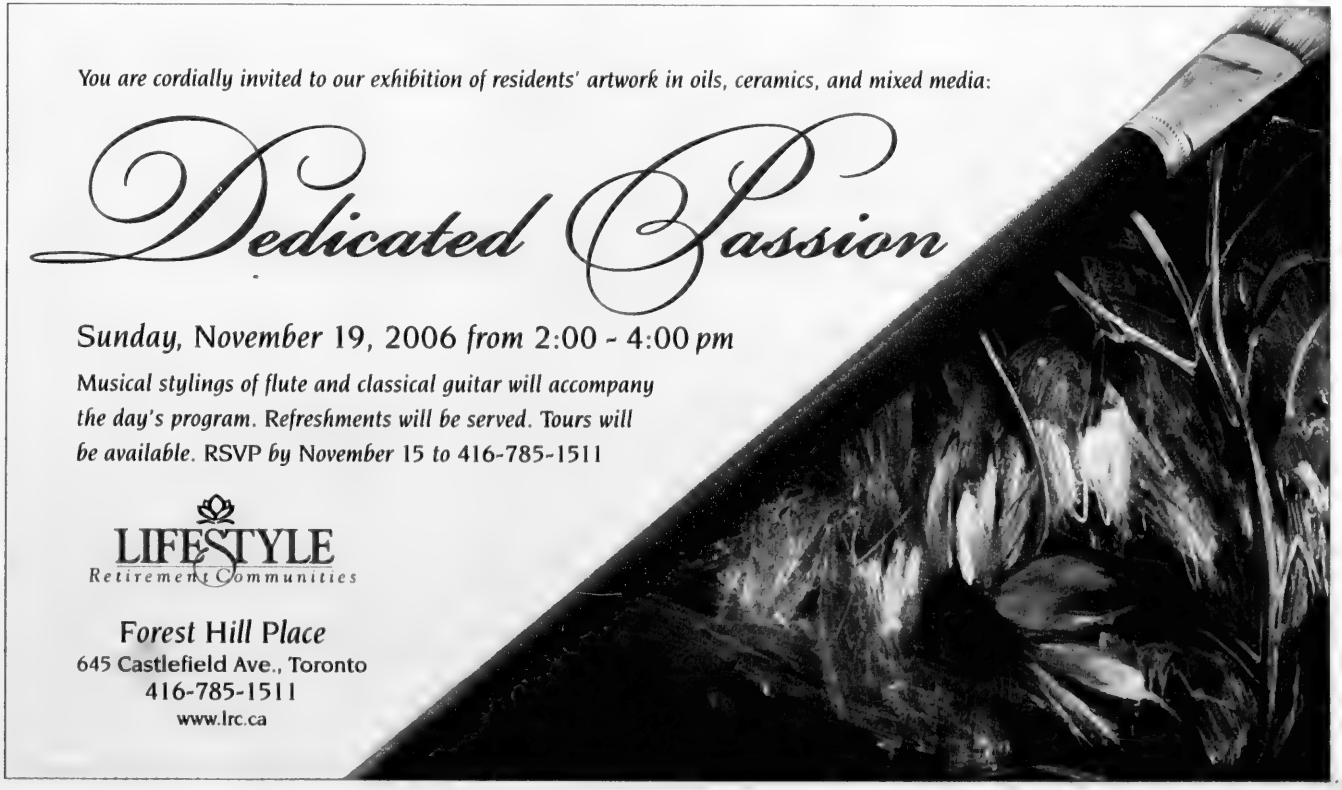
By 1942, high-ranking Nazis and SS officials had participated in the Wannsee Conference to discuss the Final Solution – a euphemism for the plan to exterminate all Jews.

"Carrying out [the Final Solution] required an incredible line of laws, of decrees, of rules, of order, of structure, and of system. And yes, it required, not just a few, but thousands of willing executioners, officials, judges, policemen, soldiers, and prison guards, all operating under this weight of rules and systems and so-called law," Rae said.

Rae ended his speech by reminding his audience that the Holocaust was not the "last gasp of hatred in the world," by referring to the ongoing genocide in Darfur, and the fact that some world leaders freely spread lies and hate about Jews and Israel.

"At the risk of being even moderately political, I would only say this: there is no state in the Middle East that compares in terms of its commitment to constitutionalism and human rights, except for the State of Israel," he said.

"Israel is a country that is preoccupied with the question of the rule of law… No court has been more active in assessing the conduct of its public officials than the Supreme Court of Israel."



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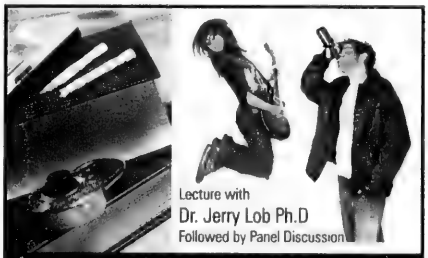
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We're fighting a spiritual battle

By RABBI MOISHE NEW

Freedom. Suddenly, a term so passé, a way of life so taken for granted, is back in the headlines.

We, in the "free world," had for decades stood at the sidelines of history and watched it unfold elsewhere. Now we are back in the thick of it, and Israel and the Jew are at the vortex of it all. The war is on, the world is the battlefield, and the sides have been drawn – terror and tyranny versus freedom.

This new, yet ancient, confrontation compels us to re-examine the origin and meaning of freedom.

History's first emancipation was the liberation of the Jews from Egyptian slavery. And it's the Bible that introduced to the world the revolutionary values of individual human rights and equality. The biblical notion of freedom is what inspired the American and British revolutions and thus became the bedrock for the world's strongest free and democratic societies.

Yet, freedom and democracy, per se, do not assure a just and benevolent society. The democratic elections in Gaza are ample proof of that. And, if one requires more examples from history, the election of Hitler to power through the democratic process should suffice.

When God first revealed Himself to Moses and charged him with a mission to bring the Jews out of Egypt, He made it clear that the Exodus is not an end in itself. Rather, the purpose of the Exodus was to arrive at Sinai and "serve Me on that mountain."

In other words, physical liberation from bondage does not mean freedom.

For, inevitably, the emancipation from physical slavery will give way to bondages and abuses of another kind – slavery to one's own weaknesses and self-serving agendas, which quickly become justified and then necessary. The consequences are not only self-destructive, but are certain to wreak havoc on others.

True freedom, then, is achieved through the transcendence of the very self.

But how can this possibly be achieved?

The answer, of course, is through allegiance to Him. Belief in, and commitment to a transcendent code of values and morality ensure that they remain immutable.

This global struggle that, whether we like it or not, revolves around the Jew and the State of Israel, will not be won on political grounds or by military might alone. The fact is that Islam is rooted in Judaism – in the Torah. Torah then, is the only place where the distortion and corruption of Islam can be addressed. We are engaged in a spiritual battle, with devastating physical consequences, and it's in the realm of the spirit that the battle will be won. It's high time that Jewish leadership understood this.

The Torah is the Torah of Truth. Its uncompromised message is universal and eternal.

The world just needs to hear it. And they need to hear it from us. In the end, truth must triumph.

For God's sake, for our sake, for the world's sake, let's give it a chance.

Rabbi Moishe New is at the Montreal Torah Center Bais Menachem Chabad Lubavitch.

Discipline: finding the right balance

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

A group of psychologists once devised an experiment where they built a house that was as proportional for adults as an average house is for little children. Ceilings were 40 feet high, doorknobs were almost out of reach, tables and chairs were huge. They placed several adults of normal emotional stability into the house, and within days, they began exhibiting neurotic symptoms.

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The Next Generation

In commenting on this experiment, Rabbi Abraham Twerski, who is a psychiatrist and an eminent interpreter of the Torah's teachings on self-control and self-improvement, notes the following: "It is reasonable to assume that a small child feels completely overwhelmed in this world built for giants. The anxiety of existing in this humongous world would be intolerable, except for the trusted intermediates who would provide a bridge between the Liliputian child and the formidable environment... For a child to have a feeling of security, he must see these protective adults as stable, fair, wise and predictable."

In order to negotiate the world, children require both freedom and limitations, nurturing and discipline, spontaneity and order. These seeming pairs of opposites are in fact complementary. The rhetoric of contemporary life dictates that one feed children with endless encouragement, lest they suffer from low self-esteem. In principle, there is merit to always stressing the positive in a child's efforts, but there is a tricky balance, especially in education, between endless approval and the need to tell a student when they are not succeeding and where the source of their difficulties lies.

Feeling valuable is a basic human need, so when we discipline children or demand more out of them, style is as important as substance. Done angrily, it conveys harsh judgment. Done with faith and quiet hopefulness, it communicates one's belief in the children's competence and fosters their own self-belief.

Rabbi Twerski mentions often that when his father wanted to stress to him that a particular behaviour needed to be changed, he would reproach him with the telling Yiddish phrase "*es passt nicht*" – it's not worthy of you, it's beneath you. In fostering this kind of self-respect, we allow children and students to become their own moral and intellectual monitors. No longer must we continuously enforce a kind of external "policing"; the child has already incorporated an internal yardstick of dignity and worth.

The world, like a house out of proportion, can be a scary place. To allow children to feel comfortable situated in such a house requires both positive reinforcement and boundary setting.

There is a lot of discussion about self-esteem in current psychological and educational journals. Often, the preponderance of examples in such literature where the emphasis is on encouragement has been misinterpreted to mean that authority figures should never reproach kids. But nothing could be further from the truth. When children repeat a negative behaviour and we do not confront them with it, we imply that we do not believe them capable of better, the ultimate death blow to their self-esteem.

Jewish Life

Stossel's book agitates, stimulates

***Myths, Lies, and Downright Stupidity* by John Stossel, Hyperion Press.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

On the popular *20/20* television show, John Stossel serves as consumer advocate and investigative reporter. In a manner both humorous and angry, he demolishes widely held myths, debunks popular misconceptions and attacks "plain old stupidity." He shows why conventional wisdom – economic, medical, political and social – is often wrong and sometimes even dangerous to our health and an affront to our pocketbooks.

In his new book, the author challenges the reader with a battery of questions: is the world too crowded? Are we drowning in garbage? Do sweatshops exploit people? Is the media unbiased? Are our schools helping or hurting our kids? Do we have less free time that we used to? Is outsourcing bad for American workers? Does more money make people happier? Do political leaders promote the general welfare? Does washing with antibacterial soap keep you healthy? Is global warming a real problem?

In short informative paragraphs, Stossel indicates that reading in low light doesn't hurt your eyes, that mouthwashes don't cure bad breath, that being cold doesn't give you a cold, that eating at home isn't safer than eating out, that children are not necessarily good for marriage and that money may buy happiness, but not for long. He is convinced that tap water is just as pure and good for you as bottled water that costs 500 times more.

Some of the author's assertions, especially in the areas of economics, politics and the environment seem glib and questionable. For example, his conclusion that a higher minimum wage helps some workers "but hurts more." Or his blanket statement that most American businesspeople don't care about free markets and will stifle competition if it serves their needs.

Stossel is angry about how we view DDT. He writes, "Malaria will kill more than 1,000 children before you finish reading this book. The chemical DDT is at the core of the problem – not the use of DDT, but the failure to use it because of media hysteria. In Uganda alone said the minister of health, 'We are losing between two million and three million people a year.' Think of it: millions die because the media gets it wrong."

DDT, concludes Stossel, is capable of doing far more good than harm. "We just don't know that because many influential persons, including reporters, are terrified of the truth."

The author's attitude about global warming is surprising and unexpected. He suggests, "First, calm down. Second, if the world is warming, it is much more reasonable to adjust to it, rather than try to stop it: if sea levels rise, we can build dykes and move back from the coasts. It worked for Holland. Farmers can plant different crops or move north.

"Far better to keep studying global warming, let the science develop, and adjust to it if it happens, rather than wreck life as we know it by trying to stop it."

Finally, is there a connection between religious belief and individual well-being? Stossel indicates that belief in God correlates with happiness. According to a Gallup survey, the closer people feel to God, the better they feel about themselves and other people. One of the most comprehensive social surveys found that more than 48 per cent of adults who are both married and weekly churchgoers reported that they are very happy, compared to just 20 per cent of unmarried adults who don't attend church.

"Of course, going to church, temple or the mosque may also aid happiness because it leads you to spend more time with other people. That alone increases the odds of being happy," he writes.

This is the kind of book that you will want to discuss – or more likely argue about – with your friends. If it doesn't agitate or infuriate, it will certainly stimulate.

Jewish war veterans, Pt. 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

On Nov. 11, we will pause to remember the men and women who have served their country and given their lives. This week and next I devote my columns to our Jewish veterans and to the Jewish soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The War Veterans of Canada site points out that "Canadian Jews have defended Canadian territory even before the Dominion of Canada existed. Aaron Hart served in Wolfe's army under General Amherst in 1759… Sir Alexander Shoenberg captained the ship that brought reinforcements to Quebec City for the battle of the Plains of Abraham in the same year." **[www.yorku.ca/cjv/]**

Almost 17,000 Canadian Jews volunteered for service in World War II, with 420 killed, died, or missing and presumed dead. The site states that an additional 2,000 Jews enlisted but "did not declare their Jewish identity in order to avert danger if captured by the Nazi force."

The Toronto-based Jewish Canadian Military Museum maintains a website that has video clips of Canadian veterans. Also available online are scanned historical documents, including extensive biographies of Jewish soldiers who were killed in the war. **[http://jcmm.ca/]**

Pte. Louis Goldin of Montreal joined Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal and was killed in action in Dieppe on Aug. 19, 1942, at the age of 24. His commanding officer, Capt. Antoine Masson, reported "that Pte. Goldin remained at his machine-gun post to the very last, in the face of the heavy Nazi attack." Pte. Goldin is buried at the Canadian Military Cemetery at Hautot-sur-Mer, France. **[www.jcmm.ca/books/book1.pdf]** (Please note that this is a large file.)

Pte. Goldin and his comrades will be honoured by the first memorial to Canada Jewish war veterans. **[www.yorku.ca/cjv/memorial.html]** The Flames of Memory will be created by architect Daniel Libeskind and will be located in Earl Bales Park in north Toronto. The architect describes it as "a sweeping, angled structure crenellated by eight candles, alluding to a Chanukah menorah." **[http://tinyurl.com/ybdcet]**

In the United States, it was Asher Levy, one of the original 23 Jewish settlers of New Amsterdam, who demanded the right for Jews to stand guard at the Jewish stockade. In 1896, a group of Jewish Civil War veterans organized the Hebrew Union Veterans, now known as the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. The site mentions that there have been persistent accusations – then and now – that Jews have not served in the U.S. armed forces. In reality, "a study of Jewish participation in the military during World War II clearly indicates Jews served in the armed forces beyond their numerical proportion to the general population." **[www.jwv.org/]**

Seventeen Jews have been identified as recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, America's highest recognition for bravery in combat. They have fought in the Civil War, the Indian wars, the Haitian Campaign, the world wars and Vietnam. On Feb. 24, 1969, Airman 1st Class John Levitow was aboard an AC-47 aircraft that was seriously damaged by a mortar round. The explosion ripped thousand of holes in the fuselage and caused an activated flare to roll loose in the cargo area. Despite his injuries, Levitow "threw himself bodily upon the burning flare… he dragged himself… to the rear of the aircraft and hurled the flare through the open cargo door… At that instant, the flare separated and ignited in the air, but clear of the aircraft." **[http://tinyurl.com/lgnxp]**

There are a number of other sites for Jewish American veterans **[http://tinyurl.com/yavavt]** as well as the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington, D.C., **[http://tinyurl.com/ydbloq]** and a salute to Jewish military chaplains. **[www.nmajmh.org/]**

Anyone who has ever visited Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia will be struck by the many rows of graves, marked by crosses or the occasional Star of David. Many of those Jewish graves were identified by Ken Poch, who spent 15 years collecting the names of 2,700 Jewish military services members interred at Arlington. Poch, a Vietnam veteran who died in 2003, is buried at Arlington. **[http://tinyurl.com/yg2n4z]**

Next week, remembering Jewish veterans from around the world.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Treasures in Jewish Literature

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Children of survivors revealed as diverse group

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A review of psychological literature reveals that children of Holocaust survivors have conflicting experiences, says an associate professor at Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University.

Susan Bendor, a child survivor and daughter of survivors, was speaking at last week's conference for adult children of Holocaust survivors and their partners, Inheriting the Past and Influencing the Future, held at the Baycrest Wagman Centre.

In the opening talk of the conference, Bendor said that some research indicates that all second-generation survivors are marred psychologically by the experience.

"This, however, has not been found to be true. [Most] researchers have not arrived at findings that can generalize this diverse group."

Themes of overprotection and distrust have been well documented, she said, but an increased compassion for human suffering has also been identified.

"Along with the parental transmission of trauma, comes the transmission of coping skills, strength and resolve, and the improvisational skills to solve problems in the face of adversity," she said.

What some second-generation survivors interpret as uncaring "is actually a conscious decision on the part of the parents to [insist that their children] take charge of a situation, solve problems themselves, and cope with tough times."

Bendor said that Holocaust therapist Eva Fogelman identified two major groups of second-generation survivors. "Some are dysfunctional, and blame what is wrong with them on their parents' tragedy and on the Holocaust.

"The other group uses the Holocaust as the impetus for making the world a better place."

Susan Bendor and Susan Jackson

The names attached to the children of Holocaust survivors are troubling, Bendor said. "They have been called 'children of the Holocaust' and 'children of the nightmare,' but nowhere are they called 'children who are activists or fighters.'

"[Some of these children] have used the legacy of their parents' losses to become Holocaust educators. They have made a commitment to bear their parents' burdens and celebrate their parents' lives."

In the book *Memorial Candles*, psychologist Dina Wardi describes the children of Holocaust survivors as "memorial candles or replacement children," said Bendor.

"As the memorial candles, she sees their function as filling the void in their parents' lives. This, however, does not jive with my experience as a child of survivors.

"I have been to many homes of mourning, but I have also been to homes that played beautiful music. As a second generation, I have had a range of experiences."

Although Wardi acknowledges that some second generation survivors are enormously successful, said Bendor, "she describes them tentatively as if their success is temporary."

We can speculate why second-generation survivors cope with trauma differently, said Bendor, "but the variables are so many, it is impossible to come up with a credible answer."

One variable, she said, could be the experience of the parents. "Parents who had the hardest time coping were those who were passive [during the war.]

"Those who fought back are the ones who cope the best. My parents came up with one escape plan after another, and hoarded insulin for my diabetic brother."

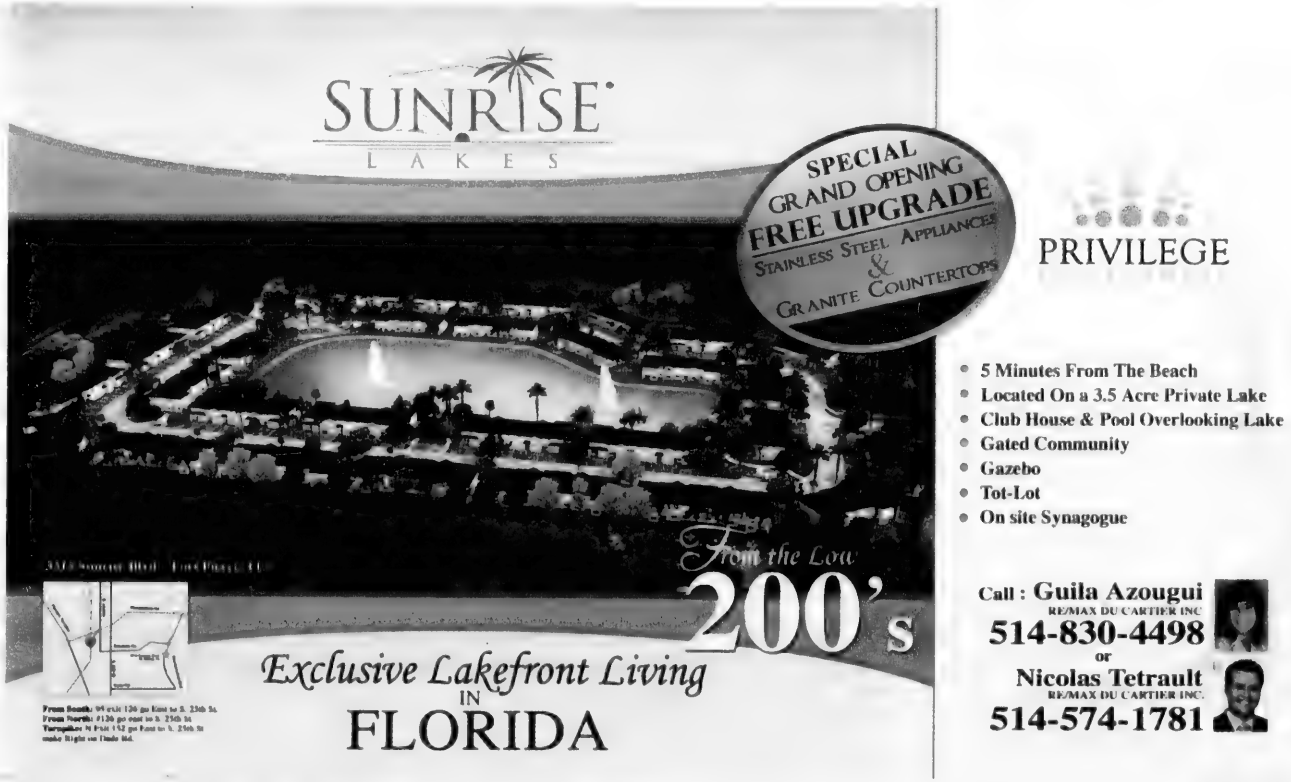
Citing psychologist Aaron Beck, Bendor said that cognitive therapy rests on the postulation that thought precedes behaviour.

"It is not the situation that determines how you behave, but it is your perception of the events. When we were liberated, we discovered that our apartment was rubble. My grandmother said that we had to start over, and we would start with the kitchen because we had to eat.

"We sensed some hope from my grandmother, and through [that hope] my brother and I learned to cope."

Bendor said, however, that children can overcome troubled families. "A study on the children of alcoholics found that many children did not develop the pathology of alcholism.

"People of all ages have the capability to change, to learn and to grow."



OR HAEMET KIDS BUILD ARKS: Grade 1 students at Or HaEmet Sephardic School display their models of Noah's Ark.

ZAREINU FUNDRAISER: Daniella Einhorn, 9, crafted thousands of heart pins to sell and raise funds for children with special needs at Zareinu Educational Centre. She was inspired after her school choir sang at the Zareinu Fashion Show last November. She and her friends will be selling her pins at this year's "Evening of Fashion and Song-Miracles," to be held Nov. 28 at the Paramount Concert and Event Venue in Vaughan. For tickets, call 416-787-2933.

[Rebecca Ansel photo]

HESCHEL DEDICATION: The Toronto Heschel School celebrated the amalgamation of its two former campuses into one at a recent Chanukat Habayit ceremony, in which the last of the building's mezuzot were placed on the doorposts. Community leaders, parents, grandparents and friends of the school enjoyed a fun-filled day that included the dedication of the new playground and a performance by the Heschel Choir. Pictured, from left, are Sarit Cohen, Marlee Green, Alyssa Molko, Orly Morgan, Paige Mawson, Matthew Jadd, Jonah Strub, Max Esser and Aiden Orzech.

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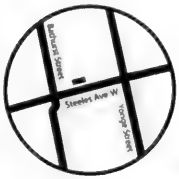

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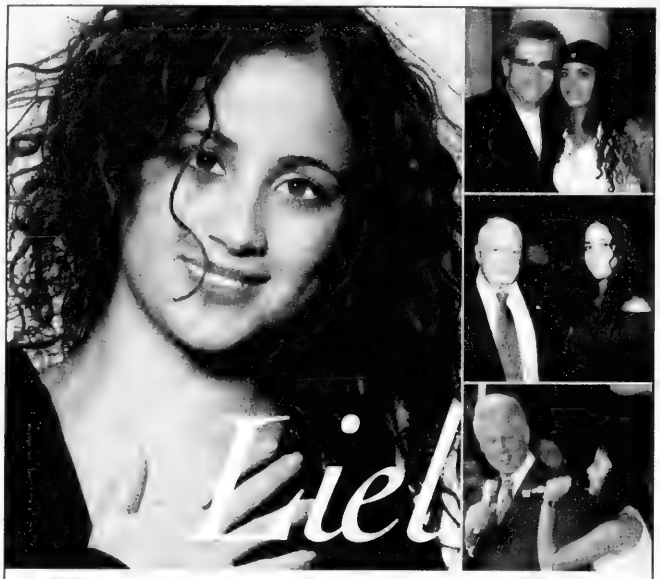
Sunday,	Nov.	12th,	12:00 noon	-	4:00pm
Friday,	Nov.	17th,	2:00pm	-	7:00pm
Saturday,	Nov.	18th,	12:00 noon	-	4:00pm
Sunday,	Nov.	19th,	12:00 noon	-	4:00pm



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Bnei Akiva courses give students head start on university

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Toronto's Bnei Akiva high schools – Ulpanat Orot and Yeshivat Or Chaim – have launched a pilot program to offer their Grade 12 students advanced placement (AP) courses in English literature and calculus this year.

The courses, which are held after regular class hours as an extra-curricular subject, are "designed to emulate the level of a first-year university course for students still in high school," said Frank Samuels, principal of the schools, which serve 140 boys at Or Chaim and 140 girls at Ulpana.

Most Canadian universities offer a transfer credit – which may or may not be considered a prerequisite for a second-year course – and/or advanced standing, enabling students to go straight into a second-year course, to those who have achieved a high enough mark on a standardized three-hour AP examination, said Lynda Robinson, associate director of AP Canada (www.ap.ca).

The courses cannot replace high school courses, she noted, but in some schools, if enrolment permits, the curriculum material is combined with that of the regular Grade 12 course to meet the requirements of both.

The New York-based organization, the College Board, which was founded in 1955 to create the AP program, sets the AP content, as well as content for the pre-university SAT exams.

For Bnei Akiva students in particular, the AP courses offer a distinct bonus. Most of the students spend a year in yeshiva or seminary in Israel before commencing their university education, said Samuels. "In theory they're a year behind when they come back."

For any students who take AP courses and succeed at the exam, "it gives them a lot more flexibility in university," allowing them to do things like take a semester off and work in an underdeveloped country, said Robinson.

But even if students don't receive a mark that will allow them to obtain credit from a university, they finish the course "so much better prepared" and learn to "think like a university student," said Samuels.

However, the main reason the school is offering the courses, Samuels said, is "to stretch our top candidates [by giving them] an objective benchmark against which they can measure their ability." However, he added, the AP courses are open to any students who are interested.

There may also be a cost-saving element if students are successful in the course, he noted. Although Ulpana and Or Chaim charge a fee for the course, which includes the $83 (US) exam cost, the university course that may not have to be taken will cost more, he said.

Bnei Akiva is now among about 60 public, Catholic and private schools in Toronto – and another 30 in the surrounding area – that offer AP courses. The courses have been offered in Canada since 1990, and are also offered in 109 other countries. Two other Canadian Jewish high schools also offer the courses, one in Vancouver and one in Winnipeg.

Ulpana and Or Chaim offer the courses one afternoon a week. About eight students (six boys and two girls) are in the English courses, which are taught by a staff member, and about half a dozen boys are in the calculus course, taught by a teacher from outside the school.

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On August 15, the following ad, signed by some of Hollywood's elite, appeared in Variety, the Los Angeles Times and Hollywood Reporter. UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is reprinting it, by request, as a public service, to demonstrate the way in which Israel's struggle against terrorism has galvanized Jews and non-Jews across North America.

"We the undersigned are pained and devastated by the civilian casualties in Israel and Lebanon caused by terrorist actions initiated by terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas. If we do not succeed in stopping terrorism around the world, chaos will rule and innocent people will continue to die. We need to support democratic societies and stop terrorism at all costs."

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Drive to end child poverty is behind schedule: MP

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Seventeen years after the launch of a national campaign to end child poverty in Canada by 2000, one in six Canadian kids still lives in poverty, says MP Olivia Chow.

Speaking Oct. 29 to the board of directors of National Council of Jewish Women Canada about Campaign 2000, Chow, the MP for Trinity-Spadina, said that in November 1989, Ed Broadbent, then leader of the NDP, tabled a resolution in the House of Commons that aimed "'to achieve the goals of eliminating poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000.'

"That resolution won unanimous support from every member of Parliament in every party. That was 17 years ago, and what do we have to show for it? We are almost seven years past the year 2000 target date."

Not one of the five federal governments that have been elected since has ever overturned that resolution, she said, but "they have failed utterly – a national failure that should go to the heart of every Canadian."

This failure, she said, is because every one of those Liberal and Conservative governments failed to take action to end poverty.

"The Liberals cancelled the national housing program… they introduced crushing fees on refugees and immigrants… and neglected child care for 13 years, until the very end of their mandate," Chow said.

"[Prime Minister] Stephen Harper's bogus $1,200 child-care benefit is a case in point. He plans to trash child care funding in this coming budget year, April 2007, and Canadians will lose a big part of [the $1,200] when they pay their income tax in the spring."

Chow first entered politics 21 years ago as a school trustee, and "a lot of kids came to school hungry. I could see these kids couldn't learn when they had to listen to their stomachs. I worked with [current NDP leader and her husband] Jack Layton, who was chair of the board of health in Toronto, and we developed a policy and a program to address the hunger – to serve breakfasts in some schools."

A decade later, she was a city councillor, and the city's first child and youth advocate, "and child poverty and hunger was still a fact of life," she said.

"Today, 80,000 children participate in this breakfast program. [These] kids have a good nutritious meal to get them through the day. For the hungry, it helps, and I take some comfort in that."

Efforts such as these, and NCJW's focus on affordable housing are inspiring, said Chow, "but they underscore the need for real partnerships with government.

"Without government action, we cannot achieve change that will put an end to poverty. Individual efforts may help relieve suffering, but we need more. It is not changing the cold, hard reality that causes the suffering," she said.

What we need, Chow said, is for the government to break the cycle of poverty by investing in child care and affordable housing.

"We need a decent minimum wage so working people can feed their kids," she said.

"Government could [also] go a long way to wiping out poverty by funding two simple and effective programs proposed by the NDP. The first is to bump the child tax credit to $4,900 from $3,400, and the other key priority is to fund national child care, something we could do for a fraction of the surplus," she said.

Achieving national child care is something that Chow said she has been working on for more than 20 years. "Since I was elected to Parliament this year, I have made it my priority."

She helped draft legislation, she said, for an Early Learning and Child-Care Act, "an act that enshrines the principles of universality, quality, accessibility and affordability, and I introduced the bill in the House of Commons."

It went to second reading last month, "and I am pleased to say that we achieved support form the Liberal child-care critic and the Bloc Québécois critic. It comes up for final reading [this month] and we have a chance to make history, to enshrine child care as a cornerstone of Canada, like national health care," she said.

Research shows that there is a direct link between child care and economic growth, Chow added. "More investment in child care, more productivity, more growth.

"Investing to reduce poverty is good for the economy. The war on poverty must be won, and if it is won, we will enjoy economic benefits as well as human benefits."

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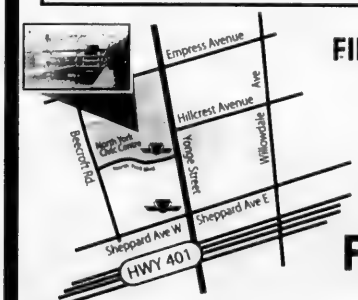

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Hollywood elite sign anti-Hezbollah, Hamas ad

West Wing star troubled by lack of Jewish signatories

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

One of Hollywood's most enthusiastic supporters of Israel and a frequent keynote speaker at Jewish Federation events was among the signatories to a unique, pro-Israel ad in *Variety* magazine and other publications (to view the complete ad, look in this issue of the Canadian Jewish News).

On August 16, two days after a ceasefire was called in the battle between Hezbollah and Israel, 84 Hollywood, film, media and sports celebrities published a full-page statement in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Hollywood Reporter* and *Variety* denouncing Hamas and Hezbollah for the death of civilians in Lebanon and Israel.

One of those who signed the ad was actor Joshua Malina, who was in Toronto in September 2005 as the keynote speaker at UJA Federation's community launch of Campaign 2006.

"It was a no-brainer for me," says Malina, 41, who most recently appeared in NBC's hit television show, *The West Wing*. "I had not a moment's hesitation deciding to put my name to that ad. I liked that civilian losses in both Lebanon and Israel were acknowledged, and that blame for them was laid at the feet of Hamas and Hezbollah. I also liked that they were specifically referred to as 'terrorist organizations' at a time when we are often asked to view them as political institutions."

David Engel, UJA Federation Board chair (left), shared a laugh with actor Joshua Malina at the launch of UJA Federation Campaign 2006 held at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

According to Malina, the ad was the brainchild of Ehud Danoch, the Israeli consul general for Southern California who worked hard at recruiting support from Hollywood personalities.

During the early days of the war with Hezbollah, Danoch reached out to Hollywood's Jewish community through information briefings and tours of the consulate.

"I think that was a very smart thing to do. There is always a crucial public relations element to these conflicts, and Israel tends to be on the losing side in that respect," says Malina.

While Malina says he was delighted to see that 83 other people in his business were willing to put their names to the ad, overall, he was disappointed.

"Short of a few people at my parents' shul commending me, there has been silence [about the ad]," he says. "There just doesn't seem to be a huge awareness or concern for Israel matters among the people I work with. I wonder why there weren't more names of Jewish people who appear before the camera. If you study the list, there are a lot of non-Jews, and a lot of Jewish agents, writers, directors and producers, and not so many actors. It's a wonder to me that, with the abundance of famous Jewish actors and actresses in this town, that more were not willing to sign. I think the relative silence of Hollywood's Jewish community towards Israel is a disgrace. At a time when heads of state blithely announce their intentions to destroy the Jewish State, silence is not a luxury that the Jewish American community can afford."

The ad reads as follows: "We the undersigned are pained and devastated by the civilian casualties in Israel and Lebanon caused by terrorist actions initiated by terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas. If we do not succeed in stopping terrorism around the world, chaos will rule and innocent people will continue to die. We need to support democratic societies and stop terrorism at all costs."

Other signatories to the ad included Michael Douglas, Nicole Kidman, William Hurt, Danny De Vito, Bruce Willis and former Torontonian, producer Ivan Reitman.

Media watchdog fights for fair coverage of Israel

By CARLA LANCIT
UJA Federation

If you've ever griped to friends about the media's anti-Israel slant, or moaned to coworkers about a biased TV report, Dov Smith wants you.

"There's a tendency for people to watch the news, see something about Israel they don't like, and complain to their friends and family," says Smith. "People need to actually take that next step and instead of complaining to their friends, complain to the people producing the news. That can make a big difference."

Dov Smith

Smith ought to know. As the executive director of HonestReporting Canada, he has been fighting for fair and accurate coverage of Israel in the Canadian media since the group's 2003 inception.

HonestReporting Canada is an independent, non-profit organization with the same brand and objectives as its American counterpart—honestreporting.com.

While it took time to make inroads, the group is now in a position to meet with major media organizations. "We built credibility by operating in a way that showed them we're a reasonable, moderate group of individuals who are interested in fair and accurate reporting," says Smith.

The media watchdog has a number of approaches to correcting biased reporting. If a complaint is launched by one of their 13,000 subscribers, the staff will often assist them in writing letters and launching a complaint. At other times, HonestReporting Canada will work quietly to educate the media outlet.

That isn't to say there isn't a time to raise a ruckus. When HonestReporting Canada feels that it needs to, it can call on the full strength of its 13,000 subscribers across the country.

"There was a piece that the *CBC* did recently from Lebanon," says Smith. "They profiled the family of a fellow who butchered a father and daughter on the beach in the late '70s. The *CBC* portrayal was very sympathetic. They didn't even interview the one remaining member of the Israeli family. We thought this was grossly unfair, and we thought this was an instance where it was appropriate to make a fuss."

Twelve days later, the *CBC* had a report from Israel focusing on the Israeli side of the story.

"We view Israel's challenges as being dual," says Smith. "Israel is continually fighting physical battles but, at the same time, another war going on which is equally important—the war of images. And this is largely played out through the media."

"Our mission is to ensure fair and accurate coverage of Israel in the Canadian media," he says. "We are comfortable making the media uncomfortable about bad coverage."

For more information about HonestReporting Canada, visit their website at www.honestreporting.ca

THE WALL Vital protection or land grab?

HonestReporting Canada is trying to make headlines such as this a thing of the past.

Campus Report

Hillel reaches out to new campuses

Campus Report is a new feature of Jewish Toronto *designed to keep readers up to date about the ongoing campus initiatives of Hillel of Greater Toronto, which is supported by UJA Federation.*

Hillel of Greater Toronto is reaching out beyond its traditional campus locations to the emerging campuses at University of Toronto, Mississauga (UTM), University of Toronto, Scarborough (UTSC), Ryerson University, Humber College, Seneca College and George Brown College.

In order to support expanded programming, Hillel, with financial support from UJA Federation, recently hired two new professionals – Rachel Saslove, the Emerging Campuses Program coordinator at Seneca College and Ryerson University, and Talya Sive, who holds a similar position at UTM, Humber College and George Brown College.

A UJA Federation grant is helping with programming and engagement both on and off campus, to give students at smaller campuses an increased sense of belonging to the Jewish community.

"Before I felt I was alone and different than everyone else on campus. Now I have found Hillel here and I feel as though I belong to something bigger," said Ariela Shvartsman, a first year student at UTM.

(L-R) Talya Sive, Hillel Emerging Campuses program coordinator holds a program planning meeting with students Rebecca Smith Bloomfield and Eli Spodek from George Brown College.

Currently, more than 20 Jewish students are signed up with Hillel at George Brown and Humber Colleges, UTM and UTSC, with numbers growing weekly. Ryerson distributes 400 e-mails weekly to Jewish students.

The two Emerging Campuses Program coordinators focus on engaging Jewish students previously uninvolved in Jewish life and creating programs or events that appeal to their specific areas of interest. This is somewhat easier on smaller campuses where students search for a sense of community.

"A Jewish group on campus is a home away from home; meeting people with similar values in a friendly environment, in what sometimes can be a hostile setting," says Jonathan Cohen, a student at George Brown's Casa Loma campus.

Following a recent study carried out by Hillel, it became evident that Jewish students on smaller campuses had different priorities and involvement levels than those at larger campuses. Many Jewish students on smaller campuses welcome the idea of interfaith groups and Hillel has been involved with such initiatives. The upcoming Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Day at UTM partners with the African Students Association, among others, to encourage dialogue and discussion. The Emerging Campuses initiative is an exciting enterprise, demonstrating Hillel's ability to adapt to the changing needs of its diverse student community across the GTA," says Sive.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Psychological effects of war still evident in Israel

Business leaders join UJA Federation mission to the north

Northern Israel is still recovering psychologically from this summer's war with Hezbollah. That's the assessment of nine business leaders on a recent UJA Federation fact-finding mission to northern Israel, chaired by Dan Daviau, Jeff Rosenthal and Henry Wolfond.

"Visiting the northern part of Israel in the wake of this summer's conflict certainly heightened our awareness of Israel's vulnerability to the hostile forces surrounding it," said Wolfond. "Beyond seeing first-hand the destruction of homes, schools and institutions, what had a profound effect on me was the impact on the psyches of northern residents. One woman told us about a child's birthday party that took place after the war, where a balloon popped and all the kids froze. The story shows how the fear is carried with them; it explains the need for more services, psychological counseling, and training for teachers to recognize and deal with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. It really drove home the need to do whatever we can to support these people."

"The physical damage may not be as apparent as it was immediately following the war," says UJA Federation annual campaign director Jeff Springer, who accompanied the delegation on the trip, "but the psychological, social, and economic damage is clear."

Highlights of the mission included a briefing from Miri Eisen, spokesperson for Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Olmert; a visit with Ethiopian immigrants at the Kiryat Yam Absorption Centre which was damaged by Katyusha rockets; a session with Kobi Katz, mayor of Metullah, the northern-most city in Israel; and a meeting with Dr. Naftali Halberstadt, director of Trauma Response Programs for the Joint Distribution Committee-Israel who introduced the group to initiatives in the north which are helping children overcome the traumatic effects of the war this past summer.

Some of those initiatives are being supported by the UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, which has already raised $70 million with $19 million designated for Israel's emergency needs.

The next phase of the campaign, Project Northern Recovery, will be funding urgent initiatives to help northern Israel get back on its feet again. Among them are trauma counseling, a re-invigorated fund for victims of terror, small business loans and student scholarships.

Pictured above: Participants on the recent UJA Federation fact-finding mission to northern Israel received a briefing from Miri Eisen (centre), spokesperson for Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Former Viennese champion diver recalls life under Hitler

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA Federation

Greta Stanton's appearance in the acclaimed film *Watermarks* was a turning point for her. The movie charts the story of seven women swimmers from the legendary Viennese Jewish sports club Hakoah, formed when Austrian sports clubs were closed to Jews in 1909. Hakoah went on to become one of Europe's biggest athletic clubs until the Nazis shut it down in 1938.

Stanton was a former teenage diving champion with Hakoah and her return to Vienna with the crew and cast marked the first time she allowed herself to "remember the good times I had when I was young in Vienna," she said.

In an interview with *Jewish Toronto*, Stanton recalled spending her youth at Stadionbad, an outdoor swimming pool in Vienna. She remembered reading stories and singing songs with her friends. Her best recollection is winning a double victory at the youth diving championships in 1937.

But these memories were clouded for many years by other, darker ones: supporting her family for a-year-and-a-half under Hitler while her father, a lawyer, could not work; risking arrest to go boating with friends; witnessing *Kristallnacht*, the "night of broken glass" when Jewish homes, stores, and synagogues were ransacked and set on fire; fleeing for America as the war broke out, not knowing if she would ever see her parents again (they escaped a year later, two days before their scheduled deportation).

Greta Stanton

Stanton's return to Vienna with *Watermarks* director Yaron Zilberman and former Hakoah teammates, was the first time the good memories outshone the bad.

"I had been to Vienna a few times before, under duress, and I left after two or three days," she said. "But this time, the visit to the old pool and the reminiscences and seeing friends who I hadn't seen for many years – it was a very positive experience. It was the first time I could not dwell too much on the Hitler experience."

Whether in the front or back of her mind, that experience is always with her. Stanton recalled her response to hearing about the attack on the Twin Towers in New York City. "When 9/11 happened, I was the only person who acted as though this is a normal thing to happen and I didn't break down and I didn't run for the phone, and I think that's a survivor instinct. You live day to day."

A former professor of social work and a graduate of Yad Vashem's course for international educators, Stanton has been teaching students about the Holocaust since her retirement from academia 17 years ago.

"Survivor testimony is absolutely essential," she explained. "I have seen survivors who are the worst speakers in the world come across better than some wonderful speakers who don't have it in their hearts. A picture is worth a thousand words, and it's absolutely true. The students respond to the personal experience."

Stanton believes the film's success is due in part to its focus on what she calls "the ordinary experience," referring to city life under Hitler. "I think some of the acclaim of the movie is that more than 60 years after the event, the ordinary experience is interesting and not only the camp experience. And the political events in my opinion are rather parallel to some of the things that we're experiencing now."

Greta Stanton will recall her memories of Hakoah and life under Hitler, while discussing the personal impact of *Watermarks* at "We Remember and Honour," the closing program of Holocaust Education Week. The event will take place Thursday night, November 9 – the anniversary of *Kristallnacht* - at Thornhill's Shaar Shalom Synagogue (2 Simonston Blvd. 905-889-4975). Holocaust Education Week is sponsored by the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation.

Women's Campaign & Advocacy surpasses $8 million for IEC

Enjoying the recent UJA Federation Women's Campaign & Advocacy (WC&A) Lion of Judah (LOJ) Luncheon are: (l-r) Heather Gotlieb, co-chair, Atarah Division; Shanitha Kachan, co-chair, LOJ Luncheon; Ariella Rohringer, co-chair (with Fred Waks) UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007; Judith Finer Freedman, chair, (WC&A), Susan Maldoff, co-chair, LOJ Luncheon; Linda Hooper, luncheon keynote speaker; Andrea Cohen, co-chair, Lion Division; Lisa Draper, co-chair, Lion Division; Linda Waks, co-chair, Atarah Division and Liora Yakubowicz, vice chair, WC&A. Under the leadership of LOJ Luncheon co-chairs Kachan and Maldoff, this year's LOJ event attracted over 300 women, up from 200 last year. Thanks to Lion co-chairs Cohen and Draper, WC&A has welcomed 95 new "lions" to the Division. So far, Women's Campaign & Advocacy has raised over $8 million for UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007.

CORRECTION

In the volunteer supplement appearing in the October 26 edition of *The Canadian Jewish News* and coordinated by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, we inadvertently published an incorrect quote from Sheila Mostyn of National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto Section. Sheila is one of NCJW's volunteers of the year. Here is the correct quote: "*Council's mandate, Study, Service and Social Action, has influenced my voluntarism. I hope the Passover Food Drive will continue to unite and mobilize the entire Jewish community to help all Jews celebrate Pesach with dignity.*"

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While prospective volunteers are welcome, an Information Session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at 788 Marlee Ave., Haifa Room. The Starting Date Schedule for 2007 English-speaking groups is now available.

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Greater Toronto Area

From left are Baycrest Foundation chair Ronald Appleby, Baycrest chair Fran Sonshine, Sheryl Ross and Adam Gottdenker, who participated in the Treasures of Baycrest celebration.

Exhibit tells Baycrest's story

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Baycrest Foundation recently hosted Treasures of Baycrest, a special event to honour 78 men and women who have enhanced Baycrest and the lives of the elderly.

Through a gift from Baycrest supporter Joseph Gottdenker, chair of Baycrest Foundation's donor recognition committee, the first Treasures of Baycrest exhibit was initiated in 2004, to honour donors, volunteers, staff, friends and clients.

More than 500 family members and friends attended the Oct. 29 tribute at which 2006 honorees were feted. Their stories and framed photographs are exhibited on the ground floor at Baycrest, across from the Morris and Sally Justein Heritage Museum in the Silverman Garden Court. Treasures of Baycrest includes a monitor for viewing the exhibit electronically.

Participating in the tribute were Ronald Appleby, chair of the Baycrest Foundation, Fran Sonshine, chair of Baycrest's board of directors, Pinchas Gutter, chair of the treasures of Baycrest merit committee, and Adam Gottdenker, who represented his father who was out of the country.

The Treasures of Baycrest exhibit tells the story of Baycrest, which dates back to the turn of the 20th century, through the 2006 honorees' stories and photographs. From the women volunteers of the Ezrath Nashim Society who collected money door to door to help the needy elderly, Baycrest has grown to a pre-eminent, world-recognized centre for the care of the elderly. It includes a chronic care facility, a leading research institute and several outpatients clinics.

"I have long considered Baycrest to be a jewel in the crown of our community," said Appleby.

"The men and women we pay tribute to in the Treasures of Baycrest exhibit are an amazing representation of the thousands of volunteers, staff members, friends, clients and donors who have made enormous contributions to Baycrest and to the health and well-being of our most prized citizens, our elderly."

BACK TO CAMP: Grade 6 students from Bialik Hebrew Day School took part in their annual retreat at Camp George recently. The rain held off and students enjoyed a full schedule of activities, including challah baking and a nature-themed art session, as well as learning camping and survival skills, and team-building. They also took part in a talent show and learned about issues related to Israel's recent war with Hezbollah.

Greater Toronto Area

$50,000 donation gives Guardian Angels new life

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The Toronto chapter of the Guardian Angels, a non-profit anti-crime group, would have been forced to fold last week if not for a $50,000 donation made by an anonymous woman.

And after surviving its near-death experience, the group said it will use the money to open sub-chapters in communities outside central Toronto.

"We were pretty close to shutting down, and then we got an injection of funds, and we're actually now going the other way and doing a big expansion in communities throughout Southern Ontario," said the group's national director, Lou Hoffer, a former Toronto police officer and a ba'al tshuvah.

"Maybe people don't want to go into someone else's community, and that's why we've gone into stage 2 now. If people don't want to patrol Regent Park because they don't live in Regent Park, what we're doing with this injection of funds is saying OK, if you want to patrol in York Region, great. Mississauga? great," said Hoffer, who was named one of Toronto's 10 most influential people by *Maclean's* magazine last month.

He said that when he spoke to the anonymous donor, she said she gave the group money because "safe parks and streets must be a priority."

Hoffer acknowledges that the group hasn't received a warm welcome here.

"Toronto has been a tough nut to crack, and what's funny is that just south of the border, they realize the benefits of the Guardian Angels," he said, adding that New York Governor George Pataki granted the organization $200,000 last month to help it promote cyberangels.org, a website that deals with educating the public about Internet sexual predators.

"Meanwhile, [Toronto] Mayor David Miller and Police Chief [Bill Blair] won't even meet with us," Hoffer said.

The controversy surrounding the organization began last summer when opponents of the Guardian Angels – which was founded by Curtis Sliwa in New York City 27 years ago and has since expanded to 80 chapters worldwide – accused its volunteers of being vigilantes who threaten to cause more crime by provoking dangerous situations on the street and making citizen's arrests.

Founder and President Curtis Sliwa, left, with Canadian National Director Lou Hoffer.

"I contacted Curtis Sliwa and I reached out to the Guardian Angels because of the rash of anti-Semitism three years ago in York Region and North York, when synagogues were being spray-painted with swastikas and Jewish headstones were being kicked over. I didn't want a vigilante organization," Hoffer said in response to the accusations.

He added that the group's volunteers – who wear its trademark red berets and jackets and are provided with CPR, first aid and self-defence training – have worked hard over the years to make streets safer by providing extra sets of eyes and ears.

Despite opposition to the organization here in Canada, Hoffer said there are about 100 volunteers in Toronto, and he recently returned from Ottawa to launch a new chapter there.

Although he said the Guardian Angels are expanding into communities from coast to coast, Hoffer thinks the reason the organization is having trouble staying afloat in this country is because Canadians are too apathetic.

"I think we have a problem here in Canada with apathy. Our organization has tried the stem the tide of apathy. People go home at night, run inside, lock the door, close the blinds and just have that attitude that it's someone else's problem. That is so against the Jewish way of thinking and that is why I'm so proud to be the catalyst that has brought the Guardian Angles here to Canada," Hoffer said.

While he expects that the launch of sub-chapters will help expand and stabilize the organization, Hoffer also plans to begin fundraising.

He said that the decision the organization made to refrain from asking for donations may have contributed to the reason it racked up a $50,000 debt in such a short period of time.

"What we should have done from a business point of view, from day one, we should have done fundraising. We should have come out and said we are a legal, licensed, non-profit organization," he said.

For more information visit www.guardianangelscanada.org.

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New facility to be called Prosserman JCC

Continued from page 3

The new JCC will be called the Prosserman Jewish Community Centre, reflecting a major donation from Martin Prosserman – the founder of clothing manufacturer and retailer Moores the Suit People – and his family.

In response to concerns raised by BJCC members at the meeting, Kulman said that tennis courts will be available next summer and that the new facility would include one tennis court. There will be two indoor basketball courts and one outdoor one.

However, she said, no squash or racquetball courts are being planned at this time, because of their high cost and the low demand for them. She said planners would "take under advisement" a comment that one tennis court would not be enough.

Also, she noted, the current outdoor pool will be replaced by a larger one with a children's splashpad on the side.

Speakers at the meeting stressed that although plans have not been completely finalized, they felt it was important to begin communication at an early stage.

Among the items not yet decided is how to "recognize appropriately" facilities within the BJCC that are named for donors. "That's next on our agenda," said the federation's Robin Gofine.

One question concerned the lack of younger people at the meeting and how to attract younger members to the new centre. The questioner said programming geared to younger people could be started "now. We don't need fancy facilities to be able to do that."

Cohen agreed, and said one of the key aims of the fundraising campaign for the project is to establish a large number of endowments for programming.

Referring to the recent hiring of Lori Starr, formerly of the Skirball Cultural Centre, a major Jewish cultural centre in Los Angeles, he said her job is "to create innovative programming for the community, and that's why we hired her now."

Another pointed question concerned money that has been spent to improve the existing facility when plans to replace the building were already in the works.

Cohen said the renovations did not involve "huge money" and had been done "to keep membership happy in the interim.

"Unfortunately it has to be spent to keep the place going until we have money [for the new building]."

More than half the money has been raised for the Central Square project, and Cohen said he is "cautiously optimistic" that raising the rest "won't be a problem."

The new building will feature state-of-the-art equipment and "proper glazing so heating costs will be less," said Cohen.

Other elements of the project will include a new Koffler Centre of the Arts, as well as a new Leah Posluns Theatre, a new Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage, and a new Holocaust centre. The buildings will be interconnected by a walkway, said Cohen.

In addition to some outdoor parking, there will also be "quasi-underground" parking below the JCC building, which will be on a hill, he said. The current south parking lot will become a park.

The Tomorrow campaign is Canada's largest non-profit community development project, said federation chair David Engel.

"We're doing much more than building facilities. We're building programs and services, and most of all Jewish identity and Jewish pride," he said.

Among the reasons for replacing the 45-year-old building, board member Shel Geller said there are areas "that are not accessible and cannot easily be made accessible for people with disabilities."

PATINKIN HELPS BBYO: BBYO alumnus Mandy Patinkin, centre, headlined an Oct. 28 fundraiser at Massey Hall held by BBYO's adult board of directors. Pictured with Patinkin at a reception after his two-hour performance are, from left, Florence Glickman, Anthony Cohen, BBYO board chair Jeff Wagman, Heather Wagman, Elliot Moldaver and Michael Wagman.

NEW TITLE

Israel's Time of Self-Reflection: Between Lebanon and Iran

Yossi Klein Halevi

Mr. Halevi is a widely-recognized author, contributing editor and Israel correspondent for the New Republic and a Senior Fellow at Jerusalem's Shalem Center.

Wednesday, November 15

at 8:00 pm
Holy Blossom Temple
1950 Bathurst Street
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Beth Tzedec always welcomes new members

Beth Tikvah's Rabbi Allen receives UTJ honour

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Wayne Allen of Beth Tikvah Synagogue will be honoured next week, together with his wife Patti, by the Union for Traditional Judaism (UTJ), a trans-denomational education and outreach organization that includes both Orthodox and Conservative rabbis.

The Chaver Ne'eman Award is being presented to the couple at UTJ's annual Journal Dinner on Nov. 15 in New Jersey.

The rabbi, who was ordained 29 years ago by the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) may have his "feet in different camps," as he puts it, given developments in the Conservative movement in recent years that have moved large segments of Conservative Judaism further from tradition. Many Conservative congregations in the United States are fully egalitarian, for example, although the majority in Toronto are not.

This December, the movement's committee on Jewish law and standards (the Rabbinical Assembly's authority on Halachah) will vote about the question of rabbinic ordination for gays and lesbians. It's likely that opposing tshuvot will be accepted as valid.

Rabbi Wayne Allen and his wife Patti

Rabbi Allen declined to discuss possible ramifications of the vote for more traditional elements of the movement at this point.

Reflecting on the evolution of his own religious philosophy, the rabbi said he thinks he has become more tolerant of other opinions. "The more we study, the more we find there are other opinions we thought were unconscionable and wrong, that upon careful study, have some justification."

One area that likely distinguishes him from most of his tradition-oriented colleagues is his formal involvement in Beth Tikvah's outreach to intermarried couples. He has participated in an invitation-only think tank on intermarriage run by the Conservative movement's Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, and has spoken to members of his synagogue's "Married Out, Not Opted Out" group for interfaith couples and parents of those who are intermarried or interdating.

"I don't think we're doing anything out of the ordinary," he said. "I think we've become more proactive. If you believe that every Jewish soul counts and you want to preserve the connection of every Jew with Judaism, we have to accept them for who they are despite the fact they have done things we would consider to be sinful – [to use] a theological term – or wrong."

Intermarriage, today, is not equivalent to choosing to abandon Judaism, he believes.

The rabbi downplayed his involvement in UTJ, saying others have done more than he has.

However, he is a former treasurer and current vice-president. He also serves on the UTJ's panel of halachic inquiry and edited two of its volumes of responsa. As well, he participated in some of the organization's founding meetings, but has not been as active recently, he said.

Patti Allen – a psychotherapist working on a master's degree at York University with a specialty in dreams – has led seminars for rabbis' wives at a number of conferences, the rabbi said, adding that an honour for the couple, not just the rabbi, "is a recognition that there is an important partnership at work." The Allens have four children.

The spiritual leader of Beth Tikvah for the past 20 years, Rabbi Allen also enjoys playing basketball, although he said the league he founded at the shul is currently "dormant."

Prior to moving to Toronto, he served congregations in Los Angeles, and prior to that, Staten Island. In Los Angeles, he taught at California State University and the University of Judaism, and was a regular guest on Dennis Prager's phone-in radio show. He also appeared on television programs as a representative of the Southern California Board of Rabbis.

More recently, he played a rabbi in a Canadian feature film that has not yet been released.

The 55-year-old rabbi, a native of New York who grew up in a non-observant home, was a pre-law student at New York University before going on to JTS.

"I don't think I ever grew up with the intention of becoming a rabbi," he said.

Rather, he said, his experiences at Jewish day school – the Solomon Schechter School of Queens, which he began in Grade 5 after transferring from an Orthodox day school – and, later, in university, cultivated "an intense desire to study, learn and grow."

Rabbi Allen, who has two master's degrees, is currently working on a PhD at York University.

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Professor David Weiss Halivni

"The Oral Law, Why Isn't the Written Law Sufficient?"

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Sunday, November 19, 2006
3:00 p.m.
Vanier Lecture Hall
Room 135 Vanier College

The Sol Tanenzapf Memorial Lecture is sponsored by the Centre for Jewish Studies, the Dean's Office, Faculty of Arts, the Division of Humanities, and the Vanier College Master's Office.

Please RSVP: cjs@yorku.ca or (416) 736-5823

War opened door for co-operation with Arabs: analyst

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The recent war in Lebanon has created an opportunity for Israeli co-operation with moderate Sunni Arab states, an American Middle East analyst believes.

David Makovsky, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, suggested in a recent interview that Hezbollah's alliance with Iran has set off alarm bells in the Arab world.

In a conference call with North American Jewish journalists, he said that moderate Sunni Arab governments, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, now share Israel's nervousness that Shiite Arab and Muslim groups and regimes, as represented by Hezbollah and Iran, are on the ascendancy.

> ***Hezbollah's alliance with Iran has set off alarm bells in the Arab world***

Assessing the results of last summer's war in Lebanon, Makovsky said Israel emerged from it with "a profound sense of vulnerability."

Israel degraded Hezbollah's fighting ability, but Hezbollah hammered the Galilee with rockets until a ceasefire took effect in mid-August, said Makovsky, whose monograph on the war was published recently by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

In his estimation, round two of the conflict is not imminent. But if war should erupt again, the flashpoint will be the Lebanese-Syrian border area.

Makovsky said the onus is now on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to enforce the arms embargo against Hezbollah.

After admitting that he miscalculated in goading Israel to war, Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, will likely act with greater restraint in the future, Makovsky said.

Nasrallah is still popular among Lebanese Shiites, but Sunnis, Druze and Christians in Lebanon feel that he sacrificed their interests for his own ends.

Hezbollah's military performance during the war may well encourage Hamas to be more aggressive toward Israel, Makovsky said.

But in the meantime, Palestinian support for Hamas has been dropping steadily.

He expressed doubt whether the Israeli army will try to reconquer the Gaza Strip in a bid to stop Palestinian militants from firing Qassam rockets at Israeli settlements.

"Gaza is one big urban sprawl, so it wouldn't be simple," he said, citing the major reason why Israel will not attempt to retake Gaza after giving it up in the summer of 2005 in a unilateral withdrawal.

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The Officers, Board of Directors and Staff of
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Michael & Lily Rosenberg
on the untimely passing of their daughter
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7:30 p.m., Wednesday
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Yeshivat Or Chaim
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Greater Toronto Area

READING BUDDIES: Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School students, from left, Jamie Sarick-Whiteside, Anna Sarick-Whiteside, Eliana Train and Sydney Kohn share quality reading time together as part of the school's Reading Buddies program.

NETIVOT WALLHANGING: Grade 8 girls at Netivot HaTorah Day School are creating a wallhanging as part of a school-wide program called Netivot HaBrachot. Under the direction of visiting artist Melanie Siegel and art teacher Rochelle Diamond, they are learning the technique of felting by soaping and agitating raw fleece. Pictured, from left, are Orit Honigsberg, Shayna Brenman, Raquel Anidjar and Stephanie Sapir. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

USDS BOOK FAIR: Grade 2 students at United Synagogue Day School's Bayview campus dressed up as their favourite storybook characters to attend the USDS Book Fair in celebration of Canadian Library Month and to raise funds for the school library.

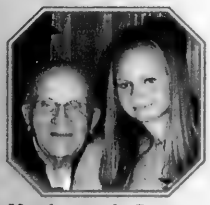
Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Paul, Sharron and big brother Matthew are proud to announce the arrival of Geoffrey Lungen. Ecstatic grandparents are Ben & Clara Lungen and Al & Diane Miller.

Aiden welcomes brother Noah. Parents Naomi Epstein & Warren Orlans, grandparents Carl & Estelle Epstein and Toby Orlans, and great-grandparents Sidney Wobrom, Helene Epstein & Sali Elbaum.



Mazel tov to the Burstyns as Mara and her Zaidie celebrate their bat and anniversary bar mitzvahs together, Nov 25. We love you both!

Gisele Rucker is proud to announce the engagement of her son David, son of Leon Rozin, to Amy Miller, daughter of Norm and the late Judi Miller.

Mazel tov to Lindsay Chapnick & Jonathan Collins on your engagement. Love from all your family.

Mazel tov to Yitzy Stavsky on his sixth birthday.

Lana Rayman & Eric Epstein announce the birth of Mya Ruth on Oct. 4. Grandparents Toby & Irving Rayman, Paula & Stanley Epstein, great-grandfather Sam Richmond.

Mazel tov Elissa & Dov Atlin on the birth of daughter Rylan Gabrielle. Grandparents, Cheryle & Henry Gertner and Michele Atlin. Great-grandparents Regina Gertner, Lillian Weiss.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos (25 words or less) and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to:
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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, Nov. 13, is the deadline for the Nov. 23 issue and Monday, Nov. 20, is the deadline for the Nov. 30 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

OMISSIONS

Please note: Because of a computer error, some items that should have appeared in last week's What's New column were omitted. *The CJN* regrets the omissions.

JEWISH BOOK FAIR

The Jewish Book Fair continues through Saturday, Nov. 12, at Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, call 416-636-1880, ext. 368. Here are a few events:

The Winchevsky Centre presents a "Bagels and Books" event with **Ruth Panofsky** speaking on "The Force of Vocation: The Literary Career of **Adele Wiseman**," Sunday, Nov.12, 11 a.m. Free.

Nu... I Ask You? a literary revue in Yiddish and English celebrating the legacy of **I.L. Peretz** and **Sholom Aleichem,** presents **Jeannette Stein**, **Faye Zeidman** and **Nathan Garnick**. Sunday, Nov. 12, 1:30 p.m. $5.

The CJN presents **Elliott R. Katz** speaking on "From Homer Simpson to Sensitive Guy: What's a Man Supposed to Be?" Sunday, Nov. 12, 5 p.m. $5.

Thursday, Nov. 9

ISRAELI THEATRE

Prof. Isaac Benabu, of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, leads a workshop on Israeli Theatre titled "From National to the Universal: Translating Israeli Theatre into English." 7 p.m. at the Medical Sciences Building, U of T, 1 King's College Circle, Room 3154. 416-485-8000

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Solel Congregation Sisterhood hosts **Penny Krowitz**, of Jewish Women International Canada. She screens the film *To Save a Life, Ending Domestic Violence in Jewish Homes*. A discussion follows. 7:30 p.m. Info, 905-855-3444.

Saturday, Nov. 11

VETERANS' SHABBAT

Beth Tikvah Synagogue invites all Canadian and Israeli war veterans to services at 9 a.m. Special kiddush to follow.

PARSHAH DISCUSSION

Henry Alkin speaks about the weekly portion, Vayera, 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

Sunday, Nov. 12

CHESED SYMPOSIUM

United Chesed of Toronto offers an opportunity to find out what services and resources are available to help the needy of Toronto. 6:30-9 p.m. at the North York Civic Centre. www.unitedchesed.com or 905-707-0233

READ HEBREW IN A DAY

Noam Congregation offers a Hebrew course for adults who have minimal knowledge of the language or who want a refresher. $50, includes materials, lunch and snacks. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at 15 Hove St. Three followup seminars, Nov. 19-Dec. 3, 10-11 a.m. $30 Pre-registration at 416-638-4783.

SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Join Walk and Talk Etc., a walking club for Jewish singles 50+, for a hike through the East Don Parklands. Meet at 9:30 a.m., Leslie and Equestrian Ct. For info, walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

BEACHES WALK

Join Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Club of Ontario for a stroll along the boardwalk in the Beaches. 11 a.m. Info, www.mosaictoronto.org.

DA VINCI CODE EXAMINED

Beach Hebrew Institute presents "*The Da Vinci Code*: A Jewish Perspective" with **Rabbi Michael Skobac** of Jews For Judaism. 2 p.m.,109 Kenilworth Ave. Free. 416-694-7942

Continued on page 31

TORAH in MOTION
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1. From the Chumash to the Siddur: The Biblical Roots of Prayer
Rabbi Menachem Leibtag founder of the Israel Koschitzky Virtual Bet Midrash. Live from West Orange, New Jersey, USA
■ Tuesdays Nov. 14 to Dec. 12, 2006. 12:30 - 1:15pm

2. Architects of Modern Orthodoxy: From Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch to Rabbi Jehiel Jacob Weinberg
Dr. Marc Shapiro Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Chair in Judaic Studies, University of Scranton Live from Alon Shvut, Israel
■ Wednesdays Nov. 15 to Dec. 13, 2006. 9 - 10pm

3. Joseph and his Brothers: Textual Explorations
Dafna Siegman Nishmat and Matan. Live from Jerusalem, Israel
■ Thursdays Nov. 16 to Dec. 14, 2006. 10 - 11am

4. Zoo Torah: An Exploration of The Animal Kingdom in Jewish law and thought
Rabbi Natan Slifkin The Zoo Rabbi. Live from Jerusalem, Israel
■ Mondays Nov. 20 to Dec. 18, 2006. 12:30 - 1:15pm

Register: www.torahinmotion.org/virtproglib/e-tim/index.htm
For info. www.torahinmotion.org 416.633.5770

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What's New

Continued from page 30

KIDS CONCERT

Beth Shalom presents **Robert Davies**, Sunday, Nov. 12, 4:30 p.m., followed by a pizza party. Adults $8, children $5. Tickets, 416-783-6103.

RADICAL ISLAM

Nazim Baksh, CBC investigative journalist and fellow at Massey College, speaks on the topic "Understanding Radical Islam." He looks at where Islamism fits into the broader world of Islam. 7:30 p.m., First Narayever Congregation. www.narayever.com

SONG AND DANCE

Beth Tikvah Synagogue presents the Variety Players in "Song & Dance," Sunday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m. $18. 416-221-3433, ext. 0

SHOWSTOPPERS

Temple Sinai Social Club hosts "Showstoppers," a musical evening of numbers from *Ragtime*, 7:30 p.m. $5, guests $7.

HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA

Temple Sinai hosts **Steve Falk** and **Marianna Beer,** of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, talk about how our community can take action and make a difference in the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. 7:30 p.m. 416-487-4161

Monday, Nov. 13

DIABETES AND FEET

Mark Childs, co-ordinator of Chiropody Services at North York General Hospital, speaks about "Diabetes and Feet: What's the Connection?" at the Jewish diabetes chapter meeting. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $1. 416-363-0177, ext. 7403

TALKING TO YOUR KIDS

The Jewish Family Institute presents "Hard Rocking: Talking to Your Kids About the Hard Stuff" with **Dr. Jerry Lob**, followed by a panel discussion. 8 p.m. at the Village Shul. $15. 416-785-1107, ext. 204

Tuesday, Nov. 14

THE DA VINCI CODE

Beth Tikvah Lunch and Learn features **Hindy Najman**, of U of T, discussing *The Da Vinci Code*. Lunch, 12:15 p.m. Learn 1 p.m. $12 pre-paid, $15 at the door. 416-221-3433, ext. 352

***CRASH* DISCUSSED**

Adath Israel Sisterhood Book and Film Review series with **Heather Cassel** discusses the film *Crash*. 8 p.m. 416-635-5340

CHUG HATANACH

Archie Rotenberg leads a study group in a discussion of *The Book of Ruth,* Chapter 3. 8 p.m. at Beth David Congregation. All welcome.

MUSSAR GROUP FORMING

The Mussar Institute is looking to start a local mussar, spiritual and ethical development group in Toronto. Meeting 8-9:30 p.m. at Beth Shalom Synagogue. www.mussarinstitute.org or e-mail modya@mussaratwork.com

KABBALAH

Rabbi Jerry Steinberg speaks on "Kabbalah: The Essence of Judaism." 8 p.m. at Temple Har Zion. 905-889-2252

MISSION STATEMENTS

Participate in a Kolel workshop to create Jewish family mission statements, with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**. 7:30-9 p.m. at the BJCC. $10.

Wednesday, Nov. 15

CANTORIAL CONCERT

The Toronto Council of Hazzanim presents "A Tribute to **Cantor Louis Danto**" featuring 11 Toronto cantors and cantors **Itzhak Zhrebker**, of Dallas, and **Jacob Mendelson**, of New York. 7:30 p.m. at Beth Emeth Synagogue. $25. 416-633-3838

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Corey Keeble, curator of decorative arts at the Royal Ontario Museum, presents a slide show and lecture on "Synagogue Textiles," at the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles meeting. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim. Call **Anna**, 416-638-3342 or e-mail info@pomegranateguild.ca.

Other News

STUDY W/ HINDY NAJMAN

Join **Hindy Najman**, of U of T, for a four-week course on "Texts, Traditions and Communities in the Late Second Temple Era," an examination of the Jewish communities before and during the Second Temple period and discussion of the relevance of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Thursdays, Nov. 16-Dec. 7, 9:30-11 a.m. at Netivot HaTorah. $50. Info, 416-877-2050 or www.mekorot.ca.

E-STUDY

Torah in Motion presents the e-TiM project. Participate in live interactive video courses on your computer. "From the Chumash to the Siddur: The Biblical Roots of Prayer," with **Rabbi Menachem Leibtag**, Tuesdays, Nov. 14-Dec. 12, 12:30-1:15 p.m.; "Architects of Modern Orthodoxy: From **Samson Raphael Hirsch** to **Jehiel Jacob Weinberg**" with **Marc Shapiro**, Wednesdays, Nov. 15-Dec. 13, 9-10 p.m.; "Joseph and His Brothers: Textual Explorations" with **Dafna Siegman**, Thursdays, Nov. 16-Dec. 14, 10-11 a.m.; "Zoo Torah: An Exploration of the Animal Kingdom in Jewish Law and Thought" with **Rabbi Natan Slifkin**, Mondays, Nov. 20-Dec. 18, 12:30-1:15 p.m. $18 each. To register, visit www.torahinmotion.org.

LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

This year's Jewish Film Festival screens *See Knowledge Is the Beginning*, Saturday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Wolf Performance Centre; *A Cantor's Tale*, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2 p.m. and *Live and Become*, Sunday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. both at Rainbow Cinema.

VENDORS WANTED

Shomrai Shabbos Congregation is looking for vendors for their Chanukah Boutique, Sunday, Dec. 3. Call **Devorah**, 416-781-8025.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration, 416-638-7800, or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna** ext. 215 for info and registration.

Happiest Baby on the Block: A workshop for parents of newborns and infants who want to learn how to calm their babies. Monday, Nov. 13, 7-9:30 p.m. at the Promenade Mall. Registration required.

When You're About to Separate – What to Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation. Tuesday, Nov. 14, 9:30 a.m.-noon at the Promenade Mall, #313.

"Understanding Bipolar and Anxiety Disorders": A lecture on symptoms and treatment, and how and where to get support. Thursday, Nov. 23, 7-9 p.m., the Lipa Green Bldg.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tzedec Senior Haverim program presents storyteller Vivien **Felsen** on "Jewish Immigration to Canada in the Early Years." Mon. Nov. 13, 1:30 p.m. $2. 416-781-3511

The Association of Jewish Seniors hosts **Dr. Michael Guerriero** on "Health Care in 2006: Facts Behind the Headlines." Thursday, Nov. 16, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Sunday dance, Nov. 19; Casino Rama, Wednesday, Dec. 13; Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Nov. 9, sing along with **Yitchak Argaman**. Call **Menachem,** 905-731-7748 .

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Plant sale, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Computer Labs; one-on-one assistance. Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon. Call 2275.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Jewish Roots of Broadway" with **Jordan Klapman**. Sunday, Nov. 12, 2:15 p.m. $2, non-members $4.

Diabetes Education, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m.-noon. Call 416-787-1676, ext. 301.

"Natural Alternatives to the Flu Vaccine" with **Marilyn Freedman**, Nov. 16, 1 p.m. Free.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Family Place at the Jewish Discovery Museum offers Boogie Babies and Jammin' Tots with musician **Deborah Maes.** Tuesdays 1-1:45 p.m. Call ext. 235.

Kids' cooking class, ages junior kindergarten-6 yrs., Tuesdays, 4:10-5:10 p.m. Call ext. 390.

Red Cross "People Saver," Monday, Nov. 13, Gives 5- to 8-year-olds the skills to stay safe. Level 1, 12:45-1:45 p.m. $18; Level 2, 2-4 p.m. $20.

The Koffler Chamber Orchestra under **Jacques Israelievitch**, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 8 p.m. at Leah Posluns Theatre. Tickets $20, seniors and students $18. Call ext. 228.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org

"The Jews of Czestochowa: Coexistence, Holocaust, Memory" on exhibit in Jacobs Lounge through Nov. 15. Free.

"Great Jewish Composers Make Their Mark Records: Radio, Rhythm and Jews" with **Jordan Klapman**, Sunday, Nov. 12, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. $8, coffee and bagels included. Call ext. 111.

Recital Series, "**Jacques Israelievitch** and Friends" at the Al Green Theatre, Sunday, Nov.19, March 4, May 15, $20, students $18, series $50. Tickets, harrietw@mnjcc.org. or ext. 0.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 33

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Gilda Rosen	Oct 21/06	60 Disera Drive.
Josef Cohen	Oct 21/06	225 St. George Street
Beatrice Corbin	Oct 20/06	18905 N.E. 25th Avenue
Rose Sherwin	Oct 22/06	1000 St. Charles Place
Jean Frymerman	Oct 22/06	43 Barclay Road
Stephen Vise	Oct 22/06	18 Brownlow Avenue
Harry Silverstein	Oct 23/06	Toronto
Gerald Ross	Oct 23/06	400 Walmer Rd.,East Twr
Julius Minuk	Oct 25/06	131 Torresdale Ave.
Saul Fergenbaum	Oct 26/06	72 Markwood Lane
Mary Wilner	Oct 25/06	28 Shallmar Blvd.
Sarah Platt	Oct 25/06	541 Finch Avenue, West
Renee Lyons	Oct 27/06	205 Hillhurst Blvd.
Esther Kornblum	Oct 28/06	7 Josephine Road
Rina Thompson	Oct 27/06	75 Havenbrook Blvd
Loretta Pape	Oct 28/06	240 Heath Street West,
Israel (Ignac) Feldman	Oct 27/06	15 Rockford Road
Rose Zernie	Oct 28/06	51 Apricot Street

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Landesman, Peter	Oct. 19/06	44 Gossamer Ave
Svirski, Perla	Oct. 19/06	15 Tangreen Crt
Salcman, Ann	Oct. 20/06	509 Bedford Park Ave
Pollak, Ervin	Oct. 20/06	Private
Rosen, Florence	Oct. 20/06	130 Neptune Dr
Noe, Zoltan	Oct. 22/06	15 York Hill Blvd
Stein, Theodore	Oct. 22/06	573 St. Clements Ave
Treger, Arkadi	Oct. 22/06	1121 Bay St
Klein, Bernard	Oct. 23/06	190 Bedford Rd
Wagman, Sol Isaac	Oct. 23/06	Private
Levine, Anita	Oct. 24/06	866 Sheppard Ave
Iakobovits, Dezideriu	Oct. 24/06	7601 Bathurst St
Sagalovich, Eugenia	Oct. 25/06	3560 Bathurst St
Baicher, Morris	Oct. 25/06	555 Finch Ave. W.
Goldberg, Eliahu	Oct. 26/06	7440 Bathurst St

HEDREW BASIC BURIAL

Ida Silver	Oct 29/06	35 Tamarack Drive
Ellis Schain	Oct 28/06	5935 Bathurst Street

The family of the late

MARK OBAR ז"ל

Would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dear family and friends for their support during our recent bereavement. The many cards, donations and shivah meals sent in Mark's memory have been a source of comfort to all of us.

Barbara Obar
June and Howard Sheldon
Jordan, Veronica and Sarelle Sheldon

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Israel can't take a chance on Iran

According to Reports

By **PAUL MICHAELS**

"Islam, Terror and the Second Nuclear Age," an 8,200-word essay by Noah Feldman in the *New York Times Magazine* (Oct. 29) is essential reading for anyone who wonders what might happen if Iran develops nuclear weapons.

A law professor at New York University, Feldman is fluent in Arabic and has written extensively on the Arab/Muslim world. Below are some of the key points in his article.

• The prospect of nuclear Iran worries not only Israel, which views it as an existential threat, but also others in the Middle East, he writes. "A nuclear attack on Israel would engulf the whole region. But that is not the only danger: Sunnis in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere fear that the Iranians might just use a nuclear bomb against them."

• "States – including North Korea – might sell [nuclear] bombs or give them to favoured proxy allies, the way Iran gave Hezbollah medium-range rockets that Hezbollah used this summer during its war with Israel."

• Since suicide bombers are more than willing to die for their cause, they are by definition immune to deterrence, such as the theory of mutually assured destruction that worked between the United States and Russia during the Cold War.

• While no Muslim state has "openly embraced" the logic of suicide bombing, "after 9/11, we can no longer treat the possibility as fanciful." Nuclear-armed Pakistan, under "rational dictator" General Pervez Musharraf, has acted responsibly. But what happens if Islamic extremists take over?

• There is an internal debate among Muslim scholars about whether jihad, which is a "pillar of Islam," allows for the murder of innocents, especially women and children, and whether it permits suicide bombings, since suicide is banned in the Qur'an. Some scholars justify suicide bombings as "martyr" missions: "Even among rather secular Muslims, it has become standard to refer to suicide bombers as martyrs." While noting that "Palestinian suicide bombing [has] become a widespread social norm," Feldman says this is an exception. However, his argument ignores the hundreds of Iraqi civilians killed in the past few years by fellow Muslim suicide bombers.

• Feldman poses the following rhetorical question: "If the Islamic laws of war are under revision, or at least the subject of intense debate, what does this mean for the question of the Islamic bomb?" His answer is not reassuring: "[T]he expanding religious sanction for violence once thought unacceptable opens the way for new kinds of violence to be introduced and seen as legitimate."

• There is much speculation about whether Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad would use a nuclear bomb in a first-strike attack. He is on record as being a firm believer in the return of the 12th imam, "whose appearance will usher in a golden age of justice and peace to be followed by the Day of Judgment." Feldman calls this an "apocalyptic, millennial" mindset "that might lead whole peoples, rather than just individuals, into suicidal behaviour."

• Some argue that Ahmadinejad and the mullahs running Iran might be pragmatists who see acquiring nuclear weapons "primarily to improve [Iran's] regional position and protect itself against regime change – not to annihilate Israel. According to this view, Iran's nuclear push reflects a drive to what is sometimes called national greatness and might more accurately be defined as the ability of a country to thumb its nose at the United States without fear of major repercussions."

(This is the gist of another influential article, "Defiant Iran," by Christopher de Bellaigue in the Nov. 2 issue of the the *New York Review of Books*. De Bellaigue argues that, noxious, anti-Jewish rhetoric aside, Ahmadinejad might be pushing a defiantly nationalist and not an apocalyptic, pan-Islamic agenda.).

However, virtually all Israeli analysts concur that Israel can't risk assuming Ahmadinejad's language and repeated threats against the Jewish state are only bombast. With a nuclear weapons program well underway, and given all the evidence of his extremist Islamic-ideological views, Ahmadinejad, along with his fellow travellers, must be viewed as an imminent threat, and not only to Israel. The dominant question is what should be done?

Near the conclusion of his article, Feldman himself asks whether "force, negotiation or some combination is the right path to keep Iran from going nuclear."

No one appears to have an answer.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Municipal elections 101

Guest Voice

By STEVEN SHULMAN

Municipal election day in Ontario is Monday, Nov. 13, and I have two predictions about it. Not everybody will vote, and those who don't vote will complain about actions taken by municipal politicians voted into office by others.

Many people don't think municipal elections need particular Jewish attention. Issues high on the list of discussion in our synagogues, community centres and homes, including support for Israel and funding for Jewish day schools, are not under the jurisdiction of municipal councils or school boards. However, I can tell you that from my seat as Ontario regional director and national general counsel of Canadian Jewish Congress, I see municipal representatives regularly taking action and making decisions of great importance to our community.

Among other things, they address issues including political support for Jewish community centre developments such as the Jewish Toronto Tomorrow projects; efforts to ensure adequate parking for Jewish schools; facilitation of public space for Israel emergency rallies; and supporting partnerships with social services agencies funded by federations.

Even if one has children or grandchildren in Jewish day schools, what happens in our public schools is of significance to the Jewish community.

School trustees review and make policy that ultimately filters down to what is taught in the classroom, shaping attitudes for future generations. School boards have been instrumental in ensuring the development of programs on Holocaust education and countering anti-Semitism and other forms of racism. In the past year, Ontario school boards have addressed many key issues, ranging from examining the age-appropriateness of a book about the Middle East that was promoted to primary school students, to renting unused board space to other schools, including Jewish day schools.

Although elected officials don't have direct decision-making power on federal policy issues such as Israel or on provincial issues such as school funding, mayors, councillors and trustees are opinion leaders whose statements on issues outside their jurisdiction can be of great importance. The actions of municipal officials also carry significant symbolic value. For example, at the rallies for Israel this summer, who among us wasn't checking to see if our municipal representatives took part?

The late Tip O'Neill, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, once said that "all politics is local," and many of our politicians start out locally. Former prime minister Kim Campbell and former premier Mike Harris were once school trustees. Current MP's with municipal experience include Liberal MP Susan Kadis and federal NDP leader Jack Layton. Votes in municipal elections are often votes for leaders who will ultimately make decisions on issues of provincial, national and international importance.

Voting is merely a beginning. As the population of Ontario and Canada increases, Jews will comprise a dwindling proportion of the electorate. Candidates launching their careers at the municipal level will not forget those who ventured into the trenches to knock on doors, put up signs, and drive people to the polls. The effectiveness of groups such as Canadian Jewish Congress is directly tied to the level of democratic participation by community members.

If you are at least 18 years of age, a Canadian citizen, and someone who cares about the Jewish future of our province and country, you have a responsibility to inform yourself, vote and look at other ways to enhance the democratic process prior to and on election day.

Steven Shulman is Ontario regional director and national general counsel of Canadian Jewish Congress.

SINGLES EVENTS

DEADLINE:
Wednesday 4 p.m.
8 days preceding issue date

For rates or to place an ad call 416-391-1836

The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries on events to the event's organizers

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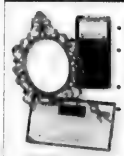

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- William Ashley China gift certificates ($100 value)
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Coast to Coast

Sam Katz re-elected as Winnipeg mayor

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Winnipeggers went to the polls on Oct. 25, and as was widely predicted, Sam Katz was easily elected to his first full term as mayor.

Katz – who is Winnipeg's first Jewish mayor (although before 1971, when the city's suburban administrations were merged into one body, the suburbs of Tuxedo and West Kildonan both had Jewish mayors) – was first elected in June 2005 in a by-election called to fill the remainder of Glen Murray's term after he left the mayor's office for an unsuccessful run for Parliament.

Sam Katz

Born in Rehovot, Israel, to Holocaust survivors, Katz made a name for himself primarily in the fields of sports and entertainment.

In the latter, he was responsible for bringing many big-name acts to the city over the years. Eleven years ago, he realized his dream of bringing professional baseball to Winnipeg. As the owner of the Winnipeg Goldeyes of the independent Northern Baseball League, Katz had to fight City Hall to build his ballpark, which has become one of the best-attended and classiest ballparks in minor league baseball.

(He was also part owner of the short-lived Winnipeg Cyclones basketball team and was a partner in the Salisbury House Restaurant chain.)

As mayor, Katz has concentrated on bread-and-butter issues such as road repairs, mosquito control, snow clearing and policing. He made few promises during this recent campaign, emphasizing instead the same issues he focused on as mayor. He also did relatively little campaigning, as he had little serious opposition.

There were three other candidates running against the pro-business Katz. Marianne Cerilli, a former provincial NDP cabinet minister, and the little-known Kaj Hasselriis appealed to left-wing voters. Combined, they garnered about 60,000 votes to Katz's 104,000. Ron Pollock, who is also Jewish, was considered a fringe candidate and received less than 5,000 votes.

Katz had endorsed a number of city council candidates, including Brenda Leipsic, who he appointed deputy mayor late last week. Leipsic, who became Winnipeg's first Jewish city councillor in eight years (Sandy Hyman, who also represented River Heights, was defeated by Garth Steck in 1995), said that although she was flattered to have had Katz's support, she also had the endorsements of many other leading public figures from across the political spectrum.

Leipsic had built up an impressive track record over the years as a volunteer. She co-ordinated the first Winnipeg Children's Hospital's Teddy Bears Picnic and has volunteered her time to CancerCare Manitoba, the St. Boniface Hospital Research Foundation and the Sharon Home Capital Campaign. In May, she finished a four-year term as co-chair of the Winnipeg Humane Society's $13-million fundraising campaign for its new building.

In June, she organized the dinner for the Major Cities Summit, with former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani as the keynote speaker.

In politics, she served two terms as president of the provincial Conservative party and earlier was a campaign chair for a former NDP MLA and cabinet minister.

"My family and friends encouraged me to run for city council," she said. "Since August, I have knocked on 3,000 doors and worn out two pairs of shoes."

In defeating first-term councillor Donald Benham, she removed one of Katz's most strident critics on council.

Leipsic speaks very highly of Katz and said he's the man to lead the way in tackling the city's myriad problems. Her own priorities are much the same as the mayor's: public safety, infrastructure and community clubs. She would also like to see more green space.

As well, Leipsic wants councillors limited to two terms in office.

In north Winnipeg, realtor Claudia Sarbit was re-elected to the Seven Oaks School Board. Sarbit, currently Manitoba's only Jewish public school board trustee, has been a school trustee for more than 20 years.

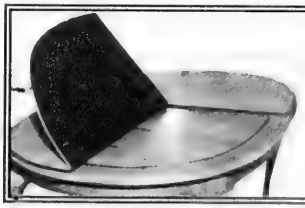
Sarbit, a former teacher, said she's always been interested in education.

"I had a lot of ideas that I thought would be helpful," she said. "I have always believed in public service."

Shae Greenfield, however, fell short in his campaign for the school board. It was the University of Manitoba political science student's first run for office. He worked for a year in Ottawa as a legislative assistant to a member of Parliament.

"It was a good experience," the 23-year-old said of his run. "I felt since I am recently out of school that I might have something to contribute to the discussion."

He said he may run for office again at some point.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Coast to Coast

Survivors speak about wartime experiences

By REBECA KUROPATWA
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — At the first meetings of the Holocaust Survivors Group, members were hesitant to speak about their wartime experiences but as time passed they opened up.

"Some of the people who wouldn't talk about their experiences before do talk about it now, and from a place of pride," says social worker Adeena Lungen, who organized the group with social workers Gloria Gray and Cheryl Corrin.

Founded nearly six years ago, the Holocaust Survivors Group is an Older Adult Service, Jewish Child and Family Services (JCFS) program.

"From the beginning," says Lungen, "we wanted to reach out to Holocaust survivors, to involve them in an organized, primarily social group. We started by having an open meeting for all Holocaust survivors, asking them to tell us what they are looking for at this stage of their lives.

"Many of the survivors now still feel 'different,' even though they have integrated into the Winnipeg Jewish community and are really successful. They feel their differentness, as survivors. So they wanted a place where they either wouldn't feel different or they would all feel different together – as they shared something that only they have been through."

Cheryl Hirsh Katz, supervisor of the JCFS' Older Adult Services, says the turnout for the first meeting of the survivors' group was much bigger than expected. "We thought maybe 20 people would show up, but 80 people attended.

"There are other seniors social programs out there, but survivors have told us that they don't feel as comfortable or that they fit in. So they said they wanted a group specifically for survivors."

Lungen says some survivors have "voiced old grievances about how when they first came here, in the 1940s and '50s, there were not a lot of programs for survivors – really when they would have needed it most.

"They were traumatized, had no money or English-language skills. They told us they wanted a social group where they could get help with pensions/restitutions, meet with other survivors, share stories, laugh, have entertainment, celebrate festivals together and have speakers. So the group now meets one or two times each week."

Meetings take place at the Gwen Sector [Creative Living Centre] because a lot of the survivors live in the north end where the centre is. "We provide the participants with a kosher hot meal, and transportation around the city to the meetings – especially in the winter when it is harder to get out," says Hirsh Katz.

"We have school groups spend time with the survivors. They get to know them and learn about the Holocaust years. As well, second- and third-generation people come out, meet the group participants, and they learn from each other."

When Yoram Hamizrachi, a hero in the 1982 Israel-Lebanon war and a specialist on the Middle East, spoke to the survivors; he told the group that he was "honoured to be in [their] presence, because [they] are the true heroes," says Lungen.

"I think this captured it, that we are in the presence of people who lived through a time in history that was awful, and they survived. They are strong and resilient. And so, they are finally seeing that this is how people look at them."

Cheryl Hirsh Katz, left, is the supervisor of Jewish Child and Family Services (JCFS) Older Adult Services and Adeena Lungen helped to organize the Holocaust Survivors Group. [Rebeca Kuropatwa photo]

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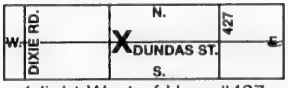

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Coast to Coast

Winnipeg student to take part in international debate competition

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — A Grade 12 student at Gray Academy of Jewish Education will represent Canada at the World Individual Debate and Public Speaking Championships in Cape Town, South Africa next March.

Shira Lerner, who has been debating for four years, qualified last month at national competitions, which were held at St. Andrew's College in Aurora, Ont.

She is the only Jewish participant on the six-member Canadian Team.

"Shira worked very hard on this," says Linda Martin, Gray Academy's debating teacher. "She came to my house frequently over the summer to practice."

The debating program was introduced at Gray Academy about two years ago, due largely to the efforts of businessman Raymond Kives whose son was a champion international high school debater at St. John's-Ravenscourt School, a non-Jewish private school.

Kives helped establish the Gray Academy Debating & Public Speaking Fund through The Jewish Foundation of Manitoba.

Under the direction of Martin, Gray students have quickly made a strong impact on the Canadian and international high school debating scene.

In the spring of 2005, then Grade 11 student Susan Schipper took part in the international competitions held in Cyprus.

She competed against high school debating champions from countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Israel, and Pakistan.

Schipper performed well consistently throughout the different types of debating competitions and was ranked seventh overall. Last March, she placed second in debate at the World Individual Public Speaking and Debate Championship, held at the Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut.

In her Grade 11 year, Lerner did well enough to qualify as an alternate member of the team but didn't make it to Lakeville.

She is very excited, she says, to have qualified for Cape Town.

"I learned a lot from Mrs. Martin," she says.

She also praises Andrew Kaplan who is filling in for Martin as debating teacher over the fall while she recuperates from surgery.

At the most recent competition, Gray Academy was also represented by Grade 12 students Cara Katz and Michael Schwartz.

This month in Montreal, six Gray Academy students Jessica Donen, Michael Schwartz, Josh Morry, Jonathan Ripstein and brothers Sam and Josh Fineblit – will be in competition at McGill University in the high school tournament.

Josh Morry also qualified to debate in the Western Debating Seminar in Moose Jaw, Sask.

Martin says that the public speaking and debating course at the school focuses on teaching students how to deliver effective oral presentations, individually and as members of a team.

"They analyze topics, listen to others, and learn to refute arguments," Martin says.

"This course provides students with the opportunity to present prepared and impromptu speeches and to participate in parliamentary and cross-examination debates."

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7:00 pm

Our Global Jewish Village:

The Jews of the World Today:
Lost, Found & Re-Emerging Communities

In early history, the Jewish people consisted of a small ethnically homogeneous tribe. As the Jewish nation grew and settled in new places, it became a multi-ethnic mosaic. This enlightening seminar, designed to broaden our understanding of contemporary Jewish diversity, will include the screening and discussion of the Simcha Jacobovici film: "The Quest for the Lost Tribes".

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מה יהיה

באחד ממוספי סוף השבוע הישראליים ראיינו שני חתני נובל ישראליים-פרופ. צ'אנובר ואומן, ושניהם אמרו במילים נמרצות שאם ישראל תמשיך בדרכה הנוכחית-היא תגיע לאבדון ("לא נהיה" אמר צ'אנובר). לא פחות ולא יותר-אבדון. הדברים הפריעו לי בכמה רמות:

קודם כל יולות המילים-בישראל אבדו המילה המדוברת והכתובה את ערכן -הרבה ממה שנאמר הוא כל כך מוגזם, כל כך לית, כל כך דאוור -שאף אחד, כולל פרופסורים מלומדים, אינו יכול להגיד דברים מדוייקים- בסגנון של "אם לא תעצק או לא קשיבו לך".

וממילא אף אחד לא לוקח את הדברים כפשוטם. מה שהנשמיט כינו ישראל ברוך. במה שונים הפרופסורים מפנינה רוזנבלום שמדברת ברצינות תהומית על נושאים שאין לה בהם מושג? אתם פרופסורים, שבמאמריהם המדעיים הם שוקלים כל מילה ברצינות רבה -נוערים בקול גדול על החורבן. ממש ישעיהו השני וירמיהו השלישי.

והדבר השני-חמור לא פחות-מה הופך מישהו שזכה בפרס נובל בכימיה או בכלכלה למומחה גדול בתחומים אחרים? המון פעמים זה כמעט ההיפך-כדי להגיע להישגים ספציפיים -אנשים מלומדים די מנתקים ממה שקורה בתחומים אחרים. המצב מגוחך בעיקר במקרה של פרופסור אומן, שהוא איש הימין הקיצוני, ומשוכנע שפיטוי עזה היה התחילת החורבן, תוך שהוא שוכח לציין שרוב העם שחי בציון קץ בכך שחייליו נהרגים בהגנה על היאחזויות בעזה. אבל שישאר בינינו.

הצדעה לסיימון וגרפינקל

ביום חמישי, ה-10 בנובמבר יתקיים במועדון "הבה נגילה" קונצרט מיוחד- שירי סיימון וגרפינקל עם סיפורים הקשורים בהיסטוריה המופלאה שלהם. האמנים, היישר מישראל, הם מוני ארנון-מנהיג להקת האחים האחיות, וחברו לארי פוגל, זמר ידוע של שירי עם אמריקאיים. בדרך כלל מגיעים אמנים מישראל לבצע שירים עבריים, ועל כן יוהי חוויה שונה ומיוחדת לשירים ולאמנים שהולכים איתנו כבר יותר מארבעים שנה. ההופעה "הצדעה לסיימון וגרפינקל" מוצגת בהצלחה גדולה בישראל. "ראיתי, התלהבתי והחלטתי שגם לנו בטורונטו מגיע להנות" אומר האמרגן והאמן מיקי לוין שטרח להביא את מוני ולארי לעירנו.

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לקראת סוף תפילת יום כיפור שאל הרב: "מי מיכם סלח לאויבים שלו?". כולם הרימו את ידיהם חוץ מזקנה קטנה אחת.

"גברת כהן, התפלא הרב-אולי תגלי לנו מדוע איך יכולה לסלוח לאוייבייך?", "פשוט אין לי אויבים" ענתה הזקנה.

"גב. כהן, שאל אותה הרב, בת כמה את?"

"בת שמונים ושמונה," ענתה הזקנה,

"או אולי תגלי לנו איך הצלחת בגילך המופלג שלא יהיו לך אויבים?".

"פשוט-נתתי להם כולם למות" ענתה הזקנה בשלווה.

אשה נעימה ועדינה נכנסה לביתי מרקחת וביקשה מהרוקח ציאניד. השתומם הרוקח ושאל אותה למה היא צריכה את הרעל, והיא ענתה בעדינות שהיא מתכננת להרוג את בעלה. הודיעוץ הרוקח האחרי שנרגע אמר לה: "את מטורפת או מה? הרי יאשימו אותך ברצח ויאסרו גם אותי, תשכחי מזה!"

פתחה הגברת את ארנקה והוציאה מתוכו תמונה של בעלה בתחתונים שאיננה משתמעת לשתי פנים עם אשתו של הרוקח.

הביט הרוקח בתמונה ואמר: "טוב, היית צריכה להגיד מיד שיש לך מרשם"...

Coast to Coast

Lawyer regales veterans with Churchillian tales

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Ronald Cohen's quarter-century fascination with Winston Churchill has culminated in the publication of a three-volume bibliography of Churchill's life.

On Oct. 29, the lawyer and film producer, whose personal Churchill collection includes more than 6,000 items, spoke at the annual meeting and brunch of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Ottawa post, held at Agudath Israel Synagogue.

Pictured at the annual meeting of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Ottawa post, are, from left, Alan Baker, Israel's ambassador to Canada; lawyer Ronald Cohen; and post commander Phil Pinkus. [Elly Bollegraaf photo]

"Churchill had a legendary wit and spun a great tale as many of you know," said Cohen. "There are those stories that were true and those that were not true. He was so good with a line that any good story was attributed to him."

Cohen emphasized, with numerous citations of fact, Churchill's admiration for, and defence of, Jews in Britain and his strong belief in Zionism.

"Despite pressures from many quarters, he defended the contributions that Jews had made to Great Britain and around the world," he said.

Cohen's presentation was scholarly, detailed and impassioned, concluding that "we won't see [Churchill's] like again."

Post commander Phil Pinkus thanked Cohen. "Many of us here today lived through very perilous times… what gave us a glimmer of hope was the magnificent voice of Churchill," he said.

Rabbi Reuven Bulka, who said his late father had been a great fan of Churchill, addressed the veterans and thanked them for their sacrifices. "We do not take for granted the great freedoms that we have. We have them because of you," he said.

Bringing greetings on behalf of the State of Israel, Ambassador Alan Baker noted that Jews have served in many wars. "Whilst you are veterans of the Second World War, there are other veterans of other wars… I am a veteran of two wars in Israel; Dahlia [his wife] is a veteran; and my three sons… are also veterans," he said, adding that there were also people present – Sara and Ze'ev Vered – who had fought with the Palmach, the pre-state Jewish militia in Palestine.

Scholarships were presented to four students, all recent high school graduates, who are pursuing post-secondary education.

Winners of the Ottawa Post Student Awards were Nathan Cepelinski and Emily Moon. The Abe Carlofsky Student Award was presented to Daniel Herscovitch, while Hillel Shaps was the winner of the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Student Award.

INUIT ART AUCTION

Thursday, November 23, 2006
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6:30pm Preview/Silent Auction Opens
7:30pm Live Auction Begins
8:30pm Silent Auction Closes

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Coast to Coast

Pope chooses Holocaust-inspired art for the Vatican

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Rabbi Ronnie Cahana grew up with the smell of paint and his Hungarian-born mother's attempt through her art to express her feelings about the Holocaust and her miraculous survival of Auschwitz as a teenager.

He could never have imagined that one day his mother, Alice Lok Cahana, would be received at the Vatican to present a German pope with one of her creations that aims to convey the horror of her and millions of others' experience at hands of the Nazis.

On Oct. 25, Rabbi Cahana accompanied his mother, who lives in Houston, Tex., to an audience at St. Peter's Basilica with Benedict XVI, whose curators had chosen one of her paintings for inclusion in the Vatican museums.

Unveiled at the meeting was the dark foreboding *No Names*, measuring seven feet high by almost four feet wide. This abstract work recalls the fear and dehumanization of concentration camp victims.

A railroad track vanishes into a black hole at the centre. Most of the canvas is covered with sequences of hazy numbers preceded by the letter *A* – the identification the nameless inmates were tattooed with. There is a hint of red at the end of the tunnel, which suggests a lick of flames, and white scatters the ground like a blanket of ash.

Benedict studied the painting intently and asked questions, said Rabbi Cahana, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth-El. He wondered what the yellowish cloud at the top centre symbolized. She explained that it represented the overwhelming stench of burning flesh that assaulted her nostrils when she arrived as a 15-year-old in March 1944.

She was scheduled to be gassed at Birkenau on Oct. 7, the same day an uprising by workers at one of the crematoria broke out. The panicked SS ordered her and the other women out of the gas chamber and back to their barracks.

Later she and her sister, Edith, were on the death march to Bergen-Belsen. Two days after liberation the girls were separated when Edith became very ill and was taken to a Red Cross hospital. Edith was never found after that.

Her mother, two brothers, grandfather, aunts and uncles did not survive, either.

Lok Cahana has dedicated her work to Holocaust remembrance since returning to her hometown of Sarvar in 1978.

She was one of five Hungarian survivors portrayed in Steven Spielberg's 1999 award-winning documentary *The Last Days*.

Rabbi Cahana said it is his mother's hope that the work can serve to bridge the Jewish and Catholic communities, and play a part in promoting peace and unity in the world.

"She described her meeting with the pope as a deeply felt connection with someone who understands. She is very grateful for the meeting and the decision by the Vatican to include her art in its magnificent collections."

The painting will be housed with the Vatican's collection of modern art. Museums director Francesco Buranelli commented that the piece will "complete the important cycle of 20th-century art history in the Vatican museums."

He expressed delight in the acquisition and acknowledged the importance of her work. Other pieces are in the collections of Yad Vashem and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, among others.

The pontiff took Lok Cahana by the hand as she expressed her appreciation to him, as a survivor, for his visit last year to Auschwitz, one of his first acts as head of the Catholic Church. They conversed in English and German.

Lok Cahana had a dream one night soon after Benedict's visit to the camp that her art was shown at the Vatican. She shared the vision with her friends Harvey Rosenstock, a Houston psychiatrist, and his wife, Judith, who collect her work.

The couple sought the assistance of prominent citizen and Catholic community activist Raye White. She contacted Archbishop Oscar Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala., chair of the Vox Clara Committee, an international group of bishops who advise the Vatican on English liturgical translations. The committee was instrumental in realizing Lok Cahana's dream.

Over the past year, letters, phone calls and faxes were exchanged among Lipscomb, the Holy See and Rosenstock, a past president of Congregation Brith Shalom, where Lok Cahana's late husband, Moshe, had been rabbi. The Vatican chose *No Names* from her extensive portfolio of Holocaust art.

Also present during the audience were the artist's other son Rabbi Michael Cahana and his wife, cantor Ida Rae Cahana of Portland, Ore., daughter Reena Cahana of Houston, Karen Knie Cahana (Ronnie's wife), television journalist and friend Shara Fryer of Houston, the Rosenstocks and Archbishop Lipscomb.

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Canadian Jews signed up for armed forces in large numbers

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

When Hy Arlin enlisted in the Canadian military in 1942, he had the example of three older brothers to guide him. Leo, Mike and Kenneth had all became soldiers, leaving their home in the St. Laurent neighbourhood of Montreal to fight Hitler and the Nazis.

Shortly after he turned 19 and not long after he finished high school, Hy joined them. Assigned to the 23rd self-propelled artillery, 4th Division, he was sent overseas and saw action late in the war in Belgium, Holland and Germany. Kenneth, a gunner in an anti-aircraft unit, could boast a more extensive wartime resumé, fighting in North Africa, Italy and western Europe. Leo and Mike remained in Canada.

The Arlin boys all made it home uninjured, but remarkably for the modest-sized Jewish community of 168,000, theirs was not the family that contributed the most sons to Canada's war effort.

A report prepared by Canadian Jewish Congress, cited in its 1945-46 Handbook and Religious Calendar for Jewish Veterans and Servicemen and Women, points out that Jews flocked to joined the the military in great numbers.

"In 31 cities and towns throughout Canada, everyone of the Jewish men of military age is in the services," Congress reported at the time.

"There is scarcely a Jewish home that has not given of its best to the military services, and there are such as Rabbi Mazer of Ottawa who has seven sons in the Armed Forces, the Smiths of Ottawa, the Spiegelmans of Toronto, the Olfmans of Kamsack and the Kushners of Winnipeg who have five men in uniform," the handbook points out.

Altogether, 16,559 Jewish men and women served in the military, about 10 per cent of the community's population. Jews joined up in greater numbers proportionately than any other community and greater than Canadian society as a whole.

About 10,000 served in the army and 5,700 in the air force. A little more than 500 were in the navy.

Arlin, now 82, was the gunner of a self-propelled artillery tank – an open tracked vehicle whose weapon was a 25-pound artillery gun. He recalls that his unit moved through occupied Europe without much opposition.

But there was at least one time when he saw heavy action. "There was a time we were surrounded by three companies of German paratroopers and until we got reinforcements… I said the *Shema*."

Following the German surrender, Arlin served in the occupation forces, using his knowledge of Yiddish to help interrogate Austrian prisoners of war.

In the following years, he didn't talk much about his wartime experiences and was busy running three grocery stores.

For Hy, one of the most vivid and gratifying memories was the time he and Kenneth arranged coincidental weekend passes during the fighting so they could spend time together in Brussels and meeting Betty, his British war bride.

Harry Sklar as a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force

"Young people, even my wife who went through the London blitz, can't imagine what it's like living under constant fear of bombings every night," he said.

* * *

For Harry Sklar, the idea of being a foot soldier in the ground forces had no appeal whatsoever. "I hate walking, so I wasn't going to be a soldier," he said.

In the early days of the war, either 1939 or 1940, he doesn't recall exactly, he walked into a recruiting station on Bay Street in Toronto to see where he could best serve. When asked by the sergeant on duty what he wanted to do, he asked him where he could make the most money.

Aviation instructors earned $300 a month, he was told, so Sklar decided flying was the route for him.

A high school drop out who had to work to help his family make ends meet, Sklar had no aviation experience whatsoever. He signed up for basic lessons at a flying school at the Toronto Islands, and after 12 hours in the air, was issued a flying licence.

With that in hand he was now qualified to join the Royal Canadian Air Force. He continued his training as a flight instructor at the Leavens Brothers airfield, which at the time was located at Dufferin Street and Lawrence Avenue West.

His first day was far from auspicious. Hanging around the airfield, he saw a flight engineer killed in a crash in what was essentially a joy ride.

Undaunted, Sklar, now 90, went on to become a flight instructor who trained hundreds of pilots as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

At the start though, the training the trainer received seemed wholly inadequate. When he was introduced to the Tiger Moth, the basic training craft that was a single-engine twin-seat biplane, he was told to take up his best student – who had more experience than he – watch him and learn how to fly the plane from him.

That's how "I learned how to take off and land the plane," he said.

Sklar, who went on to found the furniture company that bears his name, was assigned to Virden, Man., where he spent two years training pilots. He had many Jewish students but also many French Canadians, who, it turned out, did not speak English. "I taught them to fly with hand signals," he recalled.

Sklar would become an A2, the highest ranking flight instructor and would eventually graduate to flying the Harvard, a large and noisy single-engine monoplane.

His students went on to further flight training, and many flew the famed Spitfire fighters and Lancaster heavy bombers.

Because he dropped out of school at age 12, Sklar did not have the educational qualifications to earn a commission. Ironically, many of his students would go on to become squadron leaders in the air forces of several Allied countries.

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Co-Chair of the Israel Bonds Platinum Society

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Stephanie Weisz z"l

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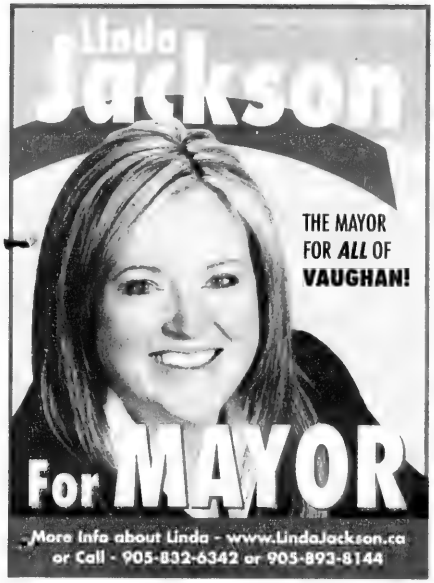

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Coast to Coast

It was great living in Toronto, says former *Star* publisher

Continued from page 1

I don't know if the new publisher – Jagoda Pike – will want to carry these ideas forward."

Goldbloom said he has no hard feelings toward Robert Pritchard, the chief executive officer of Torstar Corp., the media company that controls the *Star*.

"I worked closely with him and have a high regard for him. He was very supportive of me and consistently positive about the work I was doing. I have a high regard for his leadership."

But Goldbloom was mum about John Honderich, his predecessor and a member of one of the five families that control the *Star*.

"You can say I have no comment," he said with a wan smile.

According to a story in the *Globe and Mail*, which Goldbloom said was authoritative, Honderich insistently demanded Goldbloom's sacking after claiming that he was not sufficiently committed to local, public-minded journalism and after Torstar shares hit their lowest point in two years.

One day, when he pens his memoirs, Goldbloom fully intends to write about his days at the *Star*. But for now, he prefers to dwell on the positive and on what he considers to be his achievements as publisher.

By his account, he pushed and prodded the *Star* further into the realm of explanatory and investigative journalism. "Our focus was more and more on the 'why' rather than on the 'who,' 'what,' and 'where.'"

Under his watch, he added, the *Star* provided breaking coverage of the arrest of 17 Muslim Canadians in southern Ontario accused of terrorism, of the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, where 40 Canadian soldiers have been killed, and of last summer's war in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah.

Paper provided breaking coverage of war in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah

Before the Goldbloom era, the *Star* was constantly criticized by some Jews for its unfair coverage of Israel. He said he tried to remedy that by providing "balanced and accurate reporting."

Praising the *Star*'s Jerusalem-based Middle East correspondent, Mitch Potter, Goldbloom described him as "an outstanding journalist" who strives for fairness.

He conceded that *Star* columnist Haroon Siddiqui is very critical of Israel and that he frequently disagreed with his pointed views. "But I didn't try to impede him."

Goldbloom said that other columnists, namely freelancer Anna Morgan and staffer Rosie DiManno, gave readers "a more sympathetic perspective" of Israel.

On the editorial page, where Goldbloom says he exercised the most influence, the *Star* showed understanding of Israel's controversial separation fence, urged Hamas to recognize Israel, recognized Iran's existential threat to Israel's survival and displayed sympathy for Israel's security needs.

Looking back, he observed, "I'd be comfortable with the perspective that the *Star* was more sympathetic to Israel, but no government is perfect."

Last March, he and wife wife spent 10 days in Israel on a private visit and later toured Egypt and Jordan.

"I developed a better appreciation of Israel's security barrier and of the fact that the vast majority of Israelis want peace."

He was also struck by a comment uttered by Shimon Peres, the current deputy prime minister and grand old man of Israeli politics. "Peres said, 'War unites and peace divides.'"

As well, Goldbloom is proud of his role in launching *Star P.M.*, the first North American "downloadable" afternoon newspaper.

"We also invested heavily in our website," he said.

"The electronic delivery of information is here to stay, and will be the predominant mode of delivering news in the future. Our grandchildren will wonder why we chopped down forests to produce newspapers, only for readers to throw out the product the very next day."

Goldbloom, however, does not believe that print journalism will be completely supplanted by its digital upstart. "The two forms can coexist."

In his judgment, the newspaper industry has reached a critical crossroads. "This is probably the most challenging time in the history of newspapers."

Or, as he put it in a memo to staff on the day he left the *Star* on Oct. 16: "There are numerous structural pressures facing the industry: the decline in single copy sales, the decline in industry-wide readership, the migration of classified advertising to the Internet, the emergence of alternative sources for news and information and the increasing demands of advertisers to demonstrate measurable return-on-investment."

In the decades ahead, he said, newspapers will only be successful if they have "a portfolio of products," from a website to a downloadable afternoon newspaper.

Goldbloom, the son of distinguished pediatrician and Quebec politician Victor Goldbloom, is acutely aware that his ouster from the *Star* marks the second time in his publishing career that such a fate has befallen him.

After practising law and presiding over the fortunes of the YMCA as president and chief executive officer from 1991 to 1994, Goldbloom was president and publisher of the *Gazette*, Montreal's only English language daily.

Prior to that, he was a reporter, columnist and editorial board writer for the *Gazette*.

But after the Asper family bought the *Gazette*, he and the Aspers clashed, and Goldbloom resigned.

He subsequently re-emerged as a visiting scholar at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, where he met Heather Monroe-Blum and where he organized a major national conference on the Canadian media.

Asked if he is finally finished with the newspaper business, he replied, "You never say never. I love newspapers. Newspapers play a critical role in our democracy. But in the short term, I've made a decision to enter the university milieu."

At McGill, he will be in charge of managing relations with the federal, provincial and municipal governments and liaising with other organizations and public institutions.

"I look forward to returning to Montreal," he said, adding that he and his wife are currently looking for a house or a condominium to supplement their summer cottage in the Eastern Townships.

In parting, he said, "It was great living in Toronto and getting to know Canada's biggest city."

Pharmacist fraternity celebrates 80th anniversary

By JENNA ROSMAN
Special to The CJN

The 80th anniversary of the only Jewish fraternity of pharmacists, Rho Pi Phi, was celebrated last week at the group's annual Chancellor's Ball.

"There are many members of the [Toronto chapter]. Some are still with us and some have passed on," said Fred Stoll, chancellor of the only Canadian chapter of the international fraternity Rokeah.

The event, at Adath Israel synagogue, drew about 125 people and featured a speech by fraternity member Leslie Dan – a prominent philanthropist and founder of Novopharm – and a slide show titled A Walk Down Memory Lane, produced and directed by member Percy Skuy, former CEO of Ortho Pharmaceutical.

"[Rho Pi Phi] is important for two reasons. First, because the fraternity is celebrating its 80th year shows endurability and sustainability of the organization and, secondly, because there was a period of time when a lot of pharmacists in Toronto and elsewhere were Jewish," Dan told The CJN.

Dan, who has been a member of the fraternity since he began as a student at the University of Toronto's college of pharmacy in 1950, is also the major donor to the university's newly built Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy.

"There was a camaraderie and professional bond between us and it's great to remember," he said.

"A lot of us are getting old – I mean over 70-plus. When that happens, we have a tendency to reflect what we did in the past – enjoy and reminisce, whatever that's about."

Other highlights of the event included a short speech by Wayne Hindmarsh, dean of the new Leslie Dan Faculty, and entertainment by singer Yitzhak Arganan.

Stoll said that there has not been any additional membership to the Toronto chapter in several years, due to there no longer being many Jewish male students studying pharmacy.

"Most of us are now in the senior-citizen class," said Stoll. "We have some members who are 50 and some who are into their 90s."

Stoll, who has been a member of the fraternity for more than 50 years, said Rokeah remains active, organizing various activities for its membership, including continuing education seminars.

"The last [educational seminar] we had was on nutrition for older people. We're going to be having one on the macular degeneration and other conditions that effect older people," said Stoll.

"We have social outings – we went to Niagara-on-the-Lake, for the Shaw Festival, and Stratford. We are basically a social club, and we give our members continuing education in the areas that affect senior citizens."

Dan, who became a member of the Order of Canada in 1996, credits the fraternity in helping him to become the man he is today.

"We would meet and exchange our professional problems. [We] learned from each other through the lectures and educational programs. [It promoted] more cohesion among members of the profession," he said.

"We learned how to practise better. It's good to keep in touch with members of your profession – whatever profession you have. Discuss your problems and how to deal with them."

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"Ever since meeting Michael Di Biase as a Regional Councillor eight years ago, I have been impressed by the quiet sense of sensitivity and dedication he exudes. To me the Mayor is not only an exceptionally capable and devoted civic leader, he is a true "mensch" who really cares about his constituents. Michael's noble spirit of humanity shines through everything that he does."
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Alan Shefman, Councillor, Ward 5

"This Council has worked extremely well together under the leadership of Michael, and has achieved many goals, including getting $670 Million from the Province for the extension of the subway to Vaughan Corporate Centre, and receiving approval from the Province for a Community Health Campus; a step towards getting a full service hospital."
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To find out more about Michael you can visit his web site @
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Celebrity chefs help raise funds for Hadassah-WIZO

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

You could call At Our Table the dinner party that grew.

Three years ago, the Toronto-based Tzedakah chapter of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO decided to hold a dinner party with celebrity chefs as a fundraiser for Hadassah-WIZO youth aliyah projects in Israel.

The event, held in two private homes on the same street, drew 125 women and raised $30,000.

Not wanting to tamper with their recipe for success, Tzedakah chapter opted to make At Our Table an annual event.

The second year, the event sold out in less than a week. In the third year, 220 women attended. Held at the end of May at the home of Warren and Debbie Kimel, At Our Table 2006 raised $60,000 for youth aliyah services.

Susan Lindzon, who co-chaired this year's event with Gali Azouri, says the corporate sponsorship campaign was so successful there were fewer tickets left to sell to the public. "A number of people stepped up their donations to the event as way to guarantee themselves a ticket."

The week the tickets went on sale to the public, supporters were scrambling to buy the remaining seats, she recalls. "People were dropping their envelopes in my mailbox after midnight and at seven in the morning. So many people wanted to be a part of it."

Lindzon likens the atmosphere of At My Table to the intimacy of a dinner party because the event is always held in private homes. "The home atmosphere gives it a heimish feel and that's part of the draw.

"Because of its reputation, there's a lot of excitement about the event. Women love a lady's night out – 220 women were educated and entertained."

This year, the educational portion changed from cooking to entertaining, Lindzon notes. "The theme of the night was to celebrate the joy of entertaining. Each of us learned how to entertain with creativity and style."

The featured guest speakers and demonstrators were party planner and television personality Nik Manojlovich, the Gemini Award-winning host of HGTV's *Savoir Faire*, and florist Frank Rea, owner and creative designer of Forget Me Not Flowers in Oakville.

"Everyone learned something," says Lindzon. "There was a lot of buzz. People came home with knowledge. They all got the special flower-cutting tools they needed to recreate the beautiful centrepieces that Frank [Rea] had demonstrated.

"Nik showed them how to set a beautiful table using your imagination and also how to use treasures at home for an original a table setting presentation."

Lindzon says the Tzedakah chapter's At Our Table committee was thrilled with the corporate support from caterers and other businesses. "Twenty different caterers contributed a specialty dish to enhance At Our Table. We got everything from dinner to dessert. Even cappuccino was donated."

There were also corporate donations for prizes and loot bags, she adds. "We had amazing prizes. The grand prize was a trip to New York.

"We truly appreciated the generosity of all our sponsors."

Planning the event took a lot of time and effort on the part of the At Our Table committee, says Lindzon. "It was like making a bar mitzvah. We worked from last September to the end of May.

"Everything worked out beautifully. The weather was perfect. The atmosphere was great. I had such wonderful e-mail and phone messages. I was overwhelmed.

"When it all comes together in the end and it is so well appreciated by people, it's incredibly satisfying. We raised a terrific amount of money for an important cause and people really enjoyed themselves."

At Our Table provided guests with many tantalizing choices for the taste buds. One of the standout items were the mousse-filled crepes from Foodmagic catering.

MAGICAL COCOA CREPES

1 cup all-purpose flour
1½ cups milk
1 egg
2 tbs. cocoa powder
2 tsp. pure vanilla
2 tbs. sugar
2 tbs. grape seed oil, plus more for cooking

Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl and whisk until the batter is smooth and well-mixed together. Allow the batter to sit one to two hours before using (to allow the gluten to rest). Heat 6-in. non-stick fry pan over medium-high heat till very hot, then brush with oil and pour in 1 oz. of batter. Swirl the batter in the pan to make sure that it evenly coats the pan then return to the heat and cook for two minutes. With your fingers, flip the crepe over, (surgical latex gloves can be used) and cook for another 30 seconds, sliding the finished crepe onto a holding platter. This recipe makes 12 crepes.

Fill the crepes with fruit, whipped cream or mousse, and drizzle with chocolate sauce, caramel or a fruit sauce or garnish with mixed berries.

The following mousse recipes come from Ester Brody's *250 best Custards, Cupcakes, Bread Puddings,& more* (Robert Rose, 2004) can be used to fill the crepes.

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Women's leaders outraged as agunot meet cancelled

By JACOB BERKMAN
JTA

NEW YORK — Jewish women's rights leaders are reeling after Israel's Sephardi chief rabbi cancelled a conference of prominent rabbis that was to deal with the issue of women whose husbands refuse to give them divorce papers.

An agunah, which literally means a "chained" woman, is one whose husband refuses to give her a *get*, a document she needs under Jewish religious law for a divorce to be final. If she does not obtain a *get* but later remarries, any subsequent children she has are mamzers — or bastards. This label carries a harsh stigma in religious circles and limits who the children can marry under Jewish law.

Blu Greenberg

According to Halachah, a man can't be coerced into giving his wife a *get*, and in some cases, men have refused to give their wives *gets* for years, sometimes issuing the documents only in exchange for sizable ransoms.

The closed-door conference, arranged by Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar and the International Council of Jewish Women, would have been the first such forum for a large number of heads of beit dins, the local Jewish courts that oversee the *get* process, from around the world.

The conference was set for Nov. 7 to 8 in Jerusalem, and 27 of 56 rabbis invited to the conference had accepted the invitation. Last Thursday, they were notified of its cancellation via fax from Rabbi Eliahu Ben-Dahan, director of Israel's rabbinical courts.

A fax obtained by JTA said Rabbi Amar had decided to cancel the conference "due to petitions that came to him both from Israel and outside of Israel requesting its cancellation."

Those close to the situation say most of the pressure came from Rabbi Yosef Shalom Elyashiv, a 96-year-old Ashkenazi rabbi who many consider the most authoritative in the haredi world. Rabbi Elyashiv could not be reached for comment and Rabbbi Amar's office would not tell JTA who had pressured him to quash the event.

"It's clear that the ultra-Orthodox leaders in Israel have been pressuring him, and it was too much to bear," Sharon Shenhav of the International Council of Jewish Women, who worked closely with Amar over the past two years to plan the conference, told JTA. "Shamefully, at the last minute he cancelled."

In recent days, several outside groups had been lobbying rabbis not to attend. One of the most outspoken was the Rabbinical Alliance of America, a haredi group that claims to have 750 member rabbis, according to spokesperson Rabbi Yehuda Levin.

Rabbi Levin left Nov. 2 for Israel to protest the agunah conference, as well as the upcoming WorldPride gay pride march in Jerusalem, which is also in doubt due to threats of violence from the haredi community.

Rabbi Levin said he had contacted a number of the rabbis invited and had convinced several not to show up.

"There is no problem with agunah," he told JTA before the conference was cancelled. "The reason they're doing this is because there is big pressure, a societal pressure of feminism, in which they paint the Orthodox as archaic and out of touch and put the Orthodox on the defensive."

Holding the conference, he said, would have sent "the message to rabbis worldwide that we are under the thumb of the feminists."

Rabbi Leib Landesman, head of a Jewish court in Monsey, N.Y., was invited but declined to attend because he saw the conference as an exercise in futility.

None of the speakers was "anyone who can even make a small dent in the issue of agunah," he told JTA. "Those behind the convention mean well, but if there is a lack of astuteness – and it's quite evident that there's no one there that really counts – then you can't even make a slight dent."

Rabbi Landesman called Rabbi Amar a "guest speaker, or the guest of honour, which adds some legitimacy," but said the conference would have been run by "some people who want to score points or do what is called political correctness. But that's not going to solve the problem of agunah."

Rabbi Landesman didn't deny that the problem exists, but he said it was too complicated for a sweeping solution, and rather should be examined locally, on a case-by-case basis.

Agunah activists were shocked and disappointed by the cancellation.

Montrealer Evelyn Brook, president of the Canadian Coalition of Jewish Women for the *Get*, said that "in the agunah activist community, there is great, great regret that [Rabbi Amar] didn't carry forth with his intention of holding the conference. Nobody knew what the results would be, but at least we would know where the issue stood on the rabbis' agendas."

Feminists are "asking rabbis to step forward," she said.

Toronto lawyer John Syrtash, an expert on the agunah situation, said he wasn't familiar with details of the conference, but he was surprised to hear that it had been cancelled.

Having helped organize a conference in Israel last year concerning a tentative agreement for Israel to adopt the Canadian model of Jewish divorce legislation – which prevents a civil divorce from being finalized if religious impediments to remarriage have not been removed – Syrtash said there has been "tremendous progress" toward that end.

Last year's meeting, he said, brought together feminists and heads of batei din for a "productive" meeting. "There were rabbis of every stripe, as far as I could tell."

Rabbi Dovid Schochet, chair of the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto, was also not familiar with this week's conference, but he said "everybody recognizes" the problem of agunot.

"Rabbis are very concerned about it."

There are halachic remedies for the agunah issue, Rabbi Schochet said, citing prenuptial agreements and community pressure.

It's unclear what will happen next. Shenhav said she spent last Thursday calling some of the rabbis who had agreed to come to Jerusalem to inform them of the cancellation.

"They were shocked and embarrassed and shamed," she said, noting that they hoped to speak with Rabbi Amar amid "some hint that he might retreat." As of last Friday, however, Rabbbi Amar had not backtracked.

Some of the rabbis scheduled to attend already had arrived in Israel. It's possible that those rabbis will still meet, but without the sanction of the chief rabbinate or the religious court system.

Others were left in the lurch. Rabbi Yosef Blau of Yeshiva University, a longtime agunah-rights advocate, said last Friday that he would go to Jerusalem to see if some meetings could still take place.

"My wife said to me, 'Now you should certainly go,'" Rabbi Blau said. "It would be a statement of support that shows that this is an important problem and people should be dealing with it. We shouldn't give in."

Blu Greenberg, a founding president of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance, said a few random meetings in lieu of a conference with the chief rabbi would "not be satisfactory," but added that the cancellation could prove to be a blessing in disguise.

"I think we are at the next step already, which is that as a community we're going to express disappointment and let-down," she said. Although much of the community was not even aware of the conference, "they'll be aware now," she said. "That will serve as an important counter-pressure."

"Until now, all of the pressure has come from the ultra-Orthodox," she said, but with the cancellation, "people of goodwill will take notice of this and will not be quiet."

With files from JTA's Dina Kraft and CJN reporter Frances Kraft.

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Russian moves stir concern

By LESLIE SUSSER
JTA

A Russian plan to send a separate peacekeeping force to Lebanon has raised eyebrows in Israel, but officials say they have no objections to it.

But other steps by Russia – such as ties and arms supplies to radicals like Syria and Iran, and differences with Israel on key issues like Iran's nuclear weapons drive – are raising questions about Russia's role in the region.

Hawkish observers like Yigal Carmon, president of the Middle East Media and Research Institute (MEMRI), maintain that if it helps them return to prominence, the Russians would have no qualms about seeing Israel destroyed.

"They don't care about the Jews one way or the other. If it serves their interest to sacrifice us, that's what they will do," he says.

Regarding the Lebanon force, at least, Israel appears unconcerned.

Some observers see the force, operating independently of the French-led United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers, as a sign that Russia is seeking a foothold in the Levant that could prejudice Israeli interests. But the force will remain in Lebanon for only a short time, and will focus solely on reconstruction work. It consists of two teams – a contingent of engineering corps troops who are repairing bridges damaged in the Lebanon war and a small defence team to protect them.

Israeli officials say they would have preferred the Russians to operate within UNIFIL's framework but knew of the force in advance and support the troops' humanitarian work.

"The Russian presence is a bilateral arrangement between Russia and Lebanon and Israel has no problem with it," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mark Regev told JTA.

Russia says it plans to withdraw forces from Lebanon within six weeks, by which time the bridge repair work should be complete.

Analysis

They also are using their brief sojourn in Lebanon to make a point about relations with Muslims from Chechnya. *JTA* has learned that the soldiers guarding the engineers are from Chechen units in the Russian army.

Apparently the Russians believe rogue Lebanese militiamen are less likely to fire on fellow Muslims. They also want to give the Chechens a sense of being part of the Russian role in the Middle East and to showcase their domestic Muslim connections in a positive way, analysts say.

More than hurting Israeli interests, the Russians want to create the impression of being major players on the world stage, taking independent initiatives wherever they can, analysts maintain.

Nevertheless, Russia's ties to Syria and Iran and its position on Iranian nukes are raising concern in Israel.

MEMRI's Carmon sees Russia as part of the anti-Israel, Iran-Syria-Hezbollah axis. Most Israeli analysts, however, see Russia playing a far more responsible role. For example, Amnon Sela, a Russia expert at the Herzliya Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, maintains that "Russia under Putin wants to show its independence on the world stage, but without compromising its close ties with the U.S., the EU and the G-8."

In the Middle East, that translates into Russia going along with international initiatives, while seeking to carve out niches where Russia can play a special role.

Analysts identify a number of influential groups in Moscow pulling Russian foreign policy in different directions. The most powerful are the predominantly pro-western clique led by Putin. At the other end of the spectrum is the floundering military-industrial complex, motivated by profit and an abiding hatred of the United States, ready to sell arms wherever it can.

Israeli officials say there's no question that, for now, Putin's is the dominant voice, and he's fully in control.

Vladimir Putin

"Putin is a great friend of Israel's and a great friend of the Jews," a senior official told JTA. "He may not be the only decision-maker in Russia, but thank God he's the most important one."

Still, Israeli-Russian relations have not been free of tension. One of the major sticking points was the large number of sophisticated Russian anti-tank weapons that wound up in Hezbollah hands and caused most Israeli casualties in the Lebanon war – exactly as Israel warned when Russia overrode Israeli objections on arms sales to Syria.

During Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's mid-October visit to Moscow, Russian leaders gave assurances that the flow of Russian arms to Hezbollah was a thing of the past. They told Olmert that Syria and Iran had broken contractual agreements not to allow Russian arms they bought to fall into the hands of third parties, and they promised to be stricter in the future about enforcing their arms-export rules.

An even bigger Israeli concern is Russia's ongoing relationship with Iran. The Russians are set to supply Tehran with $700 million worth of Tor M1 mobile anti-aircraft systems, which could put Israeli jets at risk in another round of fighting in Lebanon or help Iran protect nuclear installations in a showdown with Israel or the United States.

Then there's the Russian role in Iran's nuclear program. For years, Russia provided Iran with nuclear technology as they built the reactor at Bushehr.

On the upside, Russia has not allowed Iran to use the facility to produce nuclear fuel, and construction at Bushehr is about four years behind schedule, because the Russians apparently are dragging their feet.

But Olmert failed to persuade Putin to consider military steps to pre-empt Iran's nuclear weapons' drive.

Putin rules out military action against Iran

"The Iranians need to fear that something they don't want to happen to them will happen to them," the prime minister declared in Moscow, adding that Israel never would accept the idea of a nuclear Iran.

While acknowledging that Russia was deeply troubled by Iran's nuclear drive, Putin ruled out military action.

Still, Israeli officials dismiss the idea of a dark "strategic alliance" between Russia and Iran, arguing that, on the contrary, the Russians are deeply suspicious of Iranian motives.

"They have a lot of trade with Iran, that's true. But they know exactly what Iran is up to and what Iran stands for," one senior official told JTA. "They too are very worried about Islamic extremism. And it's not only the Chechen problem: There are 20 million Muslims in Russia, and the last thing they need is for them to go the extremist way."

But while Russia and Israel both oppose a nuclear Iran, the stakes for each are very different. Russia would simply train dozens of its nuclear weapons on Iranian cities, creating a balance of fear.

For Israel, however, nuclear weapons in the hands of a radical regime that calls for its destruction constitute a clear and present existential threat.

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UN criticizes decision to hang Hussein

Continued from page 1

After the reading, he called out, "Life for the glorious nation, and death to its enemies!"

Also sentenced to death were Saddam's half-brother, Barzan Ibrahim, and Awad Hamed al-Bandar, the one-time head of Iraq's former Revolutionary Court.

Saddam's deputy and former vice-president Taha Yassin Ramadan was sentenced to life in prison, while a former Baath party official, Mohammed Azawi Ali, was acquitted and immediately freed for lack of evidence.

Three other party officials, including a father and son, were sentenced to up to 15 years in prison for torture and premeditated murder.

Prior to the verdict, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki urged his fellow citizens to accept the verdict against Saddam without violence, but declared that the former dictator must get "what he deserves" with the decision that could send him to the gallows.

Al-Maliki's Islamic Dawa party claimed responsibility for a 1982 assassination attempt on Saddam that allegedly prompted a wave of revenge killings in the city of Dujail.

The verdicts handed down Sunday were to decide the guilt or innocence of the eight men on charges of crimes against humanity for the Dujail crackdown in which the accused allegedly arrested hundreds of people, including women and children, tortured some to death and killed 148 in all.

As the court proceedings finished Sunday, clashes broke out between police and gunmen in north Baghdad's Azamiyah district, which is dominated by hardliners from among Saddam's fellow Sunnis. In contrast, celebratory gunfire rang out in many other parts of the city.

The verdict was immediately condemned by the head of the second largest Sunni bloc in parliament, Salih al-Mutlaq, who predicted it would spark even greater bloodshed between Sunnis and the country's majority Shiites, who were heavily persecuted under Saddam's more than two decades of authoritarian rule but now largely control the government and security forces.

"It was not wise, and the government, not the court, has gone to the extreme with issuing this sentence, even in advance," al-Mutlaq told the al-Arabiya satellite television station.

"This government will be responsible for the consequences, with the deaths of hundreds, thousands or even hundreds of thousands, whose blood will be shed," al-Mutlaq said.

The United Nations on Sunday also criticized the decision to sentence Saddam Hussein to death, calling upon local authorities to refuse to hang him.

UN Human Rights Commission head Louise Arbour said the "appeal process is reliable and a vital part of the fair judicial procedure," Army Radio reported. She said that "the results of the appeal will be what they will be," and expressed hope that the Iraqi government would suspend its death sentence.

But U.S. President George W. Bush said Saddam's death sentence is a victory for "Iraq's young democracy" and U.S. security.

Bush's chief spokesperson, Tony Snow, said the fact that Saddam's trial was conducted by an independent Iraqi judiciary is an important component of the country's development.

"These are things that are absolutely vital to building a democracy that will not only sustain itself, but have the faith and support of the populace," Snow said.

Al-Maliki, the highly partisan Shiite Muslim prime minister who was forced into years of exile during Saddam's Sunni-dominated rule, imposed an open-ended curfew on Baghdad and two nearby provinces, and closed the international airport until further notice.

Earlier, checkpoints went up across Baghdad, and many cities and towns to the north were sealed by Saturday morning to keep residents in and potential attackers out.

The onerous measures threatened gunmen or anyone who ventured out with being shot on sight. Residents scrambled to stock up on food to wait it out indoors, and streets emptied by nightfall.

The judicial findings of Iraq's High Tribunal stood the chance of tipping the country into a full-blown civil war after a trial that stretched over nine months in 39 sessions and ended nearly 3½ months ago.

It was hoped that Saddam's trial would heal the deep wounds among Iraqis as they watched their former tormentor stand before his accusers and suffer the consequences of nearly a quarter-century of brutal rule, during which tens of thousands of Shiites and ethnic Kurds were killed.

In the meantime, however, the centre of the country flamed with sectarian killings that pitted Saddam's now disaffected Sunni backers against the newly empowered Shiites and their revenge-seeking militiamen and death squads.

Al-Maliki, who has been in office since May, has essentially looked the other way, paying lip-service to his role as leader of a nominal "unity government."

Ali al-Haidari, a witness in the Dujail attacks who still lives there, said the Tigris River city of 84,000 was quiet on the eve of the verdict. The market town is about 80 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Al-Haidari said Shiite tribesmen and police had mobilized on the roads and fields nearby in preparation for revenge attacks from Sunnis, whose communities surround the city.

"We are preparing to celebrate tomorrow if he is sentenced to death," al-Haidari said before the verdicts were read. He lost seven members of his family during the attacks on the city. "We hope he will be executed here, where he committed his crime."

In a televised message, al-Maliki said Iraqis should celebrate the guilty verdict but calmly and in a way that "does not risk their lives."

"We hope that the verdict will give this man what he deserves for the crimes he committed against the Iraqi people," said al-Maliki.

Thursday, November 30th
ALIYAH MEGA EVENT

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Aliyah Mega Event

Toronto, Ontario

Thursday, Nov. 30th
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City of Vaughan
The City Above Toronto

APPOINTMENTS TO CITY OF VAUGHAN COMMITTEES

The Council of the City of Vaughan appoints community-minded individuals to its Statutory and Non-Statutory Committees that make decisions or recommendations on a number of matters. City of Vaughan Council wants to ensure that its Committees reflect the diverse population of Vaughan and encourages interested residents to consider this opportunity to volunteer their skills to help their community.

If you wish to be considered for appointment to the following Statutory/Non-Statutory Committees, please obtain an application package and complete the application form included in the package. Application packages are available in the Clerk's Department, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, City of Vaughan Libraries and Community Centres and on the City of Vaughan website at www.vaughan.ca.

Applications may be submitted in person or by mail to the City Clerk, City of Vaughan, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, L6A 1T1, or by fax 905-832-8535. ***The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, December 1, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. Applications will not be accepted after this date.*** For further information please contact the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504.

STATUTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

1. **Accessibility Advisory Committee**
   The Accessibility Advisory Committee assists in the preparation and implementation of an Accessibility Plan, provides guidance and addresses and identifies the needs of the community by the removal and prevention of barriers in the City of Vaughan's by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services. *NOTE: Applicants must meet the specific qualifications and criteria as outlined in the application package to be eligible for appointment.*
2. **City of Vaughan Non-Profit Housing Corporation**
   The Board of Directors of the City's Non-Profit Housing Corporation administers the ongoing operations of the Maple Manor (a 31 unit senior citizen apartment building). Its main objective is the provision of affordable low and moderate cost rental housing, upon identified needs, to residents of the City.
3. **Committee of Adjustment**
   This committee deals with applications to sever parcels of land and authorizes minor variances to land, buildings or structures, which are affected by Zoning By-laws and Official Plan Amendments.
4. **Court of Revision**
   The Court of Revision is empowered to deal with property owners' complaints respecting special assessments charged for capital works, i.e. sanitary sewers, watermains, sidewalks, etc., installed as local improvements under the *Local Improvement Act*.
5. **Heritage Vaughan**
   The Committee advises Council on matters relating to the City's architectural and historical heritage, as well as on any matters relating to the designation and conservation of properties of cultural heritage value or interest, as individual properties, or as heritage conservation districts, pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act*. *NOTE: Applicants must meet the specific qualifications and criteria as outlined in the application package to be eligible for appointment.*
6. **Property Standards Committee**
   The purpose of the Property Standards Committee is to hear any appeals by a property owner regarding an order issued under the Property Standards By-law. The committee may confirm, modify, quash, or may extend the time for compliance of the order.
7. **Vaughan Public Library Board**
   The Board is responsible for the provision of library services by the establishment, maintenance, and support of libraries, and determination of library policies.

NON-STATUTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

8. **Arts Advisory Committee**
   The Committee's mandate is to develop and promote arts-related activities and events through various means, and to provide input on matters related to community arts, art opportunities and initiatives. *NOTE: Applicants must meet the specific qualifications and criteria as outlined in the application package to be eligible for appointment.*
9. **Community Relations Committee**
   This committee's objective is to promote understanding and respect among the various multi-cultural and religious groups within the City of Vaughan.
10. **Maple Streetscape Community Advisory Committee**
    This committee provides input on matters relating to the Maple streetscape area using the Maple Streetscape and Urban Design Guidelines as a reference and guiding document.
11. **Safe City Committee**
    The committee addresses community safety issues, including vandalism, in the City of Vaughan.
12. **Vaughan Youth Cabinet**
    The Cabinet formulates appropriate policies and strategies on issues that have a direct impact on the youth of the City. (Members will be appointed from City of Vaughan youth aged 16 – 25.)

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected will be contacted.

Sharon leaves ICU

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was moved on Monday from Sheba Medical Center's intensive care unit back to his bed in the respiratory rehabilitation centre after his condition improved. An infection had reduced the functioning of the 78-year-old Sharon, who has been on a deep coma since his second stroke on Jan. 4. He was transferred to intensive care last Friday. Antibiotic treatment and other therapy fought the infection and strengthened his heart, a hospital spokesperson said.

Rabin's 11th Yahrzeit

Israelis observed 11 years since prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated. Official ceremonies on Nov. 2 marked the Hebrew calendar date of the anniversary of his death. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert addressed a special Knesset session, praising Rabin as a great leader and called on those in the religious community who support pardoning Rabin's assassin to reflect on what the assassination meant.

Annan wants damages list

Kofi Annan proposed a registry of damages to Palestinians caused by Israel's West Bank security barrier. The proposal by the outgoing UN secretary general derives from a 2004 ruling against the barrier, which cuts through portions of West Bank land, by the UN's international court. The registry would entail setting up a new office, Annan says, but would not be a "compensation commission or a claims-resolution facility, nor would it be a judicial or quasi-judicial body." The International Court of Justice ruling was not binding, raising questions about enforcement.

IDF operates in Gaza

Israeli troops killed 12 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip last Friday. Eight were killed by the end of a 19-hour siege of a mosque in the northern town of Beit Hanoun, where at least a dozen Palestinian gunmen had taken refuge during an Israeli operation to wipe out terrorist cells launching rockets on Israel's south. Among the dead were two women, who were among hundreds of women who heeded a Hamas call to surround the mosque, forming a human shield so the gunmen inside could escape. Elsewhere in Gaza, a missile killed four Hamas terrorists travelling in a car. More than 20 Palestinians had been killed by Nov. 3 since Israel launched the incursion Nov. 1, but rocket attacks on southern Israel continued. In the West Bank last Friday, a 65-year-old woman from Bethlehem was killed in crossfire between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen; Israeli troops in Nablus killed a terrorist affiliated with the Fatah Party; and in Ramallah, Israel arrested a man Palestinians identified as the governing Hamas Party's public works minister.

PA poorer under Hamas

The Palestinian Authority's funding has dropped by 60 per cent since Hamas took power in March, according to a new report. The International Monetary Fund released the information, adding that the PA government payroll has increased. Between April and September, the PA took in $500 million (US), down from more than $1.2 billion in the same period the previous year. In that same period, some $420 million in foreign aid reached the Palestinian Authority, more than was received in all of 2005. Most of the funds came from Arab countries and bypassed Hamas, going straight to PA President Mahmoud Abbas. Israel has withheld tax and customs money from the government and the United States has backed efforts to refuse funding unless Hamas renounces terror and acknowledges Israel's right to exist.

Barak cabinet comeback?

Ehud Barak was expected to join Israel's government. Israeli media reported last week that the former prime minister likely would replace Sports and Culture Minister Ophir Pines-Paz, who tendered his resignation to protest the inclusion of the far-right Yisrael Beiteinu Party in the governing coalition. Barak and Pines-Paz both are from the centre-left Labor Party, though Barak has largely been absent from politics in recent months.

—With files from JTA

Liberal Leadership Race

On Dec. 2, the Liberal Party of Canada will choose its next leader. The CJN asked the eight candidates to answer a series of questions to explain their candidacy to our readers. Six of the candidates responded.

We asked each of them to limit their answers to about 600 words. We reproduce their responses below.

The following are the questions that we sent to the candidates.

1. Why do you believe you are the best candidate to lead the Liberal party?

2. Are there any previous experiences, aspects of your background or training that particularly inspired you or led you to believe that your contribution to the country would be worthier than that of your opponents?

3. Have any authors, books or teachers had a particularly important influence in shaping the individual you are today?

4. What unique characteristics do you envision for the Canada of 2016? In what ways are they different from the Canada of 2006?

5. Would you bring any new social and fiscal policy initiatives to the Liberal party? If so, please elaborate. Apart from new social or fiscal policy measure, are there any other new "large" or "bold" ideas that you want the people of Canada to debate?

6. Do you believe that Israel's response to the kidnappings and killings of its soldiers and to the rocket attacks against it by Hamas and Hezbollah respectively, amounted to excessive force or was disproportionate?

7. Do you believe that the government of Iran is attempting to develop a nuclear weapons capability? If so, how should the western world respond to it? Do you believe that Israel is in a vulnerable position because of the Iranian regime's repeated statements that "Israel should be wiped off the map?"

8. Do you believe Canada's voting record in the United Nations under the former Liberal government on resolutions concerning Israel was fair? Since there has been a marked departure by the Harper government from the former Liberal government's approach to the Israeli-Arab conflict, would you maintain or depart from the present government's policies in this area?

9. Do you agree that the "root cause" of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the refusal by Israel's enemies to accept a non-Muslim state in the middle of the Arab world?

10. If there is a personal statement you wish to direct to the readers of *The Canadian Jewish News*, please feel free to use this opportunity to do so.

'When the Jewish community feels secure, all feel the same'

1. & 2. I have more experience as a cabinet minister than the seven other candidates together in this leadership race. I was the minister of intergovernmental affairs longer than any other Canadian since Confederation and, as unity minister, authored the Clarity Act for the benefit of all Canadians and the future of our country. As minister of the environment, I brought the world together in the fight against climate change at the Conference of the United Nations on Climate Change in Montreal in December 2005. I have campaigned successfully in my riding and for my party in five consecutive elections. I would argue that it is better to have had experience in the party and in the federal government than to have neither. And it is even better to have had successful experiences!

Stéphane Dion

3. Many. My first teacher was my father, Prof. Léon Dion of Université Laval. He introduced me to the greatest liberal philosophers: Stuart Mill, de Tocqueville, Galbraith… My mother made me a fan of Zola, the greatest novelist of the working class at the beginning of industrialization that one may find. My directors for my MA and PhD theses, Vincent Lemieux and Michel Crozier, have also been very influential.

4. I am campaigning on the three-pillar approach: weaving together economic vitality, social justice and environmental sustainability. I want Canada on the podium of the new industrial revolution of the 21st century, the sustainable economy. Hence, we will be more competitive, have a better quality of life and more room to improve the social justice for the people in need. And we will play our role in the world for the biggest issue of the century: the reconciliation between the people and the planet.

5. I brought forward many bold policies that will give us the toughest regulations for clean air, the most targeted investments for clean water, the most compelling policy for climate change and energy efficiency, the strongest link between research and development in order to go successfully from the lab to the market, and the best protection for the health of our children against toxins, chemicals and other dangerous products. These policies are original, focusing on what will be overall an environmental tax reform for Canada.

I have also released proactive plans for promoting more women and youth in politics, faster integration of newcomers into Canadian society, the most aggressive plan to eliminate child poverty and help the working poor to get over the welfare wall. And I will do the same for aboriginal peoples. I am too ambitious for my country to tolerate any barriers preventing any Canadians from offering their full talents and skills to the betterment of themselves and our country.

There are many more policies to come over the next few weeks. All of them lead toward the same goal: weaving together economic vitality, social justice and environmental sustainability. Obviously, all these policies have been shaped with debates with Canadians and will be improved and implemented in the same way. With them and for them.

6. I believe that our friend Israel has the full right to exist and to defend itself. I believe that Hamas and Hezbollah are terrorist groups. Sadly, I also believe that the intervention in Lebanon has not provided any lasting security for Israeli and Lebanese people. And despite all the casualties and all the destruction on both sides of the border, the kidnapped soldiers have not yet been returned, Hezbollah is stronger than ever and the legitimate Lebanese institutions have been weakened. It's why I think it was right to be among those who called for an immediate ceasefire at the outset of the conflict, as a friend of Israel and Lebanon. I know that many Israelis, including military experts, did the same.

7. It is very likely that Iran is, indeed, attempting to develop nuclear weapons capabilities and this is a threat to Israel. Canada should work with all of our allies to put meaningful pressure on the Iranian regime, including effective sanctions.

8. I must admit that I am not an expert on these kinds of UN resolutions and I have some doubts about their effectiveness. I think there are far too many regarding the Middle East and that target Israel and this is disproportionate in view of the numerous other issues that the world is facing. My sense is that former minister Pierre Pettigrew made sound calls, although he was criticized by both sides.

9. I think there are people of good faith on both sides who want what Canada wants: two states living in security and peace, with a contiguous border. Canada must work with these people of good faith to achieve this aim. And all our gestures and declarations must support this very important objective.

10. In my riding of St. Laurent-Cartierville, on the island of Montreal, an elementary school library was burned down in 2004, precisely because it was a Jewish school. I considered these children as my children. Canada must make sure that all its communities feel confident and secure. My bellwether to assess our success is the Jewish community. When the Jewish community feels secure in a country, it is likely that all the other communities will feel the same. And I say so as an MP who has both substantial Jewish and Muslim communities living together. Usually, when one feels secure, the other feels secure too. If there is a country that may show the world that Jewish and Muslim communities can live together in harmony, it is Canada. This conviction has guided me as an MP, and it will guide me as a prime minister.

UJA Federation Seeks Senior Administrative Assistant

UJA Federation is seeking to fill an immediate vacancy. Providing support to the Major Gifts Development Team of two professionals, the successful candidate will be responsible for: assisting with the preparation of general correspondence and mass mailings; assisting with the planning of top donor events; processing donation pledges and payments; interfacing with donors and volunteers; general administration setting up meetings, interviews, etc.

Qualifications:

Several years as an administrative assistant with:
excellent computer skills and aptitude to learn complex databases; ability to plan and organize events; ability to multi-task and set priorities; ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines; excellent interpersonal and communication skills (written and oral); ability to maintain confidentiality; secondary school graduation and several years experience in a similar environment.

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Refer to: Ref.# AA-AD-50
Director, Human Resources
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto
Fax: 416-849-1001
E-mail: hfinder-guttman@ujafed.org

UJA FEDERATION Live generously

'Canadian government's role to help find a secure peace'

1. I know this country. I have been almost everywhere. And when I go, people approach me. They want to talk about their lives, about their communities, their country, their hopes, their points of pride, their fears. I listen. I try to put myself inside their skin, to understand. Then, with the energy and inspiration that comes from "being there," from experiencing things first hand, to act. To make things better than before.

We're an immensely successful country by any international measure – economic, social, quality of life. We need to know this in order to know what our ambitions should be. Because I know the country, I think I know what those ambitions are. It means taking on big things – Kyoto and climate change; Kelowna and fairness for aboriginal peoples; becoming a real learning society. It means an inclusive, generous, optimistic "Big Canada." It means a Canada with an ever larger role to play in the world. And being a connector, I think I can help get us there.

2. I think my answer to the first question covers No. 2.

As for the second part of the question, I don't compare myself to other candidates in the race. That is for others to assess.

3. The biggest influence on me as a child was my parents: in how I understand myself and other people; in how I understand Canada; in what as human beings we owe to each other; in how a community and society work; in how we need to work for what we get, yet in how we are lucky for what we receive; in how, in everything you do, you try. You try because there is no point doing anything if it isn't done well, and because that is how you discover what your best is. In how doing good is hard and worthy, in how doing great is far harder and far more worthwhile.

My brother, Dave, was also a huge influence on my life.

While not my teachers in the formal sense, they instilled in me as a kid things that are still at my core today.

Ken Dryden

4. As a country, we are an unbelievable mix of race, language, religion and culture. Growing from our heritage founded upon two cultures and two languages, Canada has evolved into a "live and let live" country, which is the only way a bilingual society can work, the only way a multicultural society can work.

Ten years from now, we will be more comfortable and confident about what we are. It will be clearer that the global world of the future will belong to the middle and small powers who have the attitudes, instincts and experiences to work together, to deal with the more and more global questions we face – economic, environmental, security, pandemic, etc. Questions that cannot be faced by any individual country, no matter how big and powerful.

The way Canada works today is the only way the world of 2016 will work.

5. In September, I released *A Big Canada: Politics With a Purpose. Politics With a Passion*. It outlines a number of my directions and priorities.

A Big Canada is a learning society: as an individual, a community, a company, a country, our only real security, our only real opportunity is learning. Learning is the cornerstone of any social and economic policy – from a national early learning and child-care system to greater investments in post-secondary education, from new technologies and systems for new products and services in the workplace, to narrowing the gap between ideas and commercialization, to getting at and getting out all of the best learning that is in our immigrants and seniors.

A Big Canada is a fair society, in which all people – the poor, persons with disabilities, aboriginal Canadians, immigrants, Canadians living in rural and remote areas – are given a real chance to participate in the success of Canada.

A Big Canada is an environmental society: connecting matters of the economy, agriculture, public health, international affairs, trade and the tax system, it commits to immediate action on climate change, to regulatory measures aimed at clean air and water, and to agricultural policy for the 21st century that recognizes that farmers produce many environmental and societal goods.

A Big Canada is a global society. It understands that how well we do in the future inside our borders will depend more and more on how well we do, and how well the world does economically, socially, in matters of security, climate change and pandemics – outside our borders.

And along with these directions is a tone. A Politics with a Purpose requires a Politics with a Passion. Excitement over what we have done, outrage over what we have not yet – but must – achieve. These are big important tasks, worthy of us, worthy of our national government, worthy of the times, worthy of a Big Canada. (The full document can be found at www.kendryden.ca).

6. I support fully Israel's right to defend itself. That said, I don't think the word "proportionality" is very useful. To a non-Jew, the battle in south Lebanon had to do with kidnappings, periodic rocket attacks by Hezbollah and Israel's right to defend itself. To Israel, it had to do with the actions of a surrogate of Iran and Syria and was a matter of Israel's survival as a nation. "Proportionality" is in the eye of what one beholds.

7. The type of fissionable material being developed by Iran is not for peaceful purposes. Iran has been offered material suitable for power generation but has refused it. It is, therefore, prudent to assume bad faith. It is of great concern to see Iran with such weapons for two reasons: the direct threat it would pose to Israel and to Europe, and the possible proliferation of such weapons to other countries and other groups. It should be the United Nations that would be called upon to take all appropriate measures to prevent such a threat from arising. In the absence of UN action, and in the face of clear evidence of imminent thermonuclear capability in Iran, I would support Canada's participation in the taking of such measures by NATO, or by an alliance of like-minded nations that is prepared to act.

The statements made by Iran's regime are a vivid reminder of Israel's vulnerability.

8. I have always found Canada's voting record troubling. I don't find the wording of the resolutions helpful in any way to any party working towards peace in the region.

That said, all of this should be put in a context. From my conversations with Israeli officials during my visit to Israel 18 months ago, it was clear that these officials placed very little import on these votes and great import on the rich and committed variety of interactions and exchanges between our two countries, from the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement to Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation, many of which were assisted greatly through our respective governments. How Canada was a "great friend of Israel."

The approach of any Canadian government to the Israeli-Arab conflict has always been and always needs to be: what role can I play that might advance the chances for a secure and sustainable peace in the region? Whatever seemed to be the case at the moment, the actions Mr. Harper took at the time of the latest conflict and their effect both in the Middle East and at home, must be judged against this standard. Simply, is Israel any safer and more secure today than it was five months ago?

9. I do not think the search for a "root cause" is a useful approach. Argument will not win the day. Results are what count. Whatever blame there is on any side, the parties must find their way through that and find agreement.

10. As I said in answer No. 8, the only role for a Canadian government is to help find a secure and sustainable peace in the Middle East. It means offering a determined and confident Canadian voice which has been, to date, absent. The test for any actions taken or words uttered: does this advance the chances for a secure and sustainable peace in the region?

Mr. Harper's recent comments about the majority of Liberal leadership candidates being "anti-Israel" were inaccurate and unfair, divisive and pandering, and unworthy of a prime minister.

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Liberal Leadership Race

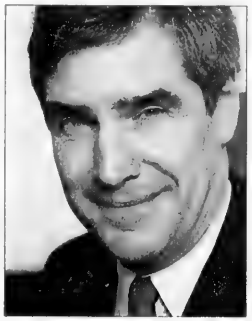
'The Liberal party has always been a friend to Israel'

1. I've been a Liberal all my life. I'm deeply proud to be a Liberal and to stand for the progressive tradition Liberals have upheld in Canada. I have spent the last six months travelling across the country, listening to Canadians from all walks of life, and I am convinced that Liberal party is most reflective of Canadian values and aspirations. I commit to being a leader who listens, and who sets high expectations and bold ambitions for a country that I know can be more than the sum of its parts.

2. All of the candidates bring tremendous energy and expertise to the race. I've spent my life as a journalist, author and professor, travelling the world and learning about different nations, their cultures, their challenges and aspirations. While I was out representing Canada to the world, I've never been far from home.

This experience has allowed me to see Canada clearly. We are now in an interconnected world, where issues like environment, security, trade and prosperity and immigration are global issues. Global issues are now domestic issues, and understanding that is critical for modern Canadian leadership.

3. Isaiah Berlin, the late Oxford philosopher, deeply influenced my political thought. I was his official biographer. The questions he explored, particularly in his later years, on identity, pluralism and belonging, are inextricably linked to my ideas about citizenship, civic nationalism and human rights. Berlin's views on political liberty offer the basic starting point for anyone thinking seriously about how people belong, as individuals in community and country.



Michael Ignatieff

4. The Canada of 2016 is much the same country it was in 2006, a successful multicultural and multi-ethnic democracy, with one important difference: it is a country that has chosen to lead. The Canada of 2016 takes itself seriously as a world leader on fundamental international issues, like alternative energy and economic and environmental sustainability.

5. I believe we need to have a strong national sustainable development strategy, support development overseas, commit to aboriginal Canada, invest in post-secondary education and make national unity – bringing people in this country together – a key priority. I'm looking forward to fighting for these issues.

6. I strongly supported Israel's right to respond to Hezbollah's provocation and to send the terrorist militia a very clear message that kidnapping soldiers and firing rockets on Israel will never be tolerated. Canada cannot be equivocal on this issue. In a conflict between a terrorist militia and a democratic state, Canada must always side with the democratic state. Israel has an unequivocal right to defend itself against unprovoked attacks, and the international community must support that right. There are injustices in every war where civilians are brought into the centre of the conflict, and the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah was no different. What Canada needs to do now is explore how it can play a role in preventing further conflicts in the region.

7. The denial of Israel's right to exist is unconscionable and must stop. Israelis live under the constant threat posed by Hezbollah and its backers, Iran and Syria, who continue to wrongly deny Israel's right to exist. Nuclear proliferation in the Middle East is not helpful in any respect. The international community must be firm in its resolve that long-term solutions to Middle East conflict do not involve nuclear proliferation.

8. The Middle East is a topic of deep importance for many Canadians. We are a country of immigrants, including many from conflict zones around the globe. As such, we have a special vocation for peace. This would guide my foreign policy. I believe Canada must always stand up in the international sphere for democracy, development, peace and international law. In the UN and elsewhere, Canada must side with the democracy, Israel, against the terrorist militias that threaten it and deny its existence.

9. Israel's neighbours must recognize its right to exist. This is an absolute precondition for a successful resolution of the conflict.

10. The Liberal party has always been a friend to Israel and the Canadian Jewish community, and we will always represent its interests both here in Canada and on the world stage.

'Must have the courage to renew the party'

1. I strongly believe I am the best candidate to lead the Liberal party because I understand the party and Canada in a way that is uniquely suited to our new challenges.

Canadians, particularly of my generation, need leadership to shake us out of our complacency in order to develop a new Canadian advantage to secure good jobs in the face of global competition, an aging population, environmental risk, and growing regional and rural urban inequities.

I have a lengthy track record of leadership inside and outside of politics where I set the vision and galvanized large numbers of Canadians to deliver outstanding results. I have learned to trust the Canadian public, and that faith has been reciprocated.

The Liberal party itself needs to establish new credibility with Canadians to become an effective mobilizing force for our country's future: that we are not just a party of power, but a party of purpose. I am seeking the mandate for renewal of the party into a 21st-century political organization that is completely open, is engaging of and accountable to its membership.

2. I want to say first of all that I believe all candidates in this race are worthy. Rather than being intrinsically better, I believe that I am the best leader for these times. I have spent the past 23 years in a career of service to the public, as a social entrepreneur, as a leading opposition critic and as minister and member of key cabinet committees. I have engaged directly with Canadians from the homeless and acutely poor, to busy parents, to corporate CEOs and organizations from a full range of cultural and religious diversity.

Throughout my time as executive director of the first and then the largest food bank organizations in Canada and as then as a national spokesperson, I worked with many community groups including Mazon Canada, "a Jewish response to hunger," to forge a strong consensus about eliminating hunger in our country. I learned how to harness community concern and altruism, without any government funding.

It is time for a leader who knows how all Canadians live.

I grew up in a small town in northern Manitoba, was trained and started out in Alberta, and then worked in Toronto. Through my wife, I have ties to the Maritimes and to French Acadians.

My time as a provincial cabinet minister also brings a perspective on necessary new partnership between federal and provincial governments that I believe is essential, not only to Quebec, but to reducing the divisions across all regions of the country.

Gerard Kennedy

It is time for a leader who can bring a pan-Canadian perspective that understands but is not rooted only in central Canada and can help unify the country in new ways.

As a lifelong Liberal, I know our party's history, strengths and weaknesses. As a provincial liberal, I bring a fresh perspective and image but with a strong connection to liberal values and practice. As a new generation Liberal, I have a proven track record of delivering results that matter to Canadian families, including higher test scores, lower dropout rates, labour stability and smaller class sizes.

It's time for a leader who has a track record of success and who can earn the trust of Canadians.

3. I have been fortunate to have the benefit of some exceptional people as key mentors. My father, who was our small town's mayor, councillor, school board chair and president of minor hockey, etc. imbued us with a keen sense of public service. Clara Lander, an English professor who taught high school in Winnipeg later in her career as an avocation, provided an enduring sense of intellectual curiosity, and Phil Byrne, an Irish-born engineer by way of South Africa, helped to develop food banks and taught me an effective form of social entrepreneurship, using business means for social ends.

My outlook has also been shaped by writers who have tried to reconcile faith beliefs with a pluralistic world, such as Jacques Maritain and Bernard Lonergan.

4. In order for Canada to compete with the rest of the world, the value of enterprise has to become part of our culture, for effective private enterprise, government and not for profits.

An enterprising Canada is one that is ambitious and that takes risks. An enterprising Canada is the opposite of the complacent country that my generation has permitted. An enterprising Canada is one that fuses economic and social policy together. Under my leadership, during my first five years in office, we will build an enterprising culture in Canada by:

- Ranking in the Top 5 in the world in productivity growth.
- Cutting the gap in number of individuals investing in start-up businesses (or "angel investors") between Canada and the United States in half.
- Ranking in the Top 5 in the world in private sector R&D intensity.
- Ranking in the Top 5 in the world in entrepreneurial activity.
- Signing free trade agreements with our Top 5 target partners (China, India, the European Union, Brazil and Japan).
- Eliminating the immigrant success gap with Canadian born.
- Becoming a clean energy superpower, working to achieve Kyoto commitments.
- Achieving 50 per cent representation by women and men.

5. I see a new Liberalism that fuses economic and social opportunity to maximize our human resources. Poverty turnaround is not just about income. It's about people and their dignity. It's about programs that start treating Canadians with the respect they deserve in acknowledgment of their full potential. How many people live in a grey zone of not being sick enough for disability but not able to hold a job? They're sitting on the sidelines right now. We must build in social and economic incentives and determine what level of security we are prepared to provide for people.

Rather than one program, we must focus our attention to undereducated single parents who have lost some of their health and have a higher propensity toward poverty. Our ability to maximize the human potential of individuals struggling with poverty will allow us to more fully compete in a globalized economy and become more competitive globally.

6. All of the civilian casualties in the latest escalation of conflict are tragic and highly regrettable. I have previously called for a ceasefire and maximum restraint in the right to protect and defend. Israel has a right to exist within secure, peaceful and internationally recognized borders. I also support the right for a future Palestinian state to similarly exist peacefully in a secure, viable manner. I deplore the fact that extremists have once again hijacked the agenda in the Middle East. Israel's and the Palestinians' right to self-defence has to be exercised in such a way that extremism is not fuelled by the response itself.

Continued on page 51

'My association with the community an affair of the heart'

1. I feel I have the experience, ideas and abilities for the job. As premier of Ontario. I ran Canada's second largest government. I also served as a federal member of Parliament. Elected eight times federally and provincially, I have a strong background in politics and government. Since leaving politics, I have tackled some other important public policy questions, both at home and abroad. I have also worked extensively in the private sector. I have drawn a number of my lessons from that work and I feel I have still more to contribute. I don't say I am better than the Almighty, just better than the alternatives.

2. Governing during a very tough recession was not easy, but it does teach one critical lessons about focus, the economy and fiscal discipline. I have worked extensively on the national unity file, and know the pitfalls there. I've travelled widely on issues of conflict resolution, and have an extensive personal history with the most intractable disputes.

3. I referred to the wisdom of Rabbi Hillel and his Three Questions in my book of the same name. I spoke to the three questions as a guide for us in public life: "If I am not for myself, who is for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?" I've always had the benefit of great teachers, starting with my parents and now including my daughters.

4. We must take education and learning more seriously if we are to have a more productive and adaptable workforce and face the continuing challenge of global change. A pressing issue that time cannot reverse is global warming. We must incorporate sustainability into our economy. We must also get serious as a government about being part of the global solution, and the current government is essentially putting this issue off.

5. I see education and learning as key issues. The cost of post-secondary education has been rising rapidly. I would put in place a program of student grants and loans geared towards the living and tuition expenses of students. I would start with the least well-off students and move steadily upwards as fiscal circumstances permit. Every qualified student should have access to college and university. As well, Ottawa needs to be a full funding partner in supporting the base operations of colleges and universities and establish national priorities for labour market training, apprenticeship, research and graduate education.

Bob Rae

Learning starts with the early years. Tax policies need to make a fundamental shift to encouraging innovation and change.

The provinces and the federal government have to work much harder to make the federation work more efficiently and creatively. There is still too much overlap and duplication.

6. I have felt that it is not possible for those of us here to make judgments about actions on the ground and what is really proportionate.

Israel is entitled to defend itself. That said, the G-8 statement was right to call for restraint. The right to self-defence has to be exercised in such a way that extremism is not fuelled by the response itself. We must ask what steps we can take to ensure real peace and security, a peace that starts with a ceasefire and an end to violence, but goes well beyond that to deeper solutions.

7. The world community must take steps to ensure Iran complies with international law and co-operates with inspections and the IAEA.

The anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric of the Iranian leadership are a threat to both Israel and the peace of the world. They reinforce the need for vigilance, active discussions with all those with an interest in peace and stability. They also mean Canada has to insist on compliance with inspections.

8. Your readers will recall that the government of Paul Martin reviewed and changed Canada's voting on key motions at the UN General Assembly, in a move viewed by many as an important shift. Minister Pierre Pettigrew set forward a proposal to reform the voting in general with a proposed move to an omnibus resolution. I welcomed the openness to reviewing the voting pattern and would look to revisit the proposed reforms, which have not moved ahead under the Conservative government.

Mr. Harper has engaged in a lot of rhetoric, some of which, as it regards the positions of others such as myself, is simply untrue and politically motivated. The choices we face as a country are not between "decisiveness and dithering," or between "taking sides and neutrality."

They are rather between over-simplification and wisdom. We made a wise choice, the right choice, as a country, many years ago when we affirmed our support for an Israeli state in the Middle East. And we also made a wise choice when we affirmed the need for a Palestinian state. We need to take steps that will ensure real peace, a peace that involves a ceasefire and an end to violence, but goes well beyond that to deeper solutions. The answers lie more in the world of politics and diplomacy than anywhere else. Canada needs to work with our friends and allies to develop strategies that will have a deep and lasting effect. This is a world where slogans and bumper stickers don't really work.

9. From my experience in conflict resolution, the first step has to be "the acceptance of the other." This is the step that Egypt, Jordan and others have taken with respect to Israel. The radical terrorist organizations have not taken this critical step, and this is a clear barrier to resolving the conflict.

10. My association and involvement with the Jewish community is an affair of the heart. The community's commitment to social justice, to dialogue, to tzedakah, have taught me and inspired me.

'I have been an unwavering supporter of the community'

1. Leadership is a function of experience and depth of understanding of issues, processes and purpose. In federal politics it involves an unswerving commitment to pan-Canadian goals. It also requires the willingness to build and grow and to appreciate how those dynamics need to be integrated into an evolving society.

2. I came to Canada as a young boy at the age of seven to join my father, after we had been apart for four years. Canada has given me a wonderful wife and family, including four kids and six grandchildren. I received my formal and informal education in my home town of Toronto and at University of Toronto. Prior to entering politics, I was a teacher, administrator and businessman.

But one of the great honours for me was being elected to the House of Commons in the past six general elections. All the candidates are worthy. My experience is different: it reflects that wonderful adventure that is Canada for all who are new to our country. For me Canada is and should be in a mode of constant growth.

3. Dante.

4. Canada's population in 10 years will have increased by at least 10 per cent. All of it from abroad. All of it ethnoculturally and socially diverse. All of it integrated into one energetic, dynamic, innovative society, tolerant, respectful and embracing.

5. I would have an open demographic policy with a constructive immigration program to ensure a flexible, innovative market and sustainable functioning communities.

Joseph Volpe

6. As I said at the time in a press release, the Hezbollah action was an act of war and Israel was fully justified in its response.

Similarly with Hamas, cross-border attacks are acts of war which justify forceful defensive actions. I am very aware of the fact that both Hezbollah and Hamas advocate the destruction of Israel and are not parties to any peace process.

7. There is no doubt that Iran is on the road to nuclear weapons development and the western world must take strong action to prevent atomic weapons from falling into the hands of extremist regimes. If we fail to do so now, we will have to do it later and we, and especially Israel, may have to pay a heavy price. Diplomatic action has thus far not been successful. Other options must be considered.

8. I believe that Canada's foreign policy, including at the United Nations, has to reflect an effort at establishing peace in the region. One-sided anti-Israel resolutions are unfair and are anti-peace. Our goal needs to be security for all states and peoples in the Middle East.

9. I cannot speak for the mind-set of the Arab or Muslim world, but I do note that peace treaties between Israel, Jordan and Egypt have worked to the benefit of all. The historic refusal of most Arab governments and of Islamic states in the Middle East and beyond to accept Israel's legitimacy, and their support of terrorist actions against Israel, have to be overcome. Without that there can be no chance of a comprehensive peace.

10. Throughout my political career, I have been an unwavering and vocal supporter of the Canadian Jewish community and of Israel. Whether it is the issue of school funding, speaking out against anti-Semitism or in international affairs, through good times and bad, I have stood in solidarity with the community. I look forward to continuing to serve you.

'New Liberalism fuses economic, social imperatives'

Continued from page 49

Canada should always be a voice for restraint in the Middle East because we have to be as concerned about the consequences of actions as their justification. That being said, I am not prepared to judge Israeli strategy from the safety of Canada but will watch closely to see the evaluation by Israelis and international bodies.

7. All the evidence I have seen to date demonstrates that Iran is pursuing an offensive nuclear program. While Iran is a threat to the developed world, Israel finds itself in a particularly vulnerable position. I reject the anti-Israeli and anti-Holocaust views expressed by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in the strongest possible way. In order to pursue a nuclear-free Middle East, I agree with Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz's call for the UN Security Council to introduce broad-based sanctions against Iran to resolve these challenges and stop Tehran from getting the technological know-how necessary to build nuclear weapons. The international community must have a united voice to make Iran understand that the world does not accept the legitimacy of its nuclear program and to force Tehran to abandon their nuclear weapon ambitions.

8. I support previous Liberal governments' efforts to maintain a balanced and fair perspective on the Middle East. However, I would be more vigorous in the pursuit and support for (1) peaceful options and (2) effective means to deal with terrorist threats.

I support Israel's right to exist with secure borders and its right to defend its citizens from terrorist attacks, in accordance with standards of international law and human rights. I will support any resolution at the United Nations that is consistent with this position.

I also support the creation of a Palestinian state and oppose the establishment of settlements in the territories, unilateral moves by Israel to annex east Jerusalem and the construction of the security fence inside the West Bank and east Jerusalem. I will support any resolution at the United Nations that is consistent with this position.

I am concerned that too many General Assembly resolutions on the Middle East are divisive and lack balance in that they condemn Israeli violence but play down attacks against Israeli civilians. I will ensure that under my leadership balance is pushed for at the United Nations and in other international forums.

9. I think it is overly simplistic to try to boil generations of Middle Eastern conflict and almost 60 years of Arab-Israeli conflict down into a single "root cause." Obviously it is problematic that many countries in the Middle East continue to refuse to accept Israel's right to exist, but I think it is more important for us to look forward and for Canada and the entire developed world to play a constructive role in helping to bring about a lasting peace in the Middle East rather than trying to look backwards.

10. Liberals must have the courage to choose a leader who will renew the Liberal Party – a party that lets go of its past divisions and finds a new and vigorous expression as a practical progressive party that not only delivers results but isn't afraid to fully engage Canadians in their own future.

I have spent all of my adult life working with Canadians for whom this decision means the most – Canadians who too often go hungry through no fault of their own, new Canadians who don't yet get the full respect they deserve, young people unsure if Canada can meet their ambitions to start and grow a business and a wide swath of Canadians who wonder if we haven't been taking our country for granted. The new liberalism is about finding the fusion of our economic and social imperatives and an active citizenship that takes individual responsibility for how well our country works.

For all those reading, thanks for the time. For those eligible Liberals taking part on Dec. 2, I ask for your support and your participation in shaping the Liberal party that Canada needs right now.

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FOR YOUR SECURITY

UJA Federation Of Greater Toronto
Notice Of Meetings

TAKE NOTICE that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto will be held at Adath Israel Synagogue, 37 Southbourne Avenue, Toronto on November 27, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. To receive the reports of the Chair and President
2. To elect the UJA Federation Council
3. To approve the continuance of the organization's operations into a newly incorporated entity (see explanation below) and
4. To approve and transact other business as may come before the members

UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO is in the process of completing a corporate reorganization for the purpose of better aligning its corporate structure with its operations and governance model. As part of this reorganization, we have incorporated a new not-for-profit corporation. At the Annual General Meeting, the members of the unincorporated UJA Federation of Greater Toronto will be asked to approve the continuance of the organization's operations under the new corporation. A By-law, similar to the constitution of the unincorporated UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, will govern the operations of the new corporation. Members interested in reviewing this By-law may request a copy by calling 416-635-2883 ext. 306 or emailing rgoldberg@ujafed.org. If you have questions or comments prior to the Annual General Meeting, please call our General Counsel, Mark S. Anshan at 416-631-5834 or contact him by email: manshan@ujafed.org

FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION of the Annual General Meeting of the unincorporated UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the members will be invited to attend a Special Meeting of the new corporation to be held immediately thereafter, in the same location, for the following purposes:

1. To elect the Board of Directors, Chair and Senior Vice-Chair of the new corporation, and
2. To approve and transact other business as may come before the members

DATED at Toronto the 26th day of October, 2006
BY ORDER OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Space is limited. RSVP by calling 416-635-2883 ext. 306
or by emailing rgoldberg@ujafed.org by Friday, November 17th

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Nov. 12-Musician Jordan Klapman - 2:15 pm.
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Health & Lifestyles

Discover a world of knowledge, fun and fitness!
Nov. 16-Talk - Natural Alternatives to the Flu Vaccine. 1 pm. FREE.
The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living
maximizing the quality of life for seniors in the community
1003 Steeles Avenue West . 416-225-2112 . www.betelcentre.org

Getting out of your own way

Life Coach Corner

Judy Siblin Librach

Helping people find more joy, fulfilment and meaning in their lives is what life coaching is all about. Helping people answer the question, "Who am I at my best?" is what most life coaches help people do.

Think of someone who coaches sports. Aren't they helping each member of the team to tap into their motivation and play their best game ever? Most of the time just by championing, cheerleading and challenging ourselves, we can achieve great things.

But there is only one problem and I see it all the time. We stand in the way of our own success. We don't fully trust ourselves, creating an obstacle for ourselves that thwarts our own joy, development and our ability to move forward.

Rick Carson calls the obstacle the "gremlin." It is the voice of self-defeat, that inner critic in all of us who points out what is wrong, why we're going to fail, why we shouldn't move forward, and why we should take the safe route instead. In his book *Taming Your Gremlin: A Surprisingly Simple Method for Getting Out of Your Own Way*, Carson talks about how the gremlin will lose its power over us only when we can identify it for what it is, see our options and then choose what we really want, instead of letting that gremlin take over.

We all have that inner critic. It's that bully inside of us that tells us just when we're on the brink of success that we'll never do it, who are we kidding and so on. But guess what? You can silence that bully and take away his power away.

When I coach people, I ask them to draw their inner critic or gremlin, to make a picture of that person inside of us who tries to sabotage us. So try this simple exercise. Draw a picture of that gremlin inside of you and then write down three things that your inner critic says to you all the time.

For instance, for a client who wants to be an actress, her self-sabotaging comments might be, "I'm too old, I'm not pretty enough, and there are so many more talented people than me." So I will ask her to combat each of those phrases with something encouraging and positive: "I'm very young. Most actresses in Hollywood are working well into their 70s. Of course I'm pretty enough. In fact, I'm going to start each day by saying, 'Hello, gorgeous!' And in terms of being talented, I am very talented. I did fantastic in that last production, and I can't wait to do another play. Hello Broadway, move over Ethel Merman, here I come!"

Humour is also another great way to begin dispelling that gremlin. And I know many of you are saying, well, you also have to be realistic. Calling yourself Ethel Merman when your voice is more like Dame Edna's may not be your best bet. But the truth is, most people who succeed do so by believing in themselves. That belief will carry you further than almost anything.

Trusting yourself is the first step toward becoming clear about your vision, your values and your purpose in life. So how can you step out of your own way and free yourself up? If you were "at your best," what would you do right now?

I'll never forget when I coached my son's baseball team. He was seven at the time, and I didn't even know how to hit the ball, let alone coach an entire team. Just before each kid was up at bat, I whispered in his or her ear, "You're going to have the best hit ever," and inevitably, that's exactly what would happen. Afterward some of the kids came up to me and asked, "How did you know I was going to have a great hit?" I just smiled and said, "I don't know. I just knew." Just by helping them visualize that positive outcome went a very long way.

When you believe in yourself – trust in your abilities and visualize that winning goal, or that dream – you step out of your own way and focus on achieving what you want. The sky really is the limit. You can make anything and everything happen.

So I challenge you to go for your dreams, and tell that gremlin to take a hike and watch yourself soar like never before.

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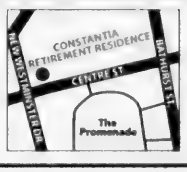

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Student seeks volunteers for Save A Child's Heart

By LAUREN KRAMER
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — After spending a month in April 2006 with Save A Child's Heart (SACH), University of British Columbia medical student Tommy Gerschman has become passionate about helping the nonprofit organization from Canada.

SACH is an international humanitarian project that provides life-saving heart surgeries and followup care for children from developing countries

"I want to inform people about this organization, so they can see its amazing humanitarian efforts that reach around the world," said Gerschman, 26. "I want to connect people who are looking for elective opportunities to SACH, and I want to try and help fundraise for the organization."

Gerschman first travelled to Israel in 2004 with birthright, and knew then that he'd return to complete an elective there someday. When the time came, he contacted the Hillel organization through his university to find out about elective possibilities in Israel, and learned about Save A Child's Heart.

He described his month in the house SACH runs in Azur for recovering children as "amazing."

"On a medical level, it was fascinating to see patients from around the world with heart disease that you don't see often in North America because it's treated so early here," he said. "But on a human level, it was wonderful to be around a dozen children from five different countries, and to see three- and four-year-olds playing together, regardless of the fact that all speak different languages.

A project based at Israel's Wolfson Medical Center, SACH was founded by the late cardiac surgeon Dr. Amram Cohen in 1996, with a mission to improve the quality of pediatric cardiac care for children from developing countries who suffer from congenital heart disease. It is staffed by a team of 70 experts, ranging from the chief surgeon to the physiotherapist, all of whom contribute their time without any compensation.

Since its inception, the SACH medical team has examined and evaluated more than 4,300 children and performed more than 1,400 cardiac surgeries. The children come from all over the world, including Jordan, Iraq, Nigeria, Congo, Ethiopia, Zanzibar, Russia and Ukraine. SACH receives funding from government, business, institutions, foundations and individual donations, but funding will always be an issue, says Gerschman.

To this end, he has made it his mission to try to educate Vancouverites on SACH's work since his return, delivering presentations to synagogues, university students and Jewish men's clubs.

For more information, visit www.saveachildsheart.com.

Books & Authors

Israeli Arabs focus of timely and challenging book

***Coffins on Our Shoulders: The Experience of the Palestinian Citizens of Israel* by Dan Rabinowitz and Khawla Abu-Baker, University of California Press.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

During last summer's war in Lebanon, a number of Israeli Arabs – the descendants of Palestinians who remained in Israel after the upheavals of the 1948 war – expressed support for Hezbollah, thereby widening the already existing chasm between Jews and Arabs in Israel.

More recently, two additional events have exacerbated the situation.

Shortly after the war, several Israeli Arab members of Knesset went to Lebanon and Syria and voiced solidarity with their Arab brethren. By doing so, they highlighted the dichotomy between their loyalty to Israel and their affinity to fellow Arabs.

Two weeks ago, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert appointed Russian-born politician Avigdor Lieberman to his cabinet. Lieberman, like the right-wing parliamentarian Effi Eitam, has openly called for the "transfer" of Arab citizens from Israel. Understandably, Israeli Arab leaders were shocked and dismayed by the appointment.

For all these reasons, a newly published book on Israeli Arabs, *Coffins on Our Shoulders: The Experience of the Palestinian Citizens of Israel*, is both timely and challenging.

The authors, Dan Rabinowitz and Khawla Abu-Baker, are Israeli academics. He is a senior lecturer in the department of sociology and anthropology at Tel Aviv University, while she teaches behavioural science at Emek Yisrael College.

They proceed from the assumption that the Israeli Arab minority, which represents about 20 per cent of Israel's overall population, has been marginalized and seethes with undercurrents of alienation, hostility and even hate.

Although they deal with the community at large, they focus on what they describe as the "stand-tall" generation: Israeli Arabs who were born in the last quarter of the 20th century and who came of political age with the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising in September 2000 and the accompanying riots in Israel's Arab sector, which claimed the lives of 12 Arabs and a Jew.

It is abundantly clear that Israeli Arabs, especially the twenty-something generation to which the authors refer, are quite disillusioned and disaffected. Having concluded that they will never achieve real equality, they now demand a change in Israel's formal definition from "the state of the Jewish people" to "the state of all its citizens."

In practice, they want Israel to be a secular democratic state rather than a Jewish state underpinned by Zionism. Some Israeli Arabs who subscribe to this model are committed to a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. But others, who more strongly identify themselves as Palestinians, pure and simple, favour a binational state.

Whatever their views, they feel they are the subjects of discrimination. Israel granted the Palestinians living within its borders formal citizenship and voting rights. But for the first 18 years of Israel's statehood, Israeli Arabs lived under military rule. Even after this onerous restriction was lifted in 1966, they were excluded from a variety of welfare benefits and state-subsidized mortgages reserved for army veterans and new immigrants.

Israeli Arabs also complained of inequities in the allocation of municipal budgets and in employment opportunities, and never came to terms with the wholesale appropriation of much of their lands. At the end of the day, they considered themselves second-class citizens, a description shared by many Jewish observers in Israel and abroad.

In an attempt to place their status in its proper historical perspective, the authors go back nearly 60 years to Israel's War of Independence. When the dust of that war settled, the Arab community in what was Palestine was shattered and traumatized. Less than one-fifth of the original 750,000 Palestinian inhabitants were left, the others having fled, and more than 400 of their villages were gone, having been razed by the Israeli authorities.

The Palestinians who stayed in Israel were largely uneducated and often landless peasants. Their urban middle-class compatriots had vanished, having fled to neighbouring Arab countries such as Jordan and Syria.

Military rule confined Israeli Arabs to specific areas, while legislation stripped many of their assets.

Facing a new order, Israeli Arabs either accepted it quietly or fought it through membership in the Communist party. A third group, inspired by pan-Arabism, waited for Israel's destruction at the hands of triumphant Arab armies.

The authors claim that the Six Day War marked a watershed in Israeli Arab attitudes. The decisive nature of Israel's victory persuaded many that Israel was here to stay. "On the other hand, renewed contacts with Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip...exposed the Palestinian citizens of Israel to geographic, cultural and political universes in which Israel is a relatively negligible entity," Rabinowitz and Abu-Baker write.

They add that, with one exception, Israeli governments have virtually neglected their Arab citizens. Requiring the support of Arab parties for his political survival, Yitzhak Rabin, the incoming prime minister in 1992, directed a larger share of the national budget to Israeli Arabs.

The sometimes negative role that Israeli Arab parliamentarians play on the national scene is duly noted by Rabinowitz and Abu-Baker.

They concede that these MKs compete with each other "to unleash the most vitriolic rhetorical attacks against the Zionist establishment." The result is inevitable: "This tends to push them even further from the Israeli mainstream, ever narrowing their chances to gain access to real influence" and making it easier for some Israeli politicians to stigmatize Israeli Arabs as subversives pursuing a separatist agenda.

The authors offer recommendations to improve the lot of Israeli Arabs.

They believe that the expropriation of their lands must be stopped, and that master plans for Israeli Arab towns and villages must include sufficient land reserves for future expansion of residential and industrial areas.

In addition, Israeli Arabs should be given budgets that suit their needs and be permitted to create an autonomous education system. As well, Israel should formally recognize their tangible losses, compensate them for injustices done and post commemorative signs of their vanished villages. State symbols should be redesigned, immigration laws should be revised, official documents should also be inscribed in Arabic, and Muslim, Christian and Druze holidays should be officially recognized.

This is a tall order that may be beyond Israel's means, but Israel may have no alternative but to alter the status quo in order to retain the loyalty of a restive minority.

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Gifted artist struggled with schizophrenia

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

From the time artist Miron Semec was a child until he committed suicide at age 46, he saw his world either in beautiful colours and vibrant life or in darkness and gloom.

Loved and respected for his kindness by all who knew him, he struggled with schizophrenia.

When he died, his grieving mother, Vera, discovered that her son had left more than 70 paintings and sculptures as well as some poetry.

"My son sold a few of his paintings, but he did not want to sell his pieces of art unless the person would enjoy them and really had a feeling for the work," she says. "That's the way he was."

And now she doesn't know what to do with the paintings. Most of them are in storage.

Artist Miron Semec

Interviewed in her small apartment in downtown Toronto, surrounded by some of her son's paintings and memorabilia, Semec tells her story, recalling the joy of Miron's loving charm and the pain and suffering of his mental illness, as well as the tragedies of her own life.

Her late husband, also named Miron, was a medical doctor and a Jewish survivor. He worked for the underground in Europe during the war and was captured and sent to the Gulag in Siberia as a prisoner for 12 years. When he was released, he went to Prague, where he resumed his medical practice.

In Prague, he met Vera, who was widowed and had a young son, Peter. She worked as his nurse. They married in 1958, and Miron was born in Prague in 1959. The Semecs and their two sons came to Canada in 1968.

"We came with two boys and two suitcases," Semec says. "My husband was told he couldn't practise here, so he went to work in a nursing home."

He died in 1973, when the boys were aged 12 and 9. "I was a widow again at 41 and had to raise the two boys," she says.

At the age of four, Miron already showed artistic talent. One of his first pictures was of devils hanging laundry. Miron was sent to a semi-private school, and at an early age began to behave erratically.

At first, doctors said his erratic behavior would pass, But in his teens the episodes became worse.

Studying at George Brown College and Central Technical High School, he excelled in oil painting, sculpture and printmaking. He exhibited his artwork in numerous galleries.

It was in his teens that he first attempted suicide, jumping from the Spadina Avenue bridge. He broke his spine and his legs and, after a long recovery, continued with his art endeavours.

For the remainder of his life, when his illness took hold, he was a patient at the Clarke Institute, where he made friends with fellow patients, doctors and nurses.

"I tried to treat him like a normal person," says his mother. "He worked for some time stocking shelves, but it was too difficult for him to continue."

Before his suicide, he wrote, "My work emphasizes the joy of life. I try to create something that is pleasing and makes the viewer see something more than the design.

"It should strike a chord and illustrate one's perception on a spiritual level, seeing what is optimistic, realistic and at times making a social commentary. "

Shoe Shine Man,
a painting by Miron Semec

In a moving tribute to Miron after his death, one of his psychiatrists at the Clarke Institute, Bruce Menchions, wrote that during the acute phase of Miron's illness, Miron described his experience as "somehow having to fly the airplane without being able to see where he was going."

Miron told the doctor the it was terrifying and every moment was full of unknowns.

"Gradually that would resolve, and he would be back to his normal state of mind where things didn't seem to be so confusing and he could paint and think better. But like the pilot of the plane, the canopy was still there between him and the real world," Menchions wrote.

"I have borrowed that description a few times, and often use it when I am teaching about schizophrenia. Thank you, Miron, for a clear description, but mostly thank you for sharing that one moment of you."

Harold Rosnick, a sculptor who taught at the Ontario College of Art (now the Ontario College of Art and Design), told *The CJN* that he had met with Miron's mother and viewed some of his art. "Miron had a lot of talent and insight," he says.

Rosnick added that he has approached several galleries, but they were not interested in artists that were not already discovered.

"I would like someone to exhibit Miron's paintings," says his mother. "Perhaps one day, a dealer or someone will want to do that."

Israeli singing sensation performs in Toronto to save a child's heart

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

She's performed with world famous celebrities including pop music legend Elton John, opera singer Andrea Bocelli and even former U.S. president Bill Clinton.

Yet somehow, Liel Kolet, Israel's hottest singing sensation who goes only by Liel, has managed to stay grounded.

"You know, I talk about it and I still don't really get it," the 17-year-old kibbutznik told *The CJN* days before her highly anticipated Toronto concert on Nov. 11.

Liel will lend her voice to a good cause by performing a concert on behalf of the Save a Child's Heart Foundation, an organization that treats children from less developed countries with congenital heart problems by bringing them to Israel for surgery and other cardiac care.

"They will fly a child from Africa to Israel if necessary and the beautiful thing about it is that each child goes to a place where they get the best treatment," Liel said about SACH.

"I've been to the hospital and I've seen these kids. They are so full of life and they are so happy, and it is really amazing."

Liel, who was in Toronto last summer to promote the UJA Emergency Campaign Launch to raise money for Israel during the Israel-Hezbollah war, will perform at the Toronto Centre for Performing Arts in North York and will also visit two Jewish day schools, the Toronto Heschel School and Bialik Hebrew Day School on Bathurst Street.

During the concert, she will be joined on stage by a 12-student choir from each school and they will sing *Lu Yehi* and *We are the World* with her.

Dr. Bill Williams, the former chief of cardiovascular surgery at The Hospital for Sick Children, who also trained the late founder of SACH, Dr. Ami Cohen, is being honoured for his work over the years.

He will be presented with an inscribed plaque brought from Israel by Dr. Bernie Goldman, the cardiac surgeon at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

Liel said that this won't be the first time she performs to raise money for SACH.

In April, Liel performed in Holland with Bocelli to raise money for the same cause.

"When I performed in Holland, it was very successful. We thought it would be great if we could do it again in Canada. I hope we'll be able to raise a lot of money. I know that the concert in Canada is almost sold out," said Liel, who is inspired by, and often compared to Canadian singer Celine Dion.

She said that ever since her performance three years ago at Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Perez's 80th birthday party, where she sang with a choir made up of Jewish and Arab children – and even sang John Lennon's song *Imagine* with Clinton – she decided to dedicate more than half of her concerts to charitable causes.

In fact, in 2005, Liel was awarded with a German radio award for being an artist who promotes peace and unity.

In December, she'll be performing with actor Robin Williams and Latin music star Shakira at the Teleton in Mexico, which is the biggest charity event in Latin America.

"It is one of the biggest shows every year and it is raises money for disabled people. I'm very happy to be a part of it because it is one of the biggest concerts in Latin America," Liel said.

But Liel isn't stopping there. Later this month she'll travel to London to sing *Imagine* with Madonna to promote an organization called Children of Peace, which aims to build friendship and trust between Israeli and Palestinian children.

"They chose me to be an ambassador for this organization and they chose my song, *The Dream of Tomorrow* to represent this organization… It is a song about the dream that children have to live in a peaceful world," she said, adding that ticket holders can expect to hear it at this week's concert.

Liel

Although the teen pop star keeps herself busy raising money for the needy and promoting messages of peace, she still manages to find the time to promote her music.

"My album, *Unison*, was just recently released in Europe, Germany, and Switzerland and soon it's going to be released in France and in Spain, and it was also just released in Mexico. I really wanted to come back to Canada and perform there. My album is also going to be released there very soon I hope."

Liel said that she was excited about making a stop in Germany, where Unison was chosen as album of the week, to promote the album that attempts to combine the Middle Eastern sound with western pop and rock tunes.

"My album is called *Unison* because it is a harmony of many different sounds, together with American and European sounds, pop and rock, I try to bring my Israeli roots together with Arab instruments," she said.

"This is something that people don't have the chance to listen to a lot. We try to bring something from myself, something that represents Liel. So, I hope that the music will be a very unique style."

For rush tickets, call Judy Siklos at 416-324-9113.

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Arts & Travel

A tribute to Cantor Louis Danto

By MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

A group of distinguished cantors will perform a special concert in Toronto on Nov. 15 to honour Cantor Louis Danto.

"He's one of the great classical cantors of our generation," says Beth Sholom Synagogue Cantor Eric Moses, who will perform in the concert. "And this is an opportunity for his peers to pay tribute to him."

The performance, presented by the Toronto Council of Hazzanim, will feature a dozen cantors at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, where Danto was cantor for nearly three decades.

Renowned for practising the art of bel canto

Throughout his career, Danto was renowned for practising the art of bel canto, a vocal style that originated in 16th-century Italy and reached a pinnacle in the opera era of the 19th century.

"Bel canto literally means beautiful singing, and it emphasizes a natural, even sound, like an instrument," explains Beth Emeth choir director Charles Heller, who worked alongside Danto for many years.

"Cantor Danto has phenomenal knowledge of this style… because he had fantastic training at the highest level and was meticulous about practising and experimenting for hours every day."

Danto's musical training began during his childhood in Poland, where he sang in synagogue choirs, shining brightly as a soloist.

During the war, he studied at the conservatory of Minsk and also received training on the cello.

He later trained in Rome, garnering praise from one of the top tenors of the 20th century, Beniamino Gigli.

As a cantor in the United States and Canada, Danto cemented a reputation for his bel canto singing, which he dubbed "the lost art."

"Until he was singing bel canto in the 1970s and 1980s, it was mostly forgotten," says Heller, author of the book, *What to listen for in Jewish music*. "That's why Cantor Danto called it the lost art."

Danto has recorded more than 20 solo albums and toured throughout North America, Europe and Israel.

In addition to cantorial melodies, he delighted audiences with Italian, Russian and French opera, as well as Yiddish music.

In 1984, he sang a prayer before Queen Elizabeth II in front of 16,000 people at Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto.

He was also the proud recipient of an honorary doctorate in music from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City.

"He's an expert," Heller says. "These cantors are paying tribute to him because they recognize his that."

For reserved seat information, please phone 416-635-5340, ext. 3040, or e-mail cantor@adath israel.com.

General admission tickets can be ordered by calling 416-633-3838.

Proceeds go to Beit Halochem, Akim Israel and the Toronto Cantorial Trust Fund.

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Employees and family members of The CJN and Show One Entertainment and Beth Tzedec Synagogue are not eligible to enter.

Jewish literary journal faces funding crisis

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

The 15th annual edition of *Parchment*, the only literary journal in Canada devoted to contemporary Canadian-Jewish writing, has postponed its usual November publication date due to a funding crisis.

"I'm hoping to publish it in the spring," said its energetic and ebullient editor, Adam Fuerstenberg, citing spiraling costs as the sole reason for the deferment.

"We have plenty of material for the next issue," he said. "The basic problem is that the subscriptions don't cover our costs. We are in need of some generous patrons to keep Parchment alive."

Fuerstenberg estimated that $4,000 would be enough to keep the journal afloat.

The possibility that it might fail has sent a tiny shock wave through the literary community. While some contributors may gripe that its acceptance standards are too low and that it's in bad need of good design, all seem grateful for its existence.

As the only venue for Jewish literary writing in Canada, its demise would cast a pall over the possibility of any similar publication being established over the next several years.

Parchment has produced a Journey prize winner and another finalist, and was the testing ground for a story by Lillian Nattal that became the genesis of her commercially successful novel, *The River Midnight*. The journal has also helped many lesser-known scribes and poets find their way into print; several have gone on to publish books.

"If you're a Richler you can get your stuff published anywhere," Fuerstenberg said. "But if you're not known, it's hard to get stuff published in Canada if you're writing on a Jewish theme."

The former Ryerson professor is confident *Parchment* will find its angels even as he contemplates winding down his own future with the journal.

Its present poetry editor, Ruth Panofsky – a Ryerson instructor who recently penned *The Force of Vocation*, a study of the life and works of writer Adele Wiseman – has agreed to step in next year as editor.

Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

THREE TENORS FROM THE HOLY LAND TO SING AT BETH TZEDEC SYNAGOGUE

Show One Entertainment presents the Canadian debut of **The Three Tenors from the Holy Land** in the only Canadian stop on their North American tour. Three of the world's finest male voices – belonging to **Felix Livshitz**, **Vladislav Goray** and **Yevgeni Shapovalov**, called the "Israeli Pavarotti" – unite in an evening of opera, show tunes, Russian, Jewish and international favourites.

The concert also features pianist **Igor Naymark**. $118 to $36. A portion of the proceeds go to the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Israel emergency campaign. Beth Tzedec Synagogue, 1700 Bathurst St. Tuesday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m. 416-872-1111 or www.ticketmaster.ca

* * *

***Three Mothers*:** The new Israeli film *Three Mothers* features **Gila Almagor**, **Miri Mesika** and **Rivka Raz** as the Hakim sisters, triplets born in Alexandria in 1942. "Their saga is one of powerful love and deadly deceit played out in three languages and across three generations." The Toronto Jewish Film Festival's Chai Tea screening is $15. Sheppard Grande Cinema, Yonge & Sheppard, Sunday, Nov. 19. Tea 4 p.m., film 5 p.m. 416-324-9121, www.tjff.com

* * *

Panofsky on Wiseman: The Bagels and Books event at the Jewish Book Fair features author **Ruth Panofsky** and her book, *The Force of Vocation: The Literary Career of Adele Wiseman*. "A riveting look at Canadian publishing and a writer who refused to sell out." Leah Posluns Theatre, Sunday, Nov. 12, 11 a.m. Sponsored by the Winchevsky Centre. Free admission. Tickets, 416-636-1880.

Julie Tepperman

* * *

Names in the News: Thornhill-born **Julie Tepperman**, a veteran of George Brown Theatre School, York University and the Stratford Festival, is an acting instructor at Ryerson's Acting II Studio for adults over 50. Twice now, she and husband **Aaron Willis** have directed *Shtick! A Celebration of Jewish Playwrights* at the First Narayever Congregation.

Tepperman is presently preparing for a role in *Oedipus*, an upcoming show with music, dance and an ensemble cast of seven. The cast also includes **Marc Bendavid**, a Richmond Hill native and graduate of the National Theatre School. PWYC. Equity Showcase Theatre, 651 Dufferin St. (north of Dundas), Nov. 21 to 25. 416-533-6100, www. equityshowcase.ca

* * *

Casting Call: Encore Entertainment seeks an ethnically and physically diverse group of actors for a February production of *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*, the **Neil Simon** comedy to be directed by **Michael Hiller**. Roles include Olive Madison, Florence Unger and Manolo and Jesus Costazuela, the male version of Simon's original Pigeon sisters. Auditions (Nov. 12 and 13) require a two-minute comedic monologue and some reading from the script. "Non-paying, but you'll be well-fed." 416-733-0558, merlegarbe@rogers.com

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Simon Wiesenthal

Wiesenthal Biopic: *I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal* is a feature documentary that examines the life and deeds of the legendary Nazi hunter. Produced by Moriah Films and narrated by **Nicole Kidman**, the film presents interviews with longtime associates, government leaders, friends and family members.

It recently premièred in Jerusalem and is being shown here as a fundraising event by the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Tickets begin at $100. Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St. Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7:15 p.m. Reservations, 416-864-9735, ext. 33, e-mail sspiegelman@fswc.ca.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The Toronto Youth Theatre production of the **Kander-Ebb** musical *Cabaret* features 20 young actors, including 17-year-old **Shaina Silver-Baird** as Sally Bowles. Young Centre for the Performing Arts, Distillery District, until Nov. 11. 416-866-8666

• Toronto musicians **Mia Sheard**, **Arlene Bishop**, **Amy Campbell** and **Michelle Rasky** join host and singer-songwriter **Sara Kamin** at the third annual benefit for Doctors Without Borders. (Kamin is pursuing a degree in clinical health psychology and hopes to work with people affected by HIV/AIDS.) Minimum donation $10. Rivoli, 334 Queen St. W., Nov. 10, 9 p.m.

• **The Koffler Chamber Orchestra**, under the musical direction of **Jacques Israelievitch** with solo clarinetist **Joaquin Valdepenas**, plays music by **Handel**, **Mozart**, **Wolf** and **Weber**. $20-$18. Leah Posluns Theatre, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 8 p.m. 416-636-1880, ext. 228.

• Return of the Diva is a concert with **Renee Barda**. Halleconian Hall, 35 Hazelton Ave. Thursday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.

• Stage Centre Productions presents the **Edward Albee** play *A Delicate Balance*. $25, $20, $15. Fairview Library Theatre, 35 Fairview Mall Dr. Nov. 16 to Dec. 2. 416-299-5557, www.stagecentreproductions.com

• Artworks by **Cynthia Pechenick**, ranging from abstract to flowers to faces, are on exhibit at Leah Belfon Fine Art, 436 Lawrence Ave. W., Unit 3, with the artist present. Saturday, Nov. 18, 8 to 10:30 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 19, 1 to 5 p.m. Refreshments. 416-787-3888

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481 SEWING
485 SNOW REMOVAL
490 TABLE COVERING
493 TAILORING/ALTERATIONS
495 TILING
496 TRAINING
498 TRAVEL & TOURISM
500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
512 WAITERING SERVICES
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW SERVICES
550 WORKSHOPS

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Beautiful 3 Bdrm, Prof. Fin bsmt, Sep. Ent, Wet bar, Frplce Thousands Spent on upgrades! Dble car gar, Interlock. *Lucy Melamud

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4 Bedroom, Finished Basement, asking $479,000 or for Rent $2200/Month. *Larry Wronzberg

"CUSTOM BUILT BUNGALOW"
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Large 4 Bdrm 5 Level sidesplit, Circular drive, Cath. Ceiling, Inground Pool, Open Concept Design, Appliances, Extras Galore!! Close to all amentities!! Call *Mark Waxman

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Large 5 bdrm Home, Approx 4100 sq.ft, Great Layout! Fin bsmt,Grand Foyer, Open Circular staircase,Skylights, Appliances & More!!!! Asking $899,900. *Ted Waxman

BATHURST/ELGIN MILLS
Large 3 Bdrm, W/Double Garage, Flagstone, Hardwood, Finished Basement with Potential In-law Suite, Extra's Galore!! Shows Great! Must see! Call *Mark Waxman

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

CONDO'S, BATHURST/CLARK/STEELES
Starting from $214,900 to $389,000. 2 Bdrm, 2 Washrooms, Parking, Locker. From approx 1000 to 1600 sq.ft. Call *Larry Wronzberg

YONGE/FINCH SUBWAY LINE
2 Condo's $274,900 - $285,900. 2 Bedroom, 2 Washrooms, Approx 1400 Sq.ft. A Must See! *Larry Wronzberg

CONSERVATORY "PICK YOUR UNIT"
Choice of 5 units–most sought After building–Thornhill!!, From 1300 to 3200 sq.ft, Close to Synagogue, Shopping. *Carey Rosenzweig

BATHURST/CLARK – 1ST AD
Fab 2 bdrm Condo with southern exposure, 2 Car Parking, Appliances, Air, Close to all amenities, Great Lay-out–Must See!! Asking $229,500. *Ted Waxman

BATHURST/STEELES "COURTLAND"
Approx 1400 sq.ft 2 Bdrm Condo, Hrdwd, Appliances, Ens-Storage & Laundry, Open Concept, Loads of Living Space, Close to all amenities Asking $220,000. *Ted Waxman

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* * *

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- **BATHURST / COLDSTREAM** Spacious 3 bedroom, main floor of duplex, use of backyard, $1,300 / mo.
- **3000 BATHURST CONDO.** 2 bedrooms, $1,550 / mo.

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30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST AND CLARK - Promenade Towers, $259,000, corner unit with parking and locker, large balcony, window in kitchen and dining room, recently painted, 5 appliances-waiting for new owner, call **GABBY GOLDRING,** Royal Lepage Partners Realty Brokerage, **416-229-4454**

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1 bed. + den, 2 bath, stainless appl., 9' ceilings & more! Call Elan Weintraub, Century 21 Harvest Realty, 416-733-2666 or 647-295-1479 (cell).

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Finch/Bathurst, large unfurn. room avail. to a straight student or employed man. Share expenses in beautiful 2 floor apt. Steps to TTC, outdoor pool. Owner has a cat. Please call Nathan, 416-556-0692.

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80 SHORT TERM RENTAL WANTED

Furnished condo/apt, 2 bdrm., Bathurst/Steeles area. Short term lease, imm. Call 613-829-2455.

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Century Village, Deerfield Beach, 1 bdrm., 1 bath, encl. patio, 3 min. walk to club & amenities. Call 905-764-6936.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LTD. BROKERAGE

GLENGROVE AVENUE WEST * $1,495,000
Stunning newer home w/large rooms & beautiful flow for entertaining. Main floor den and family rm, 10' ceilings, fin'd fwr lvl w/sep entry. Don't miss it! Margaret Marshall* ext. 635

ST. CLAIR AVENUE * $895,000
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UPPER VILLAGE * $849,000
Spacious, gracious 3+1 BR. Great flow for entertaining, huge family room, library, fin'd bsmnt, CAC, central vac, alarm, hardwood, newer kitchen, breakfast room. Walk to synagogues, shops, subway. Must see! Paula G. Bernstein* ext. 228

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4600 Sq. ft., 5 Brdrms, best value. Upgraded features inc. hand-painted detailing, stain glass, lwr lvl conversation pit, mstr retreat, perfect home 4 entertaining. Maxine Povering** ext. 308

10 PRUE AVENUE, UNIT #203
1600+sf 2 BR unit. Tons of cupboards/storage space. 2 Car pkg. Lrg eat-in kitchen. Terrace. Immac. cond. Close to synagogue, TTC, shopping. Tremendous value. Howard Biderman** ext. 320

CLARK – NEW WESTMINSTER * $439,900
Opportunity to buy a detached 3 bdrm on a court. 2 Car garage, main flr family rm, larger lot, fin'd bsmnt, 4 baths, comb. liv/din rms, family kit +++ Maxine Povering** ext. 308

2 BR, 2 BATH CONDO * $299,000
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30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST & CLARK
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BATHURST & SHEPPARD
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BATHURST & ANTIBES
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30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

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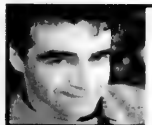

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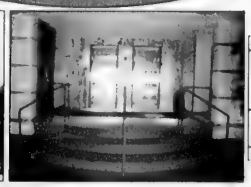

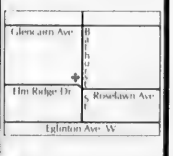

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N. Miami Beach, 172nd St. and Collins Ave., 1 bdrm. + Fla. rm., 2 baths, across from ocean, seasonal rental. Call 905-731-3759.

Arlen House East, 1 bdrm., 1 1/2 bath, avail. Jan. 10 for 3 months. Please call 905-889-1234.

Sunrise Lake, Ft. Lauderdale, 2 bdrm., 2 bath, kosher, on golf course. Call 416-560-2496.

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2.2 Cypress Bend Deluxe $1850./mo.
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Coast to Coast

Rueth Zimmerman

Winnipeg centenarian grateful for every day

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — "I live each day as it comes. I have had happy times and sad times like most people. I feel that overall I have had a good life," says Rueth Zimmerman, who celebrates her 100th birthday on Nov. 15.

She actually commemorated the occasion with two parties in October. "You never know what the weather is going to be like in November in Winnipeg," she says.

The first party was with her fellow residents at 99 Wellington Cres., the apartment block where she has lived for the past 33 years. The party on Oct. 20 was given by family and friends.

"We also celebrated my sons' birthdays at that party," she says, noting that her son Manly turned 75 on Oct. 29 and Ron was 70 on Nov. 6.

More than 300 people, some of them from other parts of Canada and the United States, attended the party.

Zimmerman was born and raised in Minneapolis. Her parents, Leon Gottlieb and the former Fanny Perlman, were married in Winnipeg, she notes, and she has a great-grandmother buried here. Her parents operated a grocery store in Minneapolis.

Zimmerman, who looks much younger than her years, was the oldest of seven children. She has two surviving sisters living in Minneapolis.

She met her first husband, Norman, while she was visiting an aunt in Winnipeg, "I was invited to a party to which Norman was also invited," she recalls. "We met in the summer. At Christmas, he came to Minneapolis with a diamond ring. We were very happy together. He was a wonderful man."

The couple were married in 1929. They lived in apartments in the downtown area for the first few years before buying a house on Queenston.

Over the years, Rueth was an active member of Hadassah-WIZO (the Ezra chapter), the National Council of Jewish Women and the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue.

Norman died in 1963, and in 1973, Rueth married Sam Portigal. He died in 1992.

> ***'I feel very privileged to have lived this long'***

Up until five years ago, Zimmerman drove her car and did some travelling. As a result of some surgery, she is now using a walker to get around outside, although she can manage without the walker in her apartment.

"I thank my doctors for keeping me healthy," she says.

She says that she tries to get out most days but doesn't like going out at night. "At night, I would have to get picked up. I want to be independent. Fortunately, I can do most of what I need to do without any help.

"I feel very privileged to have lived this long and thank God for every day."

In addition to her sons, Zimmerman has four grandchildren – two here and two in Minneapolis (where Manly lives) and three great-grandchildren with a fourth on the way.

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Legendary NBA coach built basketball's greatest dynasty

CJN News Services

BOSTON — Arnold "Red" Auerbach, the legendary Boston Celtics coach and general manager whose record of success in building a dynasty is unmatched in North American sports, died Oct. 28 of a heart attack. He was 89.

Known for his ever-present cigar, his commitment to winning and his keen judge of talent, Auerbach was also one of basketball's pioneers in opening the sport to black athletes and coaches.

The son of a Russian immigrant, Auerbach was born in Brooklyn and attended George Washington University. He joined the Basketball Association of America (BAA), the NBA's predecessor league in 1946, and when he retired in 1966 he had won two-thirds of all the games he coached, including a record nine NBA titles, eight of them in a row. He went on to serve as general manager of the Celtics, winning six more championships. As team president, he won one final title in 1986.

When he hired a former star player, Bill Russell, to succeed him as coach, it marked the first time a black became coach of a major professional team. Even earlier, he broke another taboo when in 1950 he drafted the league's first black player, Chuck Cooper.

Auerbach was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1969 and in 1980 was recognized as the greatest coach in NBA history by the Professional Basketball Writers' Association of America. He is also a member of the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in Israel.

In the Celtics' glory years, from 1956-69, the team featured a star-studded lineup of future Hall of Famers that included Russell, Bob Cousy, Bill Sharman, John Havlicek, K.C. Jones and Sam Jones.

Auerbach stressed team play and a burning desire to win. In one quip, Auerbach was quoted as saying, "Show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser."

In his autobiography, *Second Wind*, Russell described Auerbach like this:

"Red would never let things get very far out of focus. He thought about winning more than I thought about eating when I was little. He ached when we didn't win; his whole body would be thrown out of whack when we lost. He didn't care about a players's statistics or reputation in the newspapers. All he thought about was the final score and who had helped put it on the board. He was our gyroscope, programmed solely for winning, and it was difficult for any of us to deviate from the course he set for us."

Auerbach infuriated opponents and their fans when he would light up his cigar on the court late in a game when it appeared victory was in the bag.

Eliot Sargon grew up in Boston during the Celtics' glory years. He recalls that the city's young Jews took tremendous pride in Auerbach's success.

"Auerbach was the biggest sports hero in Boston in the 1960s," he recalled.

When he named Russell as coach, "in a place like Boston, where historically there's always been racial tension, that was an admirable move," Sargon said.

Not only did he coach the team to consecutive titles, but he was a tremendous judge of talent, putting together a lineup in the 1980s that featured Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and Robert Parish, he said.

Fourteen of Auerbach's players made it to the Hall of Fame and 30 became coaches, including eight of the 12 players on his 1962-63 championship team.

Auerbach began his coaching career at a Washington, D.C., high school and during World War II worked in a military physical fitness program.

In 1946, when the BAA was founded, he coached the Washington franchise. After three years he had a brief stint with Duke University before returning to coach the Tri-City Blackhawks. His 28-29 record in 1949-50 marked the only time he had a losing record as a coach.

Auerbach joined the last-place and money-losing Celtics in 1950. The dynasty he built relied on defence and speed.

Bill Sharman, a former Boston guard, said "Auerbach was one of the greatest coaches in NBA history. He did so many things to help improve the game. I believe he was responsible for making the NBA as popular as it is today by introducing the fast break and making the game more exciting."

"I have been around a lot of competitive people, but his commitment to winning was absolute," said Cousy. "Nothing was more important. He was relentless and produced the greatest basketball dynasty so far that this country has ever seen and certainly that the NBA has ever seen."

Auerbach is survived by his daughters, Nancy Auerbach Collins and Randy Auerbach, a granddaughter and three great grandchildren. His wife, Dorothy, died in 2000.

Parker looks back on his Israeli hoops experience

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Anthony Parker wondered what he was doing in the Middle East when two weeks after arriving in Israel in 2000, the intifadah broke out.

Having signed a contract to play for a basketball team he knew virtually nothing about, the Naperville, Ill., native found himself in the middle of a war zone. Israelis and Palestinians were fighting in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 45 minutes away from his new home.

It would have been easy to pack up and look for employment elsewhere, but Parker was determined to stay and help Israel's most successful franchise once again reach Euroleague supremacy.

He became a part of the community playing for Maccabi Tel Aviv, and while he's now back in North America playing for the Toronto Raptors, he tries to spread the word about how unfairly Israel is portrayed in the media.

"Anybody who goes to that region sees what a beautiful part of the world that is," said the 6-6 swingman, who left Maccabi over the summer to sign a three-year, $12 million (US) contract with the Raptors. "I do my best to give the other side of the story."

The 1997 first-round draft pick of the New Jersey Nets spent parts of three seasons in the NBA before embarking on what was supposed to be a one-year stint in Israel, playing in the European league. It turned into six, with a one-year stop at Virtus Roma in Italy.

Parker had a great experience and in becoming a huge fan favourite, earned a reputation throughout the basketball world as being the best player outside the NBA.

He says his time spent in Israel really helped to change how he views the world and different people.

Like any other Israeli resident, he developed a thick skin in relation to all the troubles, and he's said he felt safer walking around Tel Aviv than in any major U.S. city.

Parker, who plays small forward or shooting guard, led Maccabi to the Israeli championship in each of his five seasons with the team, and he guided the club to three Euroleague titles while being named MVP in each of the past two campaigns.

He said he'll always consider Israel a second home, and he managed to greet the people there in Hebrew prior to a game last month against his former team. It translated to, "Hi, I'm OK, and I miss you."

Parker said he wears number 18 for the Raptors, the Jewish symbol for life, as a gesture to the Israeli people.

'Wanna get a drink after work?'

Sandie Benitah
20Something

It's a social scenario I cringe just thinking about.

A colleague asks you out for drinks after work, and though it seems innocent enough, you can't help feeling guilty that saying yes might be leading him on to thinking you're interested in more than just a nine-to-five relationship.

What's a girl – or guy – to do?

Mention the boyfriend right away? Forget it, because it's a guaranteed disaster.

I can just picture it now.

"Wanna get a drink after work and kvetch about our boss?"

"I have a boyfriend."

"Good for you. So, wanna get a drink after work and kvetch about our boss?"

That's the best-case scenario if the guy doesn't call you out for being completely arrogant and self-absorbed.

A girlfriend of mine, let's call her Sarah, was faced with a similar scenario last week. She would frequently correspond with her Vancouver counterpart over e-mail and by telephone. Then he told her he'd be coming to Toronto for a visit and would she show him around town?

Always the drama queen, Sarah was convinced he "wanted to get to know her better." And she was completely distraught that telling him about her boyfriend at that moment would make her look immature professionally and personally.

"Why else would he come to Toronto where he has no friends and family?" she mused.

Hmm, I had to agree.

After losing about a week's worth of sleep and taking him around town two nights in a row, she finally found the perfect way to approach it.

When they met up for lunch on the third day she said, "We never talk about anything other than work, Paul. Tell me, do you have a girlfriend?"

Within five minutes, he knew she had a boyfriend and the drama was over. Lunch from then on was pleasant and stress-free.

That said, the e-mails and phone calls between them have subsided considerably since then.

Guys, although they often face the same dilemma, have a different approach, it turns out.

My good guy friend Carmine got frustrated with me the second I asked him for his advice.

"Girls need to be up front right away and make the situation clear or else guys won't get the message," he said.

"All girls are the same," he added for good measure.

But sure enough, when I asked him to put himself in our shoes for a second, he came to realize how awkward the situation can be.

"If only that was a guy's problem with girls!" he said, laughing.

It's a sticky situation we all face, no matter what gender we are or even how old we are.

My 50-something boss recently told me he was in a predicament at school where he is pursuing his PhD. It was awkward enough when a female classmate asked him for lunch, but he was at a loss for words when a man in his class kept asking him to hang out after school.

He didn't want to offend anybody by blurting out his heterosexual status, especially if it turned out the poor guy was just looking for a new friend. So he did what he's always done over the years.

"I told them I was sorry, but I had to rush back to work, or to my family, or to the gym – whatever I could come up with, just to get out of it," he said.

A little anti-social, that's for sure, but in some cases it's better to be anti-social than socially inappropriate.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

I've been dating Mike for a few months now. We get along famously and are growing closer all the time.

Mike seems to have a disturbingly disproportionate number of female friends as compared to male ones. He doesn't hide them from me, and I assume these friendships are all platonic. Some of the women are even married. Nevertheless, it's a concern for me.

I don't want to seem like the jealous girlfriend, but I guess I am. I would rather be the only woman in his life. I don't feel comfortable asking him to give up all his female friends – yet – because I'm afraid that would reveal a side of me that he won't like.

How would you feel about your significant other having so many friends of the opposite sex?

Too Many Women

Dear Too Many Women

Jealousy is perceiving a normal circumstance as a potentially damaging one. This is a very strong and dangerous emotion. It can ruin a relationship that would otherwise be fine.

The bigger picture here is one of trust. Trust is the foundation of any successful partnership, whether it be personal or professional.

You say that you and Mike are growing closer all the time. You also mention that he doesn't hide his friendships from you. That's a great start. Work with that. Rather than putting restrictions on his friendships, maybe you could get to know some of these women a little better. He would probably be open to you meeting people that are important in his life, especially if your relationship is moving in that direction.

Try to be open-minded about his life prior to you becoming part of it. If you force him to give up people who are important to him, he may end up resenting you.

Sometimes jealousy can also stem from self-esteem problems. If that's the case, identify it and get help for it. You will benefit in so many ways in the long run.

Two lives coming together to form one bond takes work. It's not always easy or automatic, but if you keep the lines of communication open at all times and build a strong trust, the rest will work itself out.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN, email, eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional

Hagbah: a threat to masculinity

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

Sweat is pouring out of me. I'm a nervous wreck, and I don't know if I'll be able to get through this. No, don't call me up to do *hagbah* (lifting the Torah). I'm not strong enough. My masculinity is at risk. I'm going to drop it, and don't want to be responsible for causing the entire shul too fast. They'll hate me.

This is what goes through the minds of many men (and sometimes women) who receive the kavod (the honour) of lifting the Torah upon completion of Torah reading.

Now, *glilah* (the honour that goes with *hagbah*), or wrapping the Torah, is more or less straightforward. It requires the individual to roll the Torah so it is tightly bound and then tie it with a velvet belt or a string. The individual then places the mantle, which can sometimes get stuck on one of the wooden ends, over the Torah. The breastplate, the *yad* – the hand used to point to the letters throughout the reading – and then the crown are put on the Torah. It's rather simple.

But *hagbah* – now there is a daunting task, especially the first time. If you are lucky, your first time around will be during the reading of Vayikra (or thereabouts) when the Torah is somewhat balanced – i.e., there is as much parchment on one side of the scroll as the other. On the other hand, if you are called up for *hagbah* on parshat Bereshit – the very first portion in the Torah – most of the parchment is on the left side of the Torah, so those who are left-handed will have to lift the Torah using their weakest side. That is cause for concern.

And here is how the actual lifting works. Keep in mind that most rookies have no idea there is a secret to *hagbah*. Here it is.

Firstly, approach the *shulchan* (the table) where the Torah lies. Don't look at the congregation because that will only heighten your blood pressure and your perception of what they are expecting of you – Arnold Schwarzenegger strength and agility.

Hold onto the wooden handles and, with the Torah slightly open, pull it down toward you while it is still lying on the table. At this point, half of the scroll is now on the table and the other half off.

Then, using leverage, you dip a little bit, press down on the bottom half of the Torah and then in one fell swoop lift it up using the weight of the bottom half to boost the scroll upward. Do not attempt to lift the Torah straight up, as many have tried, as it could tear, and so could a muscle. This is a fail-safe technique.

The strong guys will then unscroll the Torah, sometimes showing up to six panels – each one is about 1½ feet wide – and with the delight of Moses at Sinai, they will hold it high over their heads, turning front and back for all to see.

Most people have a *hagbah* story – the most common one dealing with their first time. A man I knew, who described himself as scrawny and an unlikely choice for the kavod of *hagbah*, told me that once he had successfully lifted the heaviest Torah in the shul, he realized even the thinnest or weakest Jews are able to hold the weight of the Torah high above their heads.

If you've never done it – good luck. *Hagbah* is by far the most nerve-racking honour in shul. You may want to print this article, however, and deposit it into your tallit bag, for that moment when your name is called. It might just dull your fear and give you the confidence needed to carry out this honour with grace and potency.

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Treasures of Baycrest

A tribute to some of the men and women who have enhanced Baycrest and the lives of the elderly.

November 2006

About the Exhibit

At the turn of the 20th century, Toronto's Jewish community was rapidly building a strong infrastructure to accommodate the needs of its growing population. The welfare of one of its most vulnerable members – the frail elderly – was a primary concern.

In 1918, the volunteers of the Ezras Nashim Society collected money door-to-door to open Baycrest's forerunner, the Toronto Jewish Old Folks Home on Cecil Street. Over thirty years later, community leaders purchased a 25-acre tract of land at Bathurst Street and Baycrest Avenue, which, by 1954, would become the site of a new Jewish Home for the Aged and Baycrest Hospital. For the first time in Canadian history, a chronic-care facility and home for the aged would share the same physical structure.

Over the next five decades, Baycrest would develop into one of the world's pre-eminent centres for care, research and education focused on aging. By incorporating residences, a chronic care hospital, a leading research institute and outpatient clinics, Baycrest would become world renowned as the resource on aging.

Thanks to a leadership gift from long-time supporter Joseph Gottdenker, the Treasures of Baycrest exhibit honours the achievements of the unique men and women who have enhanced Baycrest and the lives of the elderly. Featuring some of Baycrest's greatest treasures – donors, volunteers, staff, friends and clients – the exhibit will be updated on a regular basis to pay tribute to the hundreds of individuals deserving of this honour.

Joseph Gottdenker

Being the only and hidden child of Holocaust survivors Bina and Bendet Gottdenker, has been a fundamental force in my life.

That's why when a good friend introduced me to Baycrest and I discovered how well it catered to the unique needs of survivors and their families, I couldn't help but become involved.

Before long, a single gift to the 1985 capital campaign quickly grew into a full-fledged financial commitment and long-standing dedication of time and energy. In addition to establishing an endowment fund in honour of my parents for Baycrest's annual *Yom Hashoah* memorial service, I was also pleased to sponsor *Caring for Aging Survivors of the Holocaust*, a first-of-its-kind resource book designed to ensure elderly survivors, all over the world, are cared for with the utmost sensitivity and respect.

After joining the endowment committee, which I later co-chaired with Paula Cohen, I became a member of the Baycrest Foundation board, its treasurer, and then, later, chair of the donor recognition committee.

My mother lived in the Terrace, Baycrest Hospital, and the Home for the Aged for several years after my father passed away. As a result, I was able to see, firsthand, the exceptional way in which Baycrest cares for its clients, especially survivors with cognitive disorders whose long-term memories of the war can often be excruciating.

It was very important to me that we pay tribute to the many individuals who, over the years, have made Baycrest the special place it is. Building on the ideas and determination of Pinchas Gutter and other committee members, I am pleased to sponsor this Treasures of Baycrest exhibit.

Baycrest offered me the opportunity to give back to my community in a way that is particularly meaningful. I believe it is a showpiece to the world by taking exceptional care of our elderly, and by conducting research and education into aging.

The Treasures of Baycrest exhibit has been generously donated by Joseph Gottdenker.

Ida Abrams

I started out working for the Toronto Children's Aid Society in the adoptions department. Eventually, I moved to Jewish Family and Child Services under the supervision of Walter Lyons who then drew me over to Baycrest. I went from working for the young to the elderly in a very short time.

I raised my five children while I worked for Baycrest as a social worker for over 25 years. It was *The Golden Age of Baycrest*. We had a determined vision for the people who passed through our doors to make certain those who were eligible would get in. We were so proud to serve the community's needs.

The area in which I worked was intake. My job was to make certain Baycrest was the right place for each particular individual. It was important to me that the people who came through our doors were encouraged to be as independent as their abilities would allow.

In those days, the elderly would first come to Baycrest for the day; this was initiated to give potential residents an opportunity to see how they liked being in a community environment before making the decision to make it permanent.

Of course times change and situations change but the basic needs of the elderly remain the same. Baycrest must and still does fulfill those needs.

When my father was 103, he was still living on his own, in his own home. Quoting a very wise Rabbi, my father would often tell me: "To live a long and full life, don't be greedy, don't be envious, and don't look for honours."

Joseph Story Atkinson
and the Atkinson Charitable Foundation

The Atkinson Charitable Foundation made history when it granted an unprecedented $100,000 to Baycrest in 1952. Not only was this a phenomenal sum for that time, but the award went towards funding something that didn't exist anywhere else in Canada – a comprehensive geriatric medical program integrating patient care with education.

"This was a very innovative grant because it was for geriatric care, a new field at that time," says Betsy Murray, an Atkinson Charitable Foundation trustee whose father, Joseph Story Atkinson, a former Toronto Star publisher and chairman of the foundation's board, attended the meeting that approved the grant. "My father was really the person pushing for this because he saw his own father dealing with the aging process and it really hit him."

Murray notes her father was impressed with the Jewish community for being one of very few in those days to make care of the elderly a community priority. "I think he admired the way the Jewish, Italian and, later, Chinese communities cared for their elders, so he thought this was an important cause," she reveals. "And because health care was part of the foundation's mandate and this was obviously something very new that wasn't available elsewhere, the foundation thought this was a noble cause to contribute to."

In later years, the Atkinson Charitable Foundation received an award from Toronto's Beth Sholom Synagogue recognizing its generosity to the Jewish community, especially the Baycrest grant. Looking at how Baycrest has flourished ever since, it was clearly money well spent.

Jack Baker

They call me the *Singing Humourist* because I always try to bring a joke, story or song when I volunteer at Baycrest. I've been volunteering there since 1958, and I've accumulated over 27,000 hours of service! For the last 17 years, I've worked in palliative care.

My mother was a patient at Baycrest. When she died, my father became a resident at 92. He was very happy there. My parents instilled in me the value of enriching the lives of the elderly and I passed this down to my children and grandchildren, who also became volunteers in other fields.

I first came to Baycrest through my B'nai Brith lodge, of which I was president. We supported the residents' Chanukah phone call program. Since then, I've had many jobs at Baycrest – one of them as a tour guide of the hospital and the home.

In the '60s, I had an idea to produce *yarmulkes* in denim at Baycrest. My late uncle, Saul Baker Sr., designed the *yarmulkes* and taught the residents how to sew them. I believe we were the first in North America to make them that way. We sold them to religious stores with the money benefitting Baycrest. Each *yarmulke* had a label that said, "Sewn by the residents of Baycrest."

In 1993, I was awarded the President's Service Award by the Men's Service Group. I was presented the Volunteer Service Award at Queen's Park by Lieutenant Governor Henry Jackman in 1994, and in 2006, I received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award. The Men's Service Group appointed me as a life trustee in 1995.

I volunteer because I want to and my philosophy is that if I can get a laugh or smile out of someone who is frail or in pain, I feel like a million bucks.

Jordan and Faith Banks

We both feel incredibly fortunate that leaders of previous generations have dedicated their time, money and passion to Baycrest. Faith and I believe it's now incumbent upon our *younger* generation to follow their lead and help guide Baycrest well into the 21st century.

I sit on the board of directors of Baycrest and the Baycrest Foundation. Over the past short while, it's been really exciting to see the momentum Baycrest has generated with their fund-raising efforts. Donations from the private sector are especially important these days and Baycrest is second to none when it comes to innovative fund-raising and using that money for incredibly impactful projects which have global implications.

In 2000, Faith and I started a charitable event in support of Baycrest called Sportsfest, which raises funds for Alzheimer's research, care and awareness. Three of our grandparents had Alzheimer's. Since we both had such close relationships with our grandparents, the work we do with Baycrest is very much out of respect and love for them and is small in comparison to what they were able to give us. Proudly, Sportsfest has been able to raise over $650,000.

We are all very much a product of a generation of people who worked hard to establish the opportunity-filled country in which we live. Unfortunately, too many of those people now suffer from Alzheimer's. We should all be thinking and doing everything we can to allow all people with Alzheimer's to age with dignity. Baycrest is a place that does absolutely that; it helps people live as long as possible, while maintaining their dignity. For Faith and me, that's hugely powerful and to be able to contribute to that, in even the smallest of ways, is tremendously gratifying.

Anne Birt

Sensitive, dedicated and compassionate are words colleagues and patients use to describe Dr. Anne Birt, who retired in 2001, after serving for 31 years as an attending physician at Baycrest.

"Anne Birt is probably one of the most outstanding family care physicians I've ever worked with," says her long-time supervisor, Dr. Michael Gordon, vice-president of medical services. "Everyone she dealt with loved her and nothing was too much to ask of her if it was for the welfare of our patients and residents."

Born in London, England, Birt graduated from Middlesex Hospital Medical School in 1958, and immigrated to Canada in 1970. That year, she joined Baycrest, she says, as a "glorified intern" to re-qualify as a doctor in this country. She liked working with the elderly, in part because she greatly admired her own grandmother, and decided to stay on as an attending physician.

Over the years, Birt worked in palliative care and complex continuing care, supervised acute care in the former hospital, and was acting deputy medical director of Baycrest Terrace. In 1998, she left palliative care and became an attending physician at the JHA until the move to the Apotex Centre in 2000.

"There was nothing she wasn't willing to try," Gordon says. "She never said no and was an absolute pleasure to work with."

Birt was also a member of many committees and of the Baycrest board of directors. Even after retirement, she continues to sit on the clinical ethics committee.

"I loved working at Baycrest and after five years of retirement I still dream that I am there," she says. "They have done so much through research and its practical applications, to help the elderly stay well longer. And I loved Baycrest's multicultural environment. I've met people from so many different backgrounds and have learned that, at heart, we are all the same."

Frances Blugerman

My first acquaintance with Baycrest was in 1954 when my late husband Albert's beloved *babeh* Nessie Soren was transferred from the Cecil Street home to the new Jewish Home for the Aged (JHA) on Bathurst Street.

I started working at the JHA the day after Labour Day in 1958, on a four-month contract, half-time.

There were approximately 300 applicants to the home and a waiting period of almost three years for admission. Walter Lyons had pressed for the hiring of a social worker to meet with applicants and their families to assess relative need and help with exploring interim plans.

Sam Ruth agreed with the need for a social worker but he said, "There's no money." Walter said, "You'll find the money." Sam did, and I was hired.

Needless to say, more than a half-time social worker was needed and Sam continued to find money for more social workers.

Baycrest's social services department became a model for other institutions serving the elderly, including the Italian and Chinese communities.

In my 30 years at Baycrest, I learned, taught and supervised social work students and staff in the central intake department of the JHA.

I retired in 1989, and look back on my experience with pleasure – it was fulfilling professionally and personally.

I pay particular tribute to Sam Ruth, Walter Lyons and Abe Posluns, true visionaries, for their commitment to quality services for the aged and to the policy of admission to the JHA on the basis of need. They valued the skills of professional social service and treated all staff with concern and respect.

I started work when Baycrest was one building housing the home and Baycrest Hospital – just look at it now!

David Brown
1862 – 1953

In 1918, David Brown was hired as the first superintendent of the *Moshav Zekanim*, or Toronto Jewish Old Folks Home. His great-granddaughter, Paula David, a senior social worker and co-ordinator of Baycrest's Holocaust resource program, keeps in her office the ceramic and gold-encrusted medallion he wore on special occasions, proclaiming him, in Yiddish text, "Superintendent."

Brown was hired "because he could *daven*," David relates. For over 20 years, he kept the books, oversaw the home and presided over synagogue services while his wife, Fayge, volunteered in the kitchen and with residents' personal care. "When their daughter Bessie died giving birth to twins, the grandparents raised the babies in the home," David explains. The twins, Rae and Irving (David's father), played ball on the porch. Brown made sure Irving could sing the prayers and taught him to lead the services. He also encouraged his daughters and granddaughters to study, David recalls. Brown stayed on staff until 1939, leaving to open a private home for the aged.

Irving became an active volunteer at Baycrest and life member of the Men's Service Group. He and his guitar were regulars at Baycrest's Community Day Centre for Seniors, where he ran a weekly music program. For over a decade, he also led Friday night services. He spent his last years at Baycrest Terrace and the Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged.

Paula David's children, who are also musical, entertain at special events at the Terraces of Baycrest (formerly the Terrace), bringing the generational count to a grand total of four.

Orah Buck

At a party 20 years ago, Orah Buck overheard a well-known photographer "brag" to friends about donating pictures to Baycrest. Buck had just taken photography courses at Ryerson University and thought, "Maybe I could do that, too." Today, hundreds of her works hang on the walls of Baycrest, providing cultural enrichment for clients, families and visitors.

Buck loves to photograph nature and people, as reflected in the *Time and Faces* display, a series of resident portraits outside Baycrest's human resources department. She works closely with art co-ordinator Vivienne Marcus and frequently consults with staff and clients. When Buck and Marcus developed *You're Never Too Old to Grow* – a large mural in the Community Day Centre for Seniors, day centre members were asked to contribute by naming the most important people to include in the photographs.

"We wanted to make the whole experience of creating these displays – both the process and the finished result – meaningful for the people living and working there," Buck says. "My joy comes from knowing that during their everyday routines, staff and clients experience pleasure from my photographs."

Jewish themes are also a major interest for Buck and she has donated many photographs to Israeli charitable organizations. She also has five books registered with the American Library of Congress and has had several showings of her work, most recently *The Golden Reign of Spain* at Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

"Orah is one of the most generous people I have ever met," Marcus says, "not only with her photographs, but also with her time. She's become part of our community and that involvement shows in her work. She really captures what Baycrest is all about."

Stephen Cole

I became involved with Baycrest in 1980 after Norm Schipper invited me to join the Terrace committee. That was it. I was hooked on the genuine good will and kindness all around me.

Throughout my years at Baycrest, I have had the best of mentors like Norm, Fred Karp and Syd Loftus. That they extended to me their warmth, dedication and willingness to share their experience and skills, was fabulous.

Through the years, the thousands of hours of work and generosity of all Baycrest's volunteers and staff made Baycrest unique in the world of health-care institutions. I have learned so much from all of them.

I value the way Baycrest listens carefully to the suggestions of the families of residents because, next to our professional caregivers, no one is more aware of our residents' concerns.

My involvement at Baycrest grew as I became more involved with the finance, strategic planning and advisory committees for Baycrest Hospital and what was then the Jewish Home for the Aged. I also served as treasurer for several years. It was during this time that I saw how everyone who served Baycrest made it their top priority.

As chair of the Baycrest board from 1992 to 1995, I was committed to expanding our outpatient and community day centre services to help older adults continue to live independently in their own homes.

I have always been proud of our approach to innovative care, research and education and the fact that we have a holistic understanding of the quality of life. To be able to help the elderly was, and will always be, an honour for me.

Margaret Daniels

"Every good nurse knows that a kind, friendly feeling for her patient helps him to maintain his self-respect, dignity and individuality." Those were the words and the credo of Margaret Daniels, Baycrest's first director of nursing.

Daniels was hired by the late Sam Ruth, shortly after he became Baycrest's CEO in 1956. She became nursing director in 1957 (until that time, the chief of medicine supervised nursing staff) and made it her personal responsibility to greet every new admission and ensure they received a complete physical examination.

Throughout her years at Baycrest, Daniels was a capable administrator and helped lay the foundation for an approach to care that has been a cornerstone for Baycrest.

"Our purpose," she stated, "is not only to cure disease when possible and alleviate suffering, but also to encourage patients and residents to take an active role in social situations and to live to the maximum of their physical and mental abilities."

She also felt that it was extremely important for nurses to relate well to their patients. "Communicating effectively is one very important way to improve the quality of care," she said at the time. "By getting to know our patients, we can support them emotionally, as well as physically, and also reach out to anxious relatives."

When Daniels retired from Baycrest in 1969, she spent time with incoming nursing director Marcia Dodick, who remembers Daniels stressing the importance of treating the elderly with respect. "I was also very impressed with how much Margaret knew about Judaism, even though she wasn't Jewish herself," she recalls. "She had made the effort to learn about it so as to provide better care."

"Margaret was an extremely sensitive and hands-on person," Sam Ruth said. "She was the warm and caring person that every resident knew and she was truly the *Face of Baycrest*."

Harvey Dobbs

1912 – 1984

One of Canada's earliest radio personalities, Harvey Dobbs, was a pioneer broadcaster, author, producer and writer for Canada's first quiz show, *Did I Say That?*, and jingle writer for some of the best known commercials in the '40s and '50s. He was also a man who took his community work seriously – so much so that despite a debilitating illness he spent his last days volunteering for Baycrest.

A long-time supporter of Boys Town in Jerusalem, Dobbs was honoured with Variety's highest honour, the Heart Award, and was twice elected Man of the Year by the Baycrest Men's Service Group, which he supported over the course of several decades.

Dobbs and his wife, Ruth, were first introduced to Baycrest by their close friends, former Baycrest CEO Sam Ruth and his wife, Nancy. Dobbs not only became involved himself but quickly earned a reputation for galvanizing other people to work for Baycrest.

His forte was writing and he utilized those skills and talents to Baycrest's advantage by founding the Men's Service Group's fund-raising magazine, the Honour Roll, and editing it for 20 years. His wife recalls that when illness overtook him in the mid-1980s, and he was no longer able to drive, she would take him to Baycrest daily so he could continue to work on the Honour Roll.

"Baycrest had become his life," she says. "Even when he was suffering terribly, he insisted on carrying on his work there. He felt very deeply about the importance of Baycrest to the community."

Tom and Karen Ehrlich

During the late-1980s, Baycrest president and chair Sydney Loftus realized the organization needed to recruit strong young leadership if it was to attract the next generation of supporters. Fortunately for Baycrest, Loftus didn't have to look far. Son-in-law Tom Ehrlich grabbed hold of the concept and with his wife, Karen, at his side, formed Baycrest's Leadership Development Group (LDG).

With Tom serving as inaugural president and, later, with Karen serving as a co-president, the LDG implemented its mandate of creating new, successful fund-raisers with signature events that included a heritage hunt car rally, playoff hockey draft, golf tournament and Art and Soul art auction. "We were thrilled with our many successes," recalls Tom who first learned about Baycrest when visiting his grandparents at the Terrace and Jewish Home for the Aged. "We exposed a new generation of younger adults to Baycrest by involving them in *fun* events. Also, by achieving our fund-raising goals, the LDG was encouraged to continue to attract new members and develop new projects."

"Baycrest was like an extension of our family," Karen says, referring to her father's long-standing service and her mother Sheila's active involvement, including her leadership role as chair of the art and design committee. "Baycrest was a topic of lively conversation during many Friday night dinners. My father took great pride in Baycrest's many achievements, particularly in its affiliation with the University of Toronto and the establishment of The Rotman Research Institute. He passed that pride on to us and we look forward to continuing our involvement well into the future."

Leona Finkler

1918 – 1996

Everyone knew that when Leona Finkler invited you for a cup of coffee, it was going to be an expensive one! That's because Finkler was a fund-raiser *par excellence*. "Her passion for Baycrest was contagious," daughter Pat Friedland says. "A gift to Baycrest may not have been uppermost in people's minds, but it didn't take long for her to win them over."

A Holocaust survivor from Poland who lost both parents in the war, Finkler felt strongly about the importance of Jewish continuity and caring for the elders in our society. It was this belief that fuelled her charitable and philanthropic work at Baycrest and many other organizations over several decades.

At Baycrest, Finkler helped co-ordinate numerous fund-raisers as the Women's Auxiliary (WA) president from 1980 to 1982. Friedland went on to hold the WA presidency, too, marking them as one of only two mother-daughter teams to share this feat. "Parents always want to pass down their values to their children and seeing me at Baycrest gave her a great sense of satisfaction," she says.

In addition to her leadership, Finkler was also a major donor. A number of bequests were left to Baycrest by her and her husband, Arnold. The family also established the Finkler International Visiting Scientist Endowment Fund, which supports clinical work and research.

Finkler was very active on the Baycrest board, Baycrest Foundation board and board of governors for many years. She was also involved with UJA, JNF, the National Board of Hadassah WIZO, and served as chair of the women's division of Israel Bonds. In 1986, with her husband at her side, she accepted an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel for her community service.

"My mother gave so much of herself to Baycrest," Friedland says. "Baycrest was something she really believed in."

Phyllis Flatt

Baycrest, or as I knew it, the *Moshav Zekaymin*, Jewish Home for the Aged, has always been a part of my life. My grandmother, Nettie Albert, was involved with the original Women's Auxiliary (WA) on Cecil Street. My aunt, Anne Gans, was a past president of the WA. However, it was my mother, Beatrice Wolfe, who encouraged my involvement, which eventually led to my becoming president of the WA from 1991 to 1993.

Contributing to Baycrest as a volunteer, as well as financially, has always been important to my family. The Phyllis and Ab Flatt Endowment Fund was set up during my presidency in support of the many and varied programs and projects supported by the WA. The Beatrice Wolfe Music Therapy Endowment Fund was created because of my mother's love of music. She played the piano almost every day, instilling in my brother Howard and myself this same love. Through this endowment fund, residents and patients can also experience the joy and pleasure music can bring into their lives. Another endowment fund we set up was the Anne and Moses Flatt Endowment Fund, honouring the memories of Ab's parents. My father-in-law spent his last few months in the palliative care unit at Baycrest, receiving much love and care from the professionals and volunteers.

Baycrest is a world-class facility that we feel is worthy of our support, *l'dor v'dor* – from generation to generation.

Morris Frankfort

1885 – 1973

Morris Frankfort, a successful businessman and humanitarian, became a tower of strength for the Canadian Red Cross during WWII. The Red Cross showed their appreciation by making him vice-president in charge of disaster relief and sometime later honoured him for his outstanding relief efforts during Hurricane Hazel and the Noronic disaster.

During the war, the Right Honourable C.D. Howe appointed Frankfort to the War Time Prices and Trade Board as a *Dollar-a-year Man*, a high honour for business executives who received an annual salary of one dollar for helping the government during periods of crisis. After the war, Frankfort used his influence to encourage the Red Cross to offer disaster relief to Jewish immigrants coming to Canada from the ravages of Europe. His concern for humankind eventually led him to accept positions as the head of disaster relief for the Red Cross and vice-president of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society. He also worked for Israel Bonds and the Toronto Hebrew Free Loan Society.

There weren't many charities Frankfort did not take under his wing, but being president of the original Toronto Jewish Old Folks Home on Cecil Street was his most favoured interest. His commitment only increased when he became one of the main planners and founders of the new Jewish Home for the Aged and Baycrest Hospital on Bathurst Street.

His son Sydney remembers as a young man, that every Sunday morning was reserved for his father's Baycrest meetings. As a result of his dedication, Morris Frankfort was honoured for bringing in the most contributions to the original Baycrest expansion fund.

Sydney made sure his father would continue to be remembered and respected through an endowment fund established in his name and the dedication of an elevator in the JHA also named in his honour.

Anne Gans
1921 – 1991

Anne Gans was passionate in her commitment to Baycrest. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Nettie Albert (a Baycrest pioneer), Gans dedicated herself to helping Baycrest prosper.

For a number of years, amongst other activities, Gans chaired an annual Baycrest fund-raising theatre event. "Our home became a show business box office," her daughter Francie Storm recalls. "There was a big ticket counter at the bottom of the stairs, and I can still remember how excited she got selling every ticket and how she didn't relax until all the tickets were sold."

Between 1961 and 1963, Gans brought her leadership and organizational skills and her enormous energy to the role of president of the Women's Auxiliary. She enjoyed the opportunity to work with wonderful women to pursue a shared goal.

Anne Gans lived her core value of giving back to the community. By her example, she left her family a legacy of commitment to social responsibility. Her legacy is reflected in the broad range of volunteer activities of her family. She would be proud.

Max and Gianna Glassman

I got married at my dying mother's bedside at Baycrest on May 19, 1958. Our scheduled date for marriage had been May 31st, but on the 19th, I went to visit my mother – Anne Glazman – and I detected she was dying. I told my fiancée, Gianna, that I wanted to get married that day and she said, "That's impossible," to which I replied, 'Nothing is impossible.'

The Rabbi told me he would marry us if we had a marriage licence, but we didn't have one. So I called a city councillor who had been a patient of mine. He got the clerk at city hall to open on compassionate grounds and then issued our licence. My mother came out of her coma during the ceremony. After the wedding, she said in Yiddish, "Well, now I can die (in peace)."

Years later, my sister, Ray, became a patient at Baycrest and that reinforced my connection. I felt duty bound to do something for Baycrest because of the experiences I had with my mother and sister. So my wife and I set up the Dr. Max and Gianna Glassman Chair in Neuropsychology at the University of Toronto and Baycrest.

About two or three years ago, my wife started to do volunteer work in Baycrest's creative arts studio. She got a tremendous charge out of helping the elderly. As my activities as a doctor decreased, I wanted to do something beneficial for Baycrest, too. This led to me doing volunteer psychotherapy as a chaplain under Rabbi Berlat.

I get a lot of compliments on what I do, but I think I'm the one who really gains from it. Baycrest is unique in the services it supplies.

Paul Godfrey

My first contact with Baycrest dates back to 1965 when I was a 25-year-old North York city councillor, representing Baycrest, which was then in the very early stages of expansion. Over the last few years, I've served as a director of Baycrest and have tried to assist with advice about government funding and meeting public expectations.

The biggest highlight for me was the building of the Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged. I was pleased to be a part of the delegation that showed Premier Mike Harris and the government the importance of Baycrest for geriatric care in Ontario and on a worldwide basis.

When I was chairman of metropolitan Toronto, I went with the Ontario minister of community and social services to visit various homes for geriatric care throughout North America. The people at these homes asked us, "Why are you here? Just go visit Baycrest – that's the model for geriatric care worldwide."

On the personal side, Baycrest plays a huge role in my family's life. My grandmother was in Baycrest, my mother is presently a resident, my late mother-in-law was there until October 2005, and my father-in-law has been a resident for two years. I believe Baycrest has kept my loved ones alive for many more years than they would have survived in another environment.

I personally support Baycrest because it's very important to provide the necessary funding for ongoing care. That's how you can help Baycrest continue to be the model it is today.

Wolfe and Tillie Goldberg

Wolfe 1900 – 1988, Tillie 1911 – 1996

No two people could have complimented each other more than Wolfe and Tillie Goldberg, says their son Gerry Goldberg, who compares the couple's relationship to the way each side of the brain functions. Wolfe was the practical one, a Polish immigrant who turned a *shmatte* business on Spadina Avenue into a thriving enterprise. He had a passion for *Yiddishkeit* and Judaic artifacts and helped authors in Israel publish books in the Yiddish language.

Tillie was "a very warm person, bubbly and very concerned about the Women's Auxiliary," recalls WA archiver and past president, Alma Waldman. "She did a great job," Waldman says of Tillie's stint as WA president. Tillie was a tireless worker for issues she felt were of vital importance to the community she loved: cancer care, Hadassah WIZO and Baycrest. "She taught through her deeds what it meant to make a difference," Gerry says, adding that his mother never drove, "but because she had this burning desire to help she did everything by streetcar and bus."

The Wolfe and Tillie Goldberg Foundation contributed, not surprisingly, to the preservation of Jewish history – by lending numerous items of Judaica to Baycrest's heritage museum. "They created a legacy of *menschlichkeit* which they passed down to their sons," Gerry says of himself and his brother, Dr. Melvin Goldberg, who, in fact, worked at Baycrest. "To my parents, Baycrest and Israel were everything." In carrying on their tradition, Gerry, Melvin and their families contributed to support the beauty shop, recalling that when their mother was a patient at Baycrest Hospital, going to the beauty shop was one of her greatest pleasures.

Milton and Jean Goldstein

My husband was enlisted to the volunteer core of Baycrest about 10 years before I came on board. He has been a proud volunteer for 20 years.

When he started out he was given the task of stuffing envelopes. He wasn't sure if it was the job for him until he realized he was sitting with several high-powered executives who were happily stuffing envelopes, as well.

Over the years, he worked for the Baycrest Foundation and Men's Service Group proudly doing just about any job they assigned him, including the Fun Run, tracing returned mail, and mapping out the delivery route for the Honour Roll.

My first assignment 10 years ago was to interview and place potential volunteers, a task I found to be challenging and rewarding. It's really satisfying to find the right people for the right job.

I remember one particular tall, elegant looking gentleman who walked into my office to offer his services. He was willing to help in any area he could and he was candid about why he was anxious to volunteer. He wanted a volunteer parking sticker so he could park closer to the building when he came daily to visit his wife. I immediately gave this man a job and I'll tell you why: He was a *Yiddishist* who delighted our residents with his lectures and stories... and best of all he was 89 years old. He worked for us for several years and was one of our favourite volunteers.

It's so important for people to volunteer in their senior years. It gives you a reason to get up, get dressed and discover every day, a whole world out there that needs you and appreciates your help.

Al J. Green

It wasn't enough for me to build the Terrace at Baycrest. I needed to make it beautiful, as well.

When Baycrest CEO Sam Ruth asked me to help build the new Baycrest residence in 1976, I didn't hesitate. My father had been involved with the *Moshav Zekaynim* on Cecil Street (Baycrest's forerunner), and it felt natural for me to follow in his footsteps.

Together with the members of the building committee, we planned, adjusted and built the custom building. When the austere, yellow brick structure was in its final stages my artistic instincts kicked in. I knew the building needed an artistic touch if it was truly to be a place people would call home.

After a thorough search I found a beautiful and compelling sculpture by Maryon Kanteroff, *The Song of Deborah*. This particular piece came with a high price tag but I managed to purchase it with the help of a government grant, donations from the committee, and my own personal contribution.

Over the years, as an avid sculptor, I have continued to try to enhance Baycrest's esthetic appeal by donating several of my most cherished pieces including *Ben Gurion*, *Moses* and *Let My People Go*. My wife, Malka, and I also established an endowment fund to support the creative arts studio on the main floor of the Jewish Home for the Aged.

Art can enhance life in so many ways, especially for seniors living with certain challenges. Whether we're doing art, learning about it or just enjoying its beauty and meaning, it's an invaluable part of our lives.

Alex Grossman

"When one is confronted with danger, daring action is required. That was the lesson I learned repeatedly as I outran and evaded the Gestapo during WWII," says Alex Grossman, stating a philosophy that has set the pattern for his journey to success.

A man of action and results throughout his life, Grossman survived the Holocaust and brought his wife, Genia, and daughter, Lilly, to safety in Canada just in time for the birth of their son, George. "Thankfully, I've always had good luck. For survival, luck is vital... and so is a willingness to take risks," he says.

In the mid-1950s he began devoting himself to the community, which included Israel Bonds, the school of Massuah, and Shaare Tzedek Hospital, the three charities with which he has become synonymous. For Grossman, Baycrest is a fundamental part of the community.

"I realized that in this country, you have to give back to society and that is the point when I started appreciating Canada," he says, having given back to every charity that has asked it of him. Baycrest was a recipient of his good will many times over with major gifts and fund-raising efforts he undertook to help the JHA and Baycrest Hospital develop and grow.

"I remember when I was a small boy in Poland, it was a Jewish custom every Friday evening before sundown for the lady of the house to deposit money in the charity box," he says.

Former Baycrest chair Edwin Goldstein says charity is a lesson Grossman learned well. "He's always been an outstanding fund-raiser for Baycrest. No one would ever refuse to give whatever Alex asked whenever he knocked at their door. He has been a great asset to Baycrest from the very beginning, both as a benefactor and in leading a team of fund-raisers to meet their necessary goals."

Al Hertz

I don't have a history of being involved in charity work as most of my time has been focused on business and family. I have visited people in hospitals and nursing homes over the years and though I hope never to have to be a resident, I feel that it's an important part of the community. My sister, Florence Brill, a former Baycrest Foundation board member, has been very involved in this area and she, as much as anybody, influenced me to make a contribution to Baycrest.

My mother-in-law had recently passed away and so I had considerable exposure to nursing care. I felt that not enough was being done to manage pain in elderly people who are unable to effectively communicate. You can't be positive about life when you're in pain, your whole personality changes. I've heard about morphine being administered to elderly people who were then taken off of it for fear they would become addicted. Worry about addiction in that kind of situation is questionable.

When Baycrest Foundation president Mark Gryfe suggested a fund to endow a clinical nurse specialist position for pain management, I was very pleased. So many elderly people are cognitively impaired and it's important to develop methods of identifying their pain as well as strategies for treating it. I'm delighted that the Al Hertz Family Foundation will ensure that Baycrest has an ongoing clinical position to teach pain management.

Morris and Sally Justein

Sally 1919 – 2004

The *raison d'etre* of the museum that bears their name is to nurture connections with Jewish heritage, and how appropriate that is. After all, Morris Justein and his late wife, Sally, have always embodied a deep passion for Jewish culture, heritage and values.

"The continuity of the Jewish people and Jewish values were all things that were important to my mother-in-law and she was also a very cultured woman who enjoyed museums," the Justeins' son-in law, Paul Austin, explains. "So my father-in-law and the panel at Baycrest together felt it would be a fitting tribute to honour my mother in-law with an endowment fund to support the Morris and Sally Justein Heritage Museum."

The Justeins became involved with Baycrest in the 1960s after relocating from North Bay to Toronto. In addition to his 50-year involvement with the Baycrest Men's Service Group, Morris was chair of the Honour Roll magazine for several years. "Morris likes to tell stories about how he would still need six or seven people to speak to in order to finalize the Honour Roll, and down to the wire, everyone would eventually come through," Austin relates.

Following the commendable example of her parents, the Justeins' daughter, Pamela Justein Austin, is now a major contributor at Baycrest, volunteering every week and being a member of the Women's Auxiliary board. "Baycrest was very much a focus of my father's social life," she says. "Today, Paul and I have also made many friends from our association with Baycrest."

Morris B. Kaufman

1911 – 1997

Morris Kaufman was a great friend to Baycrest. He was the quintessential fund-raiser – first in line to raise money for worthwhile endeavours from Jewish education to assisting the elderly in our community. "My dad's sincerity made him one of the most effective fund-raisers in Canada," son Ira enthuses. "It was hard to say no to him."

Morris Kaufman's passionate involvement in Baycrest was initiated in the '50s by his friend, Baycrest pioneer Abe Posluns. They accomplished much through their several decades of dedication to the elderly. Kaufman also forged a strong bond with Baycrest's then CEO, Sam Ruth, and was a founding member of the Sam Ruth Legacy Society – a planned giving program of the Baycrest Foundation.

"Morris felt it was of utmost importance to help the community," his wife, Rose, says. "He was passionately involved in raising much-needed dollars for causes he believed in. Baycrest definitely pulled at his heartstrings."

Indeed, Kaufman worked many fund-raising miracles for Baycrest. He insured that during his lifetime and thereafter Baycrest would continue to reap the benefits of his generosity as well as the generosity of those he inspired.

Daniel E. Kert

1926 – 1988

People seem to agree on one thing about Daniel Kert: he was a man who was larger than life. Described by friends and family as a man of prodigious energy and enthusiasm, he brought that passion to bear in his involvement at Baycrest.

Kert never worried about rolling up his sleeves and getting down to work. He was a "candy striper mechanic," at times manning the boilers of Baycrest's forerunner, the Toronto Jewish Old Folks Home. He was an organizer of the Men's Service Group and when Baycrest Hospital was in the planning stages, he raised funds for the new facility. Kert was named Man of the Year by the Men's Service Group in 1964, and was its president from 1966 to 1967. He was not only an enthusiastic fund-raiser but also a generous donor. The Daniel E. Kert Foundation honours his commitment and caring for the elderly.

"My father had a zest for life like no other person," son Roey Kert says, who like his father is a Baycrest contributor. "My father had health problems throughout his life, but he never let that stop him from doing anything, including being an active sportsman," he explains.

"Daniel was very enthusiastic about Baycrest," says Edwin Goldstein, a former chair of the Baycrest and Baycrest Foundation boards. "He got me involved in 1968 for the building of the new hospital." In fact, one of Kert's strengths was his ability to bring new, young people into the Baycrest organization. No surprise, then, that his grandson Daniel chose to fulfill part of his community service by working at Baycrest.

Murray and Lila Kirsh

The best birthday present I ever got was marrying Lila the day before I turned 21 and I feel that except for that decision the best choice I ever made was when I chose to give my time. You can't just take from your community; you also have to give something back. I decided to put my efforts toward helping my synagogue, Adath Israel, and Baycrest.

Lila started her volunteer service at Baycrest as a receptionist in its first beauty shop and also became a life member of the Women's Auxiliary. My first memories of Baycrest come from my childhood when my maternal grandmother was a resident of the Cecil Street home and I would come and sit with her.

I've been volunteering at Baycrest for almost 50 years in various capacities and have created, emceed and chaired many fund-raisers that have benefitted Baycrest, such as the Honour Roll magazine, the Fun Run and numerous others. I have also been singing and performing with some of my associates over the past 50 years, with all proceeds going to Baycrest. Presently, I head up a preventive maintenance program for the physical plant department.

With three children, and their spouses, and five grandchildren, we've tried to pass our values on to the next generations. There is currently an Issie and Annie Feldman Endowment Fund in memory of Lila's parents and we have recently established a special gift fund in honour of our 60th wedding anniversary.

The lesson our faith teaches us is that what we do counts. It certainly helped to shape who we are.

Mel Lastman

Described by many as "a man of the people, who sticks up for the little guy," there is no one Mel Lastman sticks up for more than the elderly. As the world's longest serving mayor of a major city (of North York from 1972 to 1997 and then of the amalgamated Toronto until 2003), he oversaw many initiatives that improved life for seniors.

Lastman, who holds an honorary doctorate of laws degree from York University and a Humanitarian of the Year Award, is the founder of the Bad Boy chain of appliance stores. His association with Baycrest is long-standing.

"As a boy," he says, "I used to deliver produce from my grandparents' store in Kensington Market to the Toronto Jewish Old Folks Home and later my grandfather lived at Baycrest."

In the 1970s, Lastman conducted a plebiscite in North York that empowered him to levy a special tax of one mill rate to raise funds for capital projects for hospitals. Money from this fund contributed to the building of the new Baycrest Hospital in 1983.

"Mr. Lastman was a great supporter of that project," says Edwin Goldstein, chair of the building campaign at that time, "and a great supporter of Baycrest."

Lastman also chaired the Men's Service Group Honour Roll magazine for five years, launched the MSG annual telethon and appeared at countless Baycrest events, even modelling in a fashion show, which he remembers as a lot of fun.

"When I was mayor, people would come to our office from all over the world and one of the first things they'd ask about was Baycrest," Lastman says. "They wanted to learn more about it and about the care it provided. Baycrest is a great place because seniors there are treated with respect."

Sidney Lax

My nephew Clifford Lax was quite active in Baycrest and I told him one time that when I retire, I would probably be a volunteer there. I retired at the age of 70 and I kept my word. As a bachelor, I had to keep busy and Baycrest was an organization that I felt was helping the elderly, so it was a good idea to choose it as a place to volunteer.

I started as a member of the Men's Service Group and remained there until not too long ago. One activity I had a great time at was the Fun Run. We used to take care of the clothes belonging to people in the run and as soon as they crossed the finish line, we would return their clothes to them.

I also joined a few other volunteers to hand-deliver the Honour Roll to different homes and businesses. When I wasn't doing deliveries, I would be on the computer, updating the lists of the mailing addresses for Honour Roll recipients. I also used to go to Sunday brunches at Baycrest where some of the residents couldn't feed themselves. We would help them eat and it's such a pleasant feeling to help people sit down and have a meal.

Baycrest is a fantastic institution and I enjoyed every minute of the time I was there. It's what kept me young and if I could be there now, I would.

Murray and Adrienne Levinter

Long-standing volunteers Murray and Adrienne Levinter share a deep love for Baycrest, which they share with everyone they meet.

The Levinters have been married for 53 years. Adrienne joined Baycrest as a volunteer in 1968, then was hired by the volunteer services department as program co-ordinator from 1970 to 1985. After retirement, she remained active in client programs and served as chair of the gift shop committee. She also was vice president of the Women's Auxiliary board of directors and is still an active board member today.

Murray became a volunteer in 1983, after his retirement from the furniture business. He served as the Men's Service Group (MSG) secretary, worked on the Honour Roll, was very involved with the campaign to build the new Baycrest Hospital, and received the MSG President's Award in 1988. He is also an active member of Beth Tzedec Synagogue and received their President's Award in 1985.

The couple's concern for others is well-known. They delivered Meals on Wheels for many years and always took time to visit with clients, because these interactions, they felt, were just as important as the nourishment the food provided.

"We believe that listening to people is one of the most important things volunteers can do," they say.

The Levinters have won many government awards and were the first couple to receive the Community Award from the Primrose Club. One of their favourite volunteer jobs at Baycrest has been to lead countless tour groups through the facility.

"People come from all over the world to see Baycrest," they say, "and it's thrilling to show them what we've accomplished, especially in research and client care. Just being part of that growth is so rewarding. The whole Jewish community should be so proud of Baycrest."

Michael S. Levy

I lost my parents relatively early in life. My father, Jack Levy, died young and after his death my mother, Sophie Levy, became active in Baycrest's Women's Auxiliary. She passed away in 1973 and that ended my early connection with Baycrest.

Years later, David Goldstein and Stan Feldman asked me to join the Baycrest Foundation board. I agreed, feeling that volunteering would be a way to reconnect with memories of my mother. Then, Sam Ruth asked me to chair the communications committee for the 1995 capital campaign. I was busy developing my business and I was also serving as the fund-raising chairperson of Bialik Hebrew Day School. Sam said, "Don't worry; it's only one meeting a month." Well, one meeting quickly grew into twelve! But I've absolutely loved being a board member. I've met wonderful people, had lots of fun, and most importantly been able to contribute in a small way to the success of the greatest geriatric centre in the world. I've really enjoyed the Barrie to Baycrest 100-kilometre bike ride – I've done it nine times. It's an annual challenge I eagerly look forward to.

I've been involved in many facets of the organization. I've co-chaired the 2003 and 2004 annual campaigns with Molline Green and currently, I'm the chair of the endowment committee. I wanted to create a lasting link to Baycrest for my wife, Caren, and my daughters, Sara and Alissa, so we decided to open an endowment fund. Through the fund, my family will continue the work I have been doing for an institution that means the world to me.

Irwin Lightman

Dentistry may not have been an obvious career choice for a young Jewish man graduating from the University of Toronto in 1946, but luckily for thousands of seniors, including many Baycrest clients, it was the right choice for Dr. Irwin Lightman.

Dentistry, like many other professions at the time, was rife with anti-Semitism when Lightman, the second youngest child of Sarah and Sam Lightman, opted to pursue the unlikely occupation in spite of its anti-Jewish reputation. "Dentistry was simply not viewed as a viable option for Jews in those days," he recalls. "I graduated from the U of T's faculty of dentistry by keeping a low profile and avoiding too much contact with students, professors and a notoriously anti-Semitic dean of dentistry. It was an unpopular choice but it ended up making for a very interesting life."

It wasn't long after opening his own practice at Bathurst Street and Eglinton Avenue West, that Lightman, who married Selma Vise the same year he graduated, began to volunteer at the dental clinic at Mount Sinai Hospital. "We did some very crude work in the equipment storage room but we helped a lot of people," he notes.

Having met Dr. Reuben Brown, Baycrest's first volunteer chief of dentistry, while still in university, Lightman, sharing Brown's compassion for the elderly, was more than pleased to join him as a volunteer at the clinic in 1954.

Lightman volunteered at the clinic for more than 26 years, eventually taking over from Brown as chief, and overseeing 15 other volunteer dentists. "I've always cared about the elderly," he adds. "They are easy to get along with."

Fran Mann

1933 – 2006

It might have been the warm, caring style that endeared everyone to Fran Mann or it may have been her ever approachable and gentle manner, but whatever it was, it affected everyone who knew her in the most wonderful way.

Soon after Mann became a resident of the Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged (JHA), she became involved in the worries of those around her. She was appointed president of the residents' advisory council where she served for four years as a great leader and advocate for residents' issues.

On her regular rounds, the elegant, exquisitely dressed and beautifully coiffed stateswoman made her presence known by engaging with residents over any concerns they needed to voice. She would then work with management to resolve their issues. Even at the beginning of her lengthy illness, Mann managed to conduct the council's business from her bed.

One of her major accomplishments during her presidency was the initiation of an open forum for JHA residents. It attracted over 150 people who came to voice their opinions on changes and priorities. She facilitated the Q & A that followed and then proactively followed-up, tracking responses and improvements over time.

In June of 2005, she was asked to speak at Baycrest's annual general meeting. The first annual Baycrest Boardwalk fund-raiser followed the meeting and Mann, representing the residents, raised a remarkable $2,000.

Always a master problem solver, Mann never failed to give quick praise to those deserving of the honour. Her accomplishments during her few short years at Baycrest have left a lasting impression for years to come.

Helen Marr

My career as a Baycrest volunteer was a learning experience of a lifetime. Our deep-seated views and concepts of aging have changed over the past decades, as have aging and the elderly. The elderly of today are, generally speaking, healthier and more vibrant than in previous generations. This is as a result of health maintenance, physical activity and mental stimulation. Of course, modern science and medicine are also factors. My 92-year-old mother, Faye Albert, is a prime example... she is a volunteer saleswoman at the Baycrest gift shop!

Baycrest was, and still is, constantly evolving. I first became involved with Baycrest at the suggestion of my friends, Eric and Esther Exton. At that time, the Women's Auxiliary (WA) was in the process of re-organization. I was asked to share my expertise, which I had gleaned through volunteer work with other organizations and, in particular, the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada. It was an exciting time, and my involvement eventually expanded beyond the WA to the advisory committees of the JHA, Wagman Centre, Terrace, and admissions department, all of which I chaired for several years. As well, I was a vice president of Baycrest at a time when the executive and board were predominately male. This has changed. We see more and more women in leadership positions. Hopefully, I contributed to this, through raising awareness of the importance of the roles women play in today's society.

During my travels as president of the International Council of Jewish Women, I visited centres for geriatric care worldwide, where experiences were shared. Baycrest was, and is, held in the highest regard. It was a privilege and an honour to have had Baycrest play such an important part in my life!

Geoffrey Matus

My grandparents, Leah and Nonnie Fihrer, were wonderful people who had an enormous influence on my life. So, in 1985, when Baycrest past chairs, Norman Schipper and Stephen Cole asked me to join the Baycrest Foundation board of directors, I was happy to join an organization that serves the elderly. I had looked at various institutions and Baycrest seemed like a place where volunteers played an important role.

From the moment I came to Baycrest I knew I had made the right choice. I'm not a religious person, but Jewish values – particularly respect and care for the elderly – are very important to me and I am pleased that my daughters, Lauren and Hayley, saw me volunteering for a wonderful and consummately Jewish organization.

My first major role at Baycrest was to chair the fund-raising committee for The Rotman Research Institute, which focuses on the brain. In 1989, I was elected to the Baycrest board of directors. I then chaired a committee that developed Baycrest's mission to enrich the lives of the elderly. From 2001 to 2004, I served as chair of the board of directors.

My interest at the Rotman gave me an important initiation into issues of neurocognition and mental health and taught me about the debilitating brain disorders that have affected so many elderly people. These issues present a significant challenge to the community and influenced me greatly when I was asked to chair the committee for Baycrest's new strategic plan. When I became board chair, we instituted a vision that focuses on brain health and the need to integrate research, care and education. I truly believe that that vision was transformative for Baycrest.

Miriam Minkowski
1926 – 2004

For Holocaust survivor Miriam Minkowski, working as a practical nurse at Baycrest was much more than a job. It became her link to the Jewish world and the family she lost as a young child.

Born in Augustowka, Poland in 1926, Minkowski was just 13 years old when the onslaught of the Holocaust forced her parents, Aaron and Henia Fledermaus, to send their young daughter into hiding. One year later, she was callously exposed by a former school teacher and immediately sent to Ravensbruck labour camp and then on to Buchenwald and Schlieben.

After the war, she eagerly returned to her home town only to find all her family gone. Two years later, while working at a newspaper in Lodz, she met and married Gershon Minkowski and later gave birth to their two daughters, Anne and Jeanie. They moved to Israel in 1957, and three years later immigrated to Toronto where she worked in a factory as a caterer before becoming a practical nurse at Baycrest in 1966.

"She went back to school and became the best nurse she could be," eldest daughter Anne Balaban says while recalling her mother's deep dedication and strong desire to give back in spite of having had so much taken away. "She even chose where we would live by its proximity to Baycrest," she muses.

As one of the few nurses who spoke fluent Yiddish, Polish and Hebrew, Minkowski became known among staff and patients as *The Interpreter* during the 25 years she spent at Baycrest before retiring in 1991.

"What started as a job out of sheer necessity resulted in a life full of *mitzvahs*," Anne explains. " At Baycrest she finally found the Jewish life for which she had always yearned."

Faye Mintz

My mother taught us to help others. It was a rule we all favoured and obeyed and one that my husband and I taught to our five children, as well.

I have been a volunteer in many Jewish organizations, including many years with Hadassah WIZO. But my greatest effort and reward has been with Baycrest, where I have dedicated 40 years of time and energy without ever regretting a minute of it.

You might say that my main focus at Baycrest was in the field of entertainment because every Monday our group of volunteers would bring patients down to the sun room for two hours of raucous singing in Hebrew, English and, of course, Yiddish. Patients and residents alike loved what they called *The Singing Group* even though on one occasion a patient seated next to me asked if I would move because my voice "didn't sound so good."

Once a year we performed in the Posluns Auditorium for all of the patients and residents and they loved it.

I remember when a Maple Downs Golf and Country Club member donated a day at the club for Baycrest residents, many of whom were in wheelchairs or pushing walkers. That didn't deter anybody. We all helped to get anyone who wanted to take a dip, into the pool. They got to swim, eat, soak up some sun and return to the home later that day with incredible joy in their hearts.

I have many beautiful plaques and lots of incredible memories from the past 40 years but nothing beats the thrill of putting a smile on the face or receiving a kiss on the hand from a grateful patient or resident.

Florence Minz

Baycrest was going through an organizational transition when I first became involved in the late 1980s, initially as a consultant and then as a board member. As a consultant, I had the opportunity to help recruit Stephen W. Herbert as the first president and CEO, a fortunate event for Baycrest.

In 1990, I was asked to join the Baycrest board of directors. I remained on the board for a decade, from 1991 to 2001. From 1995 to 1998, I had the great honour of becoming board chair.

It was a time of many new initiatives in homecare and outreach. The need for a new nursing home had become urgent and I had a role in expediting the building of the Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged. I was also proud to advance the cause of research as a prime element of Baycrest's work, and helped to counter arguments that investment in research reduced resources for care. I always felt that the two areas supported and enhanced each other, and it is clear that Baycrest's achievements in both have been significant.

The quality of its individuals is perhaps the most crucial element in any organization's success,and it is gratifying to have been able to involve a number of people who have taken leadership roles at Baycrest.

Baycrest is an outstanding organization and it has been a privilege to be a part of it.

Nicholas and Hedy Munk

Nicholas 1900 – 1985

As he cared for his elderly father in the mid-1950s, Nicholas Munk saw firsthand that there was need for a Jewish seniors centre. With this understanding, he gladly and passionately became a supporter of Baycrest. "My uncle saw that it was difficult to get help and assistance for the elderly back then and that's what made him realize there was really a need for Baycrest," his nephew, Dr. Paul Munk, says. "So in those early years of Baycrest, he was very involved in helping to organize fund-raising."

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Nicholas Munk was a committed Baycrest volunteer, helping to garner a solid financial base for the centre, as well as ensure its growth. "He spent huge amounts of time on the executive committee making sure Baycrest was going to thrive," Paul notes.

An engineer by trade, Nicholas was both a creative thinker and businessman and he brought these talents to Baycrest. To that end, in 1978, he established the Nicholas M. and Hedy J. Munk Geriatric Award to encourage physicians – particularly younger ones – to pursue a specialty in geriatric medicine. "It was a very insightful idea at the time because most of the doctors who did research on older patients were older doctors themselves," Paul says. "His goal was to try and attract younger physicians to the field."

Fortunately, Nicholas was able to see the impact of the fund during his lifetime and Paul says it made him immensely proud. "It was his way of giving back to the community and he felt very satisfied knowing it would help people now and down the road."

Nancy Posluns

I get quite a thrill when I walk Baycrest halls and see a picture of my maternal grandmother as one of the founding members and early officers of the home on Cecil Street. My father and brother were both presidents of the Jewish Home for the Aged in Buffalo and I'm very proud of my late husband Jack Posluns' family and of their long involvement with Baycrest.

So when Sheila Loftus asked me to be her co-chair for the Women's Auxiliary café committee, volunteering with the elderly was not exactly a big stretch. In 1986, I heard Dr. Guy Proulx speak to the Women's Auxiliary. He mentioned that Baycrest's psychology department had a backlog of people with brain disorders who required assessment. My background was in psychology so it was a wonderful fit for me.

My volunteer work at Baycrest has allowed me to be involved in cutting-edge research that is life changing for people with severe memory problems. I have worked closely with Dr. Brian Richards on his innovative Memory-Link program, which involves training our clients to use Palm Pilots as external memory devices. This exciting breakthrough program has given new independence to many of our patients with amnesia.

It's been 20 years since I first started to volunteer in the department and I have learned so much from the remarkable people with whom I work. I feel a great sense of humility and pride at being given this wonderful opportunity.

Winnie Posner

My parents, Jack and Libbie Sandy, were two dedicated volunteers who instilled in me the idea that it was important to give back. And so, more than 40 years ago when my children were in their early teens, I took a stroll up the street to sign on as a Baycrest volunteer.

I started as a spokesperson for Busy Hands, an arts and crafts program which turned out to be somewhat ironic since I had never displayed much skill at either. Eventually, I was given a new assignment where I spent several glorious years at the welcome desk.

My enthusiasm seemed to infect my late husband, Sam, who upon his retirement joined the army of Baycrest volunteers as a tour guide.

My most rewarding experience came when Sonny Langer, as head of the volunteer core, approached me and two other women to train with the Red Cross to lead a fitness program for Baycrest seniors. That program continues to this day. In December of 2006 I'll be 89, and I still get out there to help lead the exercise sessions. My legs aren't what they used to be, so now I do the lower body exercises while seated in a chair. We have this wonderful musician who plays these great old songs for us, and that really keeps us inspired and moving.

At this stage of my life, I'm happiest when I get a hug from a Baycrest resident. That can always put a smile on my face. The odd thing, though, is I'll bet I'm older than many of the people I help. I hope I can continue for many years to come.

Gerald Ray

1926 – 2001

Gerald Ray was a high-powered executive who dedicated over 10 years to the betterment of Baycrest.

As CEO of Bordens Canada and president of the Grocery Product Manufacturing Association of Canada, he was able to bring a dynamic corporate perspective to the Baycrest board.

Norman Schipper remembers Ray as a decent, intelligent and caring fellow. "He never failed to show up at meetings, bringing with him the zeal of a successful executive," he says.

Edwin Goldstein remembers Ray joining the search committee to find a replacement for Sam Ruth, the Baycrest CEO and Baycrest Foundation president fondly referred to as *Mr. Baycrest*. "It was probably the toughest job anyone could have been asked to do at that time," Goldstein says.

Ray's interest in Baycrest was initially galvanized when his father, Isaac, became a resident in the early '70s and continued after his mother, Molly, moved into the home some 10 years later.

With his main focus on resident care, he poured his efforts into helping Baycrest establish a hospital.

Ray's son, Keith, describes his father as a visionary who told him, "You have to use your creativity and then take a chance. I always encouraged the board to start with big dreams and big aspirations and I assured them that if they did, the money would follow."

It was Gerald Ray's corporate know how that made him such a treasured member of the Baycrest board, encouraging everyone he worked with to stretch their imagination as far as possible to achieve any goal they set.

Irving Rife

1910 – 2003

During each of the 30 years that Irving Rife dedicated to Baycrest's Jewish Home for the Aged, those around him were rewarded with his keen, uninhibited sense of humour as well as his conviction and commitment to the place he loved.

Rife was not a shy man but he was a humble man. He worked tirelessly, never looking for kudos but still earning countless awards for his generosity and dedication to Baycrest.

On the Men's Service Group board he worked to revitalize the Honour Roll magazine; a fund-raising asset that put a quarter of a million dollars into Baycrest annually.

In 1976, he received the MSG President's Award, and in 1979, he was Man of the Year.

People of all ethnic backgrounds came from all corners of the globe to see and learn about Baycrest, and Rife was always the consummate tour guide. To him it was a journey of pride and pleasure. He regaled visitors with stories of Baycrest's memorable history and hopeful future. He never tired of praising Baycrest as the most advanced centre for geriatrics in the world.

Rife passed away during *Purim* in 2003. His daughter, Reva Garber, acknowledges the irony in that fact, saying, "He would have found it strangely appropriate to pass on during a time of such fun and festivities."

Rife's family is enormously proud of his 30-year commitment to Baycrest and they hope others will benefit in the future from his untiring efforts of the past.

Gerald Ross

I believe we all have to give back to the community and it's especially gratifying to give back to something that gives so much to us.

My initial involvement goes back at least a dozen years, when my late brother-in-law, Harold Lederman, was vice-chair of the Baycrest Foundation. I was also connected through my late mother-in-law, Elsie Lederman, who was a long-time resident.

On the Baycrest Foundation's board, my functions were largely in two areas – fund-raising and organizational. I have also chaired the foundation's governance committee for a number of years. Just to see the efficient way the organization operates, has made that role most gratifying.

I'm now co-chair of the foundation's professional advisory committee. The committee's aim is to develop a program that reaches out to professionals, raising their awareness of Baycrest and bringing them to the facility to see the scope of the work Baycrest does. So far, it's proven to be successful.

Whenever possible, I try to be an ambassador for Baycrest. I try to raise awareness of what Baycrest is and how it's a fascinating place providing a unique blend of both research expertise and clinical care. Things are changing all the time at Baycrest and the lay people who serve on the foundation board with me are remarkable. The staff is also outstanding. Having hopefully contributed to the ongoing success of Baycrest is the satisfaction that I get from it.

Steve Rudin

When you work for Baycrest, it's a unique experience because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. You get so immersed in what you're doing that it really becomes inseparable from the rest of your life.

The Baycrest lifestyle started for me in 1970. I was finishing graduate school in Missouri at the time when then CEO Sam Ruth asked me to come work for him as the assistant administrator of the hospital. I came up for an interview and felt there was something rather magical about Baycrest and Toronto, so my pregnant wife and I decided Baycrest would be the place.

One thing led to another and over time I received more responsibility, eventually becoming the administrator of the hospital. Then in 1980, Sam indicated that he wanted to start the Baycrest Foundation. He asked if I would apply, I did, and the rest, as they say, is history.

One of the highlights of my experience was the construction of the new hospital. To take this idea from being a concept to a reality was really gratifying. We were able to create some innovative programs and apply the whole notion of providing the continuum of care for the elderly.

During my tenure, we were also able to launch the beginning of The Rotman Research Institute and gain a foothold with the University of Toronto through our teaching affiliation. Both of these developments brought Baycrest to a significantly different level.

In reflecting on my 18 years at Baycrest, it was a privilege and a rewarding experience to be a part of Baycrest's growth.

Sam Ruth
1921 – 2006

My 44 years of service to Baycrest began in 1956 when I became chief executive officer of Baycrest. It was the start of a life-long commitment that would become a labour of love.

While working as a hospital administrator in Cleveland after marrying Nancy in 1952, I saw that many patients, especially the elderly, weren't receiving the level of care they deserved. That's when I became committed to long-term care.

After the good fortune of meeting Abe Posluns and sharing his vision of better care for the elderly, I realized Baycrest would be the place where I could make a difference.

Each year we accomplished so much thanks to the exceptional people I worked with, including elected presidents Abe Posluns, Abe Levine, Eric Exton, Norman Schipper, Fred Karp, and Edwin Goldstein, as well as dedicated board members and compassionate volunteers. Listening to people and working as a team really paid off.

In 1968, we built the new Jewish Home for the Aged and a few years later, Baycrest Hospital. Realizing there were people who needed protection but were not yet ready for the home, we built the Terrace in 1974. There was always something going on at Baycrest. We were always trying to improve care, as well as develop education and research programs.

When I turned 59, I felt I had contributed administratively what I could for Baycrest, so I became the founding president of the Baycrest Foundation. Even though I officially retired in 1990, I continue to support Baycrest wherever and whenever needed.

I am proud of helping to develop a level of care that addresses the needs of the elderly at every stage of their life and of being a part of a long history of caring and compassionate people that have made Baycrest the international leader in health care it has become.

Benjamin Sadowski
1894 – 1974

If you haven't heard of Massey, Ontario, all you need to know is that is where community philanthropist Ben Sadowski was born.

As a youth, Sadowski headed for Toronto to attend Parkdale high school where he won a scholarship he couldn't claim because he was a Jew. Several years later, he graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in mathematics and physics.

In 1927, he formed National Motors, which became the main source of his business success. Later, he had the distinct honour of serving as the first Jewish president of the Automobile Dealers Association of Canada.

A born leader, Sadowski was the first president of the Toronto Jewish Welfare Fund, which became the UJA, and a founder of the Red Feather Community Chest, which became the United Way.

In 1954, as the first president of the New Mount Sinai Hospital, he initiated a joint agreement with Baycrest that obligated every doctor on staff at the New Mount Sinai to work at Baycrest, firmly laying the foundation for the new Baycrest Hospital.

During his lifetime, he was president of Holy Blossom Temple, Jewish Family and Child Services, Oakdale Golf and Country Club and the Ontario branch of the Canadian Jewish Congress. He also served on the boards of the Toronto Symphony, The YMHA, Canadian Red Cross, and Princess Margaret Hospital. He also contributed to the creation of Brandeis University.

From a rugged small town minority to an internationally renowned, ground-breaking leader, Ben Sadowski's journey was a gift to us all.

Marvin and Ruth Sadowski
Ruth 1932 – 2006

I never set out to get involved with Baycrest. It actually happened quite by accident. When they were opening the Terrace, they needed someone to coordinate the whole thing, so Eph Diamond asked me to help and I simply couldn't refuse. I saw what was going on there and fell in love with the place and I've been involved ever since.

Due to my enthusiasm, my wife, Ruth, became involved with the Women's Auxiliary. We started participating in the Baycrest walk and run many years ago. Even our children walked with us every year. That project evolved into the Baycrest Boardwalk, which has become a very successful annual event.

In another type of commitment, we established the Marvin and Ruth-Fine Sadowski Family Endowment Fund that allows considerable dollars to be used for Baycrest's general needs.

I began on the house committee, became a member of the board and then chairman of the board. As chair, I sat on the advisory committee for The Rotman Research Institute. I was also involved in the creation of the Reuben Cipin Healthy Living Community. But my most favourite undertaking was as co-chair of the building committee for the outstanding Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged.

Looking back, I'd have to say that one of my most treasured experiences was the day Steve Herbert took me on a tour of Baycrest. I was amazed at the things I saw, like the repair centre for wheelchairs and the amazingly futuristic kitchen.

After all the years of building and creating and doing, the reputation Baycrest enjoys worldwide for its geriatrics is remarkable.

Every day, my continuing admiration for Baycrest and my conviction that it is a campus run by staff and volunteer angels is reconfirmed.

Saul and Rae Saltzman

Saul 1903 – 1989, Rae 1910 – 2002

Saul and Rae Saltzman had a fulfilling life together, their daughters say. Saul was born in an impoverished *shtetl* and left Poland and his family at the age of 14. He developed a thriving business in Canada, Solray Investments, which the couple named after their union. They measured their success not so much by their financial achievements but by the flourishing family they and their three daughters – Roz Halbert, Eleanor Godfrey and Marilyn Gold – created, and in the work they did for the Jewish community.

The Saltzmans were long-time supporters of Baycrest and after Saul's passing, Rae established an endowment fund which supports the Saul and Rae Saltzman Day Treatment Centre. A self-contained unit in Baycrest Hospital, the centre provides outpatient services to elderly people living in the community who are facing challenges in their daily life. "The program is geared to helping people maintain their independence," centre intake co-ordinator Delia Silva says. "Our multidisciplinary team is very flexible and we respect the uniqueness of each person." Apart from the pleasure of watching people improve in functioning and mood, Silva enjoys seeing people form social connections in the program, particularly those who have previously felt isolated.

"Our mother was a quiet, petite woman with a strong mind," Halbert and Godfrey relate with pride. At the centre's dedication ceremony in 1991, Godfrey saluted her mother's devotion to the project, whose birth was "a combination of Dad's financial success, the family's commitment to the community and Mom's desire to link the family name to this world-renowned institution."

Graham Scott

As the deputy minister of health, I had many dealings with Baycrest's former CEO Sam Ruth and I had a great deal of respect for him. So when he asked if I would be interested in being involved with Baycrest, I happily agreed.

I was subsequently appointed to the Baycrest board of governors in the mid-1980s and then when Joe Rotman established The Rotman Research Institute, I was asked to join that board. I remained on the board until a short while ago.

One of the very first projects we had was gaining recognition as a teaching hospital through our affiliation with the University of Toronto. That was very important recognition because it helped advance the Rotman from a situation where it had little, to being a leader in research, able to attract first-class researchers from across the world.

I was also proud to be part of the team that engaged in matters relating to strategy for dealings with the federal and provincial governments, as well as other health institutions. This was particularly meaningful to me because it reflected part of my own background in government. Furthermore, being on the board and the research advisory committee meant I was involved with a dynamic group of people who had such high levels of energy and commitment. I learned a lot from them.

Baycrest was kind enough to do an assessment on my late mother, Winifred, and the quality of care she received at Baycrest Hospital was very impressive. It made me enormously proud to have played the minor role I did over the years.

Sid Seligman

1917 – 1985

Sid Seligman was the kind of person who probably would have found this type of tribute a bit embarrassing. Throughout his lifetime, he helped countless people but always in a quiet, unassuming way.

Seligman was born in Toronto and went to Harbord Collegiate Institute. He married his wife, Merle, in 1939, and in 1944, he joined the Dominion Life Assurance Company in sales and management under the leadership of Herbert Weiss, who, in 1955, founded the Men's Service Group (MSG) at Baycrest.

Seligman's Jewish heritage was very important to him, especially the value of giving to others. He had grown up knowing about Baycrest and was also aware of it through his wife's family. Her mother and great-aunt were members of the Ezras Nashim Society, which founded Baycrest's forerunner, the Toronto Jewish Old Folks Home on Cecil Street. When Weiss asked him to join the MSG, it was a natural step. During subsequent decades of service, Seligman served as president from 1964 to 1966, and received their Man of the Year Award in 1971.

At Dominion Life, he received numerous awards for his personal achievements and leadership qualities. On his retirement in 1977, the company donated a blood pressure unit to Baycrest Hospital, knowing how important the organization was to him. His friends at the insurance company described him as a man of radiant personality who affected all those with whom he came in contact.

Seligman was also president of the Toronto chapter of B'nai Brith and he and his wife were active in Maple Downs Golf and Country Club.

"He was a giver and always very generous," his wife says. "He did so many things for so many people and never blew his own horn."

Bernard J. Shapiro
1920 – 1996

The Yiddish word *beshert*, which refers to something that is *meant to be*, best describes the special connection between pioneering geriatric radiologist Dr. Bernard J. Shapiro and Baycrest, which lasted for more than 40 years.

In 1955, the McGill medical school graduate, who was working as chief of radiology at London, Ontario's Westminster Hospital, was passing through Toronto when he dropped into the New Mount Sinai Hospital to take a quick peek at the facility's new radiology department. Soon after, he became the hospital's first full-time chief of radiology.

A few months later, close friend and Baycrest CEO Sam Ruth persuaded Shapiro to help design Baycrest's radiology department. He eagerly accepted the position of founding chief of radiology on a volunteer basis, beginning his more than 40 years of service to Baycrest.

"If it had to do with helping people, especially Jewish seniors, Bernie Shapiro was up for the job," close colleague and friend Irving Fisher says. "Bernie was one of the most feeling people I have ever known. He always made a point of looking at situations from the patient's point of view."

Shapiro, who continued to work at Baycrest until he died in 1996 at age 76, was drawn to all aspects of medicine but loved the human interaction most. In 1980, when Terrace residents got together to organize a Reform congregation, Shapiro happily agreed to lead services, which he did on Friday evenings for more than 10 years. He and his wife, Pearl, even purchased and donated many of the congregation's prayer books.

"My father loved medicine, healing and learning about the latest technology and that's why he stayed involved with Baycrest for so long," his son, Rabbi Mark Shapiro, explains. "But most of all he really enjoyed being around seniors."

Lorraine Sherkin

When I look back over my 35-year association with Baycrest, I consider this time to be some of the most meaningful years of my life. I began my *Baycrest Years* as a volunteer in the 1960s. Sam Ruth asked me to help co-ordinate the move to the new Jewish Home for the Aged and my career was launched.

That move took a year to complete and my natural love for connecting with people was infused with another one of my passions: continuous learning. During my years at Baycrest, I also trained at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to assist our blind residents. My fluency in Yiddish allowed me to be of assistance as a translator and I was one of the first support staff to take courses in dementia care.

When the Terrace opened in 1976, I was asked to co-ordinate that move, as well. Not only did I work hard to ensure a smooth transition, I also was responsible for organizing a team of volunteers to help residents feel at home and welcome. In 1978, I was hired as full-time staff.

My work was both satisfying and rewarding. I treated each and every resident as though they were a member of my family. It wasn't unusual for me to check in on sick residents, often bringing a warm cup of tea. I accompanied residents to doctors' offices to translate and reassure. I also made sure every woman received a rose on Mother's Day. In later years, I took over the co-ordination of special functions and managed the Terrace convenience store.

Much as I loved my work and helping to enrich residents' lives, I know that it was *my* life that was enriched and made better by my time at the Terrace

Hy and Bertha Shore
Hy 1919 – 1985, Bertha 1922 – 1989

Hy and Bertha Shore were simply the most generous people you could ever know, says Harry Gorman, brother to Bertha and best friend to Hy. The Shores lived along the edge of a ravine and since their door was always open for a meal to whoever happened to come by, even wild animals occasionally dropped in for a bite.

"Hy was the kind of guy who was always in the background, working quietly to help out any organization," Gorman remembers. "He was an engineer and a partner in the real estate business with Ben Katz and me, so his first volunteer project at Baycrest was in the field of construction." Along with Sydney Cooper, Shore helped to supervise the building of Baycrest Hospital and it was Shore and Gorman who influenced Ben and Hilda Katz to make a substantial contribution to the hospital, which now bears their name.

Harry and Bertha's mother was a resident at the Baycrest Terrace, which left the Shores with special feelings for Baycrest because of the excellent care she received. Involved for many years with the Women's Auxiliary, Bertha also received treatment at Baycrest Hospital.

The Hy and Bertha Shore and Harry and Sara Gorman Scholarship Endowment Fund was established in the spirit of their lifestyle. "Hy wanted to help mid-level staff at Baycrest develop professionally," Gorman recalls. "He mixed with bank managers as well as lay builders and it was important to him to advance people like those who treated our mother." Since its inauguration, the fund has helped more than 50 staff members enhance their knowledge.

Coleman Solursh

1906 – 1988

Dr. Coleman Solursh, Baycrest's former physician-in-chief, was born in Toronto in 1906 into an orthodox Jewish family. He graduated from U of T medical school in 1931 with honours and took his medical internship in Pittsburgh because Toronto's general hospitals had quotas for Jewish students. After graduation, he returned to Toronto to practise.

Jewish doctors during the Great Depression worked for the *landsmanshaften*, societies of immigrants from Eastern Europe. A physician was given a small head fee to provide medical care on a 24/7 basis to its members. "It was one of my father's proudest accomplishments," son John says, "that he broke free from this system and started to serve patients in the broader community."

Solursh was involved in the establishment of the original Mount Sinai Hospital where he was active throughout the 1940s. Mount Sinai ensured Jewish doctors could have hospital privileges. He was heavily involved in the planning of the New Mount Sinai Hospital, becoming its first chief of staff of family medicine.

Solursh became involved with Baycrest in the 1950s, becoming its associate chief of medical services in 1967. He had always been drawn to geriatrics and understood the special challenges in this growing field. As physician-in-chief, he stressed that it was not only the scientific skill of the doctor but also his rapport with patients that was important for a good result.

"He was forward thinking in that sense," John says, "yet old fashioned in that he made housecalls long after other doctors stopped. For years after he passed away, his former patients would tell me how much they valued him, because he knew their families so well."

Dr. Michael Gordon, vice-president of medical services at Baycrest, remembers him as "always a gentleman, meaning especially the gentleness of care. He was a true friend of Baycrest."

Lou Stillman

During my many decades of active volunteer work, I have been involved in every aspect of Baycrest volunteerism from conducting Passover *seders* to working on those popular Wednesday variety programs of the past.

You could say I chose volunteerism as my hobby because it's fulfilling for everyone. You give a little of your time and you get back so much in satisfaction.

Baycrest has changed a lot in the 40 years since I started volunteering there. I remember when it was much smaller, the Toronto Taxi Cab company (at their own expense) sent out 40 or 50 taxis to take our seniors to High Park for Sunday picnics. And I remember the time someone donated Arthur Murray dance classes to the grateful residents. There were probably around 300 direct service volunteers back then and there are nearly 3,000 now. The simplicity has changed but not the commitment. If you just sit and listen to the problems of our residents and patients, it makes them feel good and you feel good for having been there for them.

My proudest accomplishment was serving as chairman of volunteer services for over 20 years where I endeavoured to see Baycrest offer the best in volunteerism. In 1983, I received an Award of Merit from the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. It was a memorable experience to stand in city hall and receive that award. In 1977, I received the Men's Service Group President's Award as well as the Volunteer Service Award from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

As chairman of the volunteer recognition event for over 20 years, I tried to do my best to make sure volunteers received the recognition they so richly deserved.

Martin Storm

Volunteering at Baycrest was a labour of love for me and when it came time to leave, I had trouble doing so because of how much I enjoyed the work.

Back in 1961, I took a course offered by the Jewish Federation of Toronto that introduced young people to the different Jewish services available in the city. That created my initial interest in Baycrest. Secondly, my wife, Francie, who I was dating at the time, was the daughter of the president of the Women's Auxiliary, Anne Gans, so Baycrest was something that was spoken about all the time at their dinner table and that got me even more interested.

I was first involved with the admissions and financial subcommittees and I eventually became chairman of both, later becoming a board member and treasurer. After a number of years, I left the Baycrest board and became treasurer of the Baycrest Foundation and when that term ended, I returned to Baycrest where I sat on the board of directors for many years. What impressed me most was that Baycrest's focus was so clear, not only in terms of what the current needs were, but also in terms of what had to be done as the elderly community changed and grew.

Spending time at Baycrest over the years always gave me a very deep sense of satisfaction. I always felt I was working with dedicated and committed people who shared my own appreciation of the importance of providing vital and quality services to the community. I made wonderful associations with a number of people and I have very good memories of my years of involvement there.

Miklos and Gabriella Szanto

Miklos 1907 – 1995

Travelling through life together, Gabriella Szanto and her late husband, Miklos, exemplified resilience, courage and a strong work ethic. Even though her parents were well off in Hungary before the war, living in a world of governesses, servants and balls, Gabriella's father insisted she learn their couturier business. Miklos also came from a privileged background, but worked in the family business, learning skills that later helped him establish companies of his own.

The Holocaust swept away their comfortable life and most of their extended family. Gabriella went into hiding with her mother and Miklos was interned in a concentration camp. After the war, they travelled widely and lived in several countries. At one point, Miklos operated a very successful business selling pineapple juice in Australia.

"We were gypsies," Gabriella says. In each city, she continued her trade, attracting a well-off clientele. Everything she and Miklos earned, they saved.

In 1970, the Szantos were among the first donors to plan a gift in their will to Baycrest. They learned about the organization through a friend of Gabriella's mother and thought it was a "fantastic place for old people." Their commitment grew stronger in 1990, when Miklos became sick and doctors couldn't diagnose his condition. He came to Baycrest, where the problem was identified and successfully treated. Several years later, Miklos passed away.

"Miklos was a very good-hearted person and we had a very happy life together," Gabriella says. "We always had enough money to pay the rent, because my father taught me his trade. When we weren't happy, we moved on. I always knew that things would turn out well and never worried about what would happen. Never."

Endel Tulving

In 1992, I reached the age of 65 and as a University of Toronto psychology professor that meant I was required to retire. At that critical juncture, Dr. Don Stuss, the recently appointed first director of The Rotman Research Institute, asked me if I might want to come and join him. Having known a great deal about the institute, I took up the offer.

Not long after this, Don brought my name to the attention of Anne Tanenbaum and her family who were interested in establishing a research chair at Baycrest. Don said my role as chair would allow me to continue my research, perhaps with more of a slant towards aging and disorders of memory. So I became the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience at Baycrest and the University of Toronto.

Baycrest and The Rotman Research Institute have made my life satisfying, rewarding and happy over the last 14 years. It's hard for me to say what I've given back to the institute, but since 1992, a great deal more is known about how people's brains and minds change as they age.

After winning the Gairdner International Award in 2005, for the implications my research has had on disorders of memory, I decided to donate the prize money to Baycrest. I did this because I'm very grateful to Baycrest for accommodating The Rotman Research Institute, I'm very grateful to Don Stuss for the opportunity he offered me back in 1992, and I thought this might be a sort of tangible token of my appreciation.

Sydney Wax

During my 36 years at Baycrest, I was able to play a part in the evolution of the field of geriatrics and in the development of more humane and professional care of the elderly with dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

In 1956, Dr. Henry Himmel, chief of medicine for Baycrest Hospital, recruited me to work with patients who had cognitive failure, and who, at that time, were treated as *senile* or *demented*. I changed the name of the section from *Senile Department to the Special Care Section for Rehabilitation and Research.*

Over time, as senior physician, I led a team that developed a special care program that was founded on a medical/research basis. We organized regular team meetings, consulted with families, developed diagnostic and treatment techniques, and researched new ways to provide superior care.

Later, as Baycrest's co-ordinator of medical education, I set up courses for medical students from the University of Toronto, and in 1980, established Baycrest's annual clinic day in primary care geriatrics, which eventually drew 400 general practitioners. During those years, I was also chair of Baycrest's medical advisory committee, assistant professor at the University of Toronto, and senior physician at Mount Sinai Hospital, where I chaired a special committee to research and improve the care of the hospital's elderly patients. I also served as president of the medical staff at Baycrest for two terms.

My other life-long interest has been art. In 1973, Dora Till and I founded Baycrest's heritage museum for Judaica. I served as the museum's curator and chairman of the executive and exhibits committee.

I retired in 1992 and feel gratified that in addition to providing care, I was able to help develop policies that will have a lasting impact on the elderly, particularly those with dementia, cognitive failure and Alzheimer's disease.

Jack and Anne Weinbaum

Jack and Anne Weinbaum grew up in religious families in pre-WWII Poland, where *tzedekah* and caring for others were strong traditions. Those values set them on a path which eventually led to their leadership support of Baycrest and the new Brain Health Centre.

"On Fridays, we cooked extra food and *challahs* so that all the people in our community could enjoy *Shabbos*," Anne remembers. "My father gave 50 pairs of shoes to local school children at Chanukah and Jack's father helped distribute interest-free loans to the needy in his town."

In 1948, having survived the Holocaust, the newlyweds arrived in Toronto with an appreciation for life and a desire to thrive. They built a successful real estate business, which enabled them to give back to the community where they had achieved success.

Over the years, Anne's step-mother and father came to Baycrest for care and she was very impressed with its services. In 1976, the Weinbaums contributed to the building campaign for the Wagman Centre and later dedicated a room in Baycrest Hospital in honour of Anne's mother, Rachel Bugajski Steinfeld.

More recently, the Weinbaums have become major contributors towards Baycrest's purchase of its own fMRI, a highly sophisticated brain-scanning machine used for research. In addition, the 6th floor of the Brain Health Centre, which houses the clinics for mood, stroke and memory disorders, was named in their honour.

"We have been strong supporters of Jewish education and hospitals for years," Jack says. "And we wanted to give a special gift to Baycrest because we know through personal experience that they provide excellent care. It is a privilege to be able to share our good fortune with Baycrest and with the people who need the services it provides."

Frances Wintrob

Baycrest has grown so much in the years since I first started to volunteer there that I no longer need to exercise – it's enough to walk the long corridors to my husband Irving's room in the Apotex Centre, JHA every day. Irving was very active in Baycrest's Men's Service Group and Beth Tzedec Synagogue and I was involved in the Women's Auxiliary (WA) and the Sisterhood. I also taught English to Holocaust survivors at the National Council of Jewish Women.

I started to volunteer with Baycrest's WA when founding president Dora Till was there. Dora started so many of the programs we have today and when I was WA president from 1966 to 1968, I just tried to continue them. We started a library, a beauty shop, the *Shabbat* and festival lights program and the speaker's bureau. We also used to go out to small towns to educate people about Baycrest. In 1954, we were there to welcome everyone when they brought people from the old Cecil Street home to the new Jewish Home for the Aged.

When I think of all the women who worked so hard for the WA, I'm very proud of all the things we did. My husband and I used to travel and everywhere we went we visited homes for the aged. It was amazing how Baycrest always stood out as the top in its field. The research that is done is exceptional and the care is wonderful. Again, I should say, I'm very proud of the work we did and of Baycrest's good name and good will.

Irwin Wortsman

I used to drive past Baycrest and I had no idea what went on behind those walls. Many years later, I was invited to attend a Men's Service Group meeting. When I walked into the building, I saw many of the residents and my heart went out to them. I then understood *why* I needed to become involved. Some people write cheques and walk away, but I feel it's important to make *time* as well as a financial commitment to Baycrest. After all, let's not forget that the generations before us helped shape the lifestyle many of us are fortunate enough to enjoy now!

I had the privilege to serve as president of the Men's Service Group for two terms and I am presently chair of the planned giving committee. It has been my extreme pleasure to work alongside Baycrest Foundation president Mark Gryfe and the director of planned giving, Florence Weinberger.

My wife, Elayne, and I both feel strongly about providing some enjoyment and comfort to the elderly and feel it's vital to involve future generations to ensure this legacy.

We have established an endowment fund and also contributed to Baycrest's summer youth volunteer program because we believe if you involve kids at an early age, they'll understand and come back to Baycrest as adults to continue the *mitzvah* of giving back. Hopefully, our children and grandchildren will continue this tradition, as well!

Treasures of Baycrest

2004 Honourees

Tobie Bekhor
Murray Biback
Walter and Jeanny Bick
Reuben Brown
Jack Constant
Sydney Cooper
Sammy Davis
William Davis
A. Ephraim Diamond
Eric and Esther Exton
Susan Fenwick
Moe Freedman
Leslie Frost
Abraham Ginsburg
Rose Glowinsky
David Goldstein
Edwin Goldstein
Edwin Goodman
Harry and Sara Gorman
Joseph Gottdenker
Slova Greenberg
Abraham Greenspan
Wulf Grobin
Cyril Gryfe
Pinchas Gutter
Simon Harris
Henry Allan Himel
Fred and May Karp
Ben and Hilda Katz
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This Week

GTA

Toronto deli destroyed in fire. *Page 4*

Seniors Scene

Helen Weinberg marks her 100th birthday with sense of humour still intact. *Page 18*

On Campus

Canadian students ride 'Masa Train' to Israel's north. *Page 25*

Arts & Travel

Jazz drummer beats her own tune. *Page 46*

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'Israel will disappear soon,' Iranian president vows

Jerusalem Post

TEHRAN — "Israel is destined for destruction and it will disappear soon," Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Monday.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

Speaking to government ministers in Tehran, Ahmadinejad said the world's powers created "the Zionist regime" to increase their dominance in the region and that Israel "slaughters Palestinians on a daily basis."

The Iranian president added that since Israel is "a contradiction to nature, we foresee its rapid disappearance and destruction."

Ahmadinejad's comments came after Israeli military officials told Britain's *Sunday Times* that the Jewish state must prepare for a full-scale war in which Iran and Syria will be important players.

"The challenge from Iran and Syria is now top of the Israeli defence agenda, higher than the Palestinian one," another official said.

The recent war with Hezbollah and the threat that Iran could achieve nuclear weapons capability have led Israel to re-examine its defence strategies and focus on the region's two major supporters of terror, Israel Defence Forces sources have said recently.

One conclusion is that Israel has allocated too much time and energy to the threat posed by Palestinian terror groups in the West Bank and Gaza.

According to London's International Institute for Strategic Studies, both Iran and Syria have ballistic missiles whose range extends over most of Israel, including Tel Aviv. Funds have reportedly been approved for the construction of appropriately equipped shelters.

Continued on page 40

Hana's Suitcase wins Yad Vashem Award

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — George Brady never imagined he would accept an award for children's Holocaust literature at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. But the Czechoslovakian-born survivor of Auschwitz, who moved to Toronto in 1951, did just that on Oct. 30.

Along with his 22-year-old daughter, Lara Hana, and Tokyo-based teacher Fumiko Ishioka, Brady accepted the 2006 Yad Vashem Award on behalf of first-time Canadian author Karen Levine for *Hana's Suitcase*.

The book cover of *Hana's Suitcase*

The 2002 book was selected from among 10 children's books, which, other than *Hana's Suitcase*, were originally written in Hebrew by Israeli authors.

Hana's Suitcase is the story of Brady's younger sister, Hana, who, in 1942 at the age of 10, was killed at Auschwitz, and the Japanese educator who told her story to the world. "Never in my wildest imagination did I ever expect that this would happen,"

Continued on page 40

Ottawa considers security assistance

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The government of Canada is considering measures that would help minority communities finance security measures against terrorist attack.

A spokesperson for Stockwell Day, the minister of public security, said the government is studying requests to provide funds that would enable at-risk communities to protect themselves. However, "there is still no clear commitment at this point. It is under consideration, but I don't have any details," said Melisa Leclerc, director of communications for Day.

Stockwell Day

"The department will come up with different options at some point, and we will review them and see if they are feasible. But at this point, it would be pure speculation."

The announcement was welcomed by the Jewish community, which has stepped up security measures in recent years to protect itself from hate crimes and terrorist attacks. Just last week, vandals threw rocks and shattered windows at Hillel House at University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

The cost of enhancing security at Jewish institutions, such as synagogues, community buildings and schools, "has been overwhelmingly high," said Bernie Farber, CEO of Canadian Jewish Congress.

Howard English, spokesperson for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the community

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UJC General Assembly convenes in Los A... e 39

The News in Brief

CANADA

B'nai Brith Testifies

OTTAWA — Stressing that protecting citizens from terror should be the government's top priority, B'nai Brith made opening statements last week to the inquiry into the 1985 Air India bombing. The group, which has intervener status at the inquiry, wants more resources for countering financing of terrorism, stricter penalties for perpetrators, and better co-ordination between police, security and intelligence agencies in Canada and abroad. It also said it will keep pressing government for funding help for Jewish institutions that are vulnerable to terror.

Conference Disrupted

TORONTO — A medical video conference that would have linked Canadian, Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian medical professionals was disrupted Nov. 9 due to West Bank unrest. Because of Israeli shooting and shelling, the Palestinians were unable to reach the video link at Al Quds University in the town of Abu Dis. The other participants still consulted about the case that was the topic of the conference, however, and were apparently eager to go on with the program, which was organized by Dr. Arnold Noyek, an otolaryngologist at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital.

WORLD

College Seeks Funds

PHILADELPHIA — The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College has launched a public fundraising campaign. The Philadelphia-area school, which has raised $29 million (US) from private supporters since 2004, is seeking to reach the rest of its $50-million goal over the next five years.

School Attacked Again

PARIS — Arsonists reportedly set fire to a Jewish school near Paris. No one was hurt in the overnight fire last Thursday at the Merkaz Hatorah school in suburban Gagny. The building was hit by arsonists just before it opened in 2003, causing extensive damage.

New Shul Almost Done

TALLINN — Estonia's Jewish community hopes that its first shul built since World War II will open in February. Construction of the $2-million (US), 200-seat shul started in 2005 in central Tallinn, the capital. "It's almost finished," spokesperson Rabbi Shmuel Kot told Associated Press, which noted the shul was to have opened this month, but was delayed by extra construction. There are 3,000 Jews in Estonia, mostly in Tallinn.

Nazism Praised

VIENNA — In a TV interview last week, a member of Austria's Parliament said Nazism had its "good sides, only we don't want to see them today." Other parties condemned Wolfgang Zanger, 37, of the far-right Freedom Party (FP), and the Green Party urged him to resign. Zanger, is one of 21 FP members who won seats in Oct. 1 elections. The party, which has a history of anti-Semitism and racism, won 11 per cent of the vote.

Picasso Sale Halted

NEW YORK — Last week's auction of a Picasso painting valued at $60 million (US) was halted at the last minute because of a claim by the heir of a Shoah victim that it was sold under Nazi duress in 1934. A judge had allowed the sale of British composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Portrait of Angel Fernandez de Soto* to go ahead despite the claim. The U.S. judge had earlier blocked the sale because Julius Schoeps, the heir of a Jewish banker from Berlin, sued Webber's foundation, claiming the Nazis forced Schoeps to sell the work.

Busch Gives Cash

NEW YORK — Anheuser Busch Companies donated $100,000 (US) to the UJA-Federation of New York. The money will go to non-sectarian education and social welfare services, the federation said. Since 1993, the beer giant has given more than $5.7 million to Jewish agencies, including the New York federation.

UC Campuses Defaced With Swastikas

LOS ANGELES — Two University of California campuses were vandalized recently with Nazi graffiti.

A UC-Irvine residence hall was spray-painted with swastikas in October, and similar vandalism occurred in a UCLA residence bathroom Nov. 2, CampusJ.com reported.

Campus police have no suspects at either school.

The vandalism led to revelations of other anti-Jewish activity. At UCLA, students cited other incidents of swastika graffiti. At UC-Irvine, several Jewish students said they had been subject to physical and verbal intimidation, and a number met with the chancellor and vice-chancellor.

While UCLA hasn't responded to the situation, UC-Irvine officials have said the vandalism there was not anti-Semitic and that there would be no effort to curtail hate speech.

"One person's hate speech is another person's education," vice-chancellor Manuel Gomez said.

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Survivor warns Jews to 'stay alert'

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

It was all about remembering.

Last week on Nov. 9, the 68th anniversary of Kristallnacht, Greta Stanton, professor emerita of social work at Rutgers University in New Jersey, sat in front of a crowded hall at Shaar Shalom Synagogue and recalled that fateful night and her memories of life under Hitler in Vienna.

Stanton, once a champion diver for Jewish Viennese Sports Club Hakoah, was featured in *Watermarks*, the 2004 documentary that reunited Hakoah's women's swim team of the 1930s for the first time since the Nazis closed the club in 1938.

The talk was a fitting close to Holocaust Education Week.

After partaking in a candlelighting ceremony commemorating the victims of Kristallnacht, Stanton, flanked by members of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, began her talk.

Like a sweet bubbie, the 87-year-old regaled her audience with a mix of humorous family anecdotes and sobering memories.

"I'm deeply honoured to be here," Stanton told the audience. "Part of my mission is to speak about the Holocaust, [and] if what I speak about now can be a warning to stay alert, then so be it."

Moving from one memory to the next, she painted a picture of her pre-war Jewish community in Austria that could have been a portrait of any Jewish community in the world today.

She drew parallels between the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe then and now, telling her listeners not to dismiss what is happening on that continent, and not to underestimate anti-Semitism in North America.

Stanton reminded the crowd that complacency can be disastrous.

"Remember," she counselled, "Hitler did not come to Austria until 1938. But anti-Semitism was alive and well in Austria before Hitler [came]."

She recalled how the Jews of Austria were "emotionally oblivious" to what the Germans were planning. "So the Anschluss [Austria's annexation by Germany] came as a complete surprise to us," she said. "I was scared to death."

Though there were many horrors to come for Austria's Jews, Stanton managed to get out in 1939 with the help of her Hakoah coaches. [She said she didn't have time to elaborate on how this was accomplished.]

Hakoah was founded in 1909 in direct response to the Aryan Paragraph, which banned Jewish athletes from Austrian sports clubs. It had become one of Europe's largest athletic clubs before the Nazis shut it down in 1938.

Though Stanton and her teammates, all high-school friends, all managed to escape the war, she said that it was not until the making of *Watermarks*, under the gentle prodding of director Yaron Zilberman, that she could bear to think beyond the sadness of Nazi brutality to her happy teen years with friends in Austria.

"We were middle-class kids who grew up very [secular]," Stanton recalled, adding that she remembered going boating and swimming with her friends, despite knowing that Jews were not permitted in certain areas.

"[The Nazis] told us not to sit on park benches or go here or there," she said. "But we were young, so if they didn't [specifically] tell us not to go rowing or swim, we did."

To this day, Stanton said she remains surprised that she survived at all, calling the feat either "dumb-luck or divine providence."

Though she said she can never forget the atrocities committed by the Nazis and their collaborators, her experiences in recent years have taught her the value of broadmindedness.

"When I went back to Vienna the first couple of times, I could not stay more than two days," she said. "Any time I saw [a senior] in the street, I would think 'Did you help send my family to the camps?' But [in the process of making *Watermarks*], I saw that the new generations were more tolerant."

Bringing this new philosophy to bear, she cautioned members of the audience not to let anger rule their outlook.

"If I had talked to you 60 years ago, I would have spoken differently," she said. "But if we can use our experiences to fight today's genocides, it's a better idea than to hate," she said.

Coverage of Holocaust Education Week continues on page 20.

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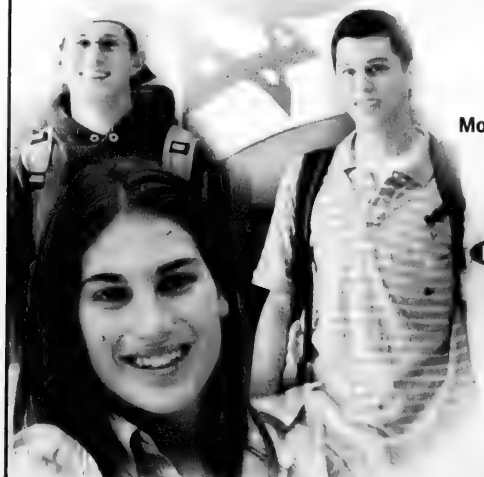
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Greater Toronto Area

[Marshall Cohen photo]

Fire destroys landmark Perl's deli

Firefighters are still investigating the four-alarm fire that destroyed Perl's Kosher Meat and Delicatessen on Nov. 10.

The fire department was alerted to the blaze, which caused between $1 million and $2 million in damages, after Bracha Sorek, owner of Haymishe Bagel, whose store is in the same plaza on Bathurst Street just south of Lawrence Avenue, saw smoke coming from the deli.

Due to the onset of Shabbat, Herman Perl, 81, a Holocaust survivor who started the business more than 50 years ago, didn't know about the fire until hours after it began.

Toronto Fire spokesperson Mike Strapko said he believes the fire was caused by heat generated by one of the industrial stoves in the building.

The heat from the oven affected the "dried-out old wood which we think ended up igniting [it] and causing the fire," he told the *Toronto Star*.

It took firefighters more than four hours to bring the blaze under control.

In an interview with the *Star*, Perl said his son closed the store at 4 p.m. for Shabbat, and he made sure everything was shut down and the ovens were turned off.

Perl's was the first butcher in Toronto to sell ready-made kosher food, and Perl's products are now available at most grocery chains in the city.

"I was the one who started it, who made it so the Jewish community could eat kosher," he told the *Globe and Mail*. "I made the kosher meat myself. I was the first one to eviscerate chickens and sell legs, cutlets, breasts in packages."

He eventually moved to the Bathurst Street location, and expanded next door to include Bais Burger, a kosher hamburger take-out restaurant.

A second Perl's location was opened on Bathurst Street in Thornhill, but it recently closed. Perl employs 60 staff, including his two sons and a son-in-law.

Perl said he plans to find a temporary headquarters for the business.

See]N

A HIGH HOLIDAY MINYAN

Jewish Canadian servicemen assembled at the chaplains' quarters in Amsterdam to get ready to mark the High Holidays in September 1945.

[Hy Arlin photo]

From the editor's desk

can be found on page 10

Orthodox dialogue addresses...dialogue itself

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

More than 300 people attended Torah in Motion's fifth annual Renewing Our Spirit Conference, held at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation Nov. 4 and 5.

The Modern Orthodox educational organization kicked off the event with a Saturday night panel discussion on The Future of Religion in the Land of Israel, continuing Sunday with about a dozen sessions on issues including The Impact of Education on the Willingness to Think, Orthodoxy and the non-Observant Jew, and Blogs: The New Frontier of the Jewish Community.

Marvin Schick in conversation at the Torah in Motion conference.

In a panel discussion on "Orthodoxy Encounters Modernity: Dialogue on the Issues that Face Us," Samuel Heilman, sociologist and author of *Sliding to the Right: The Contest for the Future of American Jewry*, said that the "Modern Orthodox who seek to engage people to their left are often in some ways outcast or demonized. Talking to a non-Orthodox Jew, or heaven forbid a non-Jew, is somehow embracing everything that person stands for."

Marvin Schick, a lawyer and the president of the Rabbi Jacob Joseph School in New York, took issue with much of what Heilman said on the panel, and vice versa. Schick claimed the notion of demonization is "just false."

Rabbi Gil Student, president of Yashar Books – publisher of Rabbi Natan Slifkin, some of whose books were banned by North American and Israeli haredi rabbis in 2005 – said he doesn't "understand the benefit we'd get from dialogue."

He said that one former benefit of dialogue – "mekarev," or the possibility of bringing Jews closer to Judaism – is now the domain of outreach professionals.

Interestingly, his internet blog (web log) – hirhurim.blogspot.com – is a lively online forum for "insider" discussion among Modern Orthodox and haredi Jews, an "astounding" number of whom have wireless internet access, he noted. It is also read by some non-Orthodox Jews and the occasional non-Jew, he said in an earlier presentation on Blogs: The New Frontier of the Jewish Community.

Referring to family situations, panelists disagreed vehemently on whether families with Orthodox and non-Orthodox members get along. "What we've learned to do in the private domain is act civilly and have good relations," said Schick, to audience response of disagreement and vocal rumblings.

American-born Adam Ferziger of Bar-Ilan University – an ordained rabbi and author of *Exclusion and Hierarchy: Orthodoxy, Nonobservance and the Emergence of Modern Jewish Identity* – spoke from his own family's experience when he said his late father's legacy was "love, respect and family commitment" even when other family members chose a different path. "He always said, 'Our Shabbat table is your Shabbat table...' The positives that can come from that are much greater than the dangers involved."

Ferziger lamented the loss of Modern Orthodoxy's philosophy behind the 1960s and 1970s movement to free Soviet Jewry. Modern Orthodox rabbis who were part of that effort "felt that working in partnership with non-Orthodox Jews to accomplish agreed-upon goals was part of their Orthodoxy,"

Continued on page 37

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Friends group aims to help Israeli firefighters

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

The Lebanon war has forced Israeli security and defence strategists to prepare for the inevitable escalation of missile warfare, says a former head of Shin Bet, the Israeli secret service.

"We woke up before nuclear terrorism," said Carmi Gillon, who presented his grim prediction to some 120 young Jewish executives at a recent fundraiser at the Spin Master toy company showroom.

The event was the second in the Blue Rooster Speaker Series, which aims to engage young Jewish executives on political, social and economic issues facing Israel. Money raised that evening was allocated to the purchase of a new fire truck in Israel.

Gillon is among a group of high-profile Israelis who have been recruited by Friends of Israel Firefighters to raise awareness about the needs of these emergency frontline workers. He told the audience that while the summer war forced Israelis to confront the country's military vulnerabilities, the Hezbollah attacks have also strengthened solidarity among Israelis.

The country pulled together to help out the 4,000 Jewish families displaced by Hezbollah rocket fire, he said. "In our small town, we invited 100 families to stay in our homes."

Also speaking at the Blue Rooster event was Yitzhak Levy, a firefighter from Rishon Lezion, a town just south of Tel Aviv that has seen dozens of its citizens killed or injured by three suicide bomb attacks in recent years. Levy said firefighters are always the first to respond to these bombings.

He said firefighters from across Israel were sent to the north to do rescue work during the Lebanon war. He recounted how he and his team tried to help a Druze family whose home had been bombed, but their rescue efforts were hindered because their large fire trucks couldn't get access to the burning house.

Fortunately, another firefighter team in a mini-pumper, a small technologically advanced fire truck that can navigate narrow roads, was able to rescue the surviving family members, Levy said. "The mini-pumper is the reason the family is alive and well today."

Indeed, it was the mini-pumper that indirectly inspired the evening and was the catalyst for the Blue Rooster initiative, which was hatched at the height of the Lebanon war in July.

At the time, Mira Shem Tov, 32, a professional networker and matchmaker, and Ronnen Harary, 35, co-CEO of Spin Master, were on a solidarity mission to Israel organized by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

A briefing at the fire station in Hadera inspired Shem Tov and Harary to raise funds for the firefighters, Shem Tov told *The CJN*.

"We were so taken by the firefighters. They were the first people on the scene…We realized how desperately they needed more equipment," she said.

She added that she and Harary were particularly impressed with the utility and versatility of the mini-pumper. "It's a great solution for getting in and out of tight spaces in Israel."

She said that when she and Harary discovered the cost of the vehicle – $100,000 – they decided to involve their peers to raise funds to purchase one of the trucks. "Ronnen and I looked at each other and we said, 'We can do that.' That began the cause of raising money for the fire truck."

With that goal in mind, Shem Tov and Harary established Blue Rooster, which Shem Tov described as an "independent grass-roots group geared to engaging young Jewish executives on their terms.

"We wanted to build a platform to involve our peers in the community. Our generation wants a platform for more community involvement with like-minded people in our age group. Fundraising is only one aspect."

The war in Lebanon has galvanized many of her peers to come together to support Israel, she said. "There was a tremendous amount of urgency."

In fact, while Shem Tov and Harary were on the mission, some of their friends had organized a fundraiser for Israel at the Spoke Club that drew more than 100 people.

The plan to buy a new mini-pumper has given the group's fundraising efforts a more tangible goal, said Shem Tov, explaining that mobilizing their peers for this purpose is an aspect of the Blue Rooster agenda. "We always want to raise money for something tangible. The firefighters were the perfect cause.

"We want to have a say in where the money gets directed. That's something very true for our generation. We want to see the results of our donations."

The group isn't limited to fundraising, Shem Tov said. "We want intellectual and stimulating dialogue. There are no parameters. Maybe we'll have parties – whatever it takes to bring people together."

So far, the Blue Rooster initiative has raised more than $30,000 toward the purchase of the mini-pumper, she said. "We have been pleasantly surprised by the turnout, generosity and the commitment of people who want to get involved."

Sponsors of the Blue Rooster event included UJA Federation, El Al, Sabon, and Grafstein's Wines.

For more information about Blue Rooster's upcoming events, contact bluerooster@spinmaster.com.

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Jimmy Carter's vanity and perfidy

Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter made an unexpected appearance last January at the annual Herzliya Conference in Israel. Carter was in Israel on his way to the Palestinian territories to observe the elections about to unfold in the Palestinian Authority. The conference schedule was quickly re-arranged to accommodate Carter's desire to address the august assembly of policy and decision-makers from around the globe.

Carter spoke for some 30 minutes from a prepared text. For the most part, he imparted a familiar charge sheet of demands against Israel of familiar but tired platitudes stating that the Israeli settlements are an obstacle to peace. He called on Israel to leave "Palestinian occupied territory" so that the Palestinians could get on with the task of building their own country.

The defining moment of Carter's appearance at the conference, however, came when he answered a few, brief questions after his remarks.

Why, one person asked, did the former president appear to constantly single out Israel as the reason that peace had not yet blossomed between Palestinians and Israelis? The questioner pointed to the fact that after the signing of the Oslo accords in 1993, Israeli government officials and society at large geared up for a much-yearned-for peace with the Palestinians, even to the point of changing entries in school textbooks to cast the Palestinian struggle in a different, more sympathetic light. Israeli leaders planned joint economic, medical, educational, and agricultural projects with Jordanians and Palestinians.

By contrast, the questioner continued, Palestinian leaders seized the Oslo opportunity to invigorate and heighten their incitement against the Jewish state, Israelis and Jews. Former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his cadre, subsequent events and documents proved, planned a war of terrorism against the Jews.

In his response to the questioner, the former U.S. president said he was unaware of such incitement being carried on by the Palestinians against Israel, but he was opposed to it if it was happening.

Carter's answer left most of the people in the room agasp. More than 12 years after Oslo, how could he not know? What had he been reading? To whom had he spoken? What had he observed?

This week his latest book was scheduled to be released. It is titled *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. *The CJN* has not yet seen, let alone read, the book. But its very title is an affront to honesty and accuracy. The deliberate tying of the term "apartheid" to Israel feeds the frenzied anti-Israel appetite and encourages the hatred of all those who pronounced their plans in Durban, South Africa, in 2001 to dismantle the Jewish state, just as South Africa had been dismantled in its time.

The title speaks to the vanity of the man who, though ignorant of the facts, wishes to impose his preconceived solutions to the conflict. But that he lends the prestige of the U.S. presidency to the cause of those who seek to do away with Israel speaks to his perfidy.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Toronto Liberal MP Roland de Corneille announced the formation of the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group, which aimed to exchange information and visits between Canadian MPs and Israeli legislators. Among the group's other founders were Liberal MPs Herb Gray and Jim Peterson, as well as NDP MP Bob Rae and Tory MP Flora MacDonald.

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French Auschwitz transports

The Société Nationale des Chemins de fers Français (SNCF) case is about *how* the railway transported Jews during the Nazi occupation of France throughout World War II ("Canadians seek French redress for Auschwitz transports," *CJN*, Oct. 5; "Auschwitz transports," letter, *CJN*, Oct. 12). There is no question that the SNCF used livestock cars for the transportation of Jews to death camps such as Auschwitz.

In 1997, French President Jacques Chirac recognized France's role in the oppression of Jews during World War II, and the subsequent trial of Maurice Papon, a French Vichy government official who collaborated with the Nazis, proved the undeniable participation of the government and therefore its agencies in the deportations. While the SNCF may argue that the German and the French governments were calling the shots, they have not provided proof that they were forced by any entity to charge a fare for a service they did not supply.

In the Lipietz case, in which Alain Lipietz and his sister successfully sued the railway and the French government, three judges debated on the liability of the SNCF for five years and examined the exhibits produced by the SNCF and by the plaintiffs. How can French historians challenge such a judgment when they have never had access to the SNCF's archives?

My uncle fought in the French army from 1939 to 1940. He was one of the earlier detainees brought in to custody and was sent to Pithiviers on May 14, 1941. He was deported to Auschwitz on July 17, 1942, and, according to infirmary records, died in Auschwitz on May 21, 1943, the same month that Josef Mengele arrived at the camp. In total, 13 members of our Paris family – including seven children – were interned in Pithiviers and Drancy and then deported to their final death.

Whether historians agree or disagree on this case is irrelevant. If any group has a right to be apoplectic, it is the survivors and families of those who lost their lives, either during or after their sub-human transportation on SNCF cattle cars.

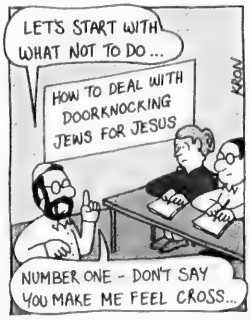
Fiona Baxter-Swartz
Toronto

* * *

Vote Conservative?

As much as I understand Bert Raphael's plea for Jews to vote Conservative, as Canadian Jews, I believe we should not relegate ourselves to a one-issue special-interest group ("Harper's support of Israel," letter, *CJN*, Nov. 2). There are many problems and issues here in Canada that need to be addressed, and as citizens of this great country, we must examine each one and decide which party would best address the needs of our respective communities. Canada's support of Israel is very important, and we must do whatever it takes to encourage that, but we must also examine each party's stance on many social issues that affect all of us as citizens. Voting without examining all the issues is not good for Jews, and it's not good for Canada.

Barbara Sklar
Toronto



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Prayer services too long

I am a 15-year-old high school student. I am in agreement with the author of the article "Shortening the length of shul services: a modest proposal" (*CJN*, Oct. 12). As a religious teenager, I find that the prayer services for Shabbat and the High Holy Days take much too long to finish.

I think it is a very good idea that the rabbi's sermon takes place after the service, so the people who want to leave don't have to feel bad about leaving before prayers finish. The only thing I am not in agreement with is that *Kedushah* should be shortened. In fact, in my opinion, most people find *Kedushah* beautiful due to the fact that it is said in different tunes so it should not be changed in any way. Another thing that could be done to shorten services is to say the services silently. I notice that most shuls say the services out loud as a congregation, and this just makes the services longer. There is no sin in saying the services silently to yourself, as long as you have 10 men to make a minyan. You are still fulfilling the mitzvah of praying to God.

Naftali Zweig
Toronto

* * *

Don't shorten services

In the article "Shortening the length of shul services: a modest proposal" (*CJN*, Oct. 12), Murray Teitel suggests shortening services to increase shul attendance. I disagree with his suggestion to have time limits for different sections of the services. If you give every prayer a time limit, it becomes a routine, and it takes away from the beauty of davening. Praying to God is meant to be inspiring and joyous. If it appears boring, then there is something wrong. Personally, as a religious teenager, I feel it does take time to get used to and understand davening, but once you do, you will realize the beauty of it, and this will be lost if davening becomes a scheduled procedure. And if you shorten the services, as Teitel suggests, it will drive away all the other members who enjoy the services, which will ultimately keep down attendance.

Avner Zeifman
Toronto

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U.S. mid-term election could affect foreign policy

By RON KAMPEAS
JTA

The tone of the U.S.-Israel relationship remains the same whoever controls the U.S. Congress, but Democratic pledges to stringently oversee the Iraq war could affect how the United States confronts Iran.

Democrats won control of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate in the Nov. 7 mid-term elections, the latter conclusively decided with Senator George Allen's concession of the Virginia race on Nov 9.

The first casualty of the new order appeared to be Donald Rumsfeld, President George W. Bush's deeply unpopular defence secretary who was identified with the Iraq war. Rumsfeld's removal meant the cabinet had lost one of the most ardent advocates of the policy of containing Iran.

Bipartisan support for Israel would be constant, Jewish and Israeli officials said, defying a pre-election barrage of Republic Jewish Coalition ads that insisted that the Democratic Party's support for Israel was eroding.

"It's clear the 110th Congress will continue America's long tradition of staunch support for a strong, safe and secure Israel and an abiding relationship between the United States and our most reliable ally in the Middle East," said Josh Block, a spokesperson for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Deadlock between Congress and the White House "will influence domestic policy – immigration, health care, taxes, social policies, the Supreme Court. It won't influence foreign policy, with the possible exception of Iraq," said Danny Ayalon, the Israeli ambassador to Washington, who is finishing his term. "For sure, not the U.S.-Israel relationship."

Ayalon said there simply wasn't that much to reconsider in the region, as long as the Hamas party that rules the Palestinian Authority continues to reject Israel's existence and refuses to renounce terrorism.

If the Bush administration and Congress don't see "an internal Palestinian process that reveals a real partner, one that gives and takes with the Israeli government, it will be more of the same," he said.

Top Democrats, including party chairman Howard Dean, said in the final days of the campaign that the party would leave foreign policy to the president.

"The Democratic leadership would know its limits in a time when it has a small majority in the House or Senate," Ira Forman, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council, said days before the election.

Still, Congress could have a profound influence on foreign policy through its most powerful tool: oversight.

The inevitable debate over the Iraq war could reveal differences on how to deal with Iran's nuclear threat, hampering Bush administration efforts to force Iran to stop enriching uranium, a precursor to manufacturing a nuclear weapon, said Raymond Tanter, a Georgetown University professor who heads the Iran Policy Committee, a group that advocates Western support for opposition groups in Iran.

Senator Joseph Lieberman won as an Independant in Connecticut. *[RNS/File photo]*

The White House "will have to accommodate the 'realists,'" Tanter said, referring to the foreign policy hands who favor limiting U.S. intervention abroad and who played a significant role in the foreign policy of the first president Bush. The younger Bush has largely ignored their advice.

Bob Gates, Bush's nominee to replace Rumsfeld as defence secretary, is in the realist camp, which advised against the Iraq war. Gates served as CIA director under Bush's father and was close to the elder Bush's secretary of state, James Baker, and national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft. Both men are known for their opposition to the younger Bush's broad goals of democratizing Iraq and the region.

The congressionally mandated commission on the Iraq war headed by Baker and former Indiana congressman Lee Hamilton reportedly is ready to recommend direct talks with Shiite-dominated Iran as a means of tamping down Shiite-Sunni violence in Iraq.

"Baker and Hamilton will be called before the congressional committees in January for hearings," Tanter said, and, subsequently, "much of the international community, intelligentsia and the press will push for a grand bargain with Iran."

That could mean allowing Iran some uranium-enrichment capabilities while extracting promises that the material would not reach weapons grade, he said.

Of course, "the only problem with a grand bargain is whether Iran will keep it," he said.

James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute, said he hoped the new Congress guided by the Baker-Hamilton recommendations – would restrain what he saw as an overly aggressive posture toward Iran.

"My hope is that it provides some kind of restraint on administration policy towards Iran," he said last week at an Israel Policy Forum panel. Zogby said he agreed that Iran's theocratic leaders posed the greatest threat in the region, but that the Bush administration's belligerence had only empowered them.

"They emerged from this war in Iraq empowered and emboldened."

Michael Rubin, an Iran expert at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, said Iran is not a partisan issue, but he agreed that bickering over Iraq could hamper efforts to convince Iran of U.S. seriousness.

"The more we telegraph we want to pull troops from Iraq, the more the Iranians think they have us by the balls," Rubin said.

He worried that could lead to Iranian overconfidence, and much as its proxy Hezbollah misread Israel's determination to strike back this summer in Lebanon – Iran could believe it's in a position to raise the stakes.

"Iranian decision-makers don't have an accurate understanding of U.S. policy," he said. "They're dangerously overconfident."

Iranian perceptions of U.S. intent would depend more on how the Bush administration compartmentalized its domestic and foreign challenges than on how Congress behaved, said Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Reform movement's Religious Action Center, which favours aggressive congressional oversight of Iraq.

"The Clinton administration was able to maintain its agenda while dealing with investigations" during impeachment, Saperstein said. "Trying to learn the lessons from Iraq that urgently need to be learned is indispensable to acting more effectively and efficiently in securing America's security interests around the world."

Hadar Susskind, Washington director for the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, said that, like Israel, Darfur – the region of Sudan where government-allied militias have massacred tens of thousands of civilians – presents opportunities for bipartisan co-operation.

"Darfur is going to be a great test for Nancy Pelosi," the California Democrat who leads the party and is set to become speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, "and the House Democrats on how they intend to work with the president and the House minority, because there's a tremendous amount of agreement."

Bush is considering imposing sanctions on Sudan if it does not allow in UN peacekeepers by Jan. 1. U.S. Jewish groups have led the movement to bring relief to the troubled region.

Jews in the 110th U.S. Congress

The following is a list of Jewish lawmakers who will serve in the 110th U.S. Congress.

The number of Jews in the Senate will rise to 13 from 11, with two new members. Both Joseph Lieberman and Bernie Sanders won as independents, but are expected to caucus with the Democrats.

The number of Jews in the House of Representatives will rise to 30 from 26, with six new faces.

One race, involving Gary Trauner (D-Wyo.), had not been decided as of *The CJN*'s deadline.

U.S. Senate

Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.)
Ben Cardin (D-Md.)
Norm Coleman (R-Minn.)
Russell Feingold (D-Wis.)
Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.)
Herb Kohl (D-Wis.)
Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.)
Carl Levin (D-Mich.)
Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.)
Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)
Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.)
Arlen Specter (R-Pa.)
Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)

U.S. House of Representatives

Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.)
Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.)
Howard Berman (D-Calif.)
Eric Cantor (R-Va.)
Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.)
Susan Davis (D-Calif.)
Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.)
Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.)
Bob Filner (D-Calif.)
Barney Frank (D-Mass.)
Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.)
Jane Harman (D-Calif.)
Paul Hodes (D-N.H.)
Steve Israel (D-N.Y.)
Steve Kagen (D-Wis.)
Ron Klein (D-Fla.)
Tom Lantos (D-Calif.)
Sander Levin (D-Mich.)
Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.)
Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.)
Steve Rothman (D-N.J.)
Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.)
Adam Schiff (D-Calif.)
Allyson Schwartz (D-Pa.)
Brad Sherman (D-Calif.)
Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.)
Henry Waxman (D-Calif.)
Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.)
Robert Wexler (D-Fla.)
John Yarmuth (D-Ky.)

Opinions

Abandoned again

For two years, Sharon Shenhav, together with the International Council of Jewish Women, and Rabbi Shlomo Amar, chief Sephardi rabbi of Israel, planned a conference on *gittin* (Jewish divorces). This was to be a special consultation with rabbis from across the Jewish world. Only invited rabbis could attend, and only rabbis directly involved with divorce in rabbinic courts (batei din) would be invited.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

Those of us who have been active for decades on behalf of agunot (women denied a Jewish divorce) took great care to make sure our batei din were well represented. We also wanted to be present, but we understood the organizational premise: in order for the rabbis to have serious deliberations, they needed to be assured of privacy and confidentiality. Many rabbis – regrettably none from Canada – indicated their willingness to attend.

The conference was to take place Nov. 7 and 8.

We had high hopes. The chief rabbi's invitation was an indication of his agreement that the issue was pressing. The attendance of prominent rabbis suggested their acceptance that the problem of agunot required Jewish legal attention. (When I first began my agunah activities 30 years ago, I was told by rabbis that there was no problem and certainly not one in Jewish law.) Perhaps they would create standards of court procedure for all batei din. Perhaps they would explore and recommend the possible solutions that exist within Halachah. Perhaps they would create networks of rabbinic co-operation and future interaction. Perhaps we would see a global end to *get* abuse.

The solutions exist in Halachah. All sorts of new variations using old precedents have been proposed. We lack the consensus for implementation. Perhaps…

But Rabbi Amar cancelled the conference.

After two years of work, days before people were to arrive in Israel, the rabbi called it off! Why? Because of pressure from some Israeli rabbis.

But why? What could they be afraid of? A group of their own colleagues – no women present, no media, no pressure, just discussions probing possible actions or resolutions.

What is so threatening? Why don't they see the chillul HaShem (desecration) that their inaction causes? Why do they not see that they have empowered countless lawless males to use the law to abuse law-abiding women? Why do they continue to protect the husband's unilateral power at the expense of the wife?

Some rabbis still intend to go and present papers anyway. Rabbi Amar will invite them to lunch only. There will be no serious grappling with halachic ramifications and solutions.

Why not? What are they so afraid of? What a missed opportunity!

If you care, write to the chief rabbi's office. Call your own rabbi and work together to free agunot. There are many wonderful pulpit rabbis willing to help. Do something!

Jewish Book Month

It's Jewish Book Month for us, the people whose scriptures include the famous "of making many books there is no end" (Ecclesiastes12:12), as if we needed a special month to tell us to read!

I bet that Jews belong in huge numbers to book clubs, and every year when picking the titles, have a lot of trouble deciding what "Jewish books" they should choose.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

So let's see. If the question of who is a Jew is vexatious, how about the question, "What is a Jewish book?" No hiding behind Mordecai Richler or pointing grandly at Israeli authors such as Y. Yehoshua, David Grossman, Amos Oz, Yehuda Amichai, etc.

No sir, we are up against it. Too many books by Jews, and it's time to step up to the plate and decide once and for all: what is a Jewish book? I headed to my bookshelves to explore this endlessly fascinating question.

Is it any book by a Jew? Well, all you CanLit fans, are the Matt Cohen books about an Ontario non-Jewish world Jewish books because he wrote them? I say no, even though his *The Spanish Doctor* is, in my opinion, a quintessential Jewish book. And I even got the late author to autograph it for me.

So a Jewish author can write a non-Jewish book.

Now how about *Schindler's List*? Absolutely. A non-Jewish author can write a Jewish book. How about *Sophie's Choice*? Tougher question. Same landscape of the Holocaust kingdom of night, but not a Jewish protagonist. I'll leave that as an exercise for the reader.

How about *The Gifts of the Jews* by Thomas Cahill, who, although he studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary, is not Jewish. I say yes.

My book club has read both Jonathan Safran Foer books, *Everything Is Illuminated* and *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. Clearly the first would qualify, since the protagonist is Jewish and searching for answers to his family's history during the Holocaust. But Oskar, the lonely and profoundly disturbed boy of the second, is of German descent and clearly not Jewish.

Here are some answers from my friends.

"Just as it is impossible to define Jewish as a noun – is it a religion? Is it a culture? Is it a nationality? – when it's used as an adjective it becomes even more oblique and challenging to capture in a definition." (Brenda)

"A Jewish book is one that has a Jewish theme." (Tracy) I just finished rereading John Milton's long epic poem *Samson Agonistes*, with its Jewish anti-hero. Loosely following the story in Judges, it is a discourse on physical and spiritual blindness with an Israelite protagonist. This really is not, to my mind, exclusively a Jewish theme. Then we end up arguing over what a Jewish theme is. Freedom? Law? Guilt?

I argue that the defining prose Jewish book is the Book of Genesis, both in its Hebrew version and in the magisterial King James translation, written in the cadence of Shakespeare. Genesis is the most eloquent introduction to the human race and to the origins of the Jewish people that we have, with promises and broken faith, human kindness and divine wrath, and composed with enough ambiguity to engage such disparate Jewish commentators as the author of the Zohar and Philo.

And as to the English translation: with all the errors in their understanding of Hebrew, the version the translators presented in honour of King James I is of such poetry as to dwarf any subsequent translation for its power.

So when Isaac Bashevis Singer writes in *Congregations: Contemporary Writers Read the Jewish Bible* that "learning [Genesis] was the greatest event in my life," I know I am not alone in my preference. "With both faith and doubt," Singer began his quest, and we can follow that theme throughout his own writings. So maybe for a book to be Jewish it has to contain both faith and doubt, these two elements in tension.

"God," he concludes, "created… with a will and a plan, and despite all the evil life undergoes, there is a purpose on Creation and eternal wisdom."

Let's add purpose and wisdom to the list of themes. Now go out and read.

Violence in the name of God

From Oct. 20 to 22 of this year, the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights, a national, Edmonton-based non-governmental organization, sponsored an international conference on the theme of Building World Peace: The Role of Religions and Human Rights. The conference addressed a major, worldwide concern and possible solutions to the problem. Put simply, the world is faced with a chronic and pervasive issue; namely, the commission of violence in the name of God.

Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton

Although the events of Sept. 11, 2001, brought to the world's immediate attention an acute awareness of this phenomenon, violence perpetrated in God's name is neither new nor restricted to any one particular religion.

From the Crusades and witch-burning to modern-day conflicts, violence in the name of religion has occurred throughout history.

Indeed, religiously based conflicts exist in many places in our world today. Religion-based violence has carried on for decades in Northern Ireland. In northern Uganda, there is conflict between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army. In China, there are violent and oppressive acts against the Falun Gong. And Africa has been witness to the tragedy of unspeakable violence and genocide in Rwanda, Sudan and Sierra Leone.

The opening session of the conference, titled "Interfaith Perspectives on Violence," featured a panel of representatives from six major religious traditions. The three Abrahamic faiths were represented by Rabbi Lindsey bat Joseph (Jewish), Archbishop Emeritus Joseph MacNeil (Christian) and Karen Hamdon (Muslim). The other panelists included Acharya Shivshankaar Dwivedi (Hindu), Thupten Jinpa Langri (Buddhist) and Wilson Okeymow (First Nations).

These speakers engaged in a process of both introspective and outward examinations of the role of religions and human rights. They urged that moderates dominate and become the "faces" for each religious tradition and that religious leaders and spiritual advisers teach and actively promote peace and human rights.

Okeymow, a First Nations leader, referred to the residential school experience and spoke of the abuse and confusion brought to First Nations people by imposed religious teachings.

Hindu spiritual leader Dwivedi cautioned that "violence and uncontrolled desires are symptoms of the troubled mind."

Langri, president of the Institute of Tibetan Classics and a principal English translator to the Dalai Lama, cautioned that sacred texts be approached not only respectfully but also critically and cautiously since those texts were written and interpreted by "woefully imperfect human beings." He diagnosed the central problem in terms of the domination of discourse by secular thought.

Hamdon spoke of "the core values of [the Muslim] faith – those of compassion, service, charity, social justice and unity." She reminded her audience that "violence and compassionate non-violence all begin in our minds first and then are executed in reality. Keeping this in mind, faith should provide us tools to deliberately reject violence and consciously accept compassion and peace."

The speakers also commented on the role of faith in guiding our lives and the responsibilities of religious leaders in their promotion of faith. For example, Rabbi bat Joseph spoke of leadership and faith in the following terms: "If faith and faith leaders have anything to offer, it is to call attention to our common humanity… We must remind the members of our respective faith communities… that social justice is the call to justice in our society and justice of our society. It means we must be engaged in our society, speaking out against ethical and moral wrongs, advocating change, justice and ethical practices for all our citizens and in all our dealings with the rest of the world… To not speak out, to remain silent, is the greatest social injustice."

In offering their perspectives on the issue, these religious leaders demonstrated that organized religion can offer solutions to the sad and pervasive reality of religiously based violence. Religion has the potential to offer opportunities for conciliation and peace, respect and compassion. In short, religion can and should serve as an antidote for violence perpetrated in the name of God.

In my next article, I will focus on some of the other discussions and recommendations arising out of this peace-building process in Edmonton.

The Kirshner File

Harper's pro-Israel position sparks a debate

Writing in the *Toronto Star* last month, Conservative Senator Hugh Segal observed, "It is highly unlikely that Canada's foreign policy toward Israel will determine the outcome of our next federal election."

Segal is right, of course. The vast majority of Canadians have more pressing and immediate matters on their minds: health care, honesty in government, the economy, Quebec's place in Confederation, the latest trade dispute with the United States, the environment and the casualties Canada is sustaining in Afghanistan.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

But Israel is a fairly big issue in the Liberal party, which is gearing up for its leadership convention in Montreal from Nov. 28 to Dec. 2.

Since last summer's war in Lebanon, when Prime Minister Stephen Harper described Israel's ferocious military response to Hezbollah aggression as "measured," the Liberals have been fixated on Israel, the Arab-Israeli dispute and Canada's policy in the Middle East.

Indeed, these issues have been rehashed not only by the Liberals but by the New Democratic party and the Bloc Québécois, too.

Which is really strange, since foreign policy was virtually ignored in the last federal election, and was not even a topic in the televised English and French debates between the party leaders.

In addition to triggering a lively debate in Canadian political circles, Harper's strong pro-Israel stance has galvanized many Jewish Canadians, who have traditionally voted for the Liberal party.

Heather Reisman, the president of a nationwide bookstore chain and a longtime Liberal, has apparently switched sides and now intends to support the Conservatives. Her husband, Gerald Schwartz, one of Canada's leading entrepreneurs, signed a newspaper ad complimenting Harper for "standing by Israel."

They are not the only ones who are disenchanted with the Liberals. Robert Lantos, the film producer, thanked Harper for his "principled support" of Israel and suggested that the Liberals could no longer take his allegiance for granted. Ariela Cotler, the Israeli wife of Montreal Liberal MP and former justice minister Irwin Cotler, tore up her party membership card.

These developments, which may yet presage a historic shift in Canadian Jewish voting patterns, have already caused an upheaval in the ranks of the Liberals.

Recognizing that some of his constituents were unhappy with the Liberal party's position on Israel, Cotler told a reporter that he was working very hard to ensure that the Liberals "adhere to party principles" he was comfortable with when he joined the party. In a revealing aside, Cotler added, "Prime Minister Harper certainly deserves credit for speaking up early and clearly in defending Israel."

Liberal Senator Jerry Grafstein is concerned as well. Responding to a statement from Liberal interim leader and former foreign minister Bill Graham that Canada should not have taken sides during the month-long war in Lebanon, Grafstein said that the Liberals were never a party of "honest brokers" preaching a balanced approach.

Susan Kadis, a Liberal MP who represents a riding in northern Toronto with a substantial Jewish population, created the biggest ripple. She withdrew as co-chair of one of the Liberal leadership front-runners, Michael Ignatieff, after he accused Israel of committing "a war crime" during the the war in Lebanon.

A Toronto MP who has had a distinguished career as an academic, author and journalist, Ignatieff issued that accusation on a French-language Quebec talk show. After apologizing for saying that he was "not losing sleep" over a July 30 Israeli air strike in Qana that resulted in the deaths of 28 Lebanese civilians, Ignatieff said, "I was a professor of human rights, and I am also a professor of the laws of war, and what happened in Qana was a war crime…"

Bill Graham

In the face of the ensuing uproar, and of a gratuitous remark by Harper that all but two of the Liberal leadership hopefuls have displayed an anti-Israel bias, Ignatieff softened his tone, saying that Hezbollah had also committed a war crime by deliberately targeting Israeli civilians. But he did not disavow his original accusation, saying it was based on reports by such groups as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

Ignatieff, the son of a Russian-born Canadian diplomat, describes himself as a critical "friend of Israel." Two years ago this month, he delivered a speech at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto in which he criticized Ariel Sharon's planned unilateral disengagement from the Gaza Strip and the route of Israel's security barrier through the West Bank. He also called for a contiguous Palestinian state and warned that a permanent Israeli occupation of the territories would be morally and politically unsustainable.

This past August, with the war in Lebanon still raging and with Israel intent on finishing off Hezbollah, Ignatieff – whose chief Quebec organizers took part in a pro-Lebanon march in Montreal at which several participants carried Hezbollah's flag – urged the Canadian government to back an immediate ceasefire.

Stephen Harper

If Ignatieff's "war crime" comment struck a sour note, an earlier remark by Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj was equally damaging. On a fact-finding tour of Lebanon after the war, the Toronto politician charged that Israel's offensive was nothing less than "state terrorism" and called on Canada to be more open to talking to Hezbollah.

Reacting to his observations, Graham issued a statement that satisfied neither side. Without directly addressing Wrzesnewskyj's reference to "state terrorism," he declared that the Liberals were committed to keeping Hezbollah on Canada's official terrorist list. But in affirming his party's commitment to Israel's existence and its right to self-defence, Graham muddied the waters by pointing out that "the right of self-defence is always subject to international law."

At the end of the day, however, Graham seemed more interested in attacking Harper than in defending Israel or in blasting Hezbollah. Claiming that Harper had "squandered our historic role as a Mideast bridge builder" – a point subsequently made by Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa – Graham said that he was "increasingly at odds with the global community and with our national character."

Speaking in this vein, Graham said, "It is vital for middle power nations such as Canada to pursue a fair-minded and balanced foreign policy because it preserves our ability to act as an appropriate intermediary, helping us to make peace between enemies, rather than simply validating the positions held by any one party."

Graham may have been inspired by an op-ed piece in the *Globe and Mail* written by Paul Heinbecker, Canada's former ambassador to the United Nations, on July 25. The core of his argument was in the first paragraph: "For good or ill, the crisis in the Middle East is a defining moment for Canadian foreign policy. The new Conservative government is apparently staking out a one-sided position on the Lebanon war and departing from policies on the Middle East adopted by previous Canadian governments. The consequence could be far-reaching and negative."

Taking Harper to task for not putting Canadian interests above "Diaspora politics," Heinbecker urged him "to criticize intransigence on both sides, including Israeli occupation of Arab land and the disproportionate aspects of Israel's response to Hezbollah."

This critique has influenced neither Harper nor his ministers.

In September, at the Francophonie summit in Romania, Harper blocked a resolution that would have recognized only Lebanese suffering during the war. "Obviously, Canada believes that the resolution has to be balanced and that we should recognize the victims in both Lebanon and Israel." Less than a month later, at a B'nai Brith banquet in Toronto, Harper said, "When it comes to dealing with a war between Israel and a terrorist organization, this country and this government cannot and never will be neutral."

In Montreal, at an Israel Bonds dinner, Foreign Minister Peter MacKay dismissed critics who claim that the Conservatives have abandoned Canada's traditional neutrality in the Arab-Israeli dispute. As he put it: "Where is the neutral ground between defending oneself and Hezbollah attacks?" He also said that his government will never recognize Hamas unless it comes to terms with Israel's existence, renounces terrorism and accepts previous agreements signed by Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

But are the Conservatives in tune with Canadian public opinion? Not according to a recent Globe and Mail/CTV poll, which found that 77 per cent of Canadians thought that Canada should have been neutral during Israel's war with Hezbollah.

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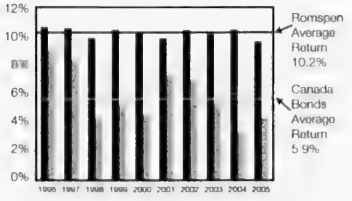

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Holocaust Education Week a hit in smaller communities

HEW reaches a larger audience than ever before

By A.M. SEGAL
UJA Federation

With 15,000 people taking part in over 100 programs, this year's Holocaust Education Week was successful not only across the GTA but in other Ontario cities as well.

The 26th annual series of Holocaust educational programs, sponsored by UJA Federation's Holocaust Centre of Toronto, wrapped up on November 9.

This year, programs reached wider and more diverse audiences, including schools, churches and smaller communities across the province.

In St. Catharines, author Douglas Morris spoke about his acclaimed book *Justice Imperiled*, which details the experiences of lawyer Max Hirschberg, who battled the Nazis in German courts in the 1930s.

"The subject was fascinating," said Marcia Donsky, a community member who attended the lecture held at Congregation B'nai Israel. "I'm glad I went."

Nearly 80 people attended the event, including members of the synagogue, students from Brock University and local lawyers.

Event organizer Howard Slepkov noted the role these types of lectures play, not only in informing and enlightening the larger community about the Holocaust, but also in helping to foster Jewish identity in the Niagara Peninsula, which has only about 1,000 Jews.

"With fewer and fewer Jews living in small towns, those left in the town have to work harder to build identity, and programs like this help to remind people of their Jewish roots," said Slepkov.

Douglas G. Morris, a New York trial attorney and historian, spoke to a Holocaust Education Week crowd in St. Catharines last week.

In Sudbury's Shaar Hashomayim Congregation, Holocaust survivor Max Eisen presented a passionate personal testimony about the horrors of Auschwitz-Birkenau and being liberated by American troops.

The vast majority of the people in attendance were non-Jews, speaking volumes about the solid interfaith dynamics of the community.

"The Jewish community here is very much tied in with the interfaith community," said Saul Cartman, who watched Eisen speak along with his wife Judi, who is a child of survivors.

Cartman added that Eisen has been to Sudbury before and his testimony is thought-provoking year after year.

"People who have seen him before always say they learn something new every time," Cartman said.

In the GTA, diverse audiences were also a theme, particularly because programs were hosted in churches and schools.

"Our goal is really to have a broad range of topics and speakers to appeal to a wide audience," said Joan Shapero, co-chair of Holocaust Education Week with Steven Albin.

"That way, we feel we're offering something unique."

For instance, in Mississauga, secondary school students watched two survivors tell their stories via a web cast.

"What we're particularly proud about is our outreach to schools, like the program in Mississauga," said Albin. "We're really moving forward in terms of using electronic tools and resources, like the webcast."

Impact Toronto attracts young Jewish adults

A new division has been created by UJA Federation to encourage young adults and future leaders to become involved in the Jewish community.

UJA Federation's former Young Adults Division (YAD) has been recast as *Impact Toronto* which is still comprised of members between 25 and 40 years of age, who will now have unprecedented access to social and business networking opportunities as well as involvement in the annual UJA Federation campaign.

Impact Toronto has opened up its doors to incorporate other UJA Federation divisions into the fold, including Young Finance, the Jewish Chamber of Commerce and Young Lawyers and Accountants.

"There is a real buzz, a real excitement associated with *Impact Toronto*, and we're hoping that it will have just that – an impact – on our community's young adults who really are our future leaders," said Julia Rowan, *Impact Toronto* vice-chair, along with Keith Isaac. "It's all about community, and we're letting young adults know about all the wonderful assets our community offers."

Keith Isaac, vice-chair, Impact Toronto, *enjoys the recent Toronto Raptors – Maccabi Tel-Aviv basketball game along with girlfriend Janine David and other members of Impact Toronto.*

Members of *Impact Toronto* will also benefit from a wide variety of social events held throughout the year, including Shabbat dinners, holiday parties, film screenings, guest speaker programs and Israel missions.

"We're actively letting people know about the tremendous range of opportunities out there for them to become involved with, be it educational, social or cultural," said *Impact Toronto* chair, Steven Farber. "We are so absolutely sure that there is something available for everyone. It's just a matter of letting them know the options so that they can become involved in something of interest to them."

For more information, or to become involved with *Impact Toronto*, please call Hannah Wasserman at 416.631.5817 or visit www.impacttoronto.com

Israeli doctors return from life-saving mission to China

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

An Israeli delegation of 18 medical professionals, led by the chief of staff of cardio-vascular surgery at Israel's Wolfson Hospital, Dr. Lior Sasson, recently returned home after completing a 12-day life-saving sojourn to China.

During their medical mission to the Hebei Province - located 200 miles southwest of Bejing - the group, an Israeli humanitarian foundation known as SACH, or Save a Child's Heart, performed eleven open-heart surgeries on children ranging from six months to 18 years. SACH also identified four Chinese children who, because of the complexities of their surgeries, will be flown to Israel for the procedure.

"This is what real medicine is all about. This is one of the reasons I went into medicine," Dr. Sasson told *Jewish Toronto* upon his return to Israel. "In Israel, if I'm not there to perform a surgery, someone else will do it. In China, if we're not there, many of these children are sentenced to death. Some of the equipment in this part of China is inferior to what we have in Israel, and they don't have the experience or the expertise needed to perform many of these open-hear surgeries. That's why some of these children are taken back to Israel where we will perform the needed surgery."

The medical team, which also included two surgeons, anaesthesiologists, ICU doctors and nurses, pediatric cardiologists, catheterization experts and heart-lung bypass machine technicians, was joined by a pediatric cardiologist from Holland, as well as a top cardiologist from the Kaplan Hospital in Rechovot and the director of pediatric emergency medicine at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital.

"In the ten years SACH has been active, we've probably operated on over 1,500 children, many of whom were flown to Israel from 26 countries," said Debra Silver, a SACH board member, who made the trip to China to document the mission. Silver, a former Torontonian, made aliya in 1973. She is the sister of Shoel Silver, the former chair of UIA Federations Canada, the umbrella organization for Canadian Jewish Federations, funded by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and other Federations across Canada.

(above) Three of SACH's surgeons, Israel's Dr. Sasson, Moldova's Dr. Liviu and China's Dr. Wang perform a life-saving open-heart operation in China.

(left) Liu Teng Yuan, who is recovering nicely from complex heart surgery in 2004, visited with the team from Israel.

SACH is supported largely through private donations and by the Nathan and Lilly Silver Family Foundation, named for Shoel and Debra's parents.

"We support a great many charities, including the Ezrat Nashim Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem where both my parents served on the board and which is one of the pioneers in Israel of tele-medicine," said Silver.

"The most satisfying thing for all of us is when we see a patient smile, when we see his parents smile," said Dr. Sasson. "We're really making a difference in the lives of children. We're giving them a chance to live as children, and grow up healthy. There's nothing more satisfying than that."

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Foreign Minister maintains vigorous backing of Israel

Peter MacKay receives enthusiastic response at UJA Federation dinner

By HOWARD ENGLISH
UJA Federation

It would have been difficult for Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peter MacKay, to find a more receptive audience.

MacKay, the keynote speaker at UJA Federation's recent Major Gifts Dinner received a standing ovation even before his address started to more than 600 leading UJA Federation donors.

In his speech, MacKay said that Canada's support for Israel – which Major Gifts Dinner co-chair Jill Goldberg-Reitman called "unparalleled in recent Canadian history" – was a matter of putting the government's principles into practice.

MacKay acknowledged criticism of the government's solidarity with Israel during this summer's war with Hezbollah, but he asserted that neutrality would have been tantamount to saying that "we don't care if Israel exists."

"Israel doesn't need anyone's permission to exist. It has the right to defend itself, backed by international law," said MacKay.

He also referred to threats of extremism shared by both Israel and Canada. "An assault on Israel is an assault on Canadian values," declared MacKay, who bolstered his case with an historical overview.

"Canadians turned back the tide of fanatics, fascists and Nazis before and we stand ready to do it again," he said. "Throughout history, no people have suffered more than the Jewish people."

However, MacKay also called for a "fair and just resolution" to the situation facing the Palestinians based on a two state solution.

In addition to hearing MacKay, dinner participants received an update on UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, which exceeds $70 million with $19 million slated for northern Israel's emergency needs.

"The war may have ended, but for many northern Israelis, the struggle to recover has only begun," said Ariella Rohringer, who is chairing the campaign with Fred Waks.

"UJA Federation has been there from the beginning and we will not leave until the job is done," Waks added.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peter MacKay, addresses 600 donors at UJA Federation's recent Major Gifts Dinner.

(l-r) Chairs of the Major Gifts Dinner Ted Saskin and Jill Goldberg-Reitman share a smile with chairs of UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, Fred Waks and Ariella Rohringer. (Photos by Jen Arron).

Kiryat Shmona residents grateful for the kindness of strangers

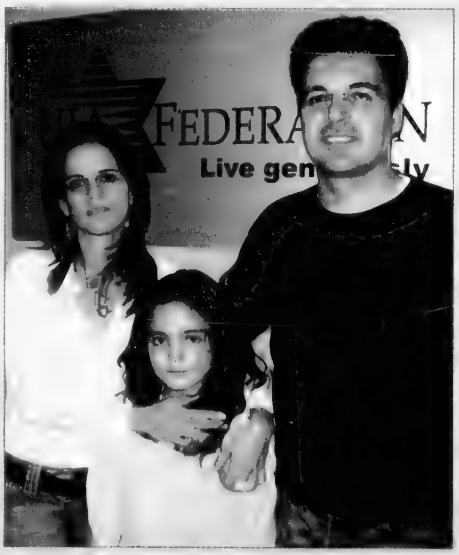
By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA Federation

After spending three months as guests in other people's homes or a series of motel rooms, Karnit and Yigal Amsalem are happy to once again sleep on their own mattresses, even thought they're on the floor. The Amsalems' house in Kiryat Shmona was destroyed this past summer by a Hezbollah rocket, and while they are now settled in a new home and stability is slowly returning to their lives, the effects of the ordeal remain evident. Their four children are "much less patient, much more tense," said Yigal, in an interview with *Jewish Toronto*.

The Amsalems left Kiryat Shmona shortly after the first katyusha hit. Taking only enough clothing for two days, they moved from place to place, staying with family and strangers. But relocating every few days was undermining the children's sense of security. "Where are we going to sleep tonight?" was a regular question which made Yigal and Karnit, who told her story at UJA Federation's recent Major Gifts Dinner, feel powerless as parents.

Their autistic son Ofek's difficulty with change compounded the challenge. So, they headed to Eilat hoping for a week of relaxation, but instead, their lives turned further inside-out when a neighbour called to tell them their home had been destroyed. "I didn't believe it," remembered Karnit. "I said to myself, 'No, it's not true. It can't be.' We always thought it cannot happen to us."

The nightmare that followed – sifting through the dusty mess to salvage what they could - crowding six people into two hotel rooms with nowhere to do homework or play with friends – was made bearable only by the kindness and generosity of others.



Karnit Amsalem poses in the Lipa Green Building for Jewish Community Services along with husband Yigal and daughter Sahar.

"The people from Toronto, from Canada, from all over the world, and from Israel itself, gave help in an amazing way. It's unprecedented, I think," said Yigal. "They were the comfort," added Karnit. "You know there is someone who feels empathy for what you've been through. There were so many people in Kiryat Shmona and the area who needed so many things and the fact that there is someone so far away who doesn't really have to help – but wanted to – that was something that warmed our hearts."

Despite the trauma of losing their home, however, the Amsalems refuse to give up on the north and Kiryat Shmona, the city in which they were both born.

"It's our place. We know everyone. We know every tree. We know every road, and everyone knows us. It's like a big family," said Yigal, as Karnit nodded in agreement. "It's like when you have a child," she said. "It doesn't matter who he or she is, what they have and what they don't – that's your child and you love him or her, and this is our place and we love it."

Canadian Idol judge readies for Zareinu benefit

Shayna Markin, a non-verbal 11-year-old, demonstrates her brand new state-of-the-art touch screen voice output "talking" communication device to *Canadian Idol* judge Zack Werner, during a recent tour of Toronto's Zareinu Educational Centre. Looking on is Dina Glossman-Melnik, an applied behavioral therapist. Werner will be hosting *An Evening of Fashion & Song - Miracles* to benefit Zareinu, Canada's only Jewish school for physically or mentally challenged children, on Tuesday, November 28 at the Paramount Conference & Event Venue in Vaughan. For tickets and more information call 416.787.2933.

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JNF Negev Dinner honorees a dynamic couple

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Philanthropists Fran and Edward Sonshine, the 2006 honorees at the Jewish National Fund's annual Negev Dinner in Toronto, are a dynamic duo.

Eddie, as he is known in the community, is a self-made business entrepreneur, the CEO of RioCan Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT). Under his leadership, the company has grown from an asset base of under $100 million to its current status with a total enterprise value in excess of $7 billion, the largest REIT in Canada.

Fran is a professional volunteer who has dedicated her life to helping others. From volunteering to stuff envelopes for Hadassah-WIZO, she became active in the organization locally and nationally. A role model for volunteerism, she is now the chair of Baycrest Centre's board of directors and a past chair of the Baycrest Foundation.

Fran and Edward Sonshine

JNF Toronto president Ron Hoffman says the Sonshines are "the finest couple I have ever met. They embody all the values and virtues that we would hope our leaders would have. Their generosity is unlimited."

"We are so pleased to be honouring two people who are leading citizens in our community," says Ben Prossin, JNF's national executive director. "They are wonderful examples of leadership, yet possess a sense of humility."

But with all their other activities, the energetic and goal-oriented couple agree that family is their first priority and speak with pride about their children and their four grandchildren, Coby, Rachel, Jonah and Bayley.

The Sonshines, both children of Holocaust survivors, will be fêted at the Negev Dinner in recognition of their excellence in communal leadership and dedication to Israel on Sunday, Nov. 26, at the Sheraton Centre.

The proceeds of this year's Negev Dinner campaign will go towards the restoration and conservation of Beit Eshel in Be'er Sheva.

The Edward and Fran Sonshine Beit Eshel Historical Site Restoration will be a centre for education in heritage and environment and a place for leisure time activities.

The Sonshines were reluctant honorees. "We have been honoured, but we do not like to impose on friends," says Fran. "When we went to Israel in the summer of 2005, we met with the Keren Kayemet people and saw their goals and projects. We were convinced to accept. We want to set an example for others and know the campaign will raise a lot of money for Israel this year."

Married 38 years, Eddie and Fran Sonshine have successfully melded their worlds.

In an interview, Fran described Eddie: "He is the best – a true *gute neshome* who always has time for everyone, family, extended family and the community."

And Eddie describes his wife as the Energizer Bunny. "I couldn't have had the time or peace of mind to accomplish what I have without her complete support.

"Our children and grandchildren come for dinner every Friday night," he adds. "And we believe that it is important to know where you come from."

"We came from the ashes of the Holocaust," Fran says, "losing most of our families. Our story is the story of the 20th-century Jew. The horrors of war, immigrants, no family or support system, and here we are."

Eddie adds, "We are extremely fortunate and we are very grateful."

Fran's parents, Frida and Lebo Lebovici, were Holocaust survivors from Romania who met after the war. Ardent Zionists, her parents were smuggled onto a boat to Palestine. The boat was stopped and the passengers were sent to a displaced persons camp on Cyprus. Fran was born there.

In 1947, when Fran was three months old, the family was allowed to go to Palestine where her father was active in the 1948 War of Independence. The family regretfully moved to Canada in 1952.

Eddie's parent's, Ben and Helen Sonshine, were born in Poland and were in several camps during the war. After the war, they were sent to Bergen-Belsen, then to a displaced persons' camp in Germany, where Eddie was born. His mother wanted to go to Israel but was convinced by her husband in 1949 to come to Canada where he had cousins.

Eddie was 16 and Fran 15 when they met at an event run by AZA, a BBYO group for teens. When they married, Eddie still had two years of law school, and Fran became the breadwinner. Eddie graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto in 1970 and began his law career at Fogler Rubinoff. He became a partner within three years and helped to grow the firm from eight lawyers to more than 50.

After 15 years, Eddie left the practice and entered the business world. In the late 1980s and '90s, he was busy growing Counsel Property Corporation, and after 1989, winding it down.

In 1993, Eddie converted a small, struggling real estate mutual fund into one of Canada's first REITs. He took it public at the beginning of 1994, and by 1995, it had become RioCan. His mercurial rise in the business world is legendary.

Fran, a former elementary school teacher, has devoted her life to family and volunteer work, primarily in the Jewish community. Currently a national honorary vice-president of Toronto Hadassah-WIZO, she has contributed her talents to numerous organizations, including Mount Sinai Hospital, UJA Federation of Toronto's Jewish Foundation and CIJA (Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy).

She has helped raise funds for causes ranging from Aish HaTorah to the 1990 Baycrest Women's Auxiliary Gala and the 1999 Brazilian Ball, which raised $1.5 million for Baycrest.

Along with chairing conferences, conventions and serving as a mission leader to Israel, Fran has travelled across Canada as a Leadership Trainer.

In addition to his business success, Eddie is, among other communal activities, a past chair of the United Jewish Appeal Campaign in Toronto and currently serves as chair of the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation, the State of Israel Bonds Organization of Canada and the Real Estate Division of the United Way.

For more information, call Lil Jacobson at 416-638-7200, ext. 27, or e-mail liljacobson@jnf-canada.org.

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PROJECT NORTHERN RECOVERY

A Time to Rebuild Lives

photo taken from video image

The ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah may be three months old, but for Michael and Leah Avshalom, the war has left a painful, lasting wound.

After the war had been raging for three weeks, the recently married Michael and Leah left the home that Michael had spent 10 years building in northern Rosh Pina for a car ride to check on the kibbutz pool where he worked.

Suddenly, on the quiet road, the couple heard a huge boom. It was a katyusha rocket falling in front of their car. In a split second, Michael had lost half of his leg. "I was in complete shock," says Leah, who was physically unscathed.

Today, Michael is unable to walk and incapable of working. It will take months before the bones in his leg even begin to heal.

Because of people like Michael and Leah, **UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007** is supporting a reinvigorated Fund for Victims of Terror, originally established during the intifada.

Project Northern Recovery, the next phase of **UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign**, is also providing funds for trauma counseling, loans for small businesses on the brink of bankruptcy, and a new initiative encouraging northern families to stay in the area.

As Leah and Michael know so well, the emergency facing northern Israel isfar from over and critical needs remain.

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How many years have Judy & David performed their Chanukah concert?
(Hint: the answer can be found in their advertisement printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)
All correct answers received by 3 p.m. on Monday, November 27 are eligible. The winning entries will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at The CJN offices on Tuesday, November 28, at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. One entry per person. The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.
Send your response to: Judy & David Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont M3B 3K4 or fax to: 416-391-0949
Employees and family members of The CJN, City Playhouse and Isabel Bader Theatre are not eligible to enter.

Jewish Life

A booklet of memory

From the editor's desk

Remembering – for its own sake and for the sake of taking action – has always been the current on which Jewish life has moved inexorably forward. Through centuries and millennia, trials and tribulations, the transmission from one generation to the next of the memory of our history has been the guarantor of Jewish survival.

Indeed, memory is also the instrument that guarantees the survival of the values, symbols and governing structures of our wider society, of all wider societies. At school, in the home and in the institutions of authority, those values are taught, reinforced, nurtured and ultimately cherished.

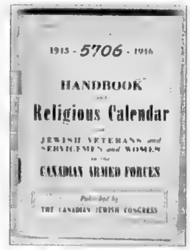
That is why the commemoration of Remembrance Day is so vital for the well-being and perpetuation of society.

Every individual who lives in Canada must acknowledge an almost ineffable but nevertheless deeply abiding moral debt to the soldiers who have fought and died for Canada and who continue to this day to fight and die under the colours of the Canadian flag.

These words were written mere hours after communities around the country formally marked Remembrance Day. Men and women in uniform. Men, women and children in civilian garb. Hymns of consolation. Words, perhaps, of inspiration. Tears. Stoicism. It is among the most poignantly human of our nation's – indeed any nation's – national ceremonies. For we see each other at our most emotionally vulnerable, and yet we resolve to help each other. In remembering the individuals who fought, who fell fighting and still fight today, we also remember the goodness that must flow through all our national purposes.

Leonard Levy of Toronto, a veteran of World War II, lent *The CJN* a tiny treasure, a small book whose pages are a shrine of memory, especially at this time of the year. They cannot help but steer the reader reverentially through the act of remembering.

The Handbook and Religious Calendar for Jewish Veterans and Servicemen and Women in the Canadian Armed Forces was published by Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) in August 1945, and was intended to be distributed in time for the High Holy Days of 5706. It is a profoundly remarkable resource of information about the Jews of Canada and of the broader Jewish world. It is also a testament, at many levels, to the nationally inclusive and broadly effective institution under which the wide swath of Canadian Jewry was organized in 1945 and, more tellingly, to the patently obvious concern and respect that flowed for one another as a community from coast to coast.



Space does not permit listing all the sections in the 112-page booklet. It is a veritable library unto itself. I will therefore reproduce only samplings of parts of the historic and other significant materials that its pages contain.

The New Year's Message from the CJC national president, Samuel Bronfman, is the opening text. It is a marvel of literate and noble prose: "It is with solemn thankfulness that Canadian Jewry, for the first time in more than a decade of arduous struggle and sacrifice, now greets a New Year which leads on to the calmer, though no less challenging paths of peace… The cherished ideals of humanity have been preserved…

"Nor is Canadian Jewry, in its gratitude for victory, at all unmindful at what cost the salvation of mankind was won.

"Surely we owe it to their memory [millions who perished] that the world they died to make – a world of freedom and equality – should now move from promise to fulfilment."

After Bronfman's statement, there are statements of greeting from political and military dignitaries, the upcoming year's Jewish calendar with various calendar notes and explanations, and then an essay on *Canada's Jews and the War Effort*.

"Jewish fighting men have taken part in every campaign in which the dominion forces have been engaged.

"A report… issued by the CJC, points out that 'in 31 cities and towns throughout Canada, every one of the Jewish men of military age is in the services.' There is scarcely a Jewish home which has not given of its best to the military services and there are such as Rabbi Mazer of Ottawa who has seven sons in the armed forces, the Smiths of Ottawa, the Spiegelmans of Toronto, the Olfmans of Kamsack and the Kushners of Winnipeg who have five men in uniform.

"The Department of National Defence does not publish statistics on the racial or religious distribution of the men in the services… but the Bureau of War Records has verified the names of 16,559 Jewish men and women who served in the Canadian combat services as of July 19, 1945.

"Statistics on casualties among Jewish servicemen are as incomplete and as conservative as the figures on enlistments. Nevertheless, the Bureau of War Records listed 776 casualties… Of the total, 201 have been killed, 50 died, 80 are presumed dead, 70 are missing…"

"One hundred and twenty-two Jews… have received awards or decorations during the present conflict."

The booklet then lists all of them.

The booklet also contains essays on *World Jewry in the War Against the Axis*, and *The Past Year in Canadian Jewry*.

Appropriately, the last page is the *Yizkor* prayer, reminding us of the pre-eminent purpose of the booklet.

-MBD

A 'birthright' for adults?

Ideas on Identity

By Rabbi Elyse Goldstein

I'm back from the first of my three Kolel Learning Expeditions to Israel for 2006-07, and my reactions are much the same as they are every time I lead a group to Israel. There is always something new to see and more extraordinary people to meet. There is always a group bonding experience and good food. The Shabbat experience was tremendously spiritual, and the shopping was fabulous.

But every trip reinforces another, deeper feeling, and it is much more uncomfortable than even the 12-hour flight. Each time I return, I remember that most unaffiliated Jews have little or no relationship to Israel, and little or no desire to go. Israel does not draw them in; they don't plan trips, and they need to be convinced that it is not only safe, but also fun.

We who are active in Jewish life in some way (and if you are reading *The CJN*, you are, trust me, already there, or at least close) find it easy to say people should go to Israel even in difficult times. We choose Israel over Florida or the Caribbean. But this is not the case with people on the margins of involvement.

The pride in Israel we felt growing up in the '60s and '70s is ancient history to a lot of people today. It's too long ago and there have been been too many years, too much politics, too many wars and terrorist bombs, too many travel advisories, too many uncomfortable questions around the water-cooler at work.

How do we engage those who have not felt any connection to Israel, who have not visited, and who do not feel the ancient tie, the primal calling to a place that seems so far away? How do I begin to explain the feeling of walking in the footsteps of your ancestors? How do I describe the smell of Jerusalem on a Friday afternoon? How do I share the thrill of biblical quotations on the buses telling you to give up your seat to the elderly? How do we do any of these things with Jews who feel disengaged from the whole enterprise of Israel and even more disengaged from Jewish life here at home?

So I have an idea, but it costs too much. For years, I have dreamed of a "birthright"-type program for unaffiliated adults. Yes – a free trip for every adult who is still uninvolved with the Jewish community. And a free trip for every "new Jew" who converts to Judaism. The only cost would be a promise of some future involvement in a Jewish institution of some sort. The trip would be a sort of "welcome home" gift. I can guarantee as dramatic a result as with the kids who go on birthright. Maybe even more dramatic, as those who participated begin to spread the word of Israel's spiritual beauty, and their new connection to it, at work and at home.

In the meantime, I will continue to lead groups for those who can afford it and already have the inclination to go, but I'm preaching to the choir. There are still a whole lot of people who don't know the tune, and I sure wish I could teach it to them.

Jewish Life

Taxing trusts

Money Matters

By Rabbi Jay Kelman CA

The economic news of the past week has focused on the new rules regarding the taxation of income trusts. No longer will these popular vehicles be able to distribute their earnings tax free, and they will now be treated like all other corporations paying taxes on earnings. While Canadians debate the impact and appropriateness of such reversal of government policy, what might Jewish ethics say about this?

Issues of tax policy have long engendered much debate and disagreement. While it is only in our generation that we have a Jewish state faced with such questions, in reality, Jewish communities in the pre-modern period also had to constantly grapple with these issues.

Jews granted autonomy would collect taxes to fund Jewish communal life as well as paying taxes to the non-Jewish governments for the right of residence. Yet surprisingly, there is relatively little in our sources outlining a systematic approach to the levying of the tax burden.

Jewish law granted much latitude to design a tax system based on local conditions. This is readily understandable, as Jewish monetary law operates on a different system than does "religious" or even criminal law. Whereas the latter is a fixed and potentially rigid system of law – allowing for interpretation only – the former can be abrogated and modified with the agreement of those involved. For example, though the Torah obligates an employer to pay a worker every day, the employee may waive his right to such prompt payment.

On a communal level, an even more powerful mechanism is in place – *hefker beit din din hefker* – the courts may declare all monies ownerless and thus at the mercy of the government to do with as it pleases. This power must be used to promote communal welfare and not to enrich the state or certain members of the state. Thus, in essence, any taxes declared by a legitimate government, Jewish or non-Jewish, are morally legitimate.

What Jewish law demands, however, is that the taxes be fair and consistently applied. Discriminatory taxes are immoral taxes. While such discriminatory taxes are extremely rare in the democratic societies of the western world, we who reside in Ontario are witness to one such immoral tax policy. While a government has the right to fund only a public school education system, it does not have the moral or even legal (at least from a Jewish perspective) right to fund one religious system to the exclusion of others.

While many may argue about the definition of fair taxes, non-discriminatory tax policies of a democratically elected government, almost by definition, would meet the fairness criterion. Nonetheless, Jewish teaching would seem to indicate that fairness is best achieved by minimizing the numbers of special exemptions, credits, etc. in the tax system. The present tax code, with its myriad of rules, exceptions and exceptions to exceptions, while absolutely binding, runs the risk of potentially unfair treatment of certain segments of the population.

A Jewish tax system should try to eliminate differing rules for different sectors. Thus, equalizing the tax treatment of investment trusts and corporations would appear to be the proper thing to do. One may even argue that Jewish values might tend to look favourably on a flat tax system with all forms of income being taxed at a similar rate. This would be similar to our charity obligations where, with exceptions for the extremely poor and extremely wealthy, one is expected to donate between 10 and 20 per cent of one's earnings, regardless of what they may be. Determining what that rate might be would be decided based on the priorities and values that society would like to promote.

Contact Rabbi Jay Kelman at www.toruhinmotion.org.

Jewish war veterans, Pt. 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we looked at the sites that honour Jewish soldiers from Canada and the United States. Today, we continue our look at Jewish veterans from armies around the world.

Long before the establishment of the State of Israel, Jewish soldiers in Palestine volunteered to do their part in World War I and World War II. The Jewish Legion and the Zion Mule Corps were British army battalions that fought in Palestine in World War I against the Ottoman Empire. The legion saw action in June 1918 in the Jordan Valley. Notable legion members include Gershon Agron, mayor of Jerusalem, and David Grün, later known as David Ben-Gurion. **[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Legion]**

When war struck Europe again, the Jewish community in the British Mandate of Palestine lobbied to set up a Jewish fighting unit as part of the British army. The Jewish Brigade was formed in September 1944 and included 5,000 Jewish volunteers from Palestine. **[www.veterans.org.il/?p=2]** (I have previously focused on Yom Hazikaron, the day of remembrance for Israel's fallen soldiers. **[http://tinyurl.com/ye7cjb]**)

Although they did not belong to a national army, I want to acknowledge the Jewish partisans who fought during World War II. The Jewish Partisan Education Foundation has created a marvellous site to honour the 30,000 Jews who joined hundreds of thousands of non-Jewish partisans to fight the Nazis through both physical resistance and what the site calls "spiritual resistance." **[www.jewishpartisans.org/]**

In Britain, the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women had its origins in 1921 with the creation of the League of Old Judeans. This coming Nov. 19, the association is planning its 72nd annual remembrance ceremony and parade at the Cenotaph in Whitehall with the participation of British Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks. **[www.ajex.org.uk/]**

In France, l'Association des Anciens Combattants et Engagés Volontaires Juifs was created in 1953. It has lobbied for veterans' rights, served as a social network for veterans and has urged Jewish veterans to publicize their role in defending their nation. The site has extensive photo galleries, including photographs of a joint memorial ceremony with British veterans at the Arc de Triomphe. **[www.aacevj.fr/]**

In Australia, I found several moving articles about Sir John Monash whom the *Australian Jewish News* calls "an Australian military icon and one of Australia's greatest Jews." Praised for his superior tactical skills, "Monash masterminded the decisive 1918 offensive on Amiens, which ushered in the Battle of the Somme and helped break Germany's Hindenburg Line, turning the tide for the Allies." His home city of Melbourne has a university and a highway for him, and Monash appears on the Australian $100 bill. **[http://tinyurl.com/yh8vta]**

The International Council of Jewish War Veterans was established in 1976 and represents Jewish veterans from around the world. **[www.icjwv.org/]** You can read more about the role of Jewish soldiers in South Africa **[http://tinyurl.com/yaz3kc]** and in European armies during World War II **[http://tinyurl.com/kx2h8]** including Russia **[http://tinyurl.com/jd663]** and Poland. **[http://tinyurl.com/yf7c76]**

In 1985, Yad Vashem erected a memorial to the approximately 1.5 million Jews who fought against the Nazis. The monument is formed by six blocks whose edges are arranged to create a Star of David. The Star is dissected by a large blade that symbolizes the opposition to the Nazis. The monument bears the following inscription in several languages: "Glory be to the Jewish soldiers and partisans who fought against Nazi Germany." **[http://tinyurl.com/fc2yh]**

And this summer, the Jewish National Fund announced construction of a Wall of Honor where friends and family can purchase a plaque "to honour a Jewish soldier who served or serves in the military of any country… [and] to show the world Jews' courage, heroism and sacrifice through their contributions to armed forces throughout the world and throughout time." The Wall of Honor will be situated at Jerusalem's Ammunition Hill, site of a key battle in the 1967 Six Day War that led to the city's reunification. The wall is scheduled to be unveiled in May 2007. **[http://tinyurl.com/yewofa]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Centenarian maintains strong sense of humor

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Helen Weinberg must have had many people wish her life until 120, because she's closing in on the mark.

Last Oct. 22 the feisty and sharp bubbie of 22 grandchildren and great-grandchildren turned 100.

When asked what she did to get this far, Weinberg doesn't hesitate, "I had a lot of sex. It makes me live longer," she said. Then she giggled mischievously, her sense of humour well intact.

Sitting nearby, her 52-year-old granddaughter Elaine and daughter-in-law Betty Geiger shook their heads, laughing.

"She's always like this," Elaine said.

"I would have more [sex], only I can't find anybody," countered Weinberg.

Now residing at Kensington Place retirement residence in Toronto, Weinberg led a globetrotting life.

Her survival skills were forged early in life. She remembers her family fleeing their shtetl of Ozarow, Poland, in 1915 as it was razed to the ground by the Russian army during World War I.

They returned one week later to rebuild their home.

She immigrated to Toronto from Ozarow in 1929, reuniting with her husband, Sam, who had come over to find fortune as a shoe repairman.

"I guess he decided to [sponsor] me here because he couldn't find anyone prettier to marry," Weinberg said, laughing.

Once here, Weinberg did everything she could to ensure her family's well being.

She vowed to sponsor her remaining nine family members in Poland over to America no matter what it took. And she succeeded, working tirelessly to save for their eventual reunion in Canada soon after.

Though she didn't know it at the time, her efforts spared her immediate family from the scourge of the Nazis, who would send most of Ozarow's Jews to Treblinka.

Weinberg worked for Tip Top Tailors in the late 1930s as an expert seamstress before becoming an entrepreneur.

In a time when women were scoffed at for doing anything outside the kitchen, she thrived on business.

With an eye for a good deal, Weinberg became an astute real estate negotiator, buying and selling properties in Toronto and Los Angeles throughout her younger years.

"I loved being in business," said Weinberg. "I still miss it."

Weinberg is also a dual citizen, having lived in the United States for 20 years, dividing her time between Los Angeles and Miami.

After Sam died in 1986, she returned to Canada because she felt it was her real home, "the place where I came first," she said.

Weinberg remarried briefly in 1994.

Of her many achievements over the years, one thing stands out above the rest: her children.

"The education that I gave them… that's my greatest accomplishment," she said.

Helen Weinberg holds court at Kensington Place retirement residence. From left are Weinberg's granddaughter, Elaine; Weinberg's caregiver, Joyce Kerr; Weinberg; and Weinberg's daughter-in-law, Betty Geiger. [Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf photo] Inset: Helen Weinberg in 1925 at the age of 19.

She had four children, three sons and one daughter. Her daughter, Shirley, succumbed to pneumonia at the age of four.

Her sons Norman, Stanley and Jack, an electro-chemist, inventor and businessman respectively, all went on to successful careers.

Though her husband and Jack both passed away 20 years ago, Weinberg's indomitable spirit persists and brings joy to others.

Up until two years ago she was still living independently, cooking, cleaning and entertaining at her home. But in 2004 the family decided it would be best for Helen to be cared for.

Joyce Kerr, Weinberg's caregiver, marvelled at the senior's joie de vivre.

"She cracks me up," said Kerr. "When I'm feeling down, I can count on her to make a joke. You never know what she'll say."

Weinberg plays bingo, watches movies and enjoys the general entertainment provided at her retirement home. But true to her impish spirit, one of her biggest thrills remains shocking her physician.

"I always tell the doctor I feel OK, but I think I'm pregnant," she said.

May she live to 120.

CORRECTION

BAKED WRAPPED TILAPIA

Topping: 1" cube fresh gingerroot, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, peeled, finely chopped
2 green onions (green part only), finely chopped
1 c finely chopped cilantro
2 tbsp safflower oil
Dash of toasted sesame oil
Dash of soy sauce
4 tsp dark maple syrup

Tilapia: 4 fillets fresh tilapia
unbleached parchment paper

Preheat oven to 400°F. Combine all topping ingredients in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Place fillets individually on sheets of parchment paper; divide topping evenly among them, spreading it over the top. Fold each parchment sheet over fillet to form a packet. Place with folds down, on baking sheet; bake 25-30 min.

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MAZEL-TOV TO OUR 2006 WOMAN OF VALOUR HONOUREES

Top image: Rebecca Grafstein, Carole Grafstein
Bottom image: Corinne Goodbaum, Jana Goodbaum, Elise Kalles

2006 Woman of Valour Honourees: Pauline Menkes, Elise Kalles, Carole Grafstein

Top image: Pauline & Murray Menkes
Bottom image: In the tent

A CELEBRATION OF TORONTO'S FINEST WOMAN

Shawna Spiegelman
FSWC-Events Coordinator

The scene at the recent Woman of Valour Luncheon in Toronto—a fundraiser for the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies—was like a scene at a high profile fashion show. Hosted at Debbie & Warren Kimel's fabulous home, almost four hundred people, mostly woman, comfortably packed the stunning tent. The guests enjoyed an elegant lunch while honouring the three remarkable and accomplished 2006 Woman of Valour Honourees; Carole Grafstein, Elise Kalles and Pauline Menkes. The honourees spoke about what it means to them to be a Woman of Valour.

Event Co-chairs Anna Koffler and Helene Korn welcomed Toronto's finest woman to this charity event and thanked Committee Chair, Barb Silverberg. Gord Martineau, City TV Anchor hosted the celebration. 2006 Woman of Valour keynote speaker, Bonnie Fuller, delivered a speech that emphasized the important work of the late Simon Wiesenthal. Malka Green, who sits on the Wiesenthal Canadian Board of Directors, thanked Bonnie Fuller for her delightful speech.

"Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies carries out the work of the Wiesenthal Center in Canada by bringing antisemitism, bigotry, racial hatred and ethnic intolerance to the attention of the Canadian Government, the public and the media," explained Avi Benlolo, Canadian FSWC President & CEO.

The event raised more than $230 thousand for the work of FSWC.

Reserve your tickets now for the November 29th screening of The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal.

We thank the following sponsors who participated in the 2006 Woman of Valour Luncheon and who have generously supported Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

A Very Special Thanks to Debbie & Warren Kimel for hosting the 2006 Woman of Valour Luncheon.

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Helene Korn (Event Co-Chair), Debbie Kimel, Anna Koffler (Event Co-Chair)

Top row: Shawna Spiegelman, Avi Benlolo, Carole Grafstein, Elise Kalles, Gord Martineau, Pauline Menkes, Bonnie Fuller, Barb Silverberg
Bottom row: Helene Korn & Anna Koffler

Gord Martineau

Bonnie Fuller

Malka Green, Avi Benlolo, Bonnie Fuller

Holocaust Education Week

U.S. leaders blamed for failure to save more Jews

By RON CSILLAG
Special to The CJN

A timid, frightened and ego-driven Jewish leadership of the day must share blame with an uncaring government for the United States' failure to save more Jews during World War II, a leading American authority said last week.

Fear of alienating then-U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt and of stoking more anti-Semitism handcuffed Jewish leaders from doing more to rescue European Jews, author Rafael Medoff told an audience at Beth Avraham Joseph of Toronto Congregation as part of Holocaust Education Week.

Medoff's appearance also marked this year's reissue of *The Scared and the Doomed – the Jewish Establishment vs. the Six Million*, journalist Myer Nurenberger's 1985 book, which castigated war-era American Jewish leaders as unable to put aside their differences and turf wars to work together and pressure Washington to do more to save Jews.

The Polish-born Nurenberger, who founded *The CJN* in 1960, had been a newspaperman in prewar Belgium and was "shocked" by the support Adolf Hitler enjoyed among the working class, Medoff related. A disillusioned Nurenberger immigrated to the United States in 1939 and became a writer for the Yiddish press in New York.

Nurenberger saw no conflict in participating in, as well as covering, rallies in support of Europe's Jews. "His loyalties as a Jew drove him," said Medoff, director of the Washington, D.C.-based David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies and author of seven books on the Holocaust, Zionism and U.S. Jewry.

> ***'Jewish leaders were scared of antagonizing the president and stirring up more anti-Semitism'***

Medoff drew an alarming picture of both American Jewish leaders and an indifferent government of the day.

In August 1942, the respected and influential Rabbi Stephen Wise received a now-famous telegram from Gerhart Riegner, the World Jewish Congress representative in Switzerland, warning of the Nazis' plans to exterminate Jews.

The U.S. administration tried to prevent Wise from receiving the message. "Roosevelt regarded the plight of Jews as a minor part of the war," Medoff said.

But the telegram did reach Rabbi Wise, who alerted the State Department. Later, the rabbi said Washington needed more time to assess the situation, Medoff noted.

The following month, U.S. Jewish leaders met in New York to discuss another telegram, this one detailing the mass deportations and murder of 100,000 Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto. Again, Rabbi Wise said nothing should be done until the State Department acted.

"Jewish leaders like [Rabbi] Wise were scared of antagonizing the president and of stirring up more anti-Semitism," Medoff said. "Some leaders wanted to keep a low profile."

They were also caught up in a mindset of "who will lead? Who gets the applause?" Medoff stated. In the end, "the silence of the Jewish leadership left a vacuum."

The void was filled by Peter Bergson, born Hillel Kook, a militant Revisionist Zionist emissary from Palestine to the United States, and outspoken advocate for the rescue of European Jewry. Nurenberger quickly became part of the so-called Bergson Group.

The no-nonsense Bergson "had his priorities straight," Medoff said. "It's not hard to see why Nurenberger was drawn to this group. These were Jews who were not scared."

The Bergson Group lobbied unabashedly on several fronts. Its primary goal was to mobilize support for the Irgun, the military arm of Ze'ev Jabotinsky's Revisionist Zionist movement. But it also presented the U.S. government with detailed plans on how European Jews could be rescued, "shattering the myth that the only way to save Jews was by winning the war," Medoff said.

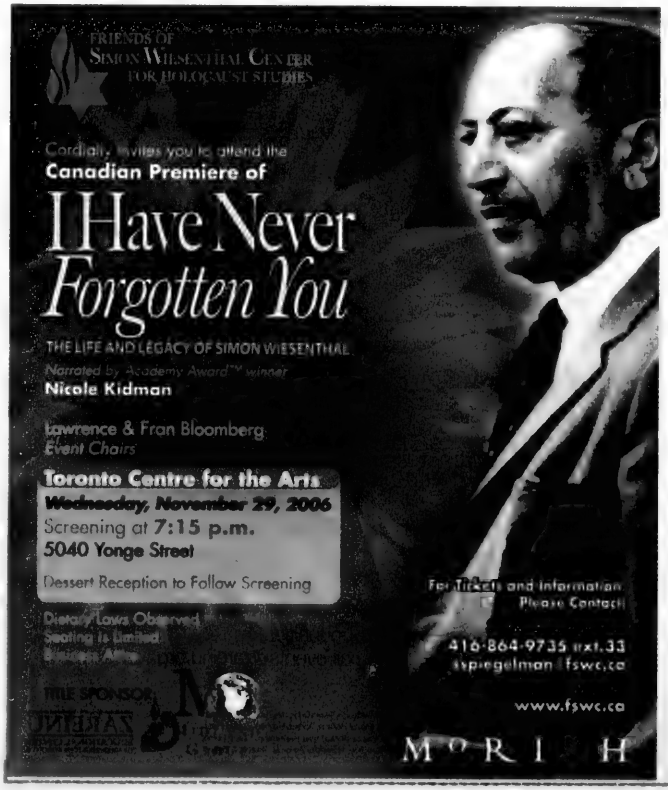
The group's most effective tactic was taking out 200 large advertisements in U.S. newspapers between 1941 and 1945 that drew much attention to the plight of Europe's Jews. It also helped organize, with help from Hollywood stars such as Eddie Cantor and Ben Hecht, a dramatic pageant, *We Will Never Die*, that described the Nazi slaughter of Jews in painful detail. It was seen by 100,000 Americans.

In late 1943, the Bergson advocates implored Roosevelt to establish a special office for war refugees. In January 1944, the president unilaterally set up the U.S. War Refugee Board "as a gesture," according to Medoff, and gave it almost no funding.

Nevertheless, the board "played a central role" in rescuing at least 200,000 European Jews through evacuations and diplomatic pressure. Medoff quoted Nurenberger's dissatisfied reaction: "It was six million too late." Even so, the Bergson Group "changed policy." And Nurenberger, who died in 2001 in Toronto, "had qualities all too lacking in Jewish leadership today."

Nurenberger's book notes that the reissue was made possible with support from Sabina Citron, whose complaints led to the prosecution of Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel in the 1980s.

Medoff was introduced by Nurenberger's daughter, Atara Beck.



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Lecturer faults media coverage of genocide

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Amanda Grzyb switched on an overhead projector and displayed one of her slides. It was chosen, she said, to illustrate the way people in the West tend to "look away" from genocide.

The slide, a copy of a page from a 1994 issue of the *Globe and Mail*, highlighted a news story from Rwanda with the headline, "UN leaving thousands to die." On the same page, Grzyb pointed out, was an advertisement for Thomas Keneally's *Schindler's List*, the book that inspired the hit movie about the Nazis' destruction of the Jews and Oscar Schindler's efforts to save his Jewish workers.

The juxtaposition of the two items shows that "again and again, the West does not protect victims or intervene to prevent genocide," she said.

Grzyb, a lecturer in the faculty of information and media studies at the University of Western Ontario, said that even today, the government of Sudan is assisting a "genocide in slow motion" in its western region of Darfur, where as many as 400,000 have already been killed and two to three million displaced.

"The situation is absolutely dire at this point in terms of the need for international intervention," she said. "Why have we been bystanders to genocide again and again?"

Grzyb, an instructor at the Romeo Dallaire Genocide Institute, was addressing a gathering at Ryerson University on the topic Media, Genocide and Public Responsibility. Her presentation was part of the 26th annual Holocaust Education Week.

Grzyb asserted that the "media can be a tool for inciting and facilitating genocide and a tool for genocide prevention and intervention." She compared media treatments of the Holocaust and the Rwandan genocide, showing how during the run-up to both events, the media in Germany and Rwanda demonized Jews and Tutsis, respectively, setting the stage for their murder.

As early as June 1942, the *New York Times* reported that 700,000 Jews had been killed in shootings, concentration camps and gas chambers, she said. Throughout the war, the *Times* reported practically every other day on the genocide, yet the stories were often buried in the middle of the paper. There were never lead stories or editorials about the issue and most often, the stories didn't even refer to the Nazis' victims as Jews.

Using the *Globe and Mail* to illustrate coverage of the Rwanda genocide, Grzyb said the paper generally reported on the African nation in its World in Brief section and it usually used wire stories, not its own reports.

While the slaughter was going on, the longest story on Rwanda was a travel piece that featured the country's mountain gorillas. *Globe* stories also focused on the foreign evacuation at the outset of the killings while downplaying the actual murders.

It also wrongly framed the story in terms of tribal warfare, she added.

Grzyb suggested the mainstream media declined to run stories about the Rwandan slaughter, while TV news in particular aimed its coverage at "the lowest common denominator" – focusing on the O.J. Simpson case and the Tonya Harding controversy instead.

She laid some of the blame for that on the public, which ate up the celebrity-focused coverage. The public, she continued, never communicated to the poll-sensitive White House there was any widespread concern about Rwanda.

Grzyb argued that for both the Holocaust and Rwanda, media coverage was inadequate, lacked proper historical context and didn't focus on the important events taking place.

She said the failure of the mainstream media to properly cover these stories has led activist groups to turn to the Internet as an alternative. People today get their information from blogs (web journals), YouTube and other Internet resources, she said.

Documentary tells little-known story

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A large number of Jews are now living and flourishing in Venezuela, thanks to the efforts, 67 years ago, of Isack Kohn, then president of the Jewish community, says his daughter Dr. Kia Kohn de Merenfeld.

Kohn de Merenfeld spoke at Temple Sinai as part of Holocaust Education Week, after screening *Ships of Hope*, a documentary produced by Elizabeth Mundlak and directed by Jonathan Jakubowicz in 2000, that describes a little-known episode of the Holocaust.

The documentary tells the story of two ships full of mostly Austrian Jewish refugees, the Caribia and the Koenigstein, which were allowed to disembark in Venezuela in 1939, after being denied permission in various ports in the Caribbean and the Guyanas.

Kohn de Merenfeld said that when the ships approached Venezuela, her father, president of Union Israelia de Caracas – he emigrated from Poland in 1929 – brought the case to then-Venezuelan president Lopez Contreras, who gave his permission for the ships to disembark at two Venezuelan ports.

Before the refugees were allowed to leave the ship, she said, some of them were so afraid that they would be sent back to Europe that they planned on jumping.

Continued on page 22

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EDUCATIONAL CENTRE OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO

Sephardi Jews also suffered in Shoah, film shows

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

In an effort to dispel the myth that Sephardi Jews in North Africa were untouched by the Holocaust, a documentary screening and discussion was held earlier this month as part of the 26th annual Holocaust Education Week.

Some 200 people came to the Sephardic Kehila Centre to watch Part 1 of a two-part documentary titled *A Matter of Time: From Tripoli to Bergen Belsen*. The discussion afterward was led by Rabbi Amram Assayag.

The Israeli film, directed by Marco Carmel, tells the story of the Jews of Libya, then an Italian colony, from 1940 to 1942, after Italy declared war against Britain and France, and it provides testimony of Holocaust survivors from the region.

The survivors shared memories of life after the Italians imposed anti-Jewish laws, seized Jewish property and placed Jews in a ghetto.

Most of the Jews were eventually sent to Jado, a concentration camp in their own country, where many died from diseases such as typhoid, but hundreds were also sent to Bergen Belsen.

The film argues that if the war had gone on longer, North African Jews would have suffered the same fate as European Jews.

"There is a myth that Sephardic Jewry was not in any way affected during the Holocaust," Rabbi Assayag said.

"First of all, we were all affected by the fact that six million of our brothers and sisters died. Jewish communities of North Africa were affected… people were taken from their homes, put in jails and people's properties were confiscated," he added.

Greek community suffered same fate as Europeans

He said that although the film focuses on the Sephardi community in Libya, others were affected as well, such as the Greek community of Salonika.

"This community was made up of 50,000 Jews. They were deported to Auschwitz and the entire community of 50,000 Sephardic Jews was taken, and they suffered the same consequences [as European Jews]," Rabbi Assayag said.

After the Germans invaded Greece in 1941, by the following year, they put about 10,000 Jews in forced labour.

In 1943, almost the entire community of 50,000 Jews was sent to the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

After the film, Rabbi Assayag said that Jews were not completely safe anywhere in the world 60 years ago, and Jews aren't safe anywhere in the world today, even in Canada.

"We thought that anti-Semitism wouldn't rear its head in Canada [so soon after the Holocaust], but unfortunately, it's coming much too fast in Canada, faster than any sociologist would have thought. That is the sad part," he said.

"Some people believed that it would take hundreds of years before there would be any anti-Semitism in the world."

He said Jews should consider themselves safe in Canada, but no one should sit back and think that a Holocaust will never happen again.

"It may be happening in other parts of the world. They are telling us that it is happening in other parts of the world, like Sudan," he said, adding that we have to "defend the victims of that Holocaust."

He added: "One has to be forewarned and understand that the only place that we can be safe is Eretz Yisrael. It is our homeland, it is where we belong and it is the only place where we have the strength to defend ourselves."

'His legacy is that he touched many lives through his actions'

Continued from page 21

"Even though my father had vertigo and was not supposed to be on moving objects, he intervened and went on board to stop them."

"His legacy – he died at age 58 – is that he touched many lives through his actions. Today in Venezuela, the children and grandchildren of these 252 Jews are grateful citizens."

Contreras is also remembered, she said, as a "humanitarian who granted asylum to the victims of Hitler's fury."

Her father often told her that "when every other country closes its doors on us, Venezuela welcomed us with open arms."

Ships of Hope is a testament to her father's memory and to the memory of all Holocaust victims, said Kohn de Merenfeld. "Today, there are many Holocaust deniers, so any testament is important.

"We need to teach the new generation the bitter truth. We have to make them aware of what has been, and what we won't let happen."

Ships of Hope tells a "heartbreaking story that has a happy ending. It raises the hope of the future of mankind," she said.

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Yonah Krakowsky, York University
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Jewish Book Fair

Censors vetted book about Israel's nuclear capabilty

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

With the full approval of Israeli military censors, Michael Karpin has shattered a taboo of Israeli public life by writing a penetrating examination of the history, scope and significance of Israel's usually secret nuclear capability.

Fours years after he co-produced an Israeli television documentary on the subject, the well-known Israeli journalist has published *The Bomb in the Basement: How Israel Went Nuclear and What That Means for the World* (Simon & Schuster).

The keynote speaker of this year's Jewish Book Fair, Karpin gave a riveting talk about Israel's nuclear project to a full house at the Leah Posluns Theatre on Nov. 4.

Without once directly stating that Israel possesses a nuclear bomb – an admission that would violate both Israel's longstanding "policy of ambiguity" as well as its criminal code – Karpin presented a highly revealing discussion that yet remained within the strictures of the permissible.

Even highly placed politicians such as Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres, interested in setting down a correct historical record, co-operated fully with Karpin in his research once he assured them he would likewise co-operate fully with the censors. The documentary and the book that later followed, he promised, "would be submitted to the army censors, and if rejected, would lie waiting in the safe until the messiah will come to redeem it."

Sketching a history of the secretive project, Karpin explained that it was France, not the United States, that first aided Israel's entry into the nuclear club in the 1950s. In exchange for the nuclear know-how that allowed it to build a nuclear reactor in Dimona in the Negev desert, Israel supplied France with much-needed intelligence on the anti-colonial rebels behind the bloody insurrection in Algeria. Israel also joined France and Great Britain in the 1956 Suez War against Egypt.

While then-U.S. president John F. Kennedy opposed Israel's nuclear project, his successor, Lyndon Johnson, approved it tacitly, Karpin said. "The big change came with Richard Nixon – or better to say with his secretary [of state] Henry Kissinger – when they made a historical decision to grant legitimacy to Israel's nuclear plan." (Nixon and Kissinger also approved of India's nuclear ambitions, since both countries were friendly democratic allies.)

Israel never signed a nuclear non-proliferation treaty and has never wavered in its intention to keep its nuclear arsenal a secret, unlike modern rogue states like Korea and Iran, which generally shout each stage of their nuclear progress from the rooftops.

"Even in deep crises like the Yom Kippur War of 1973, Israel always avoided the temptation to warn its enemies that it possesses nuclear capability," Karpin said. ("It didn't happen," he replied when asked about rumours that Israel had signalled a nuclear alert during the 1973 war.)

As to Iran, Israel will never allow it to acquire nuclear weapons, said Karpin, indicating that Israel believes Iran is still two or three years away from reaching that goal.

'It is a weapon of last resort'

"There is no chance that Israel will reconcile itself to living with nuclear threats from the ayatollahs," he said. "Iran's leaders are raising the question why Israel is permitted to have what Iran is forbidden. The main difference between the two is that Iran's nuclear capability makes headline news, while Israel's nuclear capability remains hidden in the shadows.

"Israel's nuclear capability is a bomb in the basement. It's a [purely defensive] weapon of last resort."

Israel would like a diplomatic solution to the Iranian threat and, failing that, would prefer to see the United States forcefully confront Iran, Karpin said. But he acknowledged that the United States may be unable to punish Iran because of its prolonged messy involvement in Iraq.

Israel, then, would have no option but to act unilaterally, he speculated, and would do so in full consultation with Washington and perhaps even Moscow, Ottawa and other world capitals.

"The decision is around the corner, next year or the year later," he said. "Someone will have to decide."

Iran has scattered its nuclear program over more than 100 sites in order to minimize the impact of a military attack, he noted.

"I personally don't think that Israel has the capability to abolish the Iranian nuclear program, but it can perhaps do something – I'm being very careful because I wouldn't like to speak about operational patterns – to delay the program, and this to Israel is very important. If they could delay it by three to five years, I think it will be a very successful operation."

Karpin defended Israel's right to possess nuclear weapons, seeing that it faces an explicit existential threat of annihilation, and described its policy of ambiguity as a success. During a question period, he rebuffed the suggestion that his book might harm Israeli national interests, asserting it would have little or no effect on a national nuclear weapons program in Iran planned over a timetable of years or decades.

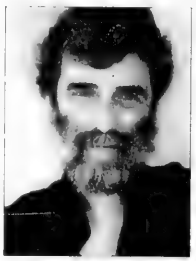
His talk was sponsored by Canadian Friends of Hebrew University in conjunction with the Koffler Centre of the Arts.

Palestinian problem still Israel's chief concern: journalist

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The recent war in Lebanon deflected Israel's attention away from the "central problem" of the Arab-Israeli dispute, the future of the West Bank, an Israeli journalist said last week at the Toronto Jewish Book Fair.

Delivering the fourth annual Harvey Yalonetsky Memorial Lecture under the sponsorship of Canadian Friends of Peace Now, Gershom Gorenberg suggested that Israel's perennial conflict with the Palestinians should be its chief concern today.



Gershom Gorenberg

Gorenberg, the author of *The Accidental Empire: Israel and the Birth of the Settlements, 1967-1977*, urged Israel to resume talks with the Palestinians without trying to foist its vision of an agreement on them.

For demographic reasons, he noted, Israel should state clearly that it supports partition and a two-state solution.

Speaking only hours after the Israeli army completed its latest incursion into the Gaza Strip to stop the barrage of Qassam rocket fire into Israel, he said that the current political deadlock can be broken if a stable agreement is reached with the Palestinians and Israeli building activity ceases in the West Bank.

"I make this argument out of concern for the future of our country," said Gorenberg, a former *Jerusalem Report* editor and currently Jerusalem correspondent of the *Forward*.

He called on the Israeli government to encourage the formation of a Palestinian unity government to supplant the current Hamas regime. Once this happens, Israel can reopen bilateral negotiations with the Palestinians, he said. "Returning to the path of diplomacy is essential for Israel."

Israel should not attempt to impose its will on the Palestinians through unilateral withdrawals from the West Bank, he added, saying that Israel's unilateral pullout from Gaza last year only emboldened Arab extremists.

In Gorenberg's view, Israel would have strengthened the hand of Palestinian moderates had the Gaza disengagement been the result of negotiations.

Gorenberg claimed that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert deployed massive force in last summer's war with Hezbollah to save the concept of unilateral withdrawal from oblivion.

Alluding to the now-dormant Oslo peace accords, Gorenberg said that the shape of an Arab-Israeli agreement has been clear for years. Should there be a final status agreement, Israel will probably have to give up most of its settlements in the West Bank to accommodate a sovereign Palestinian state.

According to Gorenberg, 70 out of 120 Knesset members would support the dismantlement of some or all the settlements.

Saying that they were the direct outcome of the 1967 Six Day War, Gorenberg reminded the audience that Israel was completely surprised by its outbreak. Israeli intelligence officials had been certain that a war would not erupt for at least a decade. But by war's end, Israel found itself in control of a huge swath of Arab territory.

Within weeks of its victory, Israel secretly offered to withdraw from the territories in exchange for peace. But Arab states rejected Israel's offer, and Israel dug in, hoping to use its acquisition of that land as a bargaining chip.

In the meantime, though, the Israeli government quietly established military outposts, which evolved into full-blown settlements in the West Bank, the Golan Heights, the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, the first Jewish settlement in the territories was established not in the West Bank but on the Golan, he disclosed.

"Small decisions led to the spread of the settlements and the blurring of the border," he observed, saying that maps published in Israel after the war erased the old Green Line, which demarcated the 1949 frontier.

Gorenberg said that Israeli leaders from Levi Eshkol to Yigal Allon were compulsively swept up by the Zionist allure of creating facts on the ground.

Declaring that he wanted a Jewish state with a Jewish majority, Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, rejected a plan to conquer the West Bank. Many of his contemporaries, resigned to the loss of the West Bank in the War of Independence, concurred with his judgment. But Ben-Gurion's successors dispensed with his policy and built settlements by stealth.

Being concerned by demographic imperatives, some important Israeli politicians were reluctant to commit funds for settlements in the territories. But on balance, both secular and religious Israeli Jews, as well as right-wing and left-wing Jews, embraced the settlement project, he said.

By his count, the West Bank, excluding eastern Jerusalem, is home to about 250,000 Israeli Jews today. "Getting out will be very difficult," he warned.

Gorenberg said that Israel should seriously consider a 2002 Arab League peace plan, which Israel has rebuffed as a nonstarter. Under the proposal, Israel would cede the territories and agree to a resolution of the Palestinian refugee problem in exchange for Arab recognition of Israel's existence.

Cancer like a gift in barbed wire: doctor

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

There is a big difference between luck and chance, says Dr. Marla Shapiro, a physician, television personality, author and columnist.

Speaking last Sunday at the 30th annual Jewish Book Fair, Shapiro, author of *Life in the Balance, My Journey with Breast Cancer*, said that "luck is what life gives you; chance is what you do with the luck you get."

Originally from Montreal, Shapiro, a wife and mother of three, was diagnosed with invasive breast cancer two years ago. "Was I lucky life gave me breast cancer? A lot of people would say [no], but it became a chance for me to do something with it."

Cancer is like a gift in barbed wire, she said. "[I've learned] that life is nothing more than a journey. [Arriving at] the destination means it's over. There is no question that I am still along the journey.

"When life seems overwhelming, I now have the ability to take a deep breath and keep well the road. My diagnosis has changed me for the better."

Unable to practise medicine while undergoing chemotherapy, Shapiro said she recognized that a large part of her would be taken away. "Much of my life had been defined by what I do. Who I am had become interchangeable with what I did, and that was taken away from me when I couldn't work.

"Chemotherapy diminished my white blood-cell count and rendered me susceptible to infection. I couldn't [see patients.]

"No number of years caring for patients could educate [me] on a first-hand basis to what chemotherapy is like. It was clear as I went through treatment that I [had always been very concerned] about my patients, but there is so much we don't talk about."

The first time she appeared on national television without her wig, she was "absolutely astounded" by the number of letters she got from people with cancer who said it was empowering to see a bald woman on television.

"The first time my son saw I was wearing a baseball cap, he looked at the floor and said, 'Don't take off your hat, you're scaring me.' I went to my room and shut the door. I was hysterical. I stayed away from him."

Her book chronicles her treatment decisions, she said, but it is also a shared journey about what happened to her family along the way. "It is a book about living my life mindfully. Being a mother, a wife, a daughter, a friend, all fit in with each other. Each part of the puzzle [makes] my life stronger.

"A lot of us delude ourselves that the time we spend with our family is quality time. We don't name the time we don't spend with our family."

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On Campus

Canadian students travel to northern Israel

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

About a dozen Canadians rode the "MASA Train to the North" on their way late last month from Jerusalem to Akko, where they joined hundreds of other volunteers in a solidarity event for Israelis who were affected by last summer's war with Hezbollah.

MASA, which means journey in Hebrew, is a three-year-old joint project of the government of Israel, the Jewish Agency for Israel and North American Jewish federations that aims to bring thousands of young Jews to Israel to participate in educational volunteer programs.

Elan Ezrachi, executive director of MASA and the organizer of the event, said the ride was his organization's way of welcoming MASA participants to Israel, some of whom had arrived in the country only weeks before.

"First of all, these events have to be creative and fun for the participants," he said, adding that 1,000 people rode the train, which was leased from an Israeli train corporation.

During the three-hour ride to Akko, MASA volunteers were treated to live music, dancing and performances.

MASA volunteers were treated to performances from drummers during their three-hour train ride from Jerusalem to Akko.

Soldiers and guides also travelled on the train to share their experiences and answer students' questions.

"After they arrived in Akko, they were joined by the other 1,500 participants, who came by buses, and they had a street fair in Akko where they decorated parts of the city and marched in the streets," Ezrachi said.

Ben Kreuter, 18, a Vaughan Secondary School graduate from Thornhill, Ont., arrived in Israel two months ago as part of a nine-month program run by Canadian Young Judea in association with MASA.

He said the event in Akko was a great way for young Jews from all over the world to come together to support Israel.

"All of the MASA volunteers came together in Akko. There were Americans, Canadians and British people, and we heard speeches. It was basically a way to get all the MASA volunteers together," he said, adding that he and his friends took the opportunity to tour the city and shop in its shuk (market).

Ezrachi estimated that 400 Canadians will take part in a MASA program this year, and he guessed that 100 Canadians were at the recent Akko celebration.

Later in the day, the street party turned into a rally that included speeches by Akko Mayor Shimon Lankri and Ze'ev Bielski, chairman of the Jewish Agency.

"The idea was to show strength and support to the tourist industry in the north because of the devastation to the economy," Ezrachi said.

"Buying an ice cream isn't going to save the north, but it was a symbolic show of support."

The rally included a tribute to Michael Levine, a former MASA volunteer who made aliyah and was killed fighting in Lebanon.

"One of the soldiers who was killed in the war was an alumni of one of our programs… We brought a friend of his, another kid from the States who made aliyah, and he gave a kind of eulogy and it was very moving… There was complete silence when this guy was talking about his friend," Ezrachi said.

There was also a tribute to all the soldiers and civilians who were killed in the war, and the kidnapped soldiers who are still being held captive.

As much as Kreuter enjoyed the celebration organized by MASA, he said he's very serious about the volunteering he does as part of the program.

"So far, I've volunteered for a month-and-a-half on an organic farm, and currently I'm volunteering at a residence home for disabled people in Netanya," Kreuter said.

"This is my first time being in Israel and the most rewarding part is that they set you up with great places to volunteer, and I feel like I'm actually making a difference in people's lives."

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A prospective Thorne Mill on Steeles tenant might be 75 to 85 years old. He or she is active, able to enjoy shopping or such sports as golf; an involved grandparent, possibly even still with part-time business or professional interests, or working as a volunteer.

Thorne Mill on Steeles is a 12-storey building. The majority of its suites, 180, are dedicated to independent living, and 13 to assisted living. There are 26 Reminiscence suites for those with Alzheimer's, and 13 Terrace Club units for those in early phases of Alzheimer's or dementia.

At Thorne Mill on Steeles, each independent-living suite has a full kitchen with five appliances. There's a choice of floor plans, with one-bedroom, two-bedroom and studio suites; and some have a balcony or den.

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On Campus

Catholic-Jewish dialogue finds home at Western

By LISA VARANO
Special to The CJN

The first Canadian centre to study the relationship between Jews and Catholics has been founded at the University of Western Ontario.

King's University College, an affiliate of Western, recently announced that its new Centre for Catholic-Jewish Learning will begin hosting events this academic year.

Andrea Rector

Rabbi Joel Wittstein, spiritual leader of Temple Israel of London and co-chair of the centre, said that one of the centre's goals is to better relations between the Jewish and Catholic communities.

Since it's an academic centre, it will also invite speakers to campus and conduct research, he said.

Rabbi Wittstein said his interest in interfaith dialogue goes back many years.

As a child, his best friend, who was Catholic, gave him a pamphlet encouraging Jews to convert to Catholicism.

"That, at a fairly young age, convinced me that there needed to be some work done," he said.

The relationship between Catholics and Jews has vastly improved since the Second Vatican Council called for change 40 years ago, Rabbi Wittstein said.

He added that the common ground between Judaism and Catholicism is a starting point for improving relations between the two groups.

Jews need to learn about the people they live among, Rabbi Wittstein said.

"We are a tiny minority in a much larger sea, and if we're going to live meaningfully and with understanding among larger groups, we have to know something about them," he said. "We need to reach out."

Andrea Rector, the Catholic student representative on the centre's board, said misunderstanding still exists between the Jewish and Catholic communities and needs to be corrected.

"People should be enriching one another's faith," she said.

The centre has already started to have a positive effect, she said.

"It's created discussion," she said. "Just the fact that it's there gets people thinking and talking."

Rector said that her experience with the centre has affected her personally.

"It's definitely made me more sensitive, not only to the language that I use when talking about faith – my own and other people's but also to the experience that someone has of their own faith and how it's no less valid than mine," she said.

Although Rector is Catholic, she said she was raised without a religion and was exposed to the Jewish community in the Thornhill neighbourhood where she grew up.

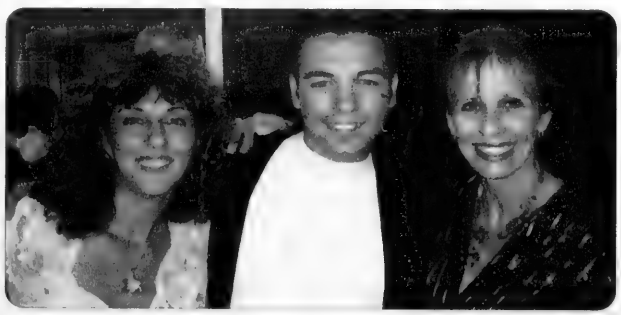
Her brother chose to become Jewish.

"We joke that every time we get together it's an interfaith dialogue," she said. "It's given me an intimate understanding of what it means for someone to be Jewish."

Rector said she hopes to use her interest in interfaith dialogue to mediate religious conflicts in the future.

The centre's first lecture will be held in February and will deal with how to promote meaningful dialogue between Catholics and Jews.

For more information on the centre, visit www.uwo.ca/kings/ccjl.



MUSICAL FUNDRAISER: The Haifa Foundation recently held a fundraiser at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. Some 700 people watched the hit Israeli musical *Kmo Beseret* (*Like in the Movie*), starring Yora'm Ga'aon, Shlomie Shabath, Miki Kam and Nitza Shaul. Proceeds went to the Bani Zion Medical center in Haifa. Pictured, from left, are volunteer Magi Verspaandonk, actor/singer Harel Moyal, and Maya Goldenberg, executive director of the Haifa Foundation.

[Beja-Vu Productions photo]

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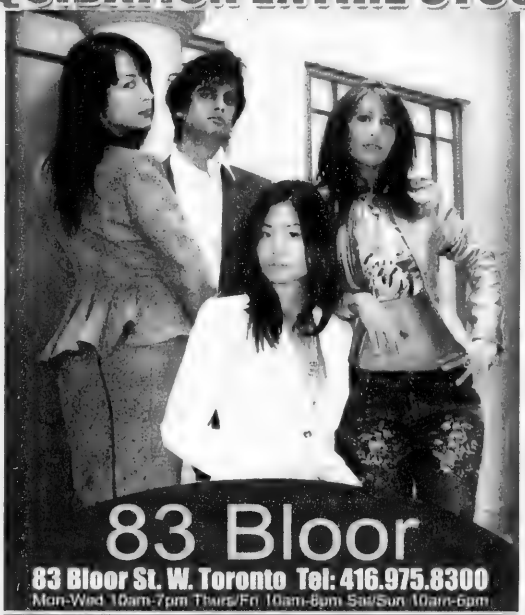

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Feature

Maurie Sherman was born to work in radio

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

It's not often that a 28-year-old man can call himself a veteran in his professional field, but MIX 99.9-FM radio producer Maurie Sherman can.

Having worked in the radio broadcasting industry since 1996 – even before he graduated from Humber College's radio broadcasting program – Sherman has been employed by some of Toronto's highest profile radio stations, including CFRB, CHUM-FM, CHFI-FM, TALK 640, EZ Rock and, most recently, JACK-FM.

For the past three years, Sherman has felt at home as the morning-show producer and publicist for JACK-FM in Toronto, which is owned by Rogers Communications Inc.

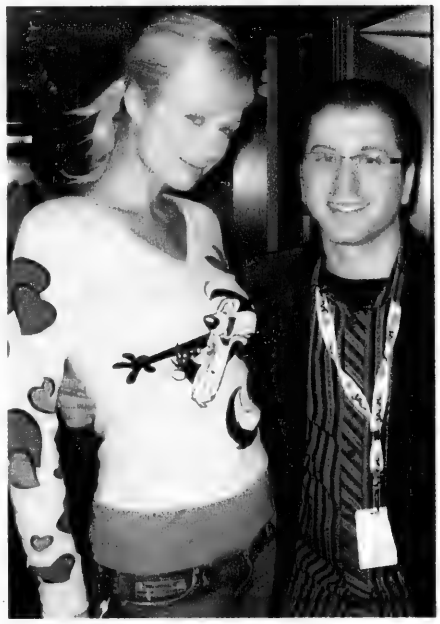
Although Sherman insisted he loved working for Rogers, he was just offered a job with Mad Dog and Billie, MIX 99.9-FM's morning-show duo, as senior morning-show producer, a position he accepted.

A typical day for Sherman starts before the crack of dawn. He crawls out of bed at 4 a.m., walks to the JACK-FM station, which is just down the street from where he lives at Bloor and Jarvis streets in Toronto, to make sure the show runs smoothly and on time.

Once he begins working for MIX 99.9 at the end of the month, he'll have to make his way over to the station at Yonge and St. Clair. But this won't be the only change in his morning routine.

"There is going to be so many new challenges there because they're very guest intensive," said Sherman, who anticipates that a big part of his job will be booking both local and celebrity guests more frequently.

But what separates him from other producers is that Sherman isn't completely content staying behind the scenes at all times.



Maurie Sherman with Paris Hilton

"I can't stress enough the passion that I have towards voice work," said Sherman, who does television voice work for G4TechTV, A-Channel in Ottawa and Barrie, and OMNI 1 and 2, as well as radio commercials for CHFI-FM, JACK-FM, FAN 590 and 680 News.

Sherman also recently started doing a weekly segment for JACK-FM in Vancouver called *Tuesdays With Maurie*, during which he dishes out the latest celebrity gossip and entertainment news.

Sherman is so passionate about radio that until recently, he worked seven days a week– weekdays at JACK-FM and weekends as the remotes co-ordinator at CHFI, where he set up live-on-location broadcasts.

He was even given the opportunity by CHFI radio host Erin Davis to branch out by acting as a kind of reporter of important local events.

"For things like *Canadian Idol*, or the [Toronto International] Film Festival, Erin Davis, who is my idol in this industry – I think she is the coolest person – she would put me on and interview me about my experiences."

He said that at the film festival, he wasn't there to do movie reviews, rather he played the role of paparazzi.

Sherman described a memorable encounter he had at a Toronto bar during the film festival with actor Liam Neeson, which he recorded on his blog.

"I asked if I could have a picture with him. He said sure. I said security would not allow me in the section with my camera…

"He told me: 'Don't worry – I'll go to where you are, and we can take the picture there.' With a smile on my face, I walked back to my friends and told them: 'Liam will come here to take the picture…'

Continued on page 29

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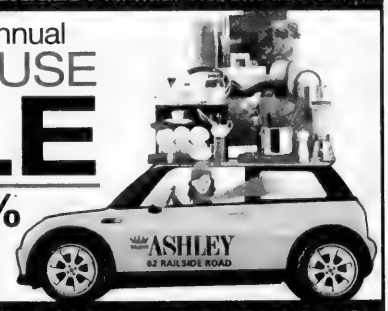

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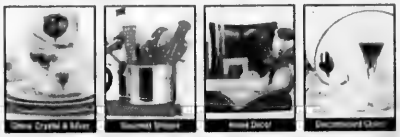

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Feature

Books impossible-to-get interviewees

Continued from page 28

"As I watched him walk out through the kitchen, the smile on my face got smaller, and the smile on the security guard got bigger."

But this disappointing experience with a movie star didn't discourage Sherman from making the jump to an occasional on-air celebrity interviewer.

"Allegedly, I am very good at doing interviews. I never prepare for them. I don't prepare questions. I just walk in as someone who doesn't know you… That's how I approach all my interviews."

He claims that he got exclusive information about actor Mark Wahlberg during an interview he conducted last summer.

"I was the only interviewer that ever asked him, 'Tell me one thing that nobody knows about Mark Wahlberg.' He said, 'The one thing nobody knows about me is that I have really bad gas.' And I thought, great, I'm the one that broke that."

He said that as an avid fan of the animated series *Family Guy*, he has interviewed almost every voice artist on the show, including Alex Borstein, who does the voice of Lois Griffin.

"She is very funny, she is very cool. We went on this whole angle for a while about Judaism," Sherman said.

Other celebrities Sherman has interviewed include Laura Weisberger, author of *The Devil Wears Prada*, musician Alice Cooper and talk-show host Joan Rivers.

Although Sherman has what it takes to do a one-on-one with some of the biggest celebs, perhaps his best talent is booking that impossible-to-get interview.

"I got the Canadian exclusive with Donald Trump live on the morning that the new season [of *The Apprentice*] started last year by faxing his assistant every day for a year.

"She phoned me yelling and said 'You got him.' We became somewhat friendly because she loved my push and desire for that. I am persistent to the point where I piss people off. You either piss publicists off or you get what you want and that is a chance you have to take."

Maurie Sherman with Alice Cooper

As passionate as Sherman is about his job, he said that family and Judaism is very important to him as well.

"I will always make time for my grandmother and make sure that on the High Holy Days I am at her place for dinner. Whenever I can, I go to Holy Blossom Temple," he said, adding that he had his bar mitzvah there and also served as the vice-president of the shul's youth program.

He said that sometimes being Jewish factors into the work that he does.

"On Rosh Hashanah, I brought in my shofar and I got to blow it on the air with [former JACK-FM radio host] Rob Christie… I have been on the air talking about the meaning of Purim, I've talked about the meaning of Rosh Hashanah, I've made latkes and brought them in," he said, joking about being the station's token Jew.

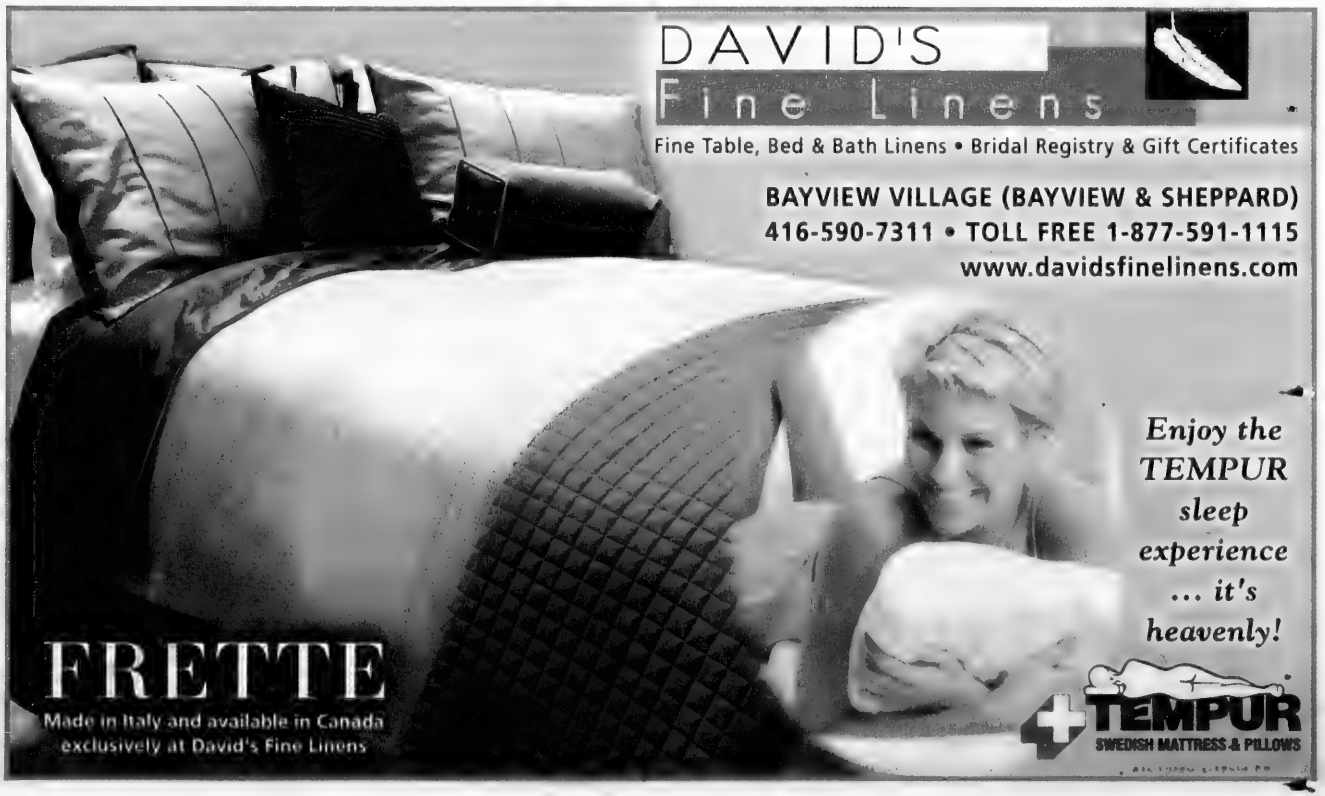
Regardless of what Sherman is doing in radio – whether he is producing, conducting interviews or blowing a shofar – broadcasting is the only thing he's ever wanted to do with his life.

"I knew from day one. I popped out of my mother with a microphone and said, 'Good morning, Toronto.' It is something I have always loved doing. My dad has tapes of me imitating Roger, Rick and Marilyn [morning-show hosts] from CHUM-FM before puberty. It's very embarrassing," he said with a laugh.

"I've never thought of anything else to do. If it wasn't radio, I would have no idea what else to do."

He said that the best part of his job is the feeling of accomplishment.

"It is very rewarding. With someone like Erin Davis, who constantly pats you on the back, it's just really rewarding and makes you want to get up at four in the morning."



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Coast to Coast

Israel won't attack Iran, official says

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Israel will not launch a military strike against Iran to destroy its nuclear facilities and stop it from acquiring a nuclear bomb, says the director of the Syria and Lebanon division of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The answer is definitely no," Yigal Palmor said during a recent visit to Ottawa.

"This was our policy under [former prime minister Ariel] Sharon and it has not changed under [Prime Minister Ehud] Olmert. We believe that international sanctions is the possible answer."

Palmor, who also serves as spokesperson to the international francophone media outlets and was called upon during the recent Lebanon war to act as spokesperson to a variety of media, was in Ottawa on Nov. 6, and travelled to Montreal and Quebec City the following day. While in Ottawa, he met with members of Parliament's foreign affairs committee from all four parties.

The multilingual native of Jerusalem is the son of a diplomat and lived in Europe during his youth. After receiving his first degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Palmor followed his father into the foreign service.

While in Ottawa, Palmor met with faculty from Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, as well as officials from the Department of National Defence, representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and members of the Canada-Israel Committee.

Palmor said he found the Canadians he met with to be very "polite" in their questioning.

"To be quite frank, nobody really gave me a hard time in the sense of pushing hard on sensitive issues," he said. "People have opinions and they have their views, but I really felt that people were interested in an exchange of views and opinions… there was a very wide-ranging exchange – a discussion, but never a dispute."

The topic of greatest interest was Lebanon, he said.

"Lebanon was the hot spot, fresh in people's memories," Palmor said.

There was also concern about the threat of Iran's influence in the Middle East. "Iran is clearly perceived as seeking not only nuclear capacity, but also domination over the whole Middle East… they are frightening not only to Israel, but also to moderate Arab countries," he said.

"There seems to be an alliance being formed by moderate Arab countries… there is an objective common interest here to practically all moderate countries in the Middle East to stop Iran while it is feasible, and this is probably what will be on the top of the agenda for the coming years."

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NCSY to honour Tory MP

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

The National Conference on Synagogue Youth (NCSY) took a shine to Tory MP Jason Kenney.

According to Rabbi Glenn Black, regional director for NCSY Canada, it all started this past summer during the Israel-Hezbollah conflict.

"When the world took aim at Israel and its retaliatory strategy, [Prime Minister] Stephen Harper and his caucus took a very principled, decent and honourable stance with Israel's democracy," said Rabbi Black.

When former Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj called for Canada to be more open in talks with Hezbollah this past August, Kenney was quick to respond.

At a press conference on Aug. 22, Kenney, the MP from Calgary Southeast and Harper's parliamentary secretary, said of the Liberals, "Their idea of a balanced approach is one where Israel is always wrong."

He likened Hezbollah to the 1930s Nazi party and defended Israel's policies during the Hezbollah conflict as "a measured response," while others accused Israel of disproportionate attacks on the terrorist group's southern Lebanon positions.

"[He] is a very good friend to the Jewish community," said Rabbi Black. "He is open about the principled stance that [the Conservative party] took."

On Nov. 19, NCSY Canada honours Kenney with its National Leadership Award at its annual fundraising gala dinner at the Toronto Centre For The Arts.

"We wanted to send a message to the Conservative government and say, 'Thank you for seeing through the darkness,'" said Rabbi Black. "We chose Kenney because he's been an outspoken proponent of good and morality."

Kenney is scheduled to address some 300 people attending the $1,800-per-couple, private dinner at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, and again at an after-dinner concert in front of an expected 1,700-strong crowd.

Harper is expected to send greetings and remarks via video.

Now in its fifth year as a combined dinner and concert, the gala is one of the the non-profit's most critical events, accounting for nearly 30 per cent of NCSY's operating costs.

"It's a very significant chunk. Without it, I'm not sure what we would do," said Rabbi Black.

The NCSY, the youth division of the Orthodox Union, has been struggling to gain credibility in the Jewish community and Rabbi Black views the gala as a perfect marketing vehicle.

"We realized that the organization had to become more prominent in the community," he said. "We want to show them that NCSY is a serious outreach organization… stemming the tide of assimilation and intermarriage, and we believe that focusing on our youth is going to change this community for generations."

The gala dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. A post-dinner concert starts at 8 p.m. and will feature performances by Avraham Fried, Ohad and the Nafshenu Orchestra.

Coast to Coast

Jewish teens hit the road

BBYO CONVENTION: Toronto BBYO joined more than 200 teens at the Michigan BBYO region's fall convention on Nov. 3 to 5 at Camp Maas. The weekend's theme, "Step Out of the Crowd," encouraged individuality and leadership.

USY TEENS MEET: The Eastern Canadian Region, United Synagogue Youth (ECRUSY) recently held its annual fall *kinnus* at Camp Trillium in Brantford, Ont., with the theme "Around the World in Three Days." Participants came from Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, London and Hamilton and St. Catharines. Among the many participants from Greater Toronto Area were, back row from left, Eric Phillips-Sheldon, Dara Tate and Stanley Roth; and, front row from left, Jacqueline Parkus, Max Marmer and Jordana Rosen.

NEW UNDERSTANDING
As part of a unit on friendship at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School, Masha Posen, an occupational therapist at Zareinu Educational Centre, leads Grade 1 students Aya Danzig, centre, and Jesse Shrier in an activity to help them understand some of the issues facing children with special needs.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Happy birthdays to Raquel Celine on your sixth birthday and Malvinita on your second birthday from your family in Toronto.

Aaron Charles Davidson son of Vanessa & Michael. First grandchild for Lin & Alan Judelman, Alex & Marg Davidson. Great-grandchild for Shenella & Ada.

Happy birthday Ryan, son of Alissa & Saul Luxenburg. Grandparents, Donna & Phillip Luxenburg, Patty & Gary Chattman. Great-grandparents Faye & Morris Alter.

Marc Luxenburg graduated from Buffalo School of Pharmacy. Marc is the son of Donna & Phillip of Boynton Beach, Fla. Grandson of Morris & Faye Alter.

Happy seventh birthday Jordyn Bailey, daughter of Fara & Michael Forman. Love, your sister Samantha Taylor and brother Joshua Ethan.

Happy second birthday Joshua Ethan, son of Fara & Michael Forman. Love, your sisters Jordyn Bailey and Samantha Taylor.

Happy birthday to the best mom and bubbie in the world - Bonnie Moskovitz. Love Mar, David and Zackie.

Happy first birthday to Rachel and Karly Bass. Love, Mom Paula.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos (25 words or less) and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to:
The CJN, Family Moments,
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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, Nov. 20, is the deadline for the Nov. 30 issue and Monday, Nov. 27, is the deadline for the Dec. 7 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Nov. 16

STUDY W/HINDY NAJMAN

Join **Hindy Najman**, of U of T, for "Texts, Traditions and Communities in the Late Second Temple Era." She explores the Jewish communities during the Second Temple period and the relevance of the Dead Sea Scrolls to the history of Judaism. Today to Dec. 7, 9:30-11 a.m. at Netivot HaTorah. $50. Info, 416-877-2050 or www.mekorot.ca

RABBINIC AUTHORITY

Nishma continues its series on rabbinic authority with **Rabbi Aaron Selevan**, of Hamilton, through Dec. 7. 8 p.m. at 52 Theodore Pl. Tonight, "Chazal as Legislators." 416-630-0588

Friday, Nov. 17

YIDDISH FOR TODDLERS

UJA Federation, Committee for Yiddish offers Kind Un Keyt: Fun with Yiddish for Toddlers for 1 to 4-year-olds accompanied by a caregiver, to sing, dance and play in Yiddish, Friday mornings, 9:15-10 a.m. at the Barbara Frum Library through Nov.

Saturday, Nov. 18

PARSHAH DISCUSSION

Helen Cooper talks about the portion Chayei Sarah. 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

Sunday, Nov. 19

SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Join Walk and Talk Etc., for a walk through the streets of the Junction, in Toronto's west end, and visit Ontario's oldest shul in use. Meet at 9:30 a.m., in the parking lot on Pacific Ave., south of Dundas St. W. Info, walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

CHARITY CLOTHING SALE

Na'amat Canada's Club Rimon will sell previously loved brand-name clothing for women and children for $10 or less. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Borochov Centre. 416-636-5425

PLOT AGAINST AMERICA

Beth Emeth Sisterhood hosts Books & Bagels for a discussion of *The Plot Against America* by **Phillip Roth**. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For info, call **Rosemary**, 416-633-9092.

BAGELS & BANTER

Winchevsky Centre hosts a storytelling workshop with **Dan Yashinsky**. 11 a.m. $5, includes bagels. 416-789-5502

WEISS HALIVNI LECTURES

The Centre for Jewish Studies at York U presents **Prof. David Weiss Halivni,** of Columbia University, delivering the Sol Tanenzapf Memorial Lecture on "The Oral Law: Why Isn't the Written Law Sufficient?" 3 p.m. in Vanier Lecture Hall, Room 135. 416-736-5823

FILM: *WIRED TO WIN*

The Etobicoke Study Branch of the National Council of Jewish Women presents *Wired to Win*, an Imax film that interweaves the Tour de France and the story of a six-year-old learning to ride a bicycle. 7 p.m. at the Ontario Science Centre. $20, children $10. Tickets, **Marilyn**, 416-488-5394, or **Laya**, 416-247-3450.

GLOBAL JEWISH VILLAGE

Darchei Noam Congregation presents the Global Jewish Village Seminar Series. Tonight, "The Jews of the World Today: Lost, Found and Re-Emerging Communities"; Nov. 26, "The Jews of Canada: A Multiracial Community or Many Communities?" Both 7 p.m. 15 Hove St. 416-638-4783

SINGLES EVENT

Shaar Shalom Singles 45+ presents Stories That Touch the Heart and Lift the Spirits with storyteller **Harvey Haber**. 7:30 p.m. $8. For info, call **David**, 416-224-9494.

Continued on page 33

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What's New

Continued from page 32

SINGLES GAME NIGHT

Beth Torah Synagogue hosts a social evening of board games for singles. 7:30 p.m. For info, call **Mollie**, 416-733-3634.

Monday, Nov. 20

HELP WITH YOUR LOVE LIFE

Psychologist **Anne Balaban** reviews *Love Smart* by **Dr. Phil Mcgraw** at a Nagillah chapter of JWI singles 55+ meeting. 7:30 p.m. at 886 Sheppard Ave. W. $2, guests $3. Info, 416-638-4326.

WHERE IS THE TORAH FROM

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents How Did the Torah Come to Be? Religious, Political and Social Dimensions. Tonight, **Michael Herman** on "History and Theories of Redaction"; Nov. 27, **Rabbi Roy Tananbaum** on "Re-analysis and New Theory of Torah." 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3511

MODERN JERUSALEM

Beth Emeth Sisterhood presents **Prof. Barry Glass** speaking on "The Development of Modern Jerusalem." 8 p.m. Guests $3. RSVP to **Sandy**, 416-736-8073, or **Esther**, 416-631-0909.

UNDERSTANDING BULLYING

The Toronto Heschel School will hold a panel discussion on "Understanding Bullying as a Relationship Problem" with **Jennifer Kolari**, **Dr. Rachael Turkienicz** and **Rabbi Eliot Feldman**. 8 p.m. 416-635-1876

Tuesday, Nov. 21

SUITE FRANÇAISE

Beth Tikvah Lunch and Learn presents **Marilyn Herbert** reviewing *Suite Française* by **Irene Nemirovsky**, a Polish Jewish women murdered at Auschwitz. Lunch 12:15 p.m. Learn 1 p.m. $12 prepaid, $15 at the door. 416-221-3433, ext. 352

FILDERMAN LODGE

The Romanian-speaking Dr. W. Filderman Lodge invites the community to its "Happy Hour." 6 p.m. at 15 Hove St. For info, **Felicia**, 416-631-0634, or **Neti**, 416-733-1214.

BARRIE: FILM &TALK

Join Am Shalom Synagogue in Barrie Tuesday nights in November as they screen a film followed by a discussion led by **Jack Kugelmass**. Tonight, *Trembling Before God*; Nov. 28, *Gloomy Sunday*. Both 7 p.m. at 767 Huronia Rd. Free. 705-792-3949 or www.amshalom.ca

JEWS IN THE SLAVE TRADE

Natalie Davis, of U of T, speaks on "Trickster Travel: A 16-Century Muslim Between Worlds; Jews in the Slave Trade" 7:30 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple. 416-789-3291, ext. 235

SUN, FUN AND BEAUTY

Beth Tzedec Sisterhood presents "Sun, Fun and Beauty" with dermatologist **Dr. Jay Tarradash**. 7:30 p.m. Admission by a non-perishable item for Kosher Food Bank. 416-781-3511

KAY ON THE MIDDLE EAST

Jonathan Kay, managing editor, the *National Post*, speaks about the current situation in the Middle East at a Beth Tzedec Men's Club evening. 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3511

MOTHERS AND DAUGHTER

Canadian Friends of Hebrew University present **Deborah Tannen** on "You're Wearing That? Understanding Mothers and Daughter in Conversation," 8 p.m. at Adath Israel Congregation. $30 in advance, $36 at the door. 416-484-8000 or www.cfhu.org

MUSIC IN JEWISH LIFE

Rabbi Moshe Stern's weekly study group discusses "History of Music in Jewish Life, Part 1." 8 p.m. at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. Part 2, Nov. 28. 416-785-5378

Wednesday, Nov. 22

CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Rabbis David Bauman and **Jennifer Gorman** speak on the topic "On the Brink of a New Millennium: Whither Conservative Judaism – Contemplating the Future." 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation. 416-781-3511

Other News

BROADWAY'S JEWISH ROOTS

Join **Jordan Klapman** for The Jewish Roots of Broadway, exploring the music of **Jule Styne**, **Sammy Cahn** and **Jerry Herman** on Thursday, Nov. 23, at Beth Emeth Congregation and **Leonard Bernstein** and **Stephen Sondheim** on Thursday, Nov. 30 at Beth David Congregation. 8 p.m. Free. 416-633-3838

DANCE, AUCTION & FUN!

Temple Har Zion Sisterhood offers an evening of music from the 1950s, 60s and 70s and dancing with the band Go Freddie Go, refreshments, a silent auction and a cash bar. Saturday, Nov. 25, tickets $25, 905-889-2252. Proceeds support the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and temple charitable activities.

LIVING WELL TO 120

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents Living Well to 120: Jewish Pursuit of Health and Wellness. Workshops, lectures, demonstrations, exhibits and gourmet lunch presentation by **Norene Gilletz**. Sunday, Nov. 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. To register, call 416-781-3514, ext. 25 or 34.

A MUSICAL SOIRÉE

Congregation B'nai Torah presents a musical soirée featuring **Daniel** and **Carey Domb**, cello-guitar duo, playing light classical and Jewish melodies, Sunday, Nov. 26, 8 p.m. Reserved tickets $12, $22 a couple or $15 at the door. Call **Fern**, 416-226-3700.

BIALIK BOUTIQUE MARKET

Bialik Hebrew Day School's Annual Boutique Market to be held Monday, Nov. 27, 6-9 p.m. Free admission. Limited space still available for vendors. 416-398-7070

PORTRAITS OF SURVIVAL

One Family Fund presents the photographic exhibition "Portraits of Survival," photos by **Jason Schwartz**, **Gillian Laub** and **Ziv Koren**, through Nov. 31 at Holy Blossom. 416-644-4955

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna** ext. 215 for info and registration.

Understanding Bipolar and Anxiety Disorders: a lecture on the symptoms of and treatment of these disorders, and how and where to get support. Thursday, Nov. 23, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Lipa Green Bldg. Space is limited.

Developing a Successful Business-like Relationship With Your Ex: a workshop to learn to negotiate the day-to-day details of children's lives based on their specific needs. Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

Adolescents and Divorce: a workshop for parents to learn to understand their adolescent. Thursday, Nov. 30, 7-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

FOR SENIORS

The Association of Jewish Seniors' hosts **Dr. Michael Guerriere** Thursday, Nov. 16, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. For info, call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

Beth Tikvah Friendship Group for those 65+ will sing and dance with **Alex** and **Rita**, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2 p.m. 416-221-3433

Lunch and Learn in Retirement hosts **Sid Rochwerg** on "The Yiddish Bikers." Wednesday, Nov. 22, 12:30 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple. Bring a dairy lunch. $1. 416-789-3291

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Sunday Dance, Nov. 19; Casino Rama, Wednesday, Dec. 13; Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Nov. 16, bingo. Call **Menachem**, 905-731-7748.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Café Europa, a gathering place for Holocaust survivors to enjoy a social morning together with lectures, discussions and music, begins Friday, Nov. 24, and runs every other Friday, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For info, call **Anne**, ext. 2259, or **Paula**, ext. 2271.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Spend the day at Betel, Sunday, Nov. 19. Stories from the Heart at noon; Fun with Yiddish at 1 p.m. $2, guests $4 "Nafty" Naftolin's Komedy Kaberet, 2:30 p.m.

Intergenerational Program, "United Way of Caring," Wednesday, Nov. 22, 1 p.m. Free.

Great Women: Lecture on Eva Peron, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m. $2, guests $4.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

BJCC One-Day Sale, Nov. 19, 9 a.m.–noon. Call ext. 291.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Good Age Club: Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Nov. 16, Intergenerational Programming, "Kids in the Kitchen"; Nov. 23, "Basic CPR."

Recital Series: **Jacques Israelievitch** and Friends at the Al Green Theatre, Sunday, Nov. 19, March 4, May 15. $20, students $8, series $50. Tickets, harrietw@mnjcc.org.

"Estate Planning With a Difernce": learn how to prevent family problems and unnecessary litigation. Tuesday, Nov. 21, 1-2:30 p.m.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 35

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Benzi, Efraim	Oct. 27/06	1131 Steeles Ave. W
Zylbergold, Pola	Oct. 28/06	170 Red Maple Rd
Khakshoorian, Fahimeh Dviri	Oct. 28/06	
Berul, Nettie	Oct. 28/06	155 Searle Ave
Cohen, Anita Honey	Oct. 29/06	273 Maxwell St
Maizlin, Liza	Oct. 29/06	
Scharf, Zelda	Oct. 29/06	60 Kings College
Newman, Linda Hilda	Oct. 29/06	40 Lower Village Gate
Raffalovitch, Fanny	Oct. 30/06	1 Northwestern Ave
Benjamin Schwartz, Rose Helen	Oct. 31/06	3600 Bathurst St
Kolker, David	Oct. 31/06	109 Glen Park Ave
Silver, Constance Margaret	Nov. 1/06	203 Brickstone Circle
Richman, Daniel	Nov. 1/06	
Rozinsky, Sara	Nov. 1/06	6250 Bathurst St
Duschinsky, Andras, Andy	Nov. 2/06	205 Cummer Ave
Little, Leonard	Nov. 3/06	128 Baycrest Ave
Soloveychik, Anna	Nov. 3/06	Private
Kotzer, Rose	Nov. 5/06	3600 Bathurst St
Karpman, Moissei	Nov. 5/06	Private
Ziv, Leonard	Nov. 5/06	72 Peach Willoway

The Family of the late
PEARL UBLANSKY ל"ז
would like to thank everyone for their kindness shown to us during our recent loss of our beloved Mother and Grandmother.
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
REGINA (GINIA) BUCHMAN ל"ז
will take place
Sunday, November 19th at 2:00 p.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

DOREEN (NATHANSON) GORDON ל"ז
Passed away on Tuesday, October 31, 2006, in the New Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Doreen Gordon was the beloved wife of Alfred, loving mother and mother-in law of Gayle Gordon and Tom Silverhart, Randy Gordon, Kenny and Sandy Gordon; dear sister and sister in law of Lawrence and Lorraine Nathanson, Hilroy and Fannie Nathanson, Norma and Gilbert Fine, Edie Nathanson and Helen Nathanson. She had been predeceased by her brothers, Daniel Nathanson and Bernard "Nardy" Nathanson. She was a devoted grandmother of Rebecca and Josh Silverhart, Max, Zachary, Mitchell and Jonathan Gordon. She will be sadly missed by her many nieces and nephews. Special thanks to Ida Snow and Geri Decker for their loving and care. Funeral service was held in Cruikshank's Funeral Home in Halifax on November 1. ***Memorial donations may be made to One Family Fund, 2 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite 800, Toronto, ON M4T 2T5. Tel: 416-644-4955 www.onefamilyfund.org***

For all other notices, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

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Beit Hanoun coverage lacked context, balance

According to Reports
By PAUL MICHAELS

By all accounts, the Internet is becoming the primary vehicle of news for young adults 18 to 34 years old. Based solely on a survey of internationally compiled Internet news sources, the Nov. 8 tragedy in Beit Hanoun, in which 19 Palestinian family members were accidentally killed by Israeli forces, managed to overshadow (in terms of the sheer number of stories) even the victory of the Democratic party in the United States' mid-term elections and the subsequent resignation of U.S. Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld.

The death of innocent civilians is a terrible tragedy, and it was acknowledged as such by Israeli leaders, who immediately ordered an investigation. But the sheer weight of media attention devoted to it, as compared to the arguably far more significant political developments in the United States, raises important questions about international media priorities and proportionality.

A search engine such as Google News, which compiles reports from more than 4,500 English-language news sources worldwide and arranges them "to present the most relevant news first" gives us a valuable glimpse into what preoccupies the international media. For example, as of 4 p.m. on Nov. 8, Google News returned more than 2,100 hits on the Israel-Gaza story, while the Rumsfeld resignation returned just under 700.

To be sure, mainstream Western media outlets, including the major North American evening newscasts on Nov. 8, gave top billing to the U.S. elections. Still, the Gaza story wasn't far behind.

On BBC World (seen on the CBC's Newsworld) Matthew Price, reporting from Beit Hanoun, showed scene after scene of injured Palestinian children, weeping parents and ruined apartments, while emphasizing that "the big question really has to be why did Israel send so many artillery shells into an area that quite clearly was full of civilians?"

Price did note: "Israel has expressed regret, but it says the army is trying to stop Palestinian rocket fire towards Israel." His report included an interview with Israeli spokesperson Miri Eisen, who said: "It was an unintentional tragedy today, and we will try to understand and make sure it doesn't happen again. But we ask, where is the accountability on the Palestinian side? Who is asking questions there about the day-to-day rocket fire into the state of Israel?"

Eisen raised the broader, contextual questions, but Price did not elaborate. Rather, returning to an image of grieving Palestinians, he said: "But here and around the world, the questions are once again about Israel's actions, about what's acceptable force and about how so many [Palestinians] could have been killed in their beds."

Price's report highlights the problem that Israel so frequently faces. Repeated provocation, such as Palestinians firing hundreds of rockets from Gaza into Israel population centres, receives scant media attention and little international criticism of the perpetrators of the attacks. However, an errant military response from Israel that regrettably causes civilian casualties receives massive media attention and international condemnation – which is made all the more compelling because of the large number of journalists on the scene who are able to capture sensational images.

The BBC at least interviewed an Israeli who could explain the country's viewpoint, but on both CBC's *The National* and CTV's *National News*, Israel's position was referred to only briefly and indirectly.

On the CBC, Peter Armstrong reported: "Israeli officials have expressed regret for the shelling, which they said was supposed to hit a rocket-launching site half a kilometre away." He added: "Beit Hanoun is after all, a major centre for rocket attacks into southern Israel."

CTV's Janice Mackay Frayer paid even less attention to Israel's case, focusing instead almost entirely on the human toll in Beit Hanoun.

Nonetheless, it must be noted that in their previous reports from Gaza about the Nov. 3 stand-off at the mosque in Beit Hanoun, both Frayer and Armstrong focused substantially on the nature of the provocations by the Hamas-backed Palestinian militants, including their use of women as human shields.

Ideally, however, journalists should provide full context in each and every report, in order to ensure that viewers and readers have sufficient information to fairly draw their own conclusions.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Coast to Coast

Hillel House attacked in B.C.

By LAUREN KRAMER
Special to The CJN

Eyal Lichtmann, executive director of Vancouver Hillel, looks through the smashed windows of his office last week.

VANCOUVER — Jewish students and the staff of the Vancouver Hillel Foundation on the campus of the University of British Columbia were shocked to find that vandals had smashed the front windows of Hillel House in the early hours of Monday Nov. 6.

"Two boulders the size of a football and a large grapefruit came through the front windows of the office of Hillel's executive director, Eyal Lichtmann," said Pat Johnson, director of development and communications for Vancouver Hillel.

"It was very upsetting and disconcerting to our students and staff, but we're getting wonderful messages of support from friends and strangers in our community."

The vandalism coincided with the commemoration of Kristallnacht in Vancouver, and with the start of Holocaust Awareness Week at UBC, during which a display in the Student Union Building educated students, faculty and passers-by about the history and meaning of the Holocaust.

"There's no way to tell if this is connected with Holocaust Awareness Week, but we're well aware of the irony of it," Johnson said.

Lichtmann speculated that the vandalism was related to publicity surrounding a scheduled Dec. 3 talk at UBC by former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak.

This is the third year in a row that Vancouver Hillel has been targeted by anti-Semitic vandalism. One year ago, when the ambassadors of Jordan and Israel were on campus discussing peace, the side windows of Hillel House were smashed.

Two years ago, a hand-carved sign in front of Hillel House was ripped from the ground and destroyed, causing thousands of dollars of damage.

"That occurred the day after we publicly announced the student government's sponsorship of [academic and Israel critic] Noam Chomsky on campus," Lichtmann said.

"There seems to be a constant theme of attempts to silence our students from the wonderful Israeli advocacy programs that they're conducting on campus," he said.

"This was a definite act of intimidation, it wasn't a random act of violence. As the only Jewish organization on campus, we're very concerned that we're targeted, but Canadians at large should be concerned too, because this is not just a Jewish issue. I would label it a hate crime, and it's unacceptable in Canadian society."

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

נייַע ביכער פון שמחה סימכאָוויטש

פֿון אַלעק סילווער

אין טאָראָנטאָ זיינען נאָר וואָס אַרויס צוויי נייַע פּובליקאַציעס פון באַקאַנטן קאָנאַדער ייִדישן דיכטער שמחה סימכאָוויטש. „דער פּיינערבאַרג" איז אַ צוויי־שפּראָכיקע זאַמלונג פון 110 סימכאָוויטשעס לידער מיט דעם מחברס זייט־בייַ־זייט איבערדיכטונגען אין ענג־ליש. דאָס בוך איז איינגעטיילט אין פּיר טעמאַטישע אָפּטיילן: די ערשטע צוויי באַשטייַען פון פּאָעטישע דערינערונגען פון מחברס קינדהייט און יוגנט־יאָרן אין זייַן היימשטאָט אָטוואָצק, בייַ וואַרשע. דאָ גייַען אויך אַריין באַשרייבונגען פון זיינע וואַנדל־און־וואַנדער־יאָרן אין סאָוועטן־פֿאַרבאַנד אין משך פון דער צוויי־טער וועלט־מלחמה.

אויך געפינען זיך דאָ רירנדיקע קינות אויפן גורל פון זיין משפּחה און אָלע אומגעקומענע ייִדן אין די נע־טאָס און טויט־לאָגערן. די אַנדערע אָפּטיילן דרייען אויס אויף אַ דיכטערישן אופן דעם שרייבערס נשמה געראַנגל צו געפינען אַ טרייסט און אַ באַזינקונג אין דער נאָך־מלחמהדיקער וועלט. אין זייַן נייַער היים אין קאַנאַדע.

דאָס בוך פון 250 זייטן, אין וועייכן איינבונד, מאַכט אַ גוטן איינדרוק באַלד וויי מען נעמט עס אין האַנט אַריין. עס איז אַרויסגעגעבן אין אַ באַגרענעצטער אויפלאַגע דורך דעם שמחה סימכאָוויטש בוך־פאָנד, מיט דער אונטערשטיצונג פון אייניקע פּאָעטער און נעזעלשאפטלעכע אָרגאַניזאַציעס.

די צוויייטע אויסגאַבע איז אַ נעזונג־בוך, וואָס נעמט אַריין די טעקסטן פון סימכאָוויטשעס 45 ייִדישע לידער מיט ענגלישע איבערזעצונגען און מחזיק־נאָטן פון באַקאַנטן טאָראָנטער קאָמפּאָזיטאָר נורית הייַמאַן. דאָס בוך פון 142 זייטן, אין גרויסן פֿאָרמאַט און אין פּלאַסטישן אייַנבונד, איז פֿאַרזאָרגט מיט אַ לענגערן אַריינפּיר פון דעם ניט־לאַנג פֿאַרשטאָרבענעם ישׂראל־דיקן מוזיקאָלאָג ישׂשכר פֿאָפֿער.

די באַוווסטע טאָראָנטער ייִדישע זינגערין לענקא ליכטענבערג האָט אַרויסגענגעבן אַ קאָמפּאַקטל (CD) מיט לידער פון שמחה סימכאָוויטש אונטערן נאָמען „פּשטות" (Simplicity). זי האָט געשאַפֿן איר אייגענע מרזיק צו די לידער, וועלכע זיינען אַראָנזשירט און ווערן דאָ אַקאָמפּאַנירט פון איר פּריַיִנד בריַין קאַץ. ליכטענבערג האָט די לידער בעזונגען מיט גרויס דערפֿאָלג אויף אַ קאָנצערט ביים לעצטן אַשכּנז פעסטיוואַל אין טאָראָנטאָ. מיר האָבן די לידער נאָך נישט נעהערט און מיר וועלן וועגן זיי דאָרפֿן שרייבן ביי אַ צווייטער געלעגנהייט.

שמחה סימכאָוויטש איז אַן אַנגעזעענער קאָנאַדער ייִדישער שרייבער און דיכטער. ער איז דער מחבר פון אַ צאָל ביכער פון דיכטונג, פּראָזע און איבערזעצונגען אין ייִדיש, ענגליש, העברעיש און פּויליש. סימכאָוויטש איז אַ מיטגליד פון דער קאָנאַדער פֿאָעטן־ליגע און איז אָקטיוו אין ייִדיש־נעזעלשאַפֿטלעכן לעבן אין טאָראָנטאָ. פֿאַר זיינע שאַפֿונגען איז ער באַלוינט געוואָרן מיט דער י. י. סיגאל פּרעמיע (מאָנטרעאל 1991, 2004); די חיים זשיטלאָווסקי פּרעמיע (ניו־יאָרק 1998); און אַ ריי אויסצייכענונגען פון בוך־קאָמיטעט ביים טאָראָנטער ייִדישן קהילה־צענטער.

דער פּריַיז פון יעדן אויבן־דערמאָנטן בוך איז 25 דאָלער (פֿאָסטגעלט אַריינגערעכנט) אין קאַנאַדע און די פֿאַראייניקטע שטאַטן; 30 דאָלער מעבר לים. מיט באַשטעלונגען דאַרף מען זיך וענדן צו:

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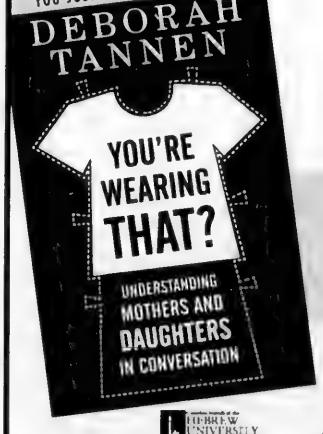

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Senate bill would make suicide bombing a crime

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

After being stalled in the Senate for two years, a bill that would criminalize suicide bombings has passed second reading and has been referred to committee for study.

Bill S-206 would amend the Criminal Code by including suicide bombing as part of the definition of terrorism. It will likely come before the Senate committee early in the new year.

Senator Jerry Grafstein, the bill's sponsor, said the proposal is "a made-in-Canada solution" that will clarify domestic criminal law.

"Those who would incite, promote or advocate suicide bombing would be culpable," he said. "I want to make this type of invidious conduct, that falls below civilized standards" a criminal offence.

The bill, which is only one sentence long, states simply that "for greater certainty, a suicide bombing comes within… the definition – terrorist activity."

Grafstein said the law would apply to people within Canada who plot or promote suicide attacks.

In a Senate debate when he moved second reading of the bill, Grafstein stated that "a specific prohibition against 'suicide bombing' would directly assist and enhance the prosecutions of those unsuccessful 'suicide bombers' and of those who individually and collectively conspire to assist in 'suicide bombings.' Peace, order and good government lies at the base of Canada's system of rule of law. Suicide bombing is contrary to the heart of the national principles of constitutional governance.

"Our criminal law as is stands does not expressly prohibit those who intentionally choose to lose their own lives as a means of taking as many other civilian lives as possible. If suicide bombing is tantamount to homicide, the Criminal Code should eliminate any doubt about it as a clear-cut, express criminal offence," he said.

Grafstein said the bill had been held up by the previous Paul Martin government on the basis that murder was already in the Criminal Code and thus the bill would be extraneous. However, with the change in government, Liberal Senators joined the other parties to unanimously support the bill on second reading.

Grafstein said he was confident that once it passes the Senate, a number of MPs would be prepared to introduce it in the House of Commons.

The bill drew support from Canadians Against Suicide Bombing (CANASB), a non-profit organization that has lobbied to make suicide bombing a crime against humanity.

Reuben Bromstein, a retired judge who is CANASB's president, said that even if suicide bombing is implicitly covered by the Criminal Code, "why not make it explicit? We might as well do it and be an example to the rest of the world… Others might follow Canada's lead."

Bromstein said CANASB opposes suicide bombings regardless of where they take place. "In essence, there is a phenomenon around the world. We don't focus on your objective, it is the means we object to and hopefully everybody can agree on that."

A petition on CANASB's website (www.canasb.ca) calls on the federal government to amend the Criminal Code to explicitly designate suicide bombing as a terrorist act and "to lead the world to say suicide bombing is a crime against humanity and prosecute its organizers."

CANASB would like to see Canada lead a campaign at the United Nations to amend international laws to specifically make suicide bombings against civilians a crime against humanity and to encourage other countries to prosecute people who organize the attacks.

On the international front, the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles has spearheaded a push to include suicide bombing as a crime against humanity. As well, Australia's parliament has passed a bipartisan motion adopting that position, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), a 55-member international security organization, passed a non-binding resolution in July 2005 that urged member states to recognize "that suicide attacks of the terrorist nature constitute 'crimes against humanity.'"

Correction

The story "Canadian Jews signed up for armed forces in large numbers" (*CJN*, Nov. 9), incorrectly stated that pilot Harry Sklar did not earn a commission. In fact, he was commissioned as a flying officer.

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Feds considering security assistance

Continued from page 1

fundraising and allocation arm, said $550,000 was spent in the 2005-06 fiscal year on security measures at the Lipa Green Building, the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (BJCC), the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, the Wolfond Centre and at Jewish schools. That figure does not include the cost of security guards at schools, synagogues or agencies at other locations.

Over the next three years, federation is forecasting total security costs of $11 million to $12 million, which includes about $550,000 in annual costs as well as capital expenditures on security measures at the planned Lebovic Jewish Community Campus and the Central Square development (to be located on the site of the current BJCC).

English said the capital costs attributable to infrastructure security measures include surveillance systems and built-in security areas, but he did not provide details.

Since 9/11, community representatives have raised community security concerns in virtually all meetings with politicians, Farber said.

"The previous government listened but did not come out with any statement of action… I'm optimistic that the minister of public security is both now talking the talk and is preparing to walk the walk."

Leclerc's comments came after a reporter from CanWest News followed up a letter by Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel that called on the federal government to consider a fund to offset costs of security for at-risk communities.

"We are thrilled that Mr. Day and Prime Minister Stephen Harper are considering our proposal," said MP Anita Neville, co-chair of the parliamentary group. "The reality is that certain religious and ethnic groups are more likely to be targeted by terrorists than other groups, and as a result, they have to implement extra security measures.

"Whether it is at churches, mosques, synagogues, gurdwaras [Sikh places of worship] or community centres, extra security is often needed. We urge the government to take action on this, and we're pleased they seem to be taking this issue seriously," Neville stated.

Farber noted that security concerns of communities have changed with the times. "In the 21st century, there are at-risk communities. While the number of acts may not go up or remain the same, it's the kind of act perpetrated against us that has changed," he said. "In the last 2½ years, two Jewish day schools in Montreal have been firebombed."

In addition, since 2002, a period roughly corresponding to the onset of the Palestinian intifadah, synagogues in Edmonton, Saskatoon, Toronto and Quebec City have been struck by arson.

The U.S. government already operates a $25-million (US) program to assist at-risk non-profit groups. Jewish groups in 18 communities received $14 million of that amount in 2005, with no one institution receiving more than $100,000. New York's Jewish community received the largest amount, getting about $4.5 million of $6.3 million allocated to non-profits in the city, *JTA* reported.

Eva Wiseman to launch book at Winnipeg book fair

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — With the completion of *Kanada*, her fourth novel, Eva Wiseman has finished her history of the Holocaust in Hungary and its far-reaching effects on Hungarian Jewry.

Although her new novel's official launch is not until Nov. 30 at McNally Robinson Booksellers here, Wiseman is previewing the book at the annual Winnipeg Jewish Book Fair at the Rady Jewish Community Centre on Nov. 20.

The Winnipeg-based Wiseman is one of several high-profile authors – both local and national – who are scheduled to appear at the Book Fair, Nov. 19 to 26. Among them are local writers Carol Matas, the internationally acclaimed author of over 30 novels for children and young adults, and Carol Rose, who has been widely published in anthologies and literary journals.

Out-of-towners include Toronto writer and storyteller Aubrey Davis, author of the award-winning *Bagels from Benny*; Edeet Ravel, the author of the critically acclaimed *Ten Thousand Lovers* and *Look for Me* (her newest work, *A Wall of Light* – the story of three generations of a Tel Aviv family – was a finalist for the Giller Prize); poet Susan Glickman who is receiving rave reviews for her first novel, *The Violin Lover*, a moving wartime story, set in London, that evokes the sensations of performing and listening to music; Ben Baader, whose book, *Gender, Judaism, and Bourgeois Culture in Germany, 1800-1870*, explores the process of modernization of Jewish religious culture and shows how rabbis and Jewish preachers encouraged their congregants to cultivate a Judaism shaped by feminine values; Ellen Jaffe, a Hamilton-based writer whose *Feast of Lights* is a celebration of Chanukah through the eyes of a 12-year-old; Melanie Fogell, whose first book, *Ambiguous Selves: New Jewish Identities* chronicles the author's search for identity as a Canadian Jewish woman and looks at the problems of Jewish identity faced by Israeli immigrant women when they move to Canada; and Ryerson English professor Ruth Panofsky, who will be speaking about her biography of noted Canadian Jewish writer and former Winnipegger Adele Wiseman.

The daughter of Hungarian Jewish Holocaust survivors, Eva Wiseman (no relation to Adele Wiseman) spent her early years in Hungary. The family came to Canada after the Hungarian revolution in 1956.

Through her four novels, *A Place Not Home*, *My Canary Yellow Star*, *No One Must Know* and, most recently, *Kanada*, Wiseman has given voice to the Hungarian Jewish experience in the mid-20th century.

"I decided to write about the Holocaust from a Hungarian Jewish perspective," she explains, "because there have not been many books about the Hungarian Jewish experience in the Holocaust. Most reflect the Polish Jewish experience."

Her first book, *A Place Not Home*, is Wiseman's own story. The novel, which was released in 1996, is the story of a 13-year-old Jewish girl growing up in Communist Hungary whose family decides to flee to freedom during the Hungarian Revolution.

The novel became a bestseller. It is still being taught in schools throughout North America and has been published in France.

Wiseman's second novel, *My Canary Yellow Star*, came out in 2001 and won several awards, including a listing on the New York Public Library's teen book list. The novel is also about a teenage Jewish girl living in Hungary, this time during World War II. Her family is among those saved by Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg.

Having written about Hungarian Jewry during the Holocaust and under Communism, for her third novel, Wiseman focused on the Hungarian Jewish immigrants' adaptation to life in Canada in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Her third novel, *No One Must Know*, was released in November 2005. It is set in Winnipeg in the late 1950s among the Hungarian Jews who settled here after the war or the 1956 uprising.

The theme Wiseman tackles in this novel is the phenomenon of denial of their Jewish identity by some of the Jewish newcomers. The main character is a teenage Hungarian Jewish girl named Alex who doesn't know she is Jewish. Her parents are pretending to be Catholic.

The author recalls that within her parents' social circle were a number of Hungarian Jewish families who denied their Jewishness without ever actually converting to Christianity.

"I would overhear my parents talking about friends who were pretending to be Christian and even joined churches [generally the Catholic Church], although they never converted," she says. "In some cases, the children didn't know they were Jewish. In other families, the children were told they were Jewish but warned about revealing that secret to anybody."

Kanada is a prequel to *No One Must Know*. The main character is a young Hungarian Jewish woman in Auschwitz who makes an appearance in the earlier book as a childhood friend of Alex's mother. The mother also appears in the new novel.

To research the new book, Wiseman visited Poland and Auschwitz and interviewed many survivors. She also spoke a lot with her 94-year-old father who moved in with her a couple of years ago. He was imprisoned in Auschwitz from July 1944 until he was liberated in May 1945.

Having finished *Kanada*, Wiseman feels she has done full justice to the story of the Holocaust and Hungarian Jewry. For her next novel, she is going back to the 19th century. All she will say about the new novel, due out in 2008, is that it will focus on a Jewish teenager and that it is a unique story.

Conference addresses dialogue

Continued from page 5

he said. "I think that is something primarily unique to Modern Orthodoxy, and I do mourn the fact that it has disappeared." He added, however, that he thinks it is something that can re-emerge."

Panel moderator Elliott Malamet noted that it "seems one grows not by talking to people who agree with you, but with people who don't. That's how ideas get sharpened."

He also questioned whether Modern Orthodox Jews have the right to complain about "infiltration, or whatever word you want to use, of elements from the right" when Modern Orthodox institutions have hired haredi educators, "many of whom are extremely idealistic."

Heilman refers to haredi educators in Modern Orthodox schools as "agents provocateurs" – a controversial term he said he did not mean in a negative sense. "They...don't share the same values as many of the parents," he said. "They don't necessarily believe college education is an important value or that to be in both [Orthodox and secular] worlds is important.."

Heilman said that while Modern Orthodoxy values Jewish education and educators, "it's also not prepared to donate its own children to that task."

Also, noted Rabbi Student later in the program, the "cream of the crop of Modern Orthodox rabbis have been moving to Israel."

Ferziger, who made aliyah in 1987, said Israel can be "a source for a tremendous amount of power, energy and renaissance," but he cautioned parents to "take a serious interest in where they're sending their children."

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Dawson victim expected to make full recovery

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Leslie Markofsky appears to be well on his way to a full recovery, almost two months after being shot twice in the head by Kimveer Gill during his Sept. 13 rampage at Dawson College.

A prize-winning business student at Concordia University's John Molson School of Business, Markofsky, 23, was the first and most seriously injured of the 20 people who were hurt that day, and he was the last to be released from hospital.

One Dawson student, Anastasia DeSousa, 18, was killed. But Markofsky, who was among 11 Dawson victims treated at the Montreal University Health Centre (MUHC)'s Montreal General Hospital, emerged from a coma and is expected to regain virtually all his abilities after rehabilitation.

Fragments of one bullet were removed, but doctors left the other one in his head.

Ida Markofsky, his mother, declined to speak to reporters, other than granting an exclusive interview to the CBC on Nov. 3.

But contacted by *The CJN*, she did say the family would speak to other media outlets at "some point" in the future.

In a brief answer to a question, she said that her son began to emerge from a coma about two weeks after his injury.

The timing seemed at odds with news reports that suggested Markofsky suddenly snapped out of his condition (his mother described that as the media "tweaking adjectives"). Other news reports said Markofsky had been put into an "induced" coma by doctors in order to allow his brain to rest and heal itself.

The *National Post* reported that to reduce massive swelling in Markofsky's brain, doctors performed a risky procedure called "osmolar therapy." The therapy, involving the administration of specific drugs, is usually used on children as a last-resort treatment to relieve intercranial pressure when conventional means have failed.

Whatever the case, during the television interview with him and his mother, Markofsky, wearing a special protective helmet prior to undergoing surgery to replace bone fragments in his skull, was articulate and grateful for a recovery that his family described as a "miracle."

Markofsky's plight was reported around the world, and the family received thousands of messages of prayer and good wishes.

They came "from people I never met, names I never heard of," Markofsky told the CBC. "Whatever people have been doing from the kindness of their hearts, it's been working. So I can only say thank you and wish I could return the favour in some way."

He recalled how on the day of the shooting, he ate breakfast with friends at Dawson, which he graduated from in 2005, and was standing in front of the school waiting to be picked up by car when he was hit.

Markofsky said he was "in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"You know, this is only something that happens to people on the news, not to me," he said.

"I don't know the person who did this. I don't know anything about him. I can't draw any conclusions about it. It's just a shame some people do the things they do."

His mother was less forgiving, saying the gunman's name doesn't warrant mention.

Markofsky said that when he awoke from his coma, he saw his best friend Matt standing over him.

"I didn't realize what was happening. I knew where I was, but didn't know why I saw my best friend here. I saw my parents here. So we must be all right on some level."

Rabbi Ronnie Cahana, spiritual leader of Beth-El Congregation, where the Markofskys are members, visited the immediate family – which includes father Jeffrey and sister Lauren – regularly in the hospital.

Another rabbi, Mordecai Zeitz of Congregation Beth Tikvah in Dollard des Ormeaux, encouraged people worldwide to send e-mails to the family.

Friends and colleagues described Markofsky as an extremely intelligent, friendly man, and a skilled golfer.

"I always knew he would come out [of the coma]," Rabbi Cahana told *The CJN*. "The truth is that God saved his life. I'm just a rabbi who tried not to be intrusive."

On Nov. 3, MUHC issued a statement announcing Markofsky's release, saying he was making an "excellent recovery."

In the statement, Ida Markofsky expressed deep gratitude to the MUHC and for the community's support over the last months.

"Our children are home," she said.

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'Our bond is built on shared history' Livni tells GA

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

LOS ANGELES — After thanking the North American Jewish community for its continued support for the State of Israel, Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Tzipi Livni assured about 4,000 delegates that despite the obstacles ahead, Israel and the Jewish people will persevere.

Livni was the keynote speaker at Sunday's opening plenary of the 75th United Jewish Community's General Assembly, an annual meeting of Jewish leaders from across the continent that was being held this year in Los Angeles.

The theme of this year's GA, which was originally called "Be with the Stars," was switched to "One People, One Destiny," to reflect Israel's need for support from the Diaspora since the recent Israel-Hezbollah war.

The four-day conference also featured addresses from influential Israeli and North American figures such as former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Canadian MP Irwin Cotler and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who was scheduled to speak on Tuesday in his first address to the North American Jewish community since the start of the war this past July.

The opening plenary featured musical performances, video montages and speeches from Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; Galia Maor, GA Israel chair and CEO of Bank Leumi; Jewish Agency chairman Ze'ev Bielski; Karnit Goldwasser, wife of kidnapped soldier Ehud Goldwasser; and actors Jeff Goldblum and Jon Voigt, among others.

Before Livni took to the stage, Dan Gordon, a Hollywood screenwriter who served as an Israel Defence Forces spokesperson during last summer's war, spoke about a new kind of terrorism that is threatening Israel.

"When Hezbollah launched their unprovoked attack against Israel on July 12, killing eight Israeli soldiers and kidnapping Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, and launching what would come to be more than 4,000 rocket attacks, it was clear that we were witnessing an evolution in terrorism," Gordon said.

"Hezbollah is not just a terrorist organization. It is a terrorist army. It is financed like an army, looks like an army, is trained like an army and is organized like an army, and yet its strategy is to inflict mass civilian casualties amongst Israel's population.

"But unlike our parents' generation, we live in a time where those who target Jews are answerable to a Jewish army. They are answerable to the Jewish state and they are answerable to all of us in this room," Gordon added.

Livni, who was received by a standing ovation, talked about the common goals of the Jewish people both in Israel and abroad, and she said that although the relationship between Israeli and Diaspora Jews is defined in terms of "common dangers," the bond shared goes beyond that.

"Our bond is built on shared history and shared faith, on a rich tapestry of tradition and culture, and on a responsibility not only to protect our Jewish identity but to make it flourish for generations to come," Livni said.

She also addressed the threat of Iran as a nuclear power to both Israel and the rest of the world.

"Iran's intentions are not only a direct threat to Israel, but they are also a threat to the values that the international community as a whole holds dear."

She also blamed Israel's recent war with Hezbollah on Iran and acknowledged the new challenges Israel faces when fighting a terrorist army.

"Though the war took place in Lebanon, it was the case of the rogue state, Iran, and its proxy, Hezbollah, abusing a weak state, Lebanon. For Israel, the war revealed significant shortcomings that we must correct, but it also created opportunities that we can build upon."

Livni also made reference to the three missing soldiers who were kidnapped by Hezbollah months ago.

"Our soldiers, our sons, captured by Hezbollah, Ehud Goldwasser, Eldad Regev and Gilad Shalit, still remain in captivity. Those who keep them there see our desire to do everything, but everything, to bring them home as a sign of weakness. They are wrong. This is testimony to our strength," she said.

"Your voice is important and I urge you to speak out on their behalf and make sure that this remains on the international agenda and conscience. We will not rest until our boys are freed."

Although Livni made it clear that the Israeli government is dedicated to achieving peace in the Middle East, she acknowledged that peace will be impossible until groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah acknowledge Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state.

"No peace process in history has succeeded without each side recognizing the legitimacy of the other."

She said that she envisions an Israeli and Palestinian state existing side by side in peace. But, she said, "there is no place in this vision for terrorism. Each people should be willing to keep up part of their agreement to make room for the dreams of the others."

She added that to ensure the security of Israel, it may be necessary to give up parts of Israel.

Speaking after Livni's address, Ted Sokolsky, the president of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, said that although last summer's war was tragic, it helped bring together Jewish communities around the world.

"I think one of the great things, one of the great outcomes of this war with Lebanon, for all the wrong reasons, is that the Diaspora Jewry and Israeli Jewry have come together and there is a mutual respect," he said.

"Now the GA is becoming more relevant and more important… I'm glad to see that the attendance is up, people are involved and people are more engaged in the issues that affect the Jewish community."

Warrant issued for former Iranian president

JTA

BUENOS AIRES — An Argentine judge ordered the arrest of Iran's former president in the 1994 AMIA Jewish centre bombing in Buenos Aires.

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was one of seven former Iranian government officials and one Hezbollah operative named as accomplices in the attack, which killed 85 people and wounded more than 300.

Judge Rodolfo Canicoba-Corral issued warrants for their arrests and declared the bombing a crime against humanity, which means the case has no statute of limitations. Israeli Ambassador Rafael Eldad called the development "highly significant."

Stolen Klimt sets record

JTA

NEW YORK — A Klimt painting stolen by the Nazis and returned to its rightful owner set records at auction last week.

Austria ended an extensive legal battle in January by handing over five works by Gustav Klimt to Maria Altmann, the niece of Adele and Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer. One of the paintings was a portrait of Adele. It sold for $87.9 million (US) at a Christie's auction in New York last week, setting a record for a Klimt. It had been expected to sell for $40 million to $60 million.

"My Aunt Adele and Uncle Ferdinand enjoyed living with these paintings and sharing them, and we trust that their new owners will build on this tradition of appreciation," Altmann said.

Three of the other Klimts also sold for much more than anticipated. Another work reclaimed through Nazi restitution, by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, sold for $38 million, above its estimated value of $18 million to $25 million.

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'The natural choice to win this award'

Continued from page 1

says Brady, a plumber in Toronto for more than 40 years. "Not just these awards, but this whole story – it's like a dream."

The award is the culmination of a story that began when Hana was murdered. The only thing the little girl left behind was a suitcase, on which was written her name, her birth date and the German word *waisenkind*, which means orphan.

The mysterious suitcase found its way into the hands of Japanese school teacher Fumiko Ishioka, co-ordinator of the now-defunct Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Center. Ishioka, who had written letters to several Holocaust museums around the world requesting children's artifacts for her modest collection at the centre, received the suitcase, along with a baby shoe, a little sock, a baby sweater and a can of Zyklon B gas, from the Auschwitz Museum in Poland in March 2000.

"Although there is a Holocaust museum in Hiroshima, Holocaust education is a very new subject in Japan. In the history textbooks, the Holocaust is only described in a few lines. As a result, most students in Japan have never even heard the word 'Holocaust' before," says Ishioka, who estimates that since the centre in Tokyo closed three years ago, she has been able to bring a travelling exhibit about the Holocaust to more than 200 schools in Japan, reaching some 60,000 students.

"There are some teachers who have started to realize that there are many important universal lessons to be learned from the Holocaust. But we still have a long way to go," she says.

When the centre was still open, Ishioka says several students who visited were curious to know more about the mysterious Hana Brady.

"I remember one girl from high school was furious that the Nazis had classified her as an 'orphan,'" Ishioka recalls. "I realized I needed to know more about this little girl. In order to really tell the story of the Holocaust, I had to put a face to the suitcase."

Thus began Ishioka's journey. A trip to the Czech Republic led to Poland and finally, in September 2000, to George Brady in Toronto. Ishioka wrote him a letter, to which he responded immediately, with photos of Hana and himself as children. Ishioka says: "I finally got to see the face I had so long been looking for."

"When Fumiko first contacted me, it was totally unexpected. If the letter had come from Europe, it somehow would have been easier to explain than from Japan, which seemed like this faraway country that had nothing to do with me or this history," Brady says. "It was lucky for me that she was so persistent."

From left, George Brady, Lara Hana (George's daughter), Fumiko Ishioka and Avner Shalev, chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate [Yossi Ben David photo]

Ishioka recalls Brady's response to her request for information about Hana. "I cannot thank George enough for his courage to share such difficult memories with me," she says. "I will never forget what he first said to me: 'if it's for children, then I will share.'"

Ishioka and Brady first met in person in Toronto in January 2001. Their meeting inspired CBC journalist Karen Levine to create a prize-winning radio documentary – and to write her first book.

Since it was first published in English in April 2002, *Hana's Suitcase* has been translated into more than 20 languages (Ishioka herself did the Japanese translation), and published in more than 27 countries. "This is the most exciting thing for me, that this story is being so widely read by so many children from so many different backgrounds," Ishioka says.

When the book was translated into Hebrew – by Schocken Publishing House in Israel – it became eligible for the Yad Vashem award.

"*Hana's Suitcase* was the natural choice to win this award," says Haim Gertner, director of teacher training at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem.

"One of the main pillars of the school's educational philosophy is that when you are teaching about the Holocaust, you have to focus on one individual. You have to save the soul of one person among the pile of bodies. You have to see a face, and be involved with a particular person's story," he says.

"Not only does *Hana's Suitcase* focus on one face, but it follows the process by which one educator came to discover that face. The story is unbelievable. It's interesting and it's touching, and it's very important.

"Now that the generation of the survivors is disappearing, we have to give tools to the next generation. This book is an important educational tool that really presents the Holocaust in a touching and sensitive way," Gertner says

Hana's Suitcase has already expanded to encompass other mediums. A production of *Hana's Suitcase* was staged in Toronto, at the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People, this fall, and the show is set to tour Canada, the United States and perhaps even to England. Documentary filmmakers in the Czech Republic are about to start working on a film about the story.

"It's neat to get acknowledgement – especially so far from home," says Lara Hana, who just completed her undergraduate degree in anthropology and Near and Middle Eastern civilizations at the University of Toronto. "It's exciting, but it's bizarre. It's completely taken over our lives. We have had to put everything else on hold."

She adds that since the book launch they have struggled to respond to hundreds of letters, e-mails and invitations they have received from around the world. Over the last few years, they have visited many places in Europe, Japan, the United States, Canada and central America.

On Nov. 14, the father-and-daughter pair returned to Israel to attend a ceremony to dedicate a memorial plaque to Hana at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, of which Brady has been a longtime board member.

"I feel that what we are doing now is really important," says Lara Hana. "In a way it's gone way beyond Hana, and is really opening up doors – especially for kids who don't know anything about the Holocaust, since Hana is someone who everyone can identify with."

Brady adds: "It's very gratifying that my sister's story has been turned into this huge international educational tool. There is no consolation for her loss, but it's the best thing that one could imagine – that out of something so bad could come something so good.

"I can't help but think that all of this has somehow been directed by some higher being – that my little sister, the girl who dreamt of becoming a small-town teacher, is now teaching thousands of kids around the world."

Aside from the award for Children's Holocaust Literature, donated by the Bruno Brandt Foundation, Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies gave out prizes for the outstanding Holocaust education programs to the Mevo'ot Primary School in Be'er Tuvia, the Manor Kabri Middle School at Kibbutz Eilon, and the Rabin School in Givat Ze'ev. English teacher Marsha Goren, of the Ein-Ganim Primary School in Petach Tikvah, received an award for the most outstanding educator. Chana Kupetz, Talia Kirsh and Elior Cohen received awards for writing outstanding high school matriculation papers dealing with issues related to the Holocaust.

New IDF infantry brigade

Continued from page 1

Eyeing Syria, the IDF has formed a new infantry brigade, known as Kfir ("young lion") as a counter-measure to Syria's commando forces, which are considered to be better than Hezbollah guerrillas, an Israeli military source told the *Times*.

The IDF is also reportedly integrating three elite brigades in preparation for them co-operating on deep cross-border operations into Syria and Iran.

Also, shortly before the Lebanon war, Maj.-Gen. Eliezer Shkedy was appointed head of the IDF's Iranian Front, and as such will command any future strikes against Syria or Iran.

Some analysts say it would have been better for Israel to attack Syria during the recent war with Hezbollah. Syria has consistently supplied Hezbollah with weapons and, according to recent UN reports, has continued to smuggle arms to the group despite an international embargo.

"If they had acted against Syria during this last kerfuffle, the war might have ended more quickly, and better," said American analyst Richard Perle.

"Syrian military installations are sitting ducks and the Syrian air force could have been destroyed on the ground in a couple of days," Perle continued.

European anti-Semitism increases

By DINAH A. SPRITZER
JTA

PRAGUE — Israel's recent war with Hezbollah led to a new wave of anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, almost all of them in western Europe, a new report finds.

The European Jewish Congress' 53-page report, presented Sunday at a World Jewish Congress meeting in Paris, reveals that the transference of anti-Israel sentiment onto Jews occurred almost exclusively in western Europe, with the atmosphere remaining either neutral or pro-Israel in the former eastern bloc.

Denmark was another exception, the EJC notes, saying that media and politicians there kept a balanced view of the conflict.

The conclusion that anti-Semitism rose worldwide during that war is already well documented, but the EJC report points to specific trends that pose challenges in Europe, such as the collaboration of Muslim extremists with left-wing political parties; political and media comparisons of Israeli leaders to Nazis; and the first instances of Turkish Jews complaining of anti-Semitism since an Islamic-based political party took power in Turkey in 2002.

The Paris-based EJC hopes to use the report to convince European Union (EU) officials to attack the problem through public education, and to provide security for Jewish communities.

"We are not trying to be alarmist," report author Ilan Moss told JTA. "But we do see that European political discourse can be slanted, with European politicians feeling comfortable publicly supporting Hezbollah and treating it as a liberation organization."

In Austria, 83 anti-Semitic acts were recorded from April 2006 to August 2006, up from 50 during the same period in 2005. Anti-Semitic letters sent to the Jewish community of Vienna "drastically increased" during the war, with a number of writers comparing Austria's Jewish leaders to Nazis.

This sentiment was popularized by Austria's two extreme-right parties, both of which are currently in Parliament.

France also saw an increase in the number of anti-Semitic events, with 61 incidents during the war, up 79 per cent over the same period last year.

At demonstrations across France in support of Lebanon, placards read, "Death to the Jews – Death to Israel," and Stars of David were emblazoned with swastikas.

Nonetheless, Shimon Samuels, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Paris office, said the "blowback" of anti-Semitism that occurred in France after the Palestinian intifadah began in 2000 was not as strong during the conflict with Hezbollah.

"This is probably because the people who rioted a year ago and who would be likely to attack a synagogue were more focused on attacking the French system," he said, referring to October 2005 riots in Paris suburbs by Muslim youths protesting discrimination, poor housing conditions and unemployment.

Israel is personal for U.S. speaker-elect Pelosi

By JENNIFER JACOBSON
JTA

WASHINGTON — Before a packed meeting of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) three years ago, U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, connected her political support for the Jewish state with her personal life.

"My daughter is Catholic. My son-in-law is Jewish," she said. "Last week I celebrated my birthday and my grandchildren – ages 4 and 6 – called to sing *Happy Birthday*. And the surprise, the real gift, was that they sang it in Hebrew."

Now that the Democrats have taken control of the U.S. House of Representatives, the party is expected to install Pelosi, 66, as speaker, making her the first woman to hold the position that is two heartbeats away from the U.S. presidency.

Political observers say it's no surprise that the congresswoman from San Francisco considers herself close to the Jews.

The daughter of Thomas D'Alesandro Jr., a former mayor of Baltimore, Pelosi grew up in a Democratic family with Jewish neighbours and friends.

"She likes to say that, growing up in Baltimore, she went to a bar or bat mitzvah every Saturday," Amy Friedkin, a former president of AIPAC and a friend of Pelosi's for 25 years, wrote in an e-mail to *JTA*.

Friedkin noted that there's even a soccer field in the Haifa area of Israel named after the lawmaker's family.

While the Republicans campaigned partly on the premise that support for Israel among Democrats has waned, exit polls from last week's voting show that Democrats won an overwhelming majority of the Jewish vote.

With Pelosi as speaker, Jewish activists and officials are confident the U.S. Congress will remain strongly pro-Israel.

"I've heard her say numerous times that the single greatest achievement of the 20th century" was the founding of the modern State of Israel, Friedkin wrote. "She has been a great friend of the U.S.-Israel relationship during her entire time in Congress and is deeply committed to strengthening that relationship."

Sam Lauter, a pro-Israel activist in San Francisco, has known Pelosi for nearly 40 years. He was five years old when the Pelosis moved into his San Francisco neighborhood, he recalls. The two families lived on the same street.

"She's one of the classiest," most "straightforward people you could ever meet," Lauter said. "She's incredibly loyal."

Lauter said the Pelosis used to attend the first night of the Passover seder at his parents' house.

"As far as the Jewish community is concerned, she feels our issues in her soul," he said.

To illustrate his point, Lauter told a Pelosi story that has become almost legendary in the Jewish community.

At an AIPAC luncheon in San Francisco right after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, Pelosi was speaking when an alarm sounded.

"Everybody started getting nervous, scrambling toward the door," Lauter recalled. One person, though, was reading the words of *Hatikvah*, the Israeli national anthem, above the din. It was Pelosi.

"It actually calmed the crowd," Lauter said. "You could see people actually smiling, saying 'Wow.'"

This "wasn't something done purposefully to show everyone that Nancy Pelosi supports the Jewish community," he said. It "actually came from inside her."

Lauter and others say Pelosi will have to draw on that inner strength as speaker, since Lauter predicted that she will hear from those in the Jewish community who argue that Democrats no longer support Israel the way they used to.

Some Republicans, in fact, questioned Pelosi's support for Israel this summer. The congresswoman ended up removing her name as a co-sponsor from a House resolution supporting the Jewish state during its war with Hezbollah because it did not address the protection of civilians.

While Pelosi's aides said she was not going to lend her name to a resolution that did not contain a word she had written, Republicans criticized the move.

"It highlights a real wave within the Democratic Party that wants a more 'evenhanded' approach on these issues, and that wants to view Israel through the same prism as we do Hezbollah," Matt Brooks, the executive director of the Republican Jewish Coalition, said at the time. "Watering down is not acceptable right now."

Brooks could not be reached for comment last week.

For his part, Lauter believes the argument about the Democrats and Pelosi is false. For instance, he noted Pelosi's quick response to former U.S. president Jimmy Carter's description of Israel's settlement policies as "apartheid" in a forthcoming book.

Pelosi publicly announced that Carter does not speak for the Democratic Party on Israel.

Rabbi Doug Kahn, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council in San Francisco, also applauded Pelosi's repudiation of Carter's position.

He has known Pelosi since she started representing his district in 1987. Rabbi Kahn said his group has always had an excellent working relationship with her. And he praised her passion for issues that relate to equal opportunity, social justice and peace.

Rabbi Kahn, echoing Lauter's point, said that Pelosi, coming from a city with such a liberal political reputation, will face challenges from the liberal segments of the Democratic Party that have criticized Israeli policies.

But he's confident that Pelosi, as speaker, will be effective in persuading people with a broad range of views on the Middle East, the importance of maintaining bipartisan support for Israel.

When it comes to Israel, "she truly gets it," said Matt Dorf, a consultant to the Democratic National Committee. She gets "Israel's value and asset to U.S. security" and its "importance as the only democracy in the Middle East."

Jewish organizational officials also commend Pelosi's record on Jewish communal issues.

William Daroff, vice president for public policy for the United Jewish Communities, the federation system's umbrella group and a Republican himself, said the lawmaker has helped ensure federal funding of Jewish family service agencies and Jewish hospitals and has supported government programs and policies that Jewish organizations value, such as Medicare and Medicaid.

He also noted that Reva Price, Pelosi's liaison to the Jewish community for 1½ years, came from the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the umbrella group of local community relations councils.

Bringing on board such an insider was "really a masterful stroke," Daroff said.

Price, he added, has done a wonderful job of playing "traffic cop" with Jewish organizations and in making sure that Pelosi's agenda is in tune with that of the Jewish community.

She's been "a real champion of making sure the Jewish community is well served," Daroff said of the lawmaker. "I'm sure she'll continue to be a champion."

Israel Briefs

Gay pride rally peaceful

About 2,000 people gathered last Friday under heavy police guard for a gay pride rally at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Participants waving rainbow flags and holding signs calling for civic equality thronged the stadium at the university's Givat Ram campus. The venue was a compromise between gay activists and people opposed to a larger march through the streets of the city. The rally followed two weeks of violent anti-march protests.

'Technical failure' in Gaza

An Israeli artillery barrage that killed 18 Palestinian civilians went off course because of a "technical failure," Ehud Olmert said. "I checked it, and I verified it," the prime minister said last week as he announced the results of the army's probe into the incident in the Gaza town of Beit Hanoun. Olmert said he was "very distressed" by Nov. 8's carnage, but added that such accidents could recur given Israel's need to combat Palestinian terrorists in Gaza.

Israel could hit Iran: Sneh

Israel's deputy defence minister said Israel reserves the option of striking Iran's nuclear program. "I consider it a last resort," Ephraim Sneh told the *Jerusalem Post* last Friday. "But even the last resort is sometimes the only resort." Government spokespeople said Sneh's views don't necessarily represent those of the government.

Olmert tops 'corrupt' list

Ehud Olmert came first in a survey ranking Israeli government ministers the public considers corrupt. Forty-two per cent of those polled for the survey, which was published last week at the annual Sderot Conference on the Economy, named the Israeli prime minister as the "most corrupt cabinet member." He was followed by the minister for strategic threats, Avigdor Lieberman at 26 per cent, and Defence Minister Amir Peretz at 23 per cent.

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APPOINTMENTS TO CITY OF VAUGHAN COMMITTEES

The Council of the City of Vaughan appoints community-minded individuals to its Statutory and Non-Statutory Committees that make decisions or recommendations on a number of matters. City of Vaughan Council wants to ensure that its Committees reflect the diverse population of Vaughan and encourages interested residents to consider this opportunity to volunteer their skills to help their community.

If you wish to be considered for appointment to the following Statutory/Non-Statutory Committees, please obtain an application package and complete the application form included in the package. Application packages are available in the Clerk's Department, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, City of Vaughan Libraries and Community Centres and on the City of Vaughan website at www.vaughan.ca.

Applications may be submitted in person or by mail to the City Clerk, City of Vaughan, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, L6A 1T1, or by fax 905-832-8535. ***The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, December 1, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. Applications will not be accepted after this date.*** For further information please contact the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504.

STATUTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

1. **Accessibility Advisory Committee**
   The Accessibility Advisory Committee assists in the preparation and implementation of an Accessibility Plan, provides guidance and addresses and identifies the needs of the community by the removal and prevention of barriers in the City of Vaughan's by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services. *NOTE: Applicants must meet the specific qualifications and criteria as outlined in the application package to be eligible for appointment.*
2. **City of Vaughan Non-Profit Housing Corporation**
   The Board of Directors of the City's Non-Profit Housing Corporation administers the ongoing operations of the Maple Manor (a 31 unit senior citizen apartment building). Its main objective is the provision of affordable low and moderate cost rental housing, upon identified needs, to residents of the City.
3. **Committee of Adjustment**
   This committee deals with applications to sever parcels of land and authorizes minor variances to land, buildings or structures, which are affected by Zoning By-laws and Official Plan Amendments.
4. **Court of Revision**
   The Court of Revision is empowered to deal with property owners' complaints respecting special assessments charged for capital works, i.e. sanitary sewers, watermains, sidewalks, etc., installed as local improvements under the *Local Improvement Act*.
5. **Heritage Vaughan**
   The Committee advises Council on matters relating to the City's architectural and historical heritage, as well as on any matters relating to the designation and conservation of properties of cultural heritage value or interest, as individual properties, or as heritage conservation districts, pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act*. *NOTE: Applicants must meet the specific qualifications and criteria as outlined in the application package to be eligible for appointment.*
6. **Property Standards Committee**
   The purpose of the Property Standards Committee is to hear any appeals by a property owner regarding an order issued under the Property Standards By-law. The committee may confirm, modify, quash, or may extend the time for compliance of the order.
7. **Vaughan Public Library Board**
   The Board is responsible for the provision of library services by the establishment, maintenance, and support of libraries, and determination of library policies.

NON-STATUTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

8. **Arts Advisory Committee**
   The Committee's mandate is to develop and promote arts-related activities and events through various means, and to provide input on matters related to community arts, art opportunities and initiatives. *NOTE: Applicants must meet the specific qualifications and criteria as outlined in the application package to be eligible for appointment.*
9. **Community Relations Committee**
   This committee's objective is to promote understanding and respect among the various multi-cultural and religious groups within the City of Vaughan.
10. **Maple Streetscape Community Advisory Committee**
    This committee provides input on matters relating to the Maple streetscape area using the Maple Streetscape and Urban Design Guidelines as a reference and guiding document.
11. **Safe City Committee**
    The committee addresses community safety issues, including vandalism, in the City of Vaughan.
12. **Vaughan Youth Cabinet**
    The Cabinet formulates appropriate policies and strategies on issues that have a direct impact on the youth of the City. (Members will be appointed from City of Vaughan youth aged 16 – 25.)

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected will be contacted.

School grant in Baltimore may set trend

By JACOB BERKMAN
JTA

NEW YORK — Jewish day school officials are looking at a recent $15-million (US) tuition-relief grant from the Baltimore-based Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and the Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore as a trend-setting move to alleviate one of the biggest challenges facing Jewish education.

The private Weinberg Foundation, which has more than $2 billion in assets, announced recently that it will contribute $2 million a year for the next five years to the Baltimore area's 12 Jewish day schools. The federation will contribute $1 million per year.

The grants will start in 2007, but the foundation also announced that it would immediately give an additional $1 million to the schools.

There are more than 200,000 students in 750 Jewish day schools across the United States, and Baltimore – with some 6,000 students in a community of roughly 100,000 – has one of the highest concentrations in the country, according to Lawrence Ziffer, executive vice president of the city's Center for Jewish Education, which worked with the foundation and the federation to write the grant.

In the past, the foundation had made individual grants to 10 area schools, foundation trustee Barry Schloss told JTA.

"But we said, 'This doesn't meet the needs of our community,'" Schloss said. "We all realized there needed to be more."

Over the past 10 years, the federation's allocation for Jewish day schools has grown from $900,000 a year to more than $3 million as the school system has blossomed, federation president Marc Terrill said.

Still, more than $300,000 of needs went unfunded, Terrill said. The schools cost between $6,000 and $12,000 per year, according to the Center for Jewish Education, and the new grant will double the amount they get through the federation.

Continued on page 43

Message to *CJN* Snowbirds

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Monies to be used only for scholarships

Continued from page 42

"The need is rather pronounced," Terrill said. "There are people that are unfortunately victims of harsh economic times. There are also those who are relatively affluent, but when you factor in two, three, four or five kids for which they're paying full tuition for day schools, it's not the prettiest of pictures. It's almost like self-imposed poverty, although it's poverty with an enlightened purpose."

Just more than half of the students at Baltimore day schools receive some kind of financial aid, Ziffer said.

The money from the new grant is to be used only for scholarships.

Recipients must demonstrate need, and the foundation has required that schools still maintain their current levels of scholarship giving, Schloss said. He added that over the next five years, the foundation would like to see the community create an endowment fund to subsidize Jewish education.

There are no official plans to do so yet, but continuing to subsidize the school system at about $3 million per year would take a $65 million fund.

The Weinberg Foundation and the Baltimore federation are not the first to tackle the day school tuition issue. The Avi Chai Foundation, a private New York- and Jerusalem-based foundation aimed at increasing Jewish learning, ran a program that gave $3,000 vouchers to students at four day schools in Atlanta and Cleveland from 1999 to 2000. Numerous family foundations across the country have started funds either to cap tuition or to provide tuition relief at local Jewish schools.

The largest individual gift came from a group of anonymous families who made a $45-million donation to three schools in Boston, $15 million of which was to be used for tuition relief.

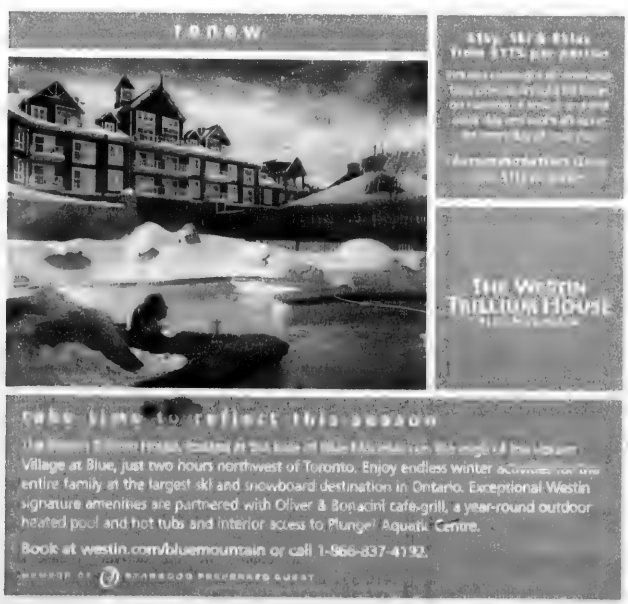
In Milwaukee, the Helen Bader Foundation set up a similar fund – though on a much smaller scale, at $500,000 per year for three years – to help the area's 600 Jewish day school students, according to Tobey Libber, the foundation's program director.

Other Jewish communities, such as Los Angeles, MetroWest New Jersey and Chicago, are in the process of deciding how to tackle the tuition problem with similar grants, according to Rabbi Joshua Elkin, executive director of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education.

But the Weinberg grant is an important one, he said.

"I believe that there is momentum building, and I believe that this grant is not only part of a trend, but this is a pace-setting decision that Weinberg has made," Elkin said. "It's not simply the size of the grant. It's the fact that it's partnered with the federation and is intended to be spent over the next five years. It provides an immediate infusion."

The Baltimore grant "hopefully will become a model," said Yossi Prager, Avi Chai's North American executive director. "Affordability already is the single largest concern of the day school community, and the crunch is likely to get worse since budgets for schools, Jewish and non-Jewish, are rising faster than inflation. This is a tremendous start in tackling a very serious problem."



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Separation, RRSPs, capital gains

Family Matters
by
John Syrtash
B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Partner, Beard Winter LLP

Q My wife and I are separating. I have about $50,000 more in RRSPs than she does. I also own two rental properties of equal value. Each has gone up in price by about $100,000 since purchase. I plan to transfer one of these rental properties to my wife as part of our matrimonial settlement. Everything else we own, such as our home, is registered in joint names. Only the RRSPs and these two rental properties are in separate names. Must I cash in $50,000 of RRSPs and give her half? If I do so at my current income level I will have to pay taxes at my marginal rate of 40% on the $50,000, before I can give her half of what's left "after taxes." In addition, will I pay capital gains tax on the rental property if I transfer one of them to my wife?

A No to your first question. Maybe to your second. If you sign a written separation agreement in which the spouses state their intention to equalize their RRSPs as a separate matter, then under the Income Tax Act (Canada) you are permitted to "rollover" tax-free the entire $50,000. The separation agreement must say that the transfer of the RRSPs between spouses is being done in respect of a settlement arising out of marriage.

The spouses also must file a CRA Form 2220 and a copy of the separation agreement with the CRA within 30 days of the property transfer. Normally family law lawyers attach this form as a schedule to the separation agreement, signed at the same time.

Transfer of land or non-RRSP securities is different. You can transfer such property to her without either spouse paying capital gains tax at the time of the transfer by stipulating that the transfer is part of your property settlement in a written separation agreement. However, until you are divorced any capital gains tax payable if she sells the property will be "attributed" to you; i.e. you pay it.

Solution? Since a pre-divorce disposition by your wife could result in capital gains tax on their sale (approximately 25%, at most) then you can also sign and file an "Election" under section 74.5(3)(b) of the Tax Act with your separation agreement. Once filed, your wife shall be solely responsible for any capital gains tax on any increase in the property's value when she disposes of the property. However, she may only want to pay for any increase after receiving the property and may well refuse to sign this Election. But at least both of you will know that you both face this choice to file such Election, or not, and then negotiate who should pay for how much of the capital gains tax on any increase in the property's value.

*John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of **Beard Winter LLP**. Neither Beard Winter LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at 416-306-1733, or e-mailed at jsyrtash@beardwinter.com. You can also visit www.beardwinter.com and www.spousalsupport.com.*

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Books & Authors

Novel loosely based on black sheep in author's family

The Violin Lover **by Susan Glickman, Goose Lane Editions.**

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

It's been six months since Susan Glickman's debut novel hit Canadian bookstores, but interest in *The Violin Lover* has hardly subsided.

Glickman reads from the critically acclaimed novel at the Vancouver JCC Jewish Book Festival on Nov. 19 and 20 and at the Winnipeg Jewish Book Fair on Nov. 21. She is also the opening author of the Book and Bagels literary series at Toronto's Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre at 11 a.m. on Dec. 3.

"I am thrilled to be back at the JCC," she says. "The last time I read there was many years ago with the late Miriam Waddington, and Anne Michaels, pre-*Fugitive Pieces*. The JCC has been a big part of my life. Both my two kids went to nursery school [there under former nursery school director] Hélène Comay, and I worked out there for many years."

The Toronto-based writer, 53, the wife of glass artist Toan Klein, is thrilled with the critical response to *Violin Lover*. "I got wonderful reviews in the *Globe*, the *National Post*, the *Montreal Gazette* and several other publications," she says.

"As a first novelist you're praying to get noticed at all. Space usually goes to the people who already made a name for themselves."

Glickman, who holds a doctorate in English, is hardly unknown in the literary world. An acclaimed poet, she has published five books of poetry.

Picturesque & the Sublime: A Poetics of the Canadian Landscape (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1998), her award-winning book of literary criticism, garnered her the Gabrielle Roy Prize for best book in Canadian literary criticism and the Raymond Klibansky Prize for best work in the humanities.

Glickman says that she had to work at making the transition from poetry to novel writing.

"The novel is a much larger structure… I had wonderful input from my editor to help make the book more accessible to the readers."

She explains that poetry is more abstract, with more imagery, while prose requires "more character development and more plot."

She compares the experience of writing a novel to viewing a movie. "I felt like I was watching the characters. I wasn't prepared for how independent the characters would become and how they would have their own world that I would be visiting."

Susan Glickman

The Violin Lover, which is set in London in the mid-1930s, is loosely based on the life of Glickman's great-great-uncle, Sam Nagley, the black sheep of her maternal family. "His story was expunged from family history," says Glickman, adding that she only learned of his existence in 1997, while visiting cousins in England.

"He was wiped out of the family tree. It was a real family scandal. The story stayed with me. I felt I had to write this story as a novel. I wanted to celebrate him because he had been erased."

She describes the book as reality fiction, adding that the characterization of Ned, the protagonist, is fictional, but the story line is based on real facts about her uncle's life.

It's very much a love story between Ned, a physician and an accomplished violinist, and Clara, a young widow with three small children. They're an unlikely match. Ned is an assimilated Jew, while Clara is comfortable with her Jewishness.

Their two worlds intersect through music when Clara's eldest son, Jacob, a gifted pianist, becomes Ned's protégé.

Clara, Glickman says, is a fictional character. "She is totally made up."

The London setting of the book pays homage to Glickman's own British roots. Her maternal great-grandparents, Louis and Dora Wolfe, came from Yorkshire, immigrating to Canada in 1907. Sam Nagley is Dora Wolfe's youngest brother.

The Wolfes settled in Montreal, Glickman's hometown, but the family maintained their ties with their British relatives.

Over the years, Glickman spent a considerable amount of time in England. She did her master's in English literature at Oxford University and then worked in a London publishing house.

The time in England offered Glickman an opportunity to connect with her British relatives, Her familiarity with London made it possible for her to write *The Violin Lover* without visiting the various London landmarks she describes in the book. "I went back to London later to check for accuracy, and I enriched the story with more detail."

She says it took years to get the book published. "I wrote it eight years ago."

An agent advised her to do a second draft, but with that completed she still struggled to find a publisher.

As she puts it, "The book spent two years in exile in my drawer. I went back to teaching I was so disheartened."

But rejection by publishers is past history now. With the success of *The Violin Lover*, Glickman has been able to cut back on teaching and focus on her second novel.

"I was sorry to say goodbye to the characters in *Violin Lover* because they had become part of my family, however, I'm really enjoying the new novel. Every novel is a journey through a new place in time."

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Bone marrow drive at BJCC for Toronto lawyer

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

One would expect that someone who exercises, cycles 100-kilometre marathons and is a long-term vegetarian would be in the peak of health. Tzvi (Harry) Golish, a lawyer in his 50s, used to be. But he has been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia and his only hope is a bone marrow transplant.

Toronto's Jewish community came out by the hundreds to be tested for each one of our brothers and sisters, including Jay Feinberg, Mark Hart, Audi Stanleigh, and "Cathy," who required bone marrow transplants.

The drive for Golish will be held at the Studio Theatre in the Leah Posluns Theatre of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, on Nov. 26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no charge for the test, the results of which will be shared with the Canadian, American and international bone marrow registries.

The drive is being carried out under the auspices of The Gift of Life, which is based in Boca Raton, Fla. The organization was founded by Feinberg, a young man who won his battle with cancer, and his family. The Toronto drive is being organized by Tammy Balitsky, a longtime friend of Golish's.

Previous drives involved a blood test. Now, due to newer and less invasive technology, a simple mouth swab collects DNA, which is all that is required.

Balitzky said that Golish, a lawyer, as is his wife, Sharon, is the father of seven children, ranging in age from five to 19. He is totally committed to his family, she said. An athlete, she says, he "bikes nearly everywhere he goes." An observant Jew, he spends much of his free time studying Torah and Talmud.

Golish has been ill for several years. While for the past year or so he has been in remission, last month the cancer returned. He has received treatment at Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital and at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Texas. Right now, he is receiving a new treatment at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. It is not known, as the article went to press, how successful it has been.

The best chance for a successful bone marrow match comes from someone from the same ethnic background as Golish – east European Ashkenazi Jewish. His wife; his children; his brother and sister, Kenney and Esther; and family and friends who have been tested are not a match.

If your DNA is comparable, you will be contacted by Gift of Life for further tests. If you are found to be a match, the operation to remove your bone marrow will take place. Although there is some pain, it is easily controlled by analgesics.

For more information about the drive, call Tammy Balitzky, 416-667-7599.

For more information about bone marrow donations, contact Gift of Life at 1-800-9MARROW or www.giftoflife.org.

RUN, STUDENTS, RUN: Students from Leo Baeck Day School's north campus ran five kilometres in support of the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario. The students in grades 5 to 8 were joined by teachers, parents and the Toronto Raptors mascot. Students and families from Leo Baeck's south campus ran five kilometres on another day. Together, the two campuses raised more than $9,000. [Jan Lapedus photo]

NETIVOT PLAY HOLDS WATER: Grade 8 students at Netivot HaTorah Day School delighted their grade 4 and 5 counterparts with a play about Noah and his ark during their Kabbalat Shabbat Program. Pictured, back row from left, are Sam Meyer, Jeffrey Kaye, Lorne Pillemer, Samara Nathanson, Orit Honigsberg, Shayna Brenman and Racheli Samuel, and front row, from left, Daniel Turk, Shlomo Roz, Rachel Rhodes, Eliana Goldberg and Talia Silver. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

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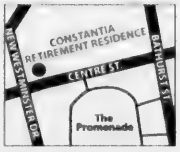

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Toronto jazz drummer beats her own path

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Some people would view getting kicked out of class for incessant penciltapping on their desk a bad omen; Lorie Wolf called it providence.

In the 10 years since graduating from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, where she tapped her way into trouble, she has doggedly followed her musical inclinations and become one of Canada's emerging jazz drummers.

"I didn't choose drums," she said. "I just always was a drummer. Even before I knew what I was doing."

Started playing klezmer so her mom would be happy

Her abilities have won her acclaim at home and abroad.

Last January she was tabbed by the International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE) to be the drummer for its prestigious Sisters In Jazz collegiate all-stars performance at its annual conference in New York city.

That led to a subsequent performance in May at the Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival in Washington, D.C., where she performed with the Sisters in Jazz for thousands of people at the Kennedy Center.

Wolf credits that performance as the one that really put her on the jazz-industry map.

"[That] gig really changed my life," she said. "It was very encouraging to me. My confidence got put into place. Since then, I've been writing [music] like mad."

It also inspired her to begin work on a suite of music based on the works of the late Nobel Prize-winning author Isaac Bashevis Singer, she said.

It's just one more thing to add to her already full schedule.

When she's not teaching for Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music's Learning Through the Arts program, she's usually busy gigging around town with one of the following four bands: Sisters of Sheynville, a Yiddish-swing ensemble; the Lithuanian Empire, a funk-klezmer outfit; Circa Jazz, a straight-out jazz troupe; and Balagan, a Hebrew-world-music group.

Music permeated Wolf's life from childhood on. Her father, Sam, used to play accordion and guitar and sing for her as a child, while her mother, Gisela, loved classical music.

"I remember when I was seven I would listen to music and say to myself, 'I can play that,'" she said. "Obviously, I can relate to [Jewish] music, and I read a lot of Jewish literature."

Lorie Wolf strikes a pose with a snare drum and sticks. [Jackie Shapiro photo]

Wolf admits that becoming a musician caused some small concern for her traditional parents. But she eventually made believers out of them by playing to their heritage.

"My mother was not very pleased about my career choice and my instrument choice," she said. "I started playing klezmer so she could stay happy. She started coming to my concerts, and would enjoy the music I was playing. It was really important to me to convince [her] that playing drums could be a musical thing."

Never happier than when she is learning

The choice proved fruitful and led to numerous job offers.

"In Toronto, once people find out you have a klezmer band, they want you to play at their parties and weddings... to give it that Jewish feel," she said.

"I love working. But I also keep Shabbat. So how many gigs do I miss because of that? Lots!" she said, laughing. "But it's what I've chosen to do. I just want people to call me whenever they need a drummer."

The last thing Wolf wants is to become complacent.

Though she already has two post-secondary degrees, a bachelor of fine arts from York University and a bachelor of education from the University of Toronto, she isn't content to rest on her laurels.

She's been enrolled in Humber College's School of Creative and Performing Arts advanced diploma program in music since 2004.

"I'm doing it to better myself as a drummer and be around other musicians, not for the degree," she said.

Though she has met and befriended many of her drummer idols, played to audiences across North America and recorded on numerous albums, she is never happier than when she's learning.

"It's like [being] at Hogwarts Academy of Magical Arts," she said, likening Humber College to the fictional school in the Harry Potter fantasy book series.

"It's like all the students are magicians and the teachers are wizards. You walk down the halls and peek into classrooms and there's amazing stuff going on," said Wolf.

Sisters of Sheynville begin work on a new album this month, and Wolf expects to play at the Montreal and Halifax jazz festivals next summer.

For more information about Lorie Wolf, visit www.loriewolf.com.

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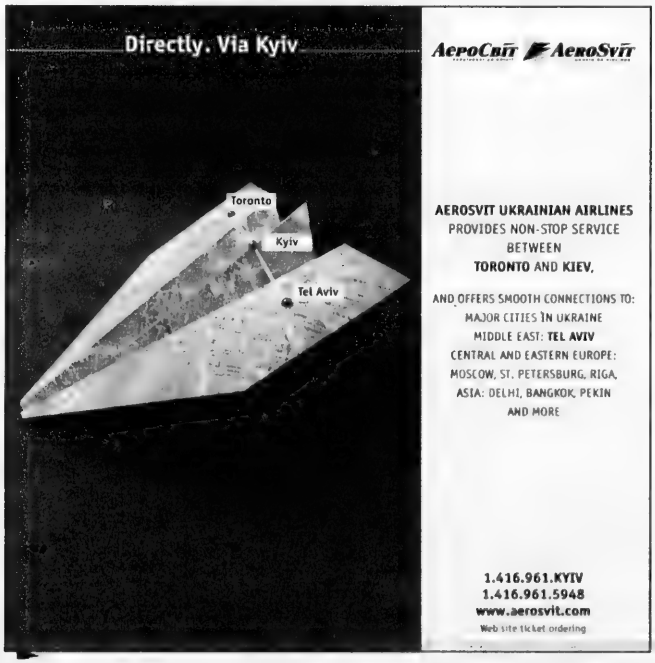

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Tikkun olam through groovy sounds

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Sometimes tikkun olam takes strange and wonderful paths.

Sharon Ross's journey to healing the world starts with teeth and ends in music.

Though Ross makes her living as a dentist, the 34-year-old is also co-founder and co-producer of Toronto's annual Open Door Festival of Music.

Founded in in 2000 by Ross and her friend Marysia Czarski, the festival helps raise awareness and funds for the city's three Red Door Shelters, while simultaneously giving unknown local musicians the chance to be discovered.

Red Door Shelters provide emergency housing for victims of domestic violence and people in desperate need of accommodation. They also help residents stabilize their lives with a range of educational and counselling services.

"We chose Red Door because they go by the notion of teaching people how to help themselves," said Ross.

For her, there is no sweeter synthesis of causes.

"I've always been an avid music lover," said Ross, whose father owns the venerable Rex Jazz and Blues Bar on Queen Street West.

"I think it's really important for people to make a difference in their community," she said. "I'm combining tikkun olam while doing something that I very much enjoy and believe in."

The festival is a labour of love and an expression of humanitarianism for all involved.

"None of the musicians get paid for their time and energy, and there are a lot of volunteers," said Ross, who works on booking the event from mid-summer until the show itself.

As a further display of goodwill, Ross offers participating musicians free dental care in lieu of payment.

"A lot of musicians do come to me yearly for services," she said. "They have a really rough time getting their music out there and it's nice to give back to this community that I get so much out of."

Open Door Festival volunteers and staff pose during their 2005 event. From left are Avril Benoit, Melissa Ferrick, Sharon Ross, Jonatha Brooke, Marysia Czarski and Edie Carey. [Sharon Ross photo]

Over the last five years, the Open Door Festival has raised more than $25,000 for the Red Door Shelters and helped many musicians establish their careers.

This year's benefit will be hosted by Doctors Without Borders communications director and former CBC personality Avril Benoit.

The concert takes place Nov. 22 at the Mod Club, 722 College St., 7:30 p.m.

Scheduled to perform are Julie Michels and the MCC Choir, Andy Stochansky, Craig Cardiff, Ember Swift, Kellylee Evans and Dala.

Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door and $15 for students.

For more information, visit www.opendoorfestival.com. For tickets, e-mail tickets@opendoorfestival.com.

Book documents neglected period of Holocaust

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The stories of some 300,000 Jews who escaped from Nazi-occupied Poland into Russian-occupied Poland and the Soviet Union after September 1939 are a part of Holocaust literature that few survivors have documented.

Morris (Moishe) Gruda, a soft-spoken Toronto businessman, philanthropist and noted Yiddish writer and poet, lived through the trauma of such an escape. Gruda has written an insightful account of this long-neglected period of Holocaust history.

Titled *Tricks of Fate: Escape, Survival and Rescue 1939-1945*, Gruda's story was written in Yiddish and edited and translated into English by Adam Fuerstenberg. It is the third volume in the Holocaust Memoirs Series co-published by the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Mosaic Press.

The book will be launched on Dec, 4 at Beth Avraham Yosef of Toronto at 7:30 p.m.

Gruda's autobiography takes the reader from his childhood in Rozhan, Poland, through his teenage years as an apprentice as a ladies' tailor and his escape, as a 20-year-old in 1939, days before the Germans arrived. He lived with Germans for the next five years, a harrowing experience.

Gruda's story verifies that truth is stranger than fiction. He documents his trek from place to place – Lomza, Pultusk, Kiev, Rostov, Stalingrad, Astrakhan, back to Kotovsk and the Odessa region.

With his philosophy of never losing hope, no matter how dangerous or bleak the situation, Gruda's personal odyssey is a tribute to the survivors as well as those who perished from slave labour, hunger, inhumane deprivation, and cruelty.

Gruda's family numbered close to 60 in 1939. Only 11 survived. "I am still living every moment of the events that are etched on my brain," he said. "The book has helped me release some of the tension."

Gruda said that at one time he was unable to write about the horrors he had experienced, although over the years he has spoken to groups about that time in his life. Five years ago, his daughter-in-law in Jerusalem appealed to him to write his autobiography and he agreed to do it to counter Holocaust denial.

"Recently, I, like other survivors, had become alarmed at the assertions that there had been no Holocaust, that there had been no six million Jewish men, women and children starved, tortured and murdered in the most systematic and brutal manner that the world had experienced," he said.

Morris Gruda

"It became important to me that my children and grandchildren hear the truth of what happened directly from me, so they would have a personal defence against these lies."

He added that he wanted them to learn how one must act under such terrifying conditions and not lose one's humanity, "to have the strength to overcome and continue living a normal and just life."

After the war, Gruda was unable to go to Palestine. In 1947, an immigration committee from Canada arrived in Europe looking for tailors and furriers. He was approved and arrived here in 1948.

Gruda is the father of two and grandfather of 13. "Despite the fact that they tried to destroy us, we have survived and have established wonderful families – doctors, professors, lawyers and community workers – who are contributing to the well-being of society," he said.

Tricks of Fate is available at amazon.ca and Jewish bookstores. For information about the launch, call 905-889-4145.

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Film tells the story of a tormented soul

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Canadian filmmaker and Oscar nominee Arthur Lipsett has virtually been forgotten, but thanks to his close friend, Martin Lavut, his memory flickers brightly, like one of his eccentric shorts.

Lavut's biopic, *Remembering Arthur,* which will be screened at the Rendezvous with Madness Film Festival on Nov. 17, is a celebration of his relatively brief life and career.

In his heyday at the National Film Board of Canada in the 1960s, Lipsett was something of a boy wonder, churning out groundbreaking experimental documentaries that challenged the notion of what film could be.

Lipsett's first film, *Very Nice, Very Nice*, a seven-minute collage of images set to sound, earned him an Academy Award nomination and kudos from Hollywood director Stanley Kubrick. In a letter to the young Montrealer, Kubrick rated it as "imaginative and brilliant."

After *Very Nice, Very Nice*, Lipsett, whose films were imbued with a dark sensibility, produced yet more avant-garde documentaries, notably *21-87*, *Free Fall* and *A Trip Down Memory Lane*.

Lipsett had admirers, to be sure. Donald Brittain, the accomplished NFB documentarian, said that he was as close to a genius as he had ever seen.

But at the end of the day, Lipsett was misunderstood and not necessarily appreciated. The powers-that-be at the NFB found his films difficult and baffling, and barely tolerated him.

Lipsett studied visual art at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts under the supervision of Arthur Lismer, a member of the Group of Seven. A scholarship student, he was hired by the NFB to work in the animation department after his graduation. One of his co-workers was the legendary Norman McLaren.

Before making his first film, Lipsett was an editor and a cameraman. In assembling *Very Nice, Very Nice*, he scrounged together outtakes from other films. Lipsett, who had a knack for juxtaposing disparate images and throwing viewers off balance, was a master of what a friend describes as "controlled hysteria."

Friends recall him as a sweet young man filled with curiosity. But when he was older, he was cantankerous and gradually descended into sadness and madness.

His last NFB film, *N-Zone*, was beyond the comprehension of even his backers, while his final independent film, *Strange Codes*, which he finished in 1974, seemed somewhere in outer space, an odd mélange of sounds and images.

After leaving the NFB, Lipsett was permanently unemployed and grew stranger and stranger, his friends and colleagues recall. "He was pretty nuts," says a friend. "He was, like, gone," observes a former colleague.

By the mid-1970s, Lipsett was at the mercy of screaming and jumping fits, he mumbled rather than talked, he stayed up late at night listening to the hum of a fridge and he looked like a mess. By then, he lived in his aunt's house, sleeping on a sofa.

Mental illness plagued his family. When Lipsett was a boy, his mother committed suicide, taking rat poison.

Inevitably, Lipsett ended up in a psychiatric institution. On the day he was discharged, two weeks away from his 50th birthday, he followed in his mother's footsteps, letting himself be swallowed by the darkness.

Remembering Arthur is a sensitive portrait of a tormented soul, but oddly enough, though there are multiple photographs of Lipsett in Lavut's film, there is not a single interview with him.

This is a huge gap in an otherwise laudable film.

Fur portrays iconoclastic photographer

Armed with a Rolleiflex camera, Diane Arbus was a creative force writ large.

Famous for her stark and quirky photographs of outsiders, from dwarves to giants, she cut a swath through the corridors of American photography, and perhaps changed it forever.

Arbus, whose work was showcased in the finest magazines and was was exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, was born in 1923, the daughter of David and Gertrude Nemerov, successful furriers who sold their wares at a posh Fifth Avenue shop frequented by the wealthy.

When she was 18, she married fashion photographer Allan Arbus and soon became his assistant. When her marriage broke down in 1959, she came into her own as an artist of singular talent and originality.

Steven Shainberg's dreamy biopic, *Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus*, which opens here on Nov. 17, is what the title suggests: a free-flowing, semi-fictional account of the life of an iconoclast.

Shainberg's two-hour film, which takes place in Manhattan in 1958, is based on Patricia Bosworth's biography. It merges reality with fantasy, and the result is invariably intriguing and mesmerizing.

Nicole Kidman in *Fur*

Nicole Kidman, the Australian actress, plays Arbus. Although she bears absolutely no physical resemblance to her subject, she acquits herself enchantingly.

Her blue eyes sparkling, her sculpted nose a model of form, and her tentative voice a seductive whisper, she is a captivating presence, an upper-class woman whose dark sensibility is plainly at odds with her ordinary existence as a housewife and helpmate.

Kidman's Arbus is self-effacing, repressed, vulnerable and modest to a fault.

When she is asked whether she is a photographer, like her hard-working and accomplished husband (played by Ty Burrell), she practically breaks down in tears and flees in self-disgust.

By chance, she meets Lionel Sweeney (Robert Downey Jr.), an unusual neighbour and a recluse who suffers from an incurable and rare medical condition. He initiates Arbus into an Alice-in-Wonderland universe in which mainstream values and notions of beauty and ugliness are challenged.

Downey, his soulful eyes a picture of torment, holds his own with Kidman in virtually every scene.

Fur is not only a celebration of a woman's journey of self-discovery, but an improbable love story.

Shainberg and his scriptwriter, Erin Cressida Wilson, have created a film that is by turns odd, eerie and inescapably beautiful.

— S.K.

Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

DAN YASHINSKY HEADLINES STORYTELLING WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS

The Winchevsky Centre presents Village of Storytellers, a storytelling workshop with **Dan Yashinsky** as part of its Bagels & Banter adult education series. Yashinsky, storyteller-in-residence at Toronto Public Library, tells varied folk stories, then opens the floor to others in this interactive workshop for adults. Admission $5 includes bagel brunch. Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Sunday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m.

* * *

Names in the News: Songstress **Theresa Tova** and pianist **Mark Eisenman** are off to Europe to perform in the Netherlands, Germany and Poland next week. Tova is scheduled to present *Dertseyln Mayses (Telling Stories)*, a one-woman version of her award-winning Holocaust musical *Still the Night* at the Amsterdam International Jewish Music Festival.

She sings with Eisenman, **Monique Lansdorp** (violin), **Tjitze Vogel** (bass) and **Dick Verbeek** (drums) in Amsterdam and with Eisenman and local jazz players at the Warsaw Yiddish Theatre.

* * *

Newly Translated Play: *Ritter, Dene, Voss* is a "misanthropic comedy" by Austrian author-playwright **Thomas Bernhard** (1931-1989), who has been compared to **Beckett** and **Ionesco** for his visceral, humorous explorations of human relations.

Produced by One Little Goat and directed by **Adam Seelig**, it explores issues of sexual repression and sibling rivalry and features a character based loosely on philosopher **Ludwig Wittgenstein**. $22-$10. Alchemy Theatre, 133 Tecumseth St. Nov. 17 to Dec. 3. 416-915-0201, www.OneLittleGoat.org

* * *

Names in the News II: Artist-photographer **Yaacov Kaszemacher** was raised in postwar Paris, associated with the jazz artists of the Beat Generation and lived in Greenwich Village at the height of the 1960s counterculture. He became known for his psychedelic light shows and photographic slides of various subjects and special effects. In his early 30s he began to explore his Jewish heritage and moved to Israel, eventually settling in Safed, where he now has a gallery.

His desire to share Judaism with others has sparked his return to photography and he has been widely exhibited in international venues. His favourite subjects include elements in Safed and locally in nature. He especially likes to portray the timeless aspects of Jewish life.

Kaszemacher's work is being featured in a gala benefit art show hosted by the Mesorah Montessori preschool to aid families in the artisans' quarter of Safed. P.I. Fine Art Gallery, 1200 Castlefield Ave. Saturday, Nov. 18, 8 p.m. Again on Sunday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

* * *

Names in the News III: Yakov M. Rabkin, a Russian-born history teacher at Université de Montréal, is author of *A Threat from Within: A Century of Jewish Opposition to Zionism* (Fernwood Publishing, 2004), a French-language book that challenges the automatic association of Jews and Judaism with Zionism, and argues that Israel represents a sharp break with Jewish history.

The work has been translated into six languages, including English, in a translation so fine that translator **Fred A. Reed** has been shortlisted for a $15,000 Governor General's prize. Winners to be announced Nov. 21.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• *Streets of Jerusalem*, a documentary by Canadian filmmaker **Igal Hecht** and director of photography **Elad Winkler**, airs on i-channel (Rogers Channel 197 or Bell Express VU Channel 514) on Nov. 16, 9 p.m. with repeats on Nov. 17 and 21. Ten years in the making, the "no-holds-barred" film focuses on 10 Jerusalem residents and how they are affected by terror, racism, economic hardships, political changes, the "occupation" and the yearning for peace. Produced by Chutzpa Productions. www.chutzpaproductions.com

• The 10th anniversary *Cream of Comedy* award show and fundraiser is hosted by **Gavin Crawford** and **Aurora Browne**, and a crop of young comics, including 25-year-old solo comic **Rebecca Addelman** of Ottawa and 23-year-old standup comedian **Nathan Fielder**, formerly of Vancouver, now of Toronto. $20. Concert Hall, Masonic Temple, 888 Yonge St. Saturday, Nov. 18, 8 p.m. www.totix.ca

• Toronto musician **Adlai Waxman**, whose piano-based sound is reminiscent of **Randy Newman** and **Steely Dan**, performs a concert of his original mixed-genre music. $7. Renaissance Café, 1938 Danforth (west of Woodbine), Saturday, Nov. 25, 7:30 p.m. 416-654-9027

• *My Name Is Rachel Corrie* opened a while ago in Manhattan after a previous run in London. The one-woman drama tells the story of the 23-year-pro-Palestinian American activist who was killed as she tried to block an Israeli bulldozer searching for arms-smuggling tunnels in Gaza in 2003.

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• • •

FOREST HILL - $1,749,000.
Elegant centre hall plan with formal living rm.w/fireplace. Separate dining rm. Updated kitchen. Powder rm. Family rm/library. 6-7 bdrms. Central air. Double garage. *Darren Slavens

• • •

AVENUE RD/ LAWRENCE - $1,495,000.
Fabulous home on 60 ft. lot. 4+2 bdrms. 5 baths. Large family rm. & study on main. Oversized kitchen w/walk-out to 2-tiered deck & gorgeous grdn. Fin lower level. Priv drive & built-in gar. *Edith Weiss

• • •

A RARE FIND - $1,275,000.
Thornhill custom designed beauty w/150 ft. frontage. Main fl. family rm. 4 bdrms. 4 baths. Multi skylights & fireplaces. Finished lower level. Sweeping circular driveway. *Darren Slavens/*Marc Demone

• • •

PRINCE ARTHUR CONDO - $1,185,000.
Rarely available south-east corner suite. Exquisite 2 bdrms. + library. Separate dining rm. Eat-in kitchen w/granite countertops. Over 2,600 sq.ft. of luxury. 2 balconies, 2 lckrs, 2 prkng spots. Steps to Bloor/Yorkville shops & restaurants. *Edith Weiss/*Barbara Kaplan

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AVENUE RD / LAWRENCE - $1,039,000.
Empty nesters. Custom built designer home (2000), with all the bells & whistles. Finished lower level. Built-in garage. Country setting in the city. *Ruth Kaufman/*Lynn Mitchell

• • •

YONGE / LAWRENCE - $699,900.
Beautiful 3 bdrm., 4 bath home on bright south lot. Modern eat-in kitchen w/walk-out to deck. Master ensuite w/jacuzzi. 3 skylights. Finished lower level. 2 car parking. **Richard Sherman

• • •

"SEATON VILLAGE" - $668,000.
Top to bottom reno (2006). Super open concept. Stunning, detached 4bdrms. + office. 5 baths. Sla[SOLD]over. Gourmet kitchen w/granite counters. Finished lower level. *Irena Elina

• • •

AVENUE RD. CONDO -$599,000.
Spectacular Hazelton Lanes. [SOLD] suite w/3 walk-outs to private terrace. Lux Boutique bldg. 2 bdrms. 2 baths. Sauna. *Irena Elina

• • •

BATHURST / CENTRE - $469,000.
Great family home located in demand "Rosedale North". 4 bdrms. 4 baths. Finished lower level. Double garage. Walk to schools, shops, Synagogues & TTC. *Irena Elina/*Dianne Beaman

• • •

BLOOR / MT. PLEASANT CONDO
$416,000. Immaculate, split 2 bdrm. + den suite in the luxurious "Bellagio on Bloor". Open concept kit w/granite counters. Amazing view of Rosedale ravine & city. Prkng & Lckr includ. *Steven Keshen

• • •

SHEPPARD / WILSON HTS. - $324,500.
Spacious townhome nestled away from traffic. 3 bdrms., 3 baths including main fl. powder rm. [SOLD] ensuite. Walk-out to sunny west facing patio. Locker. 2 car parking. **Susan Lee/*Ron Chichora

• • •

SHEPPARD / DON MILLS - $249,000.
Spacious 3 bdrm. end unit, situated across from park. Ground level walk-out to yard. Walk to Fair[SOLD] Malls, subway. Close to transportation. Great starter home w/low maint. fees. **Richard Sherman

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INDEPENDENT SENIOR LIVING
$329,000. Luxury living for Seniors. 2 bdrms. + den. Eat-in kitchen w/window. Spacious living/dining rm. Building features 24 hr. conc. Party rm. Fitness centre. Rooftop garden. Situated in the centre of Toronto, near all amenities. *Betty Cohen

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GREAT VALUE ON 42' x 110' LOT * $579,000
33 Ledbury St. This home in Avenue Rd & Lawrence area features 3 BRs & mn flr powder rm, new hrdwd flrs in LR, DR & hallway. Fin'd bsmnt & w/o to deck. Morissa Amsel* ext. 735

BATHURST MANOR * RAVINE! * $549,000
Large 70' x 186' lot spacious and bright bungalow w/3+1 BRs, 3 baths, basement w/separate entrance, skylights & 2 car garage. Wonderful & rare opportunity. Natalia Achber* ext. 607

ALL FOR $849,000 * 50' x 115' DEEP LOT
341 Joicey Blvd. Oversized bungalow in Avenue Rd & Wilson area. Features 3 BRs w/ensuite in MBR & in-law quarters. Dble driveway. Perfect to renovate or build. Morissa Amsel* ext. 735

10 PRUE AVENUE, UNIT #203 * $469,000
1600+ sf. 2 BR unit. Tons of cupboards/storage space. 2 Car pkg. Lrg eat-in kit. Terrace. Immac. cond. Close to synagogue, TTC, shop. Tremendous value. Howard Biderman** ext. 320

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(45 mins. to TO). Distinguished 6,528' magnificent Estate, gorgeous le. lot, high ceiling, wood floors, granite kitchen, 3 fireplaces, 5+2 bedrooms, 4+baths, boat house, 3 car garage, see! $1,749,000.

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Private enclave, 3,000' luxury, age 3 on sand beach, circled in glass, 11' ceil, mouldings, 2 frpls, 3 bdrms, 2½ baths, cherry flrs, granite kitchen, double Appl, Ideal getaway from TO & live ROYALLY. $1,349,000.

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(40 mins. to TO). 3,700' dream escape - nothing to do, enjoy open plan, cath ceiling, chef kitchen, 3 fireplaces, 6 pce marble ensuite, finished lower Level, boat house, double Garage. $1.2M.

LAKE SIMCOE 2 ACRES SECLUSION
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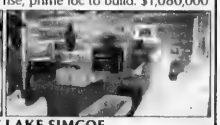

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LAKE SIMCOE - (STRATHALLAN WOODS) $550,000
2 lots, 1 waterfront approx. 100'x400', gorgeous Building Lot + lot with 2,000' cottage, not water but abuts water Lot

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* * *

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3000 BATHURST CONDO

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SOLD

BATHURST / COLDSTREAM BRAND NEW custom family home. Approx. 4,000 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., 5 + 2 bdrms., 6 baths, separate entry to in-law suite, main floor library, extensive use of granite, limestone, crown mouldings, custom trim, pot lights. Fabulous location close to TTC, schools ++. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / WILSON CONDO — BLOWOUT SALE!

SPACIOUS 3 BEDROOM CONDO, 2 baths, **PRICED TO SELL AT ONLY $179,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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8 COVINGTON CONDO

GORGEOUS 2 BDRM. UNIT. Showpiece with features galore! 2 baths, upgraded & designer decorated throughout. "Shaw" laminate flooring, Italian tile & marble. $319,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

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- **STRATHALLAN WOOD: SPACIOUS** 3 + 1 bdrm. sidesplit, renovated & decorated, $3,200 / mo.
- **BATHURST / COLDSTREAM** Spacious 3 bedroom, main floor of duplex, use of backyard, $1,300 / mo.
- **AVENUE / LAWRENCE** Custom-built, 3,000 sq. ft. executive home, luxury upgrades galore, shows a 10+, $5,250 / mo.
- **3000 BATHURST CONDO.** 2 bedrooms, $1,750 / mo.

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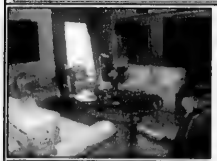

THE PRINCE ARTHUR

$2,825,000. Extraordinary custom designed & extensively upgraded 3 bedrooms + library. Approx. 3,100 sq. ft. Floor to ceiling windows. 2 Balconies. Steps to Bloor Street and Yorkville.

UNIQUE LANDMARK ESTATE

$10,800,000. Estate sized lot (150' x 170'). Rarely available in Forest Hill. Neo-Classic limestone residence, impeccably restored while retaining its architectural detailing. Grand principal rooms, lavish gardens, 75' lap pool.

YONGE/ST.CLAIR

$2,795,000. A coveted address for this full-service condo. Expansive windows fill approx. 2,900 sq. ft. with abundant light. Flowing layout, high ceilings, herringbone hardwood floors & south facing covered terrace are some of the hallmarks.

BRIDLE PATH MANSION

$6,500,000. Luxurious gated French chateau. Estate sized lot (100' x 300'). Bellagio kitchen with walk-out to gardens & pool. Indoor spa and pool, media room & wine cellar. 2 Bedroom apartment above 4-car garage with separate entrance. Guest house.

FOREST HILL ROAD

$2,780,000. Elegant and spacious (approx. 5,022 sq. ft.). Wonderful kitchen, breakfast area and family room with fireplace and walk-out to terrace and pool. Finished L.L. w/recreation room with fireplace, sauna and 2 bedrooms with ensuites. Great location on belt line.

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- $1,799,000 5+2 bdrms, 9 baths, 2 kits, w/out bsmt, 100' x 260'
- $1,799,000 5+3 bdrms, 8 baths, w/out bsmt, 100' x 308', "superb"
- $1,600,000 4+2 bdrms, 7 baths, fin bsmnt, 150' x 140' (excl.)
- $1,299,000 gorgeous 100'x 308' mature treed lot on Arnold Ave.
- $829,000 4+2 bdrms, 5 baths, finished basement, pool, pr NEW PRICE!
- $789,000 5 bdrms, 4 baths, kosher kit, 2 w/outs to grdn, MOTIVATED SELLER
- $729,000 mature treed lot 100'x180'. BEST BUY ON ARNOLD.
- $469,900 3+1 bdrms, 3½ baths, stunning T.H., Kingsbridge Circ., 100K in upgrds.

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$439,900 Asking. Great Central location, 3 large bdrms., private drive, spacious rm. sizes, hdwd. flrs., newer garage, windows & roof. Appl. & more. Fabulous 130 ft. deep lot. Please call agent for exclusive showings.

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$182,900 Asking. 1240 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, parquet flooring throughout, wrap-around balcony, spectacular NE views, parking & locker included, community centre across the street.

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$215,000 Asking. 1323 sq. ft., 2 bdrms., 2 baths, large liv./din. rm., full balc. w/south exp., large eat-in kit. & appl., walk to all amen. & public transit, park. & locker included. Exercise facilities.

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Thornhill Woods $839,000
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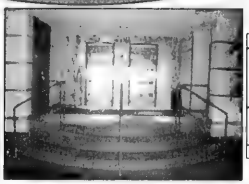

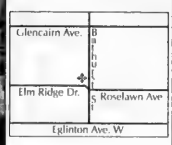

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Boca Raton, 2 bdrm., 1 1/2 baths, water view, seasonal. Call 561-584-2771.

Charming beachside cottage, Longboat Key (Sarasota), just steps to the white sand beaches of the Gulf, 2/2, sleeps 7, designer furn., sun room, liv./din. room, landscaped gardens w/hot tub, gourmet kitchen, $2500/wk. US or $5500/mo. US. Please call Jayne at 416-801-1762 or e-mail: jayneberman@hotmail.com

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Basketball star joins his dad at U of T

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Deborah Nyman is surely relieved that her husband and son will be on the same side this season after Ben Katz transferred to the University of Toronto for his final year of basketball eligibility.

The arts and science undergraduate and four-year starter at McMaster University is back home in the big city playing for his dad Mike, who coaches the U of T Blues basketball team, while pursuing a master's degree in industrial relations and human resources. (Athletes transferring to another school normally have to sit out a year, but the rule doesn't apply to graduate students.)

While the decision to come play for his dad may have seemed like an easy one to make, Katz said there were many factors that he considered before leaving Hamilton, where he made three trips with the Marauders to the national championships.

"It's always good to have degrees from different universities," he said in a phone interview after a weekend trio of exhibition games against NCAA schools in early September. "It shows some diversity in your abilities.

"My dad being [at U of T] was obviously a factor in terms of transferring out of Mac, but it wasn't so much that I chose [the school] just to come play for my dad. There were a lot of other reasons that played into the decision. I wanted a change in scenery, life."

While at Mac, the 6-2 shooting guard was a member of the OUA West all-rookie team in 2001-02, a first-team OUA All-Star in 2003-04, and last year was the OUA West nominee for the Ken Shields Award, presented annually to the Canadian university athlete who exemplifies outstanding achievement in basketball, academics and community involvement.

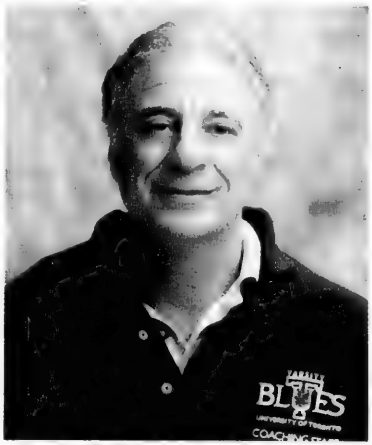
Last spring, he won McMaster's Les Prince Award, which is given to the person who demonstrates leadership and outstanding community service. His credentials include countless hours working at basketball camps, as well as coaching a midget boys basketball team.

Over the summer, Katz and some high school buddies run an annual basketball camp called Concrete Hoops, and they expect to be teaching the sport in Brazil over the next year.

In the coming months, Katz also plans to be involved coaching kids in a basketball program at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre.

While sitting out most of the 2004-05 season with a torn ligament in his knee, Katz put his time off the court to good use by working with his mom to publish two basketball books for struggling readers.

"The idea was to get them reading something they're already interested in," he said of the books, titled *Hoops* and *Above the Rim*. Katz also helped establish a reading reward program with 300 male elementary school students.



Mike Katz *[Photo courtesy of the U of T]*

He returned to the court last season, averaging 12.1 points and 5.2 rebounds a game.

Katz hopes to improve on those numbers in the upcoming campaign, which resumed with a tournament at McGill University last month, and he's glad that he can look to his dad for support and advice on the sidelines.

"I think it's one of those rare opportunities in life to share an experience with your son that's quite satisfying," said Mike Katz, who opposed Ben the last couple of years when Mac and U of T met on the schedule, as well as on another previous occasion when McMaster and Humber College played in the Raptors Cup tournament.

"It's a really unique opportunity, given that I never thought it would happen."

Jim Miller was an 'underrated' Alouette lineman

Obituary

MONTREAL — Jim Miller was the very rare Jewish athlete who advanced to the professional football gridiron and earned a reputation as an underrated but outstanding player.

Miller, who died earlier this month at age 74, was also portrayed as a "wonderful" and "easygoing" person by Sam Etcheverry, a legendary former quarterback for the Montreal Alouettes who played with Miller on that team.

Four years ago, Miller was inducted into McGill University's Sports Hall of Fame for his contributions to sport.

In 2001, Miller was also inducted into the YM-YWHA Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

Born on Feb. 20, 1932, he was a commerce student between 1949 and 1952 and played three seasons for the McGill Redmen on the senior squad and was named an all-star in 1952.

He was also an accomplished boxer, representing McGill and Quebec at the 1952 Canadian boxing championships and Olympic trials (for the Helsinki Games) in Vancouver, but he was eliminated after a severe head butt. In 1953, according to the McGill website, he was the 1953 Quebec Golden Gloves champion.

Miller then played as a defensive end from 1953 to 1958 with the Allouettes, and he made three Grey Cup appearances (1954-56), all against the Edmonton Eskimos.

Canadian Press named him an all-star in 1956.

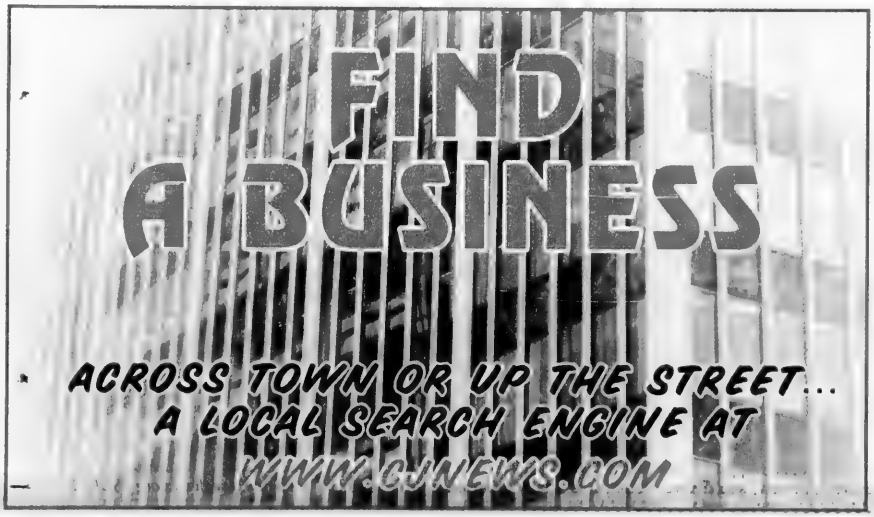
In 1955, Als coach Peahead Walker described Miller to the *Montreal Star* as "the most underrated player in the league.

"I defy you to find a better defensive end… He's done everything we've asked of him and he's done it well."

Miller also became an accomplished businessman. While with the Als, he managed an appliance company, which he sold in 1972, and then managed a North American real estate company called Miller Properties.

He was also part of a group of businessmen who founded Vendome Stables and owned racehorses.

Miller is survived by his wife Jodi, son Jeffrey, and daughter Nancy.



Inside Back

Gay offspring pose challenge

By MICHAEL GORDON

When I was a teenager in the mid-1950s in Brooklyn, the ultimate insult was to call someone a "fag," or the Yiddish equivalent, a "fegala," even though I didn't really know what it meant. It was not until I was travelling in Europe during my third year of University in 1960 that I actually met and spoke to someone who said he was homosexual. But I had no opportunity to understand his personal challenges, the issues he faced, his life goals, or whether he faced any societal hurdles or difficulties in his cultural milieu.

The Senior Side of Life

It has only been in the past 15 years that I have been acquainted with and had friendships with members of the gay community, allowing me to understand the implications at the personal and societal levels.

More recently, I have had the chance to observe the personal impact on people in same-sex relationships, whether in dating, cohabiting, marriage or child-rearing. It is through this evolutionary growth process that I have come to appreciate the implications for parents and grandparents of knowing that their offspring is homosexual, something that was probably considered anathema or sinful during their own developmental and adult years.

How are loving parents and grandparents to respond to the reality of a child or grandchild's admission of having a sexual orientation that is likely completely alien to them? Rejection is an option, one that, unfortunately, is sometimes adopted, with all the tragic consequences of loss of family structure, meaningful relationships and opportunities to grow and love.

A reluctant and resentful acceptance is another option. Again, this may lead to some strain in the relationship and thus limit the true processes of growth and affection, but it may evolve to a later reconnection and embracing.

A neutral or silent response may be necessary initially, to give time for parents to accommodate themselves to this unexpected path, but it allows time for growth and ultimate acceptance.

The real challenge for parents and grandparents facing the reality that their beloved child and grandchild is taking a relationship path different from the one expected is to look at the situation through the lens of love and growth and the continuation of family connections and life. Some parents and grandparents might fear the reaction of the "community" or the "family" to this non-traditional family structure and be ambivalent as to how to respond.

But the ultimate question arises when child rearing becomes part of the arrangement: can parents or grandparents have *nachas* from a child born or adopted into a same-sex relationship? The answer is, of course, no less so than from a child born or adopted into a heterosexual or single-parent relationship.

Fortunately, in Canada and some other jurisdictions, there has been a monumental shift in understanding so that same-sex relationships are better recognized and accepted as part of our society's family and community fabric. It is the love encompassed in the relationship that matters.

During last year's same-sex marriage debate in Canada, a lot of negative commentary came from those who, for cultural, personal or religious reasons, objected to accepting or promoting this new legal structure. However, even though it appears that the government debate may be re-opened by Parliament this fall, the compelling legal and ethical arguments are likely to supersede any legislative initiatives.

Parents and grandparents facing the prospect of this usually unexpected step in a loved one's life must find within themselves the strength and devotion to embrace those they love and, if there are any, their offspring, whatever the process of procreation or adoption. They must look to the future of growth and maturing. The *nachas* and joy will spring forth and fill their world, as it rightfully should.

Bev B's Mulligatawny Soup With an Indian Taste

1/4 c vegetable oil
3 c chopped onions
1 lg tomato chopped
5 garlic cloves, chopped
1 1/2 tblsp garam masala
1 1/2 tblsp ground coriander (optional)
1 tsp turmeric
1/2 tsp cayenne pepper
1/2.tsp cayenne pepper
2 bay leaves
2 c dried red lentils
8 c vegetable broth
1 1/2 c canned chick peas pureed
1 c canned unsweetened coconut milk
1 c canned chick peas (not pureed)
3 tblsp fresh lemon juice

Heat oil in large pot over medium-high heat. Add onions; cook until golden brown, stirring frequently. Add chopped tomato. Add garlic; sauté 2 minutes. Add garam masala, coriander, turmeric, cayenne pepper and bay leaves; stir 1 minute. Add lentils; stir until coated. Add broth and pureed chick peas. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to medium; simmer about 1 hour (until lentils are tender). Discard bay leaves.

Puree soup in blender or with immersible blender. Stir in coconut milk, remaining chick peas and lemon juice. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

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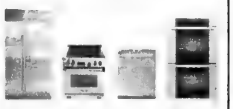

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Epi on Education

Hebrew essential in Jewish studies

I remember visiting a newly opened Jewish teachers centre in Chicago many years ago and finding gross errors in Hebrew all over the place.

Seymour Epstein

Everything else in the experimental centre was cutting-edge, and I knew that the management was not intentionally negligent, but merely ignorant of two things: correct Hebrew spelling and the importance of Hebrew in the Jewish studies curriculum.

Once I alerted my colleagues to the problem (it was my job – I had been invited as a consultant), they immediately decided to rectify the situation by hiring a retired Hebrew teacher to correct the errors, and to do some "preventive medicine" by teaching Hebrew to the staff.

This memory came back to me recently as my current colleagues pointed out Hebrew errors in the strangest places: a document from a central Israeli education agency, the literature of a major organization of Jewish educators, some of our own schools.

On the positive side, I think that we in Toronto enjoy a fairly literate leadership compared to other Diaspora communities because of the intensive Hebrew education in many of our schools. In Boston, I was once actually complimented after a lecture given in Hebrew by a woman who identified my elementary school from my Hebrew.

But there is no doubt that as an integral and essential element in a full Jewish education, Hebrew is declining. Recently, we heard of a secondary school overseas that eliminated Hebrew language studies from its Jewish curriculum.

There should be no need to convince readers of *The CJN* that Hebrew must remain at the core of Jewish studies. While there are different types of Hebrew studied in different settings, two facts argue for the primacy of Hebrew in the curriculum.

- We possess the original version of our most sacred text in its original language.
- We have seen the rebirth of our language as the spoken tongue of the State of Israel.

These two facts make Hebrew a necessity for knowing our past, understanding the present and creatively developing our future.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Don't hang Saddam

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Saddam Hussein is a cruel and pitiless tyrant. The evidence presented at his murder trial showed the Hitlerian character of this man as an autocratic bully. It gave us insight into the underbelly of humanity and the extreme immorality that exists within our world.

URBAN WRITER

Saddam is responsible for the death and torture of thousands of Iraqis, Kurds, Iranians, Israelis and countless other nationals. He raised sons who harassed, raped and murdered fellow citizens, as did the psychopathic characters in the film *A Clockwork Orange*, who took great pleasure in hurting others and were indifferent to their victims' pain.

My heart tells me Saddam deserves to die.

Rationally and ultimately, however, I believe otherwise – that Saddam's life should be spared – and I disagree with the court's conclusion he should hang by the neck until pronounced dead.

Saddam is a murderer. This is clear. It is difficult to look at his face for too long, although in a strange way we are somehow drawn to it. We resent his presence in our world because of the horrific crimes he committed. And we abhor him because of the Pharaoh-like pomposity in the way he did so – with an insane belief in the divinity of his actions.

Yet despite our disdain for his killing, would we do the same – kill him until he is limp at the end of a noose? Is this justice? Taking a life is taking a life?

Certainly, there are times when it makes sense to execute someone, as in the case of the attempted assassination on Hitler. His death would have halted the death of millions, and incarceration did not appear to be a viable alternative. I, myself, would have pulled the trigger.

But Saddam can be locked away forever, in a place where he couldn't be found by the public, where he can no longer hurt anyone and live out his days, a pathetic character like Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy. Hess was tried at Nuremberg, sentenced to life in prison, and was the only prisoner in Spandau prison, where he died in 1987 by suicide.

I also fear a death sentence is a way of assuaging the emotional need of the masses to get revenge. In this light, U.S. President George W. Bush (the former governor of Texas, where executions are held daily) stated that the verdict is "a major achievement for Iraq's young democracy." A major achievement?

Is Bush referring to the fact that the court had the courage to hand down a death sentence? How is this a triumph in the Middle East? It is a daily occurrence. Is he saying that Iraq has improved as a country now that all can watch its former "leader" die at the hands of a court-appointed executioner? More spilled blood is not what Iraqis need to see, regardless of whose veins it flowed through.

Finally, when Saddam is put to death, given the opportunity, millions of people around the world will tune in. It means the execution of a human being – a creation of God – will be a form of entertainment, a celebration of sorts (the Jewish people were reprimanded by the heavens for rejoicing at the death of the Egyptians for this exact reason). And I can't imagine such a sight would be a deterrent to other despots.

Lock up Saddam and make sure the padlock is triple-steel enforced. Do so because we are a civil society and recognize that killing a man when other options are available is more an expression of our anger, a need to get even, than a show of justice and a commanding commitment to life.

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Serving Canadian Jewry and Partnering with Israel and World Jewry for 40 years

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Jewish Canada

Shalom
and warm greetings from Israel!

from Stanley Plotnick, *President*, UIA Federations Canada

This has been an incredible two weeks in Israel. Although I have visited this wonderful land many times, this trip has been unique. It is, after all, in the wake of Israel's recent war, and the country is in a very introspective mood. I realize now more than ever, that we, can—in fact must, help prepare the country for tomorrow and the possibility of another war, at least in the areas that we are able to significantly influence its preparedness.

Stanley Plotnick accepting a certificate of honour on behalf of the Canadian Jewish community from Tel Hai President, Professor Zeki Berk

Toronto UJA Federation's Solidarity Mission participants hand out SpinMaster toys to children in northern Israel

Over the last few months, more than 100 Canadian Jewish leaders have spent time in Israel to express their solidarity. During my two weeks here, I met with a Mission from Toronto and participated in the laying of the cornerstone for dormitories of Eilat's new branch of the Ben Gurion University; I have joined the UIAFC Solidarity Mission at Tel Hai College in the north where we were honoured for our contributions in its development; and I have met with the Toronto Major Donor Fly-In, sharing thoughts and listening to their perceptions of the needs. Of course, I also had the opportunity to meet and share ideas with world Jewry, at the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency meetings.

I have heard and seen what an important impact we, the Jews of Canada have made over the past months. The accolades are overwhelming!! There is no doubt that, apart from the government of Israel, the most important provider of emergency relief in the north during the trying days of the war, was the Jewish Agency—and we were a vital partner in their success.

The Jewish communities of Canada have made many significant contributions to the State of Israel over our 40 years in operation—however this past summer the Canadian Jewish communities were clearly front and centre among the international Jewish communities.

Continued on back cover

Canadians help to Rebuild a *Resilient Israeli Society*

The Canadian Jewish community should be very proud of its outstanding results achieved over the past weeks in mobilizing Israel Emergency Campaigns across the country. We have, once again, demonstrated our dedication and commitment to Israel by exceeding our own expectations. Canadians were quick and decisive, mounting Israel Emergency Campaigns across the country in order to raise the funds to help those who were impacted by the war. As of this date, the Emergency Campaigns have collectively raised $42 million in pledges.

Linda Kislowicz, CEO of UIA Federations Canada, accompanied a group of 15 Canadian Jewish leaders on a fact-finding mission to Israel's northern communities in September. Upon her return to Canada, Linda stated "One of the themes that caught our attention and encompasses so many possible programs is the notion of creating and building circles of resilience—layers of insulation and protection against danger. In this way, Israelis will be better prepared to cope with trauma, resulting in a stronger social environment. We must ensure that we strengthen the social and economic structures so that they are able to retain their population and feel safe and secure."

Through the national collective process, the group reported their findings to the Israel Strategic Advisory Allocation Committee and a set of broad-ranging proposals were developed to encompass education, economic development, and community development that would build circles of resilience. Mark Gurvis, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, adds that "the Israel Emergency Campaign and the national collective process, through which we are quickly moving, will help us to take the steps towards building and reinforcing the case for collective community action." We are very excited about the possibility of developing a Canada-wide national project that will make a significant contribution to the Galilee.

Ahikam Seri

Trauma professionals discussing post war trauma

Ahikam Seri

Firefighters in Gym Program as part of Trauma Relief in Haifa

We are helping Israel recover from the devastation it suffered over the summer by strengthening its social environment on an individual and communal level, through the work of our agents in Israel which includes the Jewish Agency, the Joint Jewish Distribution Committee and Sacta-Rashi. That is the essence of our partnership with Israel and we should be very proud of our efforts and our results.

Canadian Support for Israel

Prime Minister **Stephen Harper**

"Israel has the right to defend itself... I think Israel's response under the circumstances has been measured... The onus to end this escalation is on the other side, and I would urge them to return the [Israeli] prisoners." **JULY 13, 2006**

The Honourable **Marlene Jennings,** MP, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce – Lachine

"Let me be clear: I wholeheartedly support Israel and its right, indeed its duty, to defend its territory and its citizens from these acts of war. In my view, the sole parties that are responsible for the present devastation are Hezbollah and Hamas." **JULY 18, 2006**

The Honourable **Susan Kadis,** MP, Thornhill

"For far too long Israel has fought for its very existence. Israel did not seek these confrontations. It is important to note that the recent actions taken by Israel would not have occurred if UN resolution 1559 had been fully implemented and the terrorist groups, Hamas and Hezbollah, had not entered sovereign Israeli territory and killed and kidnapped Israeli soldiers." **JULY 25, 2006**

Marc Gold, National Chair, Canada-Israel Committee:

"Hezbollah, like its Palestinian cousin Hamas, has been identified as a terrorist entity by Canada alongside scores of our traditional allies, both for its rejection of Israel's right to exist and its long and horrendous inventory of terrorist attacks throughout the world. A terrorist organization is always at the core of the problem, never part of the solution." **AUGUST 21, 2006**

The Honourable **Irwin Cotler,** MP, Mount Royal and former Minister of Justice:

"It is tragic to recall – but imperative to appreciate – that had UN Security Council Resolution 1559 been enforced, there would have been no Hezbollah, no armed attacks, no Israeli response and no casualties, Lebanese or Israeli." **AUGUST 26, 2006**

The Honourable **Bob Rae,** former Ontario Premier and candidate for leadership, Liberal Party of Canada:

"To me, it's a terrible tragedy when civilians get killed in a war. But the suggestion of a war crime is something that involves the deliberate and intentional killing of civilians... with respect to the government of Israel, I've never heard a serious suggestion that there was any deliberate targeting of civilians." **OCTOBER 11, 2006**

Letters of Thanks from Israel

וזאת לאות הערכה והוקרה

על פועלה המבורך של מגבית קנדה בישראל
במהלך הלחימה בצפון
קיץ תשס"ו, יולי – אוגוסט 2006

על מחויבות אמת לערכים חברתיים, על רוח התנדבות שאינה יודעת גבולות, על גילוי אחריות לאומית ונכונות להתלכד בשעת משבר, ועל לילות כימים של עשייה למען תושבי הצפון

Certificate from Prime Minister Ehud Olmert translates as follows:

In recognition and acknowledgement of the exceptional efforts demonstrated by UIA Canada during the battles in the North Summer 5766, July – August 2006

For your true dedication to community values, for the spirit of volunteerism which knows no bounds, for the demonstration of responsibility towards our nation and the willingness to unite in times of crisis, and for your nonstop efforts to benefit the residents of the north.

"We will overcome these hardships, as we always have, shoulder-to-shoulder with our brothers and sisters in the Diaspora. Your unconditional and unwavering support is a source of strength and comfort in good times as in bad."

Ehud Olmert, Prime Minister of Israel

"The Canadian Campaign serves as an example of quick and efficient mobilization. We are very impressed by the depth and the scope of the activities of UIAC."

Avi Pazner, World Chairman of Keren Hayesod-UIA

"The Respite Program as well as the games and recreation equipment financed by your fund was (and still is) virtually priceless for those populations... I would also like to express our gratitude for your Israeli staff's efficient and immediate response, their instant availability and most of all for their tender love and care. As the saying goes "A friend in need is a friend indeed".

Aharon Valency, Head of the Regional Council of the Upper Galilee

"The Israel Emergency Campaign has enabled us to provide assistance to literally tens of thousands of Israelis—making a miserable situation just a little more bearable. We thank you for your support and have no doubt that you will continue to support our efforts when the real work begins – the day after."

Leah Golan, Director General, Jewish Agency for Israel

Ze'ev Bielski, Chairman of the Jewish Agency visits children at a JAFI sponsored summer camp near Petah Tikva.

"... we feel that we are protected, and part of the family, despite the fact that we are practically all alone in the country... the meeting with the psychologist was very helpful...On behalf of the whole family, thanks for the help in this difficult time; it was a welcome break from the fear and panic!"

Olim family who participated on Canadian funded respite in Jerusalem

"It is deeply encouraging to know that we do not stand alone, and that the notion, "All of Israel is responsible for one another" is not just an empty phrase, but a practiced value."

Sara Dagan, Community Director, Kfar Szold

"Our children and youth, trapped in the shelters, were thrilled by the variety of games you sent us and the craft materials; but moreover, they were moved and full of thanks from your dedicated efforts to ease our lives and make our presence in the shelters more bearable."

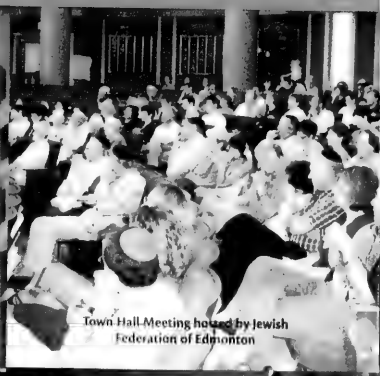
Dalia (Education Director), Educational Staff, and the Children and Youth of Kfar Blum

New immigrants in a Nahariya bomb shelter

Across Canada...

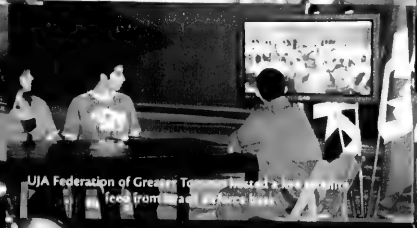
Toronto Rally

Rabbi Bulka at Ottawa Rally


Town Hall Meeting hosted by Jewish Federation of Edmonton

Montreal Federation CJA's Young Leadership. (l to r) Stephen Reitman, Wayne Deans, Warren Werbitt, Heather Adelson Zipkin, Alan Brandman, Evan Feldman and Ronny Steinberg

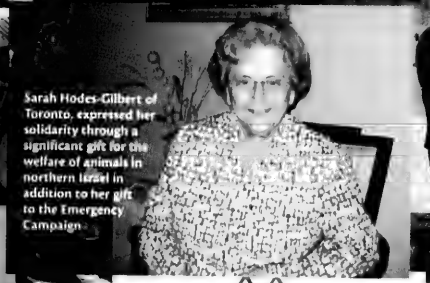
Rally


UJA Federation of Greater To[illegible] fees from[illegible]

Stanley Plotnick, President UIAFC presented with Samuel Bronfman Medal, Montreal Jewish community's highest award, by Richard Vineberg, President Federation CJA, Stephen Bronfman, Marilyn Blumer, Chairman, Bronfman Medal Selection Committee.

Tom Weisz, Sean Tick and Sasha Weisz[illegible] UJA Federation of Hamilton, with Brigitte Gabriel

London Jewish community


Sarah Hodes-Gilbert of Toronto, expressed her solidarity through a significant gift for the welfare of animals in northern Israel in addition to her gift to the Emergency Campaign.

[illegible]yrna Linder, Gerry [illegible]en Shapiro, Micha Feldman, Donna Riback [illegible]ntahun Assefa-Dawit at Calgary's comm[illegible]de event

Hon. Scott Brison, M.P. [illegible] Atlantic Jewish community rally in Halifax

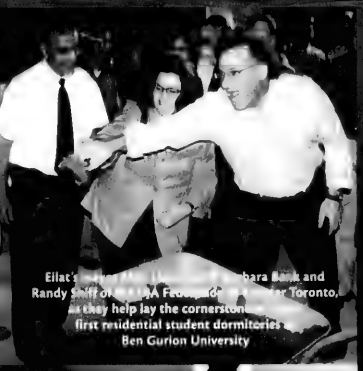
[illegible]avid Kassman, Shlichim Yael and Yishay Lerman and Dr. Steven Goluboff of the Saskatoon Jewish community

Winnipeg Rally

In Israel

Yossi Tanuri, Director General of UIA Canada, prepares for live broadcast from Israeli airforce base

Israel Strategy Advisory Allocation Committee on fact-finding mission to Israel



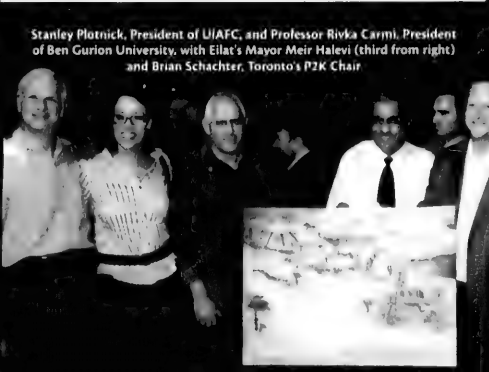
Eilat's [illegible] Barbara Bank and Randy Sniff of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, as they help lay the cornerstone for first residential student dormitories at Ben Gurion University

Four members of Ottawa's Solidarity Mission to Israel gather letters, toys and clothes for children in northern Israel. (l to r) Steven Kimmel, Jack Silverstein, Arnie Vered and Sam Firestone)

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert welcoming North American Olim to Israel this summer

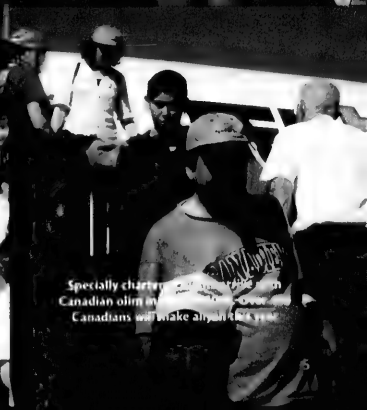
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Solidarity Mission

Canada Israel Committee Parliamentary Staff Mission to Israel



Stanley Plotnick, President of UIAFC, and Professor Rivka Carmi, President of Ben Gurion University, with Eilat's Mayor Meir Halevi (third from right) and Brian Schachter, Toronto's P2K Chair

One of many Canadian funded respite programs for children [illegible] northern Israel



Specially chartered [illegible] with Canadian olim [illegible] Canadians will make aliyah this year

Advocating for positive dialogue, *communication and partnership*

Canada Israel Committee Reception (l to r) Jonathon Kalles (QIC), Paule Brunelle M.P. (BQ), Yvan Loubier (BQ) and Karen Eltis (CIC)

The Canada Israel Committee (CIC) has been extremely active throughout the war and its aftermath, working very closely with all of its partners to develop a national advocacy campaign. The campaign was designed to not only enhance existing advocacy programs but also to broaden and reach out to diverse audiences in many different sectors and garner support. This outreach involved both media and the political sectors, and included developing relationships and partnerships with non-Jewish communities, particularly ethnic groups.

One of the immediate results of these efforts was that National Jewish Campus Life began the school year confident that its leaders were prepared to handle the issues surrounding the conflict in the Middle East. Campuses across Canada advertised the need for dialogue, communication and partnership through a campaign entitled "Partners Wanted". A website was launched at www.theroadtopeace.ca and brochures entitled "Don't Accept the Apartheid Lie" were distributed on campuses across the country. So instead of feeling reactive and defensive, our students and staff alike were able to do their work in a positive and proactive manner.

CIC also led several missions to Israel throughout the summer, including an all-party-delegation of parliamentary staffers, a group of Christian student leaders from a campus scholarship program, and together with Quebec Israel Committee (QIC), one group of Quebec journalists and another group of Quebec cultural leaders. The importance of these experiences grew exponentially with the hostilities in the region.

Working with communities across Canada to foster a fair perspective of Israel in the media, editorial board meetings were arranged and op-eds were published in a number of national and local media. Visits to Canada by Israeli academics were organized, including tours to Halifax and Windsor by Canadian Jim Lederman, the longest serving foreign correspondent in Jerusalem. Mr. Lederman met with community leadership, journalists and students on university campuses, briefing them on Israel's recent war in Lebanon.

The CIC also actively supported local federations' sponsorship of mid-summer rallies in support of Israel, with events that attracted thousands of people in communities across Canada. CIC's role, both within the Jewish communities across Canada as well as the broader community, ensures the promotion of an increased understanding between the peoples of Canada and Israel.

Throughout the summer and the period that followed, our advocacy agencies were called upon to deliver quickly, professionally and in very challenging circumstances. Their energy and commitment were evident in the level of results that they achieved.

Spreading the Message across Canadian Schools: FAST

On September 11, 2006, Tony Comper, President and CEO of BMO Financial Group addressed the Canadian Club of Montreal and spoke out against Antisemitism in Canada and abroad. At the same time, he also introduced the FAST (Fighting Antisemitism Together) initiative that he and his wife Elizabeth launched last year in Ontario.

Deeply disturbed by the rise of Antisemitic activities in the spring of 2004, Elizabeth and Tony Comper realized that the most effective message against it had to come from the non-Jewish world. It was in this context that FAST was born—a coalition endorsed by 50 non-Jewish business and community leaders.

FAST approached Canadian Jewish Congress to assist in the development of an educational program that would deal with Antisemitism, discrimination and racism in general. As a result of their collaborative work, Choose Your Voice was introduced in September 2005 in order to educate grade 6, 7 and 8 students about the dangers of bigotry and prejudice.

FAST educational package includes lesson plans, assessment strategy and award-winning video

The key message of the program is: don't be a victim; don't be a perpetrator; don't be a bystander. Choose Your Voice: Choose to be a hero.

Since its launch just over a year ago, Choose Your Voice has received wide acclaim from educators across Canada. The educational package includes all the tools that are necessary to mount the program—lesson plans, an assessment strategy and an award-winning video to help educators implement the program—and what is even more compelling is that the curriculum meets the needs of the provincial curriculum in language and the arts.

The program's current distribution has the potential to reach over 290,000 students in Ontario alone. The program is now being tailored for use in Quebec and is available to other provinces across the country.

UIA Federations Canada salutes the Compers and applauds their vision and support of a diverse Canada. It is through initiatives such as these that we will help the next generation to develop respect and tolerance for difference.

Tony and Elizabeth Comper with Bernard Pinsky (President, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver) and Jeffrey Goldberg (Past General CJA Chair)

Connecting with our *Cuban brothers and sisters*

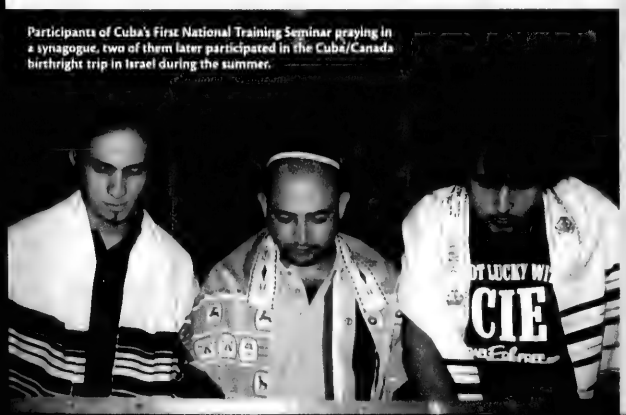
Canada and Cuba –who would have imagined that these 2 communities would have common interests and that they would develop meaningful relationships? The Canadian Jewish community has had, and continues to have a close and meaningful relationship with the Cuban Jewish community through partnerships established by Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and more recently Canada Israel Experience (CIE), a department of UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC).

For 45 years, the Jewish community of Ontario has helped nurture Jewish life for Cuba's 1,500 community members. Every year since the U.S. embargo on Cuba, the community has shipped kosher-for-Passover food and wine to Cuba's Jews, one of the last Diaspora communities in crisis. Over the past four years, CIE has also included Cuban participants on birthright israel trips, bringing together 30 Canadians, 10 Cubans and 10 Israelis for a 10 day mifgash. And more recently, UIAFC sponsored a leadership training program in Cuba in memory of Dr. Jose Miller z"l, longtime President of the Cuban Jewish community who passed away last winter.

November 30th, 2006 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Cuban Jewish community. Canadian Jewish representatives have been invited as guests for this important and historic milestone occasion. Stanley Plotnick, UIAFC president, will chair this small but special Mission to Cuba. Canadian delegates will show their support, learn more about this remarkable community and explore ways to build this partnership.

Mission participants will attend community celebrations, spend a Shabbat at the Patronato Synagogue in Havana, visit the city of Havana and meet with representatives of the community. We are most fortunate to have this opportunity to meet with our Cuban brothers and sisters and to further develop our unique relationship with the Cuban Jewish community. Helping Jews who live in difficult circumstances and are prevented from expressing their Judaism is one way in which we reinforce our support for World Jewry and our mission for Tikun Olam. By increasing their connection to other Jews and to Israel, we're helping them to fully express their Judaism.

We are proud to join in the celebration and we pledge to continue to stay connected and supportive for years to come.



Participants of Cuba's First National Training Seminar praying in a synagogue, two of them later participated in the Cuba/Canada birthright trip in Israel during the summer.

Transforming a Dream into Reality

Thrilled to be back in Canada on behalf of the Canadian Israel Emergency Campaigns, Fentahun Assefa-Dawit gave a stirring message of hope that he shared with audiences in Vancouver, Calgary, Ottawa, Halifax and Moncton. He spoke from experience when he said "The Ethiopians are an incredibly resilient people."

This past July, while serving as Director of an Absorption Centre in Israel's north, Fentahun calmly and quickly guided approximately 1,000 new Ethiopian immigrants to the Centre's 12 bomb shelters immediately upon hearing the warning siren.

His swift response saved lives, as the Centre took a direct hit from a Katyusha rocket. "We went through so much suffering in Ethiopia that for many of the people, this was a small price to pay for coming to Israel."

Fentahun Assefa-Dawit pictured with Micha Feldman, known as the "father of Ethiopian Jewry"

Ze'ev Bielski, chairman of the Jewish Agency, commented, "these brave people had a very, very hard beginning. They learned the word Katyusha. They learned the word miklat [shelter]. They understand what it means to be Israeli."

Like one of the hundreds of hopeful Ethiopians who arrive every month to fulfill their dream of reaching Israel, Fentahun has a remarkable story to relate. Born in a primitive Ethiopian village of 350 Jews, he walked across the desert as a teenager determined to reach the refugee camps in Sudan, and was offered asylum by the Canadian government.

While living in Canada, Fentahun became very active in Montreal's Jewish community, working closely with Ethiopian immigrants. His volunteer work included translating for the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) in Amharic and English. With a personal understanding and appreciation of the work of the Jewish Federation, he became an active volunteer of CJA's Super Sunday Telethon and became YHMA/YHWA Program Coordinator for Ethiopian Jews living in Montreal. As a student at Dawson College and Concordia University, he also took on an active role with Hillel.

But he and his family never gave up on their dream of living in Israel and after 7 1/2 years in Montreal, they immigrated to Israel. Through a Jewish Agency sponsored program, Fentahun graduated from the prestigious Technion Institute of Technology with an engineering degree.

Fentahun now serves as the Jewish Agency's Partnership 2000 Director to the Galilee Panhandle region and is consumed with the satisfaction of giving back to Israel. He is a shining example of how the Jewish federations provide hope, dignity and education, as well as helping Jews from around the world return home to Israel.

Message continued from cover

Shalom and warm greetings from Israel!

UIAFC has had a special partnership with Israel's northern communities for over 25 years, most recently through the Partnership 2000 initiative. Perhaps, because of this partnership, we reacted instantly and with impact, reinforcing our bond between Canada's Coast-to-Coast communities and Israel's Northern residents, while Montreal and Toronto's partnership regions (Eilat and Beer Sheva) hosted tens of thousands of northern residents seeking safe refuge from the north.

Across Canada, Jewish communities not only cared, but we felt the anxiety, were saddened by the losses, and concerned about the future. And we transformed our concern into reality by being the first country to launch an Israel Emergency Campaign. We can reflect back on our role with pride, knowing that our efforts were greatly appreciated by the people of Israel, particularly in the north, and the leadership of Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency.

We were even blessed to have Prime Minister Harper's immediate support of Israel's right to protect itself and are so very grateful and proud of his courageous, unwavering leadership.

Canada's commitment to a safe and secure Israel would not have spoken so loudly to the world without the dedicated support of each and every one of us. Over the summer we indeed learned that the sum of our united efforts is much greater than its parts.

But our job has just started. Having provided an immediate response to Israel's immediate needs, we now face the challenge of her long-term needs. The strength of Israel will be determined by the success and development of Israel's peripheral communities. We must help Israel transform the devastation into opportunity and help build a stronger and more secure future.

With the displacement of 400,000 residents over the summer, the disruption of an estimated 90,000 businesses, and the 20% decline in college enrollment, anxious residents of the north are considering their options for the future. They must be assured of security and preparedness for any future attacks. They must have the ability to live quality lives with economic and educational opportunities similar to other regions. And we must do our share to help them achieve these goals, while continuing our proud partnership with the people and State of Israel.

Stanley Plotnick, *President*, UIA Federations Canada

A Letter from our Sponsor

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Dear Friend,

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United Israel Appeal Federations of Canada (UIAFC) plays a major role in promoting Israeli tourism and has a formed a close friendship with The David Citadel Hotel over the years

The Canadian Jewry as a whole makes up for a large percentage of The David Citadel's Hotel's clientele and we hope to continue to be your place of choice when visiting Jerusalem, one the holiest and most majestic of City's in the world

We do look forward to welcoming you to our hotel

Yours Sincerely,
David Tucker
Executive Assistant Manager

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Collectively the federations through UIA Federations Canada, support the following agents:

The Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA) along with Canada Israel Committee, Canadian Jewish Congress and National Jewish Campus Life, Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI); Joint Distribution Committee (JDC); and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada (JIAS)

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The national address for Jewish Canada and partnership with Israel and world Jewry.
L'adresse nationale de la communauté juive canadienne et de son partenariat avec Israël et le monde juif.

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Canada backs Israel in UN votes

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Canada joined seven other members of the UN Human Rights Council last week to oppose a resolution condemning Israel for its artillery strike on Beit Hanoun that killed 19 Palestinians but ignoring the repeated Qassam rocket launches that prompted the retaliatory barrage.

Opposes Human Rights Council vote, abstains in General Assembly

Please see editorial on page 8 and related story on page 37

In New York, meanwhile, Canada abstained on a General Assembly resolution – one of 20 on the Middle East being advanced by Arab and Muslim countries – that called for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

And late last week, Louise Arbour, the newly installed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, began a tour of Israel and the Palestinian Authority after the General Assembly deplored Israel's attack. She is expected to draft a report to be submitted to the General Assembly. On Sunday, she visited Beit Hanoun where she said the Palestinian territories have suffered "massive" violations of human rights during violence between Palestinians and the Israeli military.

The Human Rights Council met in Geneva in a special session called to deal with the Gaza flareup. It was the third special session held by the council since it was launched in June.

The council's resolution expressed the "shock and horror of Israeli killing of Palestinian civilians in Beit Hanoun" and "alarm at the gross and systematic violations of human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory by the occupying power, Israel."

The resolution was silent about Palestinian attacks on Israel and protecting Israeli civilians.

Hillel Neuer

However, it "urges all concerned parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law, to refrain from violence against civilian population."

Continued on page 35

'One of the safest places in Israel'

CJN reporter tours Golan Heights

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

GOLAN HEIGHTS, ISRAEL — Gazing out over Syria from a bunker used in Israel's 1973 Yom Kippur War, I heard an electronic beep from the depths of my overstuffed purse.

When my small group of North American Jewish journalists re-emerged into the sunlight and chill morning air at the top of Mount Bental, a dormant volcano in Israel's Golan Heights, I pulled out the cellphone I'd brought from home and found a new text message: "Welcome to Syria! Access voicemail as u do at home…"

My phone had picked up a signal from a nearby Syrian carrier, offering a pointed lesson about the proximity of Israel to its Arab neighbour and the reason we hear so much about the Golan's strategic importance.

In counterpoint to more serious issues, however, we saw a chameleon change colour as it darted between whimsical sculptures bordering the path that leads to the bunker, and we were amused by the cleverly named "Coffee Anan" coffee shop, a reference both to the secretary general of the United Nations and the height of the volcano (the word "*anan*" means "cloud" in Hebrew).

[*Frances Kraft photo*]

Despite its location cheek by jowl with the border, and despite the approximately 200 Katyushas that fell there during this summer's war with Hezbollah, the Golan, which was controlled by Syria from 1947 to 1967, is considered "one of the safest places in Israel," according to Israel Eshed, CEO of Golan Tourism (www.etour.golan.org.il).

The sparsely populated 1,158-square-kilometre region, with about 20,000 Jewish and 20,000 Druze residents, is the subject of a multi-sensory IMAX-like short movie, *Kesem HaGolan* (*The Magic of the Golan*), produced for visitors. It can be seen in the same complex that houses Eshed's office in Katzrin, the Golan's main town.

Continued on page 39

Toldot
Candlelighting: 4:27
Havdalah: 5:33

Greater Toronto Area

Don'

Israel will confront a nuclear Iran, Olmert tells GA — see page 38

The News in Brief

CANADA

Compers Get Degree

TORONTO — The Canadian Friends of Haifa University hosted a tribute dinner in Toronto on Sunday for BMO Financial Group CEO Tony Comper and his wife Elizabeth, who were awarded honorary doctorates from the university for their efforts to fight anti-Semitism. Earlier this year, the Compers founded FAST – Fighting Anti-Semitism Together – which aims to mobilize business leaders against anti-Semitism. Proceeds from the dinner will go to the university's new Elizabeth and Tony Comper Interdisciplinary Institute for the Study of Anti-semitism and Racism.

CEO Receives Award

MONTREAL — E. Hunter Harrison, president and CEO of CN, was presented with B'nai Brith Canada's Award of Merit at a gala evening at Montreal's Windsor Station last week attended by close to 800 guests. The fundraiser was co-chaired by two past honorees: Paul Tellier, whom Harrison succeeded at CN, and Michael Sabia, president and CEO of Bell Canada Enterprises, and former second-in-command to Tellier when he headed CN. Tellier and Sabia are past Award of Merit recipients.

Trust Fund Set Up

MONTREAL — A trust fund has been set up to help Dawson College shooting victim Leslie Markofsky, 23, who was shot twice in the head in the Sept. 13 attack. The friends of Markofsky's father who launched the fund, which has raised $7,500 so far, said it would go to help Markofsky in his ongoing rehabilitation. He was released from hospital earlier this month and is expected to make a full recovery. The fund can be e-mailed at kcraigster@gmail.com. Its website is www.geocities.com/lesliefunds.

WORLD

Milton Friedman Dies

SAN FRANCISCO — Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman, 94, died Nov. 16 in San Francisco of heart failure. Born in New York City to immigrants from what's now Ukraine, he was the youngest of four children. He developed some of his early economic theories while working for U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal. Friedman helped found the Chicago school of economics, which believed government should have a reduced role in the economy, outside of regulating the monetary supply to control inflation. He won the Nobel Prize for economics in 1976.

Tree To Be Felled

AMSTERDAM — A chestnut tree mentioned as a source of comfort and hope in Anne Frank's diary is going to be cut down. The 150-year-old tree stood in the courtyard of the Amsterdam house where Frank's family hid for more than two years during the Nazi occupation. The city said last week that the tree has deteriorated badly due to a fungus and must be felled. In her diary, the Jewish teen described the tree several times, including once in February 1944: "From my favourite spot on the floor I look up at the blue sky and the bare chestnut tree, on whose branches little raindrops shine, appearing like silver, and at the seagulls and other birds as they glide on the wind… As long as this exists, I thought, and I may live to see it… I cannot be unhappy." Frank's family was later discovered and she died in Bergen-Belsen in 1945.

Iran Seeks Arrests

TEHRAN — Iran's attorney general called for the arrest of Argentine officials in response to arrest warrants issued in the AMIA bombing case. Tehran's chief prosecutor was asked to issue warrants for Juan Jose Galeano, the former prosecutor in the AMIA case, "and his accomplices." The request was in response to Argentina's decision to seek the arrest of ex-Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, six other former Iranian officials and one Hezbollah operative in connection with the 1994 bombing of Buenos Aires' AMIA Jewish centre, which killed 85 people and wounded 300. Galeano was fired from the case after an investigation found he bribed a defendant to change his testimony.

B'nai Brith Asks Ottawa to Expel Ex-Nazis

TORONTO — B'nai Brith Canada asked Ottawa to revoke the citizenship of four men who lied about their Nazi pasts to gain admission into Canada in the 1950s.

Canada's war crimes unit in the Department of Justice has determined that there is compelling evidence linking the men to crimes against humanity.

They are Helmut Oberlander, a former Einsatzgruppen interpreter; Vladimir Katriuk, former member of a German battalion that committed atrocities against civilians; Wasyl Odynsky, alleged to have been a guard at the Poniatowa labour camp in Poland; and Jacob Fast, who worked in a political section of the Nazi auxiliary police in Ukraine.

David Matas, B'nai Brith's senior legal counsel, met with Citizenship and Immigration Minister Monte Solberg recently to urge that their citizenship be revoked immediately.

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Jewish newcomers, veterans elected to councils

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Toronto-area residents went to the polls last week to vote for city councillors and school trustees, and while some decided on grizzled veterans and others voted for new blood, scattered among the candidates were various Jewish politicians.

In Toronto, high-profile councillor Harold Moscoe retained his seat in Eglinton-Lawrence (Ward 15), winning 47 per cent of the vote.

Moscoe, the bombastic chair of the Toronto Transit Commission, wasted little time getting down to work after the election, pushing the issue of terrorism on the TTC.

"If somebody wants to blow themselves up on a subway train, nobody's going to be able to stop them," Moscoe told the *Toronto Star* on Nov. 15 in comments about increased federal security funding for transits. (*The CJN*'s calls to Moscoe were not returned.)

Elsewhere, David Shiner was returned to office in Willowdale (Ward 24) with 54 per cent of the vote.

Shiner has served on city council since 1991 and will continue to advocate for better transit funding and expansion of Toronto's transit system, his website stated.

In York Centre (Ward 10), Deputy Mayor Michael Feldman won re-election, beating his closest rival, Igor Toutchinski, by more than 4,500 votes.

Feldman, whose ward is almost 30 per cent Jewish, hopes to fix recurring flood zones on streets in his ward, as well as continuing his advocacy for affordable housing and fighting a proposed townhouse development at Wilmington Avenue and Overbrook Place.

"I want to preserve the Wilmington plaza," Feldman said. "There are lots of young shul-going families coming back [to the Bathurst Manor area] and I think there's room for successful kosher stores there."

North of the city, Alan Shefman won re-election in a tight race in Vaughan (Ward 5), defeating Bernie Green by just 212 votes.

Shefman's campaign stressed environmental issues such as recycling and garbage collection.

Continued on page 30

CUPE endorsement angers trustee

Josh Matlow, returning school trustee for St. Paul's (Ward 11), is upset with CUPE Ontario for backing him in the recent municipal vote.

Despite his jubilation about being re-elected last week, Matlow said he won't forget how the labour union's unsolicited endorsement of his campaign just prior to election day led to a smear campaign against him.

That's because the union's support led Jewish constituents to link him with CUPE Ontario's May resolution to boycott Israel, he said.

"I don't accept any union or corporate donations at all," Matlow said. "But the very fact that they unilaterally endorsed me caused [people] to say I'm anti-Israel... and it went around the Jewish community."

As a result, Matlow said that one of his first orders of business in this new term will be to take CUPE Ontario to task over its stance on Israel.

"I'm a Jew, so I'm aware," he said. "We have CUPE workers in our schools... we need to make clear to them that we don't support this backwards resolution."

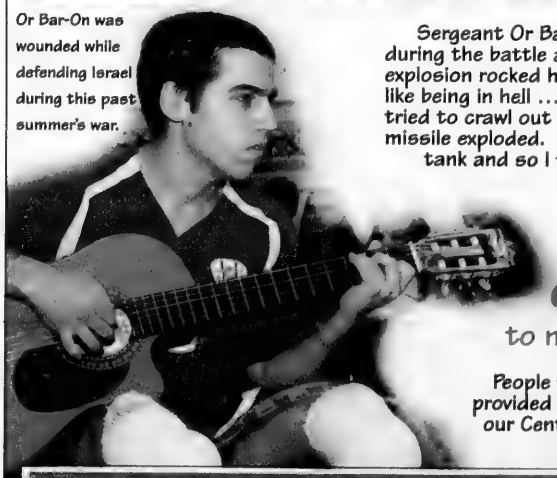
Matlow plans to raise the issue with the school board early in the new year.

In January, he plans to speak with colleagues and educate them about why he thinks CUPE Ontario's stance is unfair and inappropriate.

And he'll be sure to address the Jewish community directly as well.

"We need to send a message... that we don't support this type of nonsense," Matlow said. "I think [CUPE] should stay out of international politics and stick to working in our schools." —A.L.-A.

It was like being in hell ... my legs seemed to be gone.


Or Bar-On was wounded while defending Israel during this past summer's war.

Sergeant Or Bar-On, 20, was afraid of dying when a missile hit his tank on July 20, 2006, during the battle at Maroun al-Ras in Lebanon. Or describes that fateful morning when an explosion rocked his tank: "I felt a kind of searing pain that I wouldn't wish on anyone. It was like being in hell ... I saw that my legs had been hurt, the lower part seemed to be gone. I tried to crawl out of my tank using only my hands. I got as far as the turret when another missile exploded. I felt as if I had been wounded for a second time. I couldn't hold onto the tank and so I fell. After 3½ hours, I was evacuated and taken to the hospital."

In the intensive care unit, the doctors said that Or had lost an enormous amount of blood. He was hanging between life and death. A combat fighter, Or miraculously survived but unfortunately lost both his legs.

"Now I start my life anew because it has been given to me as a gift. I won't take anything for granted."

People from Beit Halochem Israel visited Or in the hospital regularly. He was provided with a laptop and MP4 player, taken out for social excursions and visits to our Centres, where he was shown that there is hope for him and others like him. Or was given the moral support and information needed to deal with his new disability.

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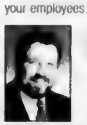

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The disbelief to come

From the editor's desk

In 100 years, or less, when future, honest historians try to understand the decisions taken by western leaders in the first decade of the 21st century, they will undoubtedly be perplexed. They will wonder quizzically and likely struggle to grasp how the upbeat sense of optimism that accompanied the turn of the new millennium disappeared so quickly.

And they will undoubtedly shake their heads with profound disbelief and sigh with unmasked, fatiguing sadness at the craven, cynical men and women who purported to lead the western world against fanatic, genocidal, anti-western, enemy forces arrayed so openly and murderously against the them.

The notes for the first draft of the history of the beginning of the 21st century could have the following entries.

• It was unbelievable that some 60 years after the gates of Auschwitz were thrown open for all the world to see and witness, there arose a government in a large, powerful country – Iran – that set as a high priority of its foreign policy, a campaign to dissuade the world that Auschwitz had ever happened.

• It was unbelievable that the oil-rich government of Iran, a country awash with hundreds of years of natural gas and petroleum reserves, at first covertly by stealth and wile, and then openly, neither embarrassed nor ashamed, pursued the building of its own nuclear bombs.

• It was unbelievable that the same government of Iran sent out its army of terrorists throughout the world to destabilize and destroy. In Argentina, they slaughtered Jews. In Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank, they underwrote, fomented, trained and taught terrorism.

• It was unbelievable that the same government of Iran openly propagated in front of large gatherings of Iranian legislators and large gatherings of other nations the annihilation of a fellow sovereign state – Israel.

• It was unbelievable that the same government of Iran hectored the leaders of Europe about their responsibility for the original sin of the establishment of the Jewish state in the Muslim Middle East.

• It was unbelievable that rather than isolate the leader of this very same government of Iran and demonstrate to him that neither he nor his call to genocide were welcome in a civilized world, he was actually invited to the highest rostrum of the United Nations General Assembly to bask in the prestige of the place and the occasion.

• It was unbelievable that the leaders of the West did not foresee the horrific danger inherent to the entire world in the possibility of the government of Iran possessing nuclear weapons to use in pursuit of its ominously eschatological theocratic political aims, or as a supplier to rogue terrorist groups.

• It was unbelievable that rather than act concertedly and collectively to forfend the Iranian government's acquisition of nuclear weapons, western leaders equivocated and cavilled, and that the leaders of Russia and of China were Iran's main prospectors.

• It was unbelievable that the leaders of the West did not see the danger to their own countries by Iranian mischief-making and intervention throughout the Middle East and thus try to prevent Iran from, for example, carrying out anti-Israel and anti-western aims in south Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank.

• It was unbelievable that the leaders of the West simply acquiesced as the UN in all its various debating venues, fora and committees merely became a brazen propaganda instrument in the well-plotted, devious and demonic campaign to destroy the sovereign Jewish State of Israel.

• It was unbelievable that the UN constantly, falsely, unfairly, obsessively, unjustifiably condemned Israel.

• It was unbelievable that the western world not only allowed but with the involvement of many European governments, was actually complicit in leading the UN to its final disgrace and ultimate demise into irrelevance and oblivion.

• It was unbelievable that, deluded by his ignorance and fanatic religious views, the leader of the government of Iran did not understand that the people of Israel would defend themselves against him and his demented plotting.

• It was unbelievable that western leaders, primarily in Europe, preferred to curry favour with Iran rather than to support Israel.

• It was unbelievable that the western world, too, did not understand the profound loyalty of the people and the government of Israel to the ancient Jewish prophet's declaration: "We shall not die, but live."

• It was unbelievable that the western world did not sufficiently heed the warning of the government of Israel that it would not rely on mere pronouncements of support against an enemy that had declared its intention to annihilate the Jewish state; that it would rely, ultimately, on itself to keep the solemn promise made years before to God, history and the Jewish people: "never again."

• It was unbelievable that the western leaders, especially in Europe, paid so little attention to their own history.

But these reflections are only possible entries in a future record of the 21st century. The book has not yet been written.

– *MBD*

SeeJN

PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER AT CJPAC MEETING: The Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC) held its second annual board meeting in Ottawa recently. At the meeting, standing, from left, were Lionel Schipper, Martin Chernin, Joel Reitman, Neil Duboff, Harper, Elliot Lifson, Mark Waldman, CJPAC executive director Josh Cooper, Jerry Lampert and Dennis Bennie. Seated, from left, are David Goldstein, CJPAC staffer Rachel Chertkoff, Betty Elkaim-Cohen, David Prasow, Jonathan Freedman and CJPAC staffer Sara Berger.

Israeli leaders not up to Iranian threat: analyst

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel faces an existential threat from Iran at a moment when its leaders have never been so incompetent, an Israeli analyst has warned.

Blasting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Defence Minister Amir Peretz for turning in mediocre performances during last summer's war in Lebanon, Yossi Klein Halevi said Israel has never faced such a severe leadership crisis.

Yossi Klein Halevi

In addition, Klein Halevi said the Palestinians have squandered an opportunity for statehood and that, for the foreseeable future, Israel must sit tight in the West Bank.

Klein Halevi, a senior fellow at the Shalem Center – a conservative think tank in Jerusalem – and the Israel correspondent for the *New Republic*, delivered this gloomy assessment at Holy Blossom Temple last week. Here on the last leg of a North American tour, he spoke under the auspices of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Canada-Israel Committee.

In a reference to Israel's recent war with Hezbollah in Lebanon – which he called "the worst assault" on Israel since the 1948 war – he said that no Israeli government ever went to war with a better hand.

The country was united, the United States was fully behind Israel, and Israelis were willing to make substantial sacrifices for a victory, he said.

Yet the government had no clear battle plan, he charged. "We weren't prepared to fight this war."

Taking particular aim at Peretz, Klein Halevi scathingly described him as a minister lacking in both experience and knowledge who should never have been appointed to such a vital position. Yet, for short-term partisan political reasons, Olmert handed him the sensitive defence portfolio.

Recalling that the 34-day war ended with a massive Hezbollah rocket barrage into Israel, Klein Halevi said, "This is the first war Israel lost."

Calling it a "disastrous" exercise, Klein Halevi said that Israel failed to convey a message of deterrence to the Arabs. Given its results, Olmert and Peretz should have assumed responsibility for its outcome and promptly resigned.

Klein Halevi said Israel's political system is weighed down by "a culture of expediency" where "cutting corners" is the norm and where ethical shortcomings are common.

Israel's president, Moshe Katsav, best symbolizes the malaise, he said.

Katsav, accused of sexual misconduct, should resign or temporarily leave office until the case is settled. Yet he stubbornly clings to power, making Israel "a laughingstock" in the eyes of the world.

But Klein Halevi isn't totally pessimistic. He expects new leadership to emerge and navigate Israel through "this terrible time."

Klein Halevi said Iran's quest for a nuclear arsenal will force Israel to act militarily, since countries such as Russia and China oppose economic sanctions against Tehran.

Claiming that Iran is seriously contemplating a nuclear strike against Israel, Klein Halevi asserted that the spectre of the Holocaust hangs over Israel for the first time in its history.

"This is 1938," he said apocalyptically, equating Iran's hostility to Israel with Nazi Germany's preparations for war.

Predicting that Israel's standoff with Iran will reach a climax within months, Klein Halevi noted that senior Israeli officials recognize the gravity of the problem.

He referred to a recent statement by Deputy Defence Minister Ephraim Sneh in which he declared that Iran's acquisition of an atomic bomb would touch off a flight of Israelis from Israel and call into question its very existence.

"I think he's absolutely right," Klein Halevi said.

Recalling that the late Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin tried to resolve Israel's dispute with the Palestinians so that Israel could focus its energies on the looming threat from Iran, Klein Halevi said Olmert's plan for a unilateral withdrawal from the West Bank has imploded.

If Israel cedes the West Bank, Palestinian militants there will emulate their counterparts in the Gaza Strip and fire rockets into Israeli towns and cities on the coastal plain, he said.

Israel should recognize that an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza is no longer a viable option.

Charging that the Palestinians have lost the trust of Israelis, Klein Halevi claimed that the current generation of Palestinian leaders are "more committed to our destruction than their own betterment."

The Palestinians could have used Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 as a chance to improve the lives of their people and set the stage for a Palestinian state.

Instead, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas tolerates the firing of Qassam rockets launched from Gaza and hopes that final status talks will destabilize Israel by forcing the "right of return" down its throat.

Klein Halevi said the current Hamas government, far from desiring a Palestinian state, wants to resurrect an Islamic caliphate in the Middle East.

Since a two-state solution seems far off, he added, Israel should maintain the status quo in the West Bank and forget about a withdrawal.

Besides, he noted, Israel has "profound strategic interests" in the West Bank, as well as historical and religious claims to it.

Nonetheless, the West Bank should be put on the negotiating table once a new Palestinian leadership comes to the fore, he said. In the meantime, Israel should consider the concept of shared rule with Jordan in the West Bank.

Klein Halevi said Israel has reached the point where it can't afford to live under illusions. Yet he believes there are rays of hope on the horizon.

On the heels of the war in Lebanon, Sunni Arab states, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, now realize that the Shiite bloc is a greater threat than Israel, he said.

As well, just as Nazism and Communism were defeated, so, too, will the forces of Islamic radicalism, he said without elaborating.

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Group promotes co-ordinated tzedakah effort

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

In 2000, dentist Brian Price implemented his vision to help Jewish charitable groups network with each other.

Last week, he invited the public talk directly to the groups and see who they are.

Price founded United Chesed of Toronto as an umbrella body for all the Jewish aid organizations in the Toronto area that serve impoverished Jews, regardless of their affiliation.

"We work with the individual, not with the ideology," Price explained.

For the last six years, the non-profit United Chesed has helped hundreds get food, jobs, clothing, furniture and all manner of assistance, either directly or indirectly, through its one-stop referral service.

And the need continues to grow.

So much so, that on Nov. 12 at the North York Civic Centre, Price and his team organized their first public community awareness symposium and networking event.

"So many people have called for our help, this is one way we could reach many people in one evening," said Lisa Aharon, United Chesed's director and treasurer.

The event was designed to raise awareness in the community about the many organizations available to those in need.

Addressing the assembled crowd, Price made an impassioned plea to the community to support those "who have fallen through the cracks in the system."

He added: "United Chesed will continue to make a difference for those in need."

Keynote speaker Paul Godfrey, president and CEO of the Toronto Blue Jays, noted how United Chesed impressed him with its mandate to unify Jewish charities and educate the community.

Brian Price and Lisa Aharon addressed the United Chesed symposium on Nov. 12. [Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf photo]

"The perception is that the Jewish community is wealthy," he said. "But below the radar there are approximately 15,000 [people] who live in poverty. So it is incumbent upon us that we reach each one of them."

In a moment of digression, Godfrey told the audience that he had personally congratulated Prime Minister Stephen Harper on his principled stance on Israel during the recent war with Hezbollah.

The comment drew applause from the mostly Jewish crowd.

After the speeches, the crowd was urged to visit "networking rooms" that hosted tables from participating Jewish charities.

Crowd members spoke with representatives of organizations such as L'Chaim cancer support for Jewish women; CHAI TIKVAH Foundation, a provider of support services for psychiatrically disabled Jewish adults; JACS and the Toronto Jewish Free Loan Casa, among others.

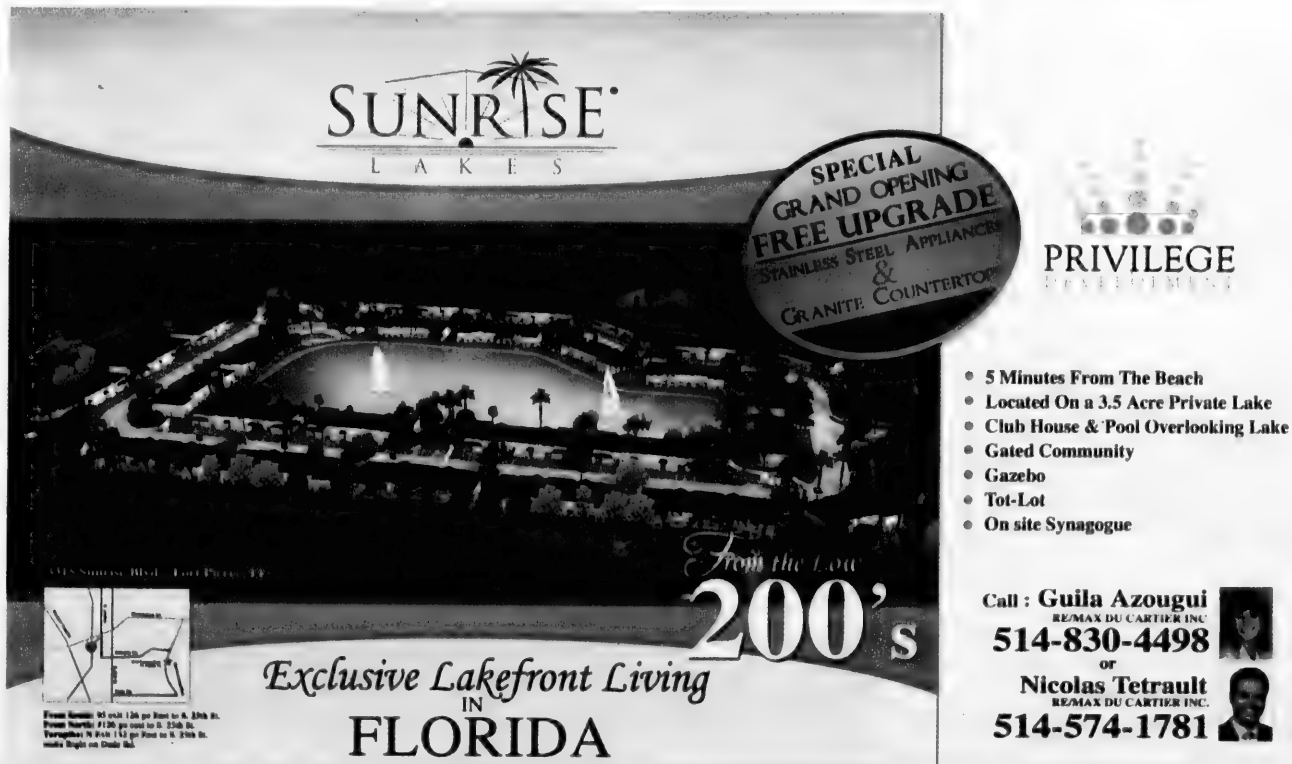
"It's important to tell people we exist and show what we are doing," said Daniel Kestelman, a relief staffer for CHAI TIKVAH.

United Chesed of Toronto, which is funded by private donations, is the "closest example of Jewish unity in the world today" and organizations can affiliate with it for free, one of the pamphlets handed out to attendees stated.

"This is a great forum for the community, and [we] hope people come in and find the help they need," Aharon said of the symposium.

The group meets approximately once every six weeks to share information and dialogue with its 70-plus member organizations.

For more information visit www.unitedchesed.com, or call 905-707-0233.



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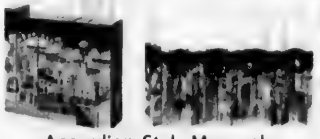

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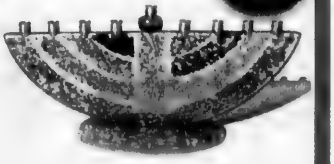

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Withdraw from the UNHRC

Once again, Israel's enemies mobilized their large, automatic majorities in the United Nations to register propaganda "victories" in the multi-front war they are waging against the Jewish state. Lopsided condemnations of Israel rang in the impressive, wood-panelled halls of the Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva and the General Assembly in New York. But for the veto of the United States, the Security Council too would have condemned Israel.

The condemnations were in relation to the deaths of 19 Palestinian civilians in Beit Hanoun on Nov. 8. The deaths were horrible and deplorable. But they were accidental, unintended results of the wholly justified efforts by the Israel Defence Forces to stop the barrage of Qassam rockets being fired at the people of Israel by Hamas' appointed terrorists. The IDF and the prime minister of Israel expressed profound regret for the 19 deaths.

The UNHRC condemned Israel for the "willful killing" of Palestinian civilians by a vote of 32 in favour, eight opposed and six abstentions. (Canada opposed the resolution.) Not a single word appeared in the resolution about the deliberate targeting of Israeli civilians by Palestinians. Indeed, on the very day of the vote, Faina Slutsky died in Sderot in a hail of Qassam rockets fired from Gaza.

Four days later, the General Assembly condemned Israel for the same incident by a vote of 156 in favour, seven opposed and six abstentions and called for a team to be sent to the area to conduct an inquiry into the deaths of the 19 Palestinians. (Canada abstained.)

The assembly did not condemn Hamas or any other Palestinians. Yet they have unceasingly sent rockets into Israel from Gaza ever since the Israeli army withdrew from there some 15 months ago.

The hypocrisy, blatant injustice and utter absurdity of such condemnation are destroying the United Nations. The hopes that were pinned on the organization in the aftermath of World War II have died. But some leaders in the West are beginning to raise their voices in bitter but principled protest. Thus, after the UNHRC vote, Ottawa's Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel, co-chaired by Anita Neville and Senator David Smith, called on Canada to withdraw from the UNHRC.

"Trying to work from within to correct a broken system has not worked and has made Canada seem to be a willing participant in this charade of a process. The time for serious UN reform is now, and in order to prove to the international community how committed Canada is to this reform, it is imperative that the Conservative government withdraw from the UNHRC until serious, legitimate, and viable reform is done at the United Nations and its human rights council," Smith said.

We urge the government to adopt this recommendation. Canada should no longer lend its credit to patently unjust, unfair and discriminatory processes. Canada should withdraw from the UNHRC.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Israel renewed its call for a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, to be attained through negotiations by states in the region. Yehuda Blum, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, made the statement during a UN General Assembly debate about Israel's June 1981 attack on Iraq's nuclear facility.

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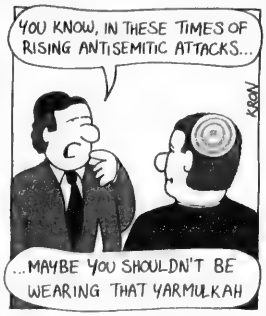
Cheap shot at Chabad

The review of *The Challenge of Creation*, by Rabbi Nathan Slifkin, lavishly applauded by Paul Shaviv, begins with a cheap shot at Chabad ("In the beginning: science, Genesis and the wondering Jew," perspectives, *CJN*, Nov. 9). He states that back in the mid-1960s, only Chabad subscribed to the notion that claimed "the world was exactly five-thousand-and-some years old. But no one I knew – including several Orthodox rabbis – took them seriously. It was an exotic sideshow to the Chabad 'gig.'"



Please note, the position of Chabad is not a sectarian issue but rather the stated opinion of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe of blessed memory, who wrote a number of letters on the subject in response to inquiries received from scientists and physicists. He explained his position at length based on logic, and faith. His position is not and never was a Lubavitch "sideshow."

In fact, the writer continues to identify this position as common among the Orthodox. Thus he defends Rabbi Slifkin against an onslaught of conventional scholars who found his words "unfashionable," and later acknowledges that he speaks for a "small group of Orthodox who yearn to hear voices in Orthodoxy to whom we can relate."

He concludes his essay by admonishing others for being crude and mud-slingers in desperate need to learn *derech eretz*!

All this leaves me confused and amused.

Rabbi Zalman A. Grossbaum
Chabad Lubavitch of Ontario

* * *

Agunot conference cancellation

The recent decision taken by the Sephardi chief rabbi of Israel to cancel the recent rabbinic conference concerning agunot is extremely unfortunate ("Women's leaders outraged as agunot meet cancelled," *CJN*, Nov. 9). While one can have no illusions that instant halachic solutions can be found to ameliorate the plight of the agunah, the very fact that such a conference could be called would send a strong message to the Jewish community that the Orthodox rabbinate cares deeply about the agunah's situation.

In light of the recent decision of the Quebec Court of Appeals to further limit women's rights in divorce proceedings, it becomes imperative for the Orthodox community to tackle the dilemma of the agunah. Rather than consider the conference to have been some type of accession to feminists, the conference would have served as a sign to the community at large that the agunah is not being ignored.

An opportunity was lost with the cancellation of this conference. Instead, as a result of this cancellation, a chilul HaShem was created. The cancellation of this conference led to further disparagement of the Orthodox rabbinate, and by extension, the halachic fabric of our faith.

While one can justifiably point to the efforts of the Rabbinical Council of America to help solve the agunah crisis with its pre-nuptial agreements, and to the actions of individual rabbis and congregations to boycott and ostracize recalcitrant spouses, one still hopes that the universal Orthodox rabbinate could see its way to meet together under the auspices of the chief rabbinate of Israel to create a united front in addressing the agunah problem.

Rabbi Howard Finkelstein
Ottawa

* * *

Heroes to the Jewish people

My deepest appreciation and sympathy to Israeli army officer Noam Arbel on his moving article ("A soldier's personal *Yizkor*," *CJN*, Oct. 19) and to the surviving family members of Alex Bonimovitch, Uri Grossman, Bnaya Rein, Adam Goren, Yonatan Sharabi, Shai Bernstein, Lotan Slavin and Yaniv Temerson. Each and every one was a hero to whom the Jewish people owes a huge debt of gratitude.

Albert W. Silver
Burlington, Ont.

* * *

BJCC will lose members

I would like to express my disappointment after reading that the existing Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (BJCC) will have to be torn down before the new one is built ("New BJCC to be built on current site," *CJN*, Nov. 9). Does the development committee expect all of the present members to find alternative facilities and then return en masse to the new building?

We men in the health club feel that their membership should not be interrupted, and once they go to another club they will never return. In addition, eliminating squash and racquetball courts and reducing tennis facilities to just one court will surely chase those who play racquet sports to other clubs (for good).

The development committee should look back at the 1950s when the Bloor Street YMHA attracted many teenage Jews as a meeting place, and they continued their membership because of the social aspect initiated and led by Sonny Langer and Max Cohen. We continued into sports, art, etc.

I would suggest that those on the development committee go out to the membership and measure the pros and cons more carefully before making those snap decisions and losing the majority of members who love the "Y."

Murray Rich
Toronto

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Abba Olmert goes to Washington

By MICHAEL B. OREN

> As in 1967, the U.S. may leave Israel on its own to solve a threat to its existence

"Israel will not be alone unless it decides to go it alone." With these words, former U.S. president Lyndon B. Johnson greeted then Israeli foreign minister Abba Eban at the White House on May 26, 1967. The Middle East was in the throes of an escalating crisis. Gamal Abdel Nasser had evicted UN peacekeepers from Egypt's border with Israel, blockaded the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, and called on the Arab world to "throw the Jews into the sea." Israel had no intention of waiting to see if Nasser would carry out his pledge, or of keeping its troops on the permanent state of alert that was bankrupting the country.

And so the Israeli government sent its foreign minister to seek Johnson's approval for mounting a pre-emptive strike. But LBJ only disappointed Eban. Though hostile to Nasser and firmly supportive of Israel, the president was hamstrung by America's imbroglio in Vietnam and by the drop in his domestic support. The most he offered the Israelis was Washington's help in mobilizing international action against Egypt. Beyond that, there was only that repeated, cryptic phrase, "Israel will not be alone unless it decides to go it alone."

Perhaps a similar message was imparted by U.S. President George W. Bush in his meeting earlier this week with Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Much like 1967, Israel faces a Middle Eastern leader who has repeatedly sworn to wipe it off the map, and to that end is assiduously trying to acquire nuclear weapons. Like Nasser, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad can cripple Israel economically by keeping it in a state of alert, driving away foreign investment and tourism. In the absence of international commitment to thwart Iran's nuclear plans, Israel has no choice but to consider striking pre-emptively. Doing so, however, requires explicit U.S. support, or at the very least, an indication that the United States will not oppose such action. Like Eban 40 years earlier, Olmert came to Washington in search of a green light.

But the United States is hardly in the position to sanction an Israeli attack. Bogged down in Iraq and hemorrhaging political capital at home, Bush resembles Johnson in his inability to approve risky military initiatives. As inimical to Ahmadinejad as his predecessor was to Nasser, and at least as sympathetic to the Jewish state, Bush is nevertheless unable to undertake a unilateral attack against Iran or even to endorse an Israeli one.

This was bad news for Olmert. The Israeli prime minister hoped to secure a hard-and-fast timetable for interdicting Iran's nuclear program first by diplomacy and then, if that failed, by force. Instead, he heard that the United States would only support measures to isolate Iran economically and balked at the use of bombs. Though he and his administration have routinely stated a determination to prevent Iran from obtaining strategic capabilities, Bush, in the aftermath of his party's electoral defeats, avoided all public mention of armed power as a means of achieving that goal.

The only option for the United States, then, is international sanctions. These, however, have proven singularly inadequate in quashing the nuclear aspirations of North Korea – a country far more financially fragile than Iran – and lack the vital support of Russia, China and France. Iran has also threatened to retaliate for sanctions by cutting back oil production and increasing its support for terror.

Back in 1967, Johnson also tried to apply international pressure on Egypt. He planned to issue a multilateral declaration condemning the closure of Tiran and to create a convoy of ships from 26 nations to physically challenge the blockade. But fearing for their oil supplies, European countries refused to co-operate with Johnson's démarche, while Egypt threatened violence against any attempt to reopen the straits. In the end, only four countries were willing to sign the declaration and only two volunteered ships for the convoy.

Bush is unlikely to be more successful than Johnson in marshalling international strictures against a defiant Middle Eastern regime. Nor was Olmert liable to extract from Bush more concrete backing for pre-emptive action than Eban did from LBJ. At most, Bush could have signalled his sympathy for Israel's plight and for the steps it must take to ensure its survival. The light Olmert received in Washington was probably not green, but neither was it flashing red.

Eban left the White House disappointed and confused. Neither he nor the Israeli government could decipher the meaning of the message "Israel will not be alone unless it decides to go it alone." Was the president opposed to an assault against Egypt, as some of the ministers believed, or was he indicating his willingness to look the other way while Israel attacked? Ultimately, Israeli leaders concluded that, while the United States might condemn the action, it would probably do nothing to stop it. Johnson, for his part, understood that the Israelis had lost faith in international diplomacy and would interpret his words as a go. "They're going to hit," the president sighed, "and there's nothing we can do about it."

Lyndon Johnson indeed did little to prevent Israel from launching its surprise attack against Egypt on June 5 or, after Jordan and Syria joined the war, from advancing into the West Bank and the Golan Heights. The Six-Day War was a seismic event that profoundly altered the Middle East, with reverberations that continue to convulse the region. An Israeli strike at Iran's nuclear facilities could well have a similar impact, especially as Ahmadinejad and the mullahs are certain to react violently.

Olmert and his government must consider such consequences as they decide on Israel's next moves. The ramifications of that decision are certain to affect America as well. Many Arabs to this day believe that the United States was complicit in the Six-Day War, and even that American pilots flew Israeli planes. Such rumours will again be rife if Israel attacks Iran, and especially if Israeli jets pass through Iraq's American-controlled airspace. Israel may indeed act alone, but in the minds of a great many people in the Middle East, the United States acts with it.

Michael B. Oren, a senior fellow at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem, is author of the forthcoming book Power, Faith, and Fantasy: America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present.

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[RNS/Reuters photo]

Top, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who met with U.S. President George W. Bush last week in Washington, is pictured with Bush last May. Below, the late Israeli foreign minister Abba Eban met with then-U.S. president Lyndon Johnson in the days leading up to the Six Day War.

Opinions

In the style of the prophets

Paraphrasing a thrice-repeated sentence in the Book of Judges, David Grossman, the distinguished Israeli novelist, speaking at the rally commemorating the yahrzeit of former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, lamented that "this time there is no king in Israel." He was referring to the lack of political leadership in the Jewish state.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

"I am totally secular," he said, "and yet in my eyes the establishment and the very existence of the State of Israel is a miracle of sorts that happened to us as a nation – a political, national, human miracle."

There are, of course, also religious ways to reflect on the miracle. My own speculation suggests that God took a calculated risk. Because of the intensified persecution and extermination of the Jews brought about by modernity, God decided to suspend the verdict, so often articulated in our traditional sources, that we have been exiled because of our sins. God would grant us conditional parole and allow us to return to our land in the hope that this time we would prove ourselves worthy of the gift.

But Grossman believes that we are in danger of squandering that gift, because "people leading Israel today are unable to connect Israelis to their identity." Rabin, on the other hand, "decided to act, because he discerned very wisely that Israeli society would not be able to sustain itself endlessly in a state of an unresolved conflict," and he "realized long before many others that life in a climate of violence, occupation, terror, anxiety and hopelessness extracts a price Israel cannot afford."

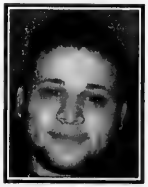
In the style of the Prophets, Grossman urges us to look at ourselves before identifying the sins of our enemies. He blames the current Israeli leadership for being indifferent to the failure of the peace process, for the harsh blow to democracy "by taking Avigdor Lieberman into the cabinet, for neglecting the poor, the foreign workers and minorities. I read these charges as sins that may bring us once again into exile. For, as the ancient texts have it, it was because of our sins that we were driven out from our land."

Anticipating the criticism, which came fast and furious, that his was a rant of a grieving father upon the loss of a son (in Israel's last war), Grossman said: "The calamity that struck my family and myself with the falling of our son, Uri, does not grant me any additional rights in the public discourse, but I believe that the experience of facing death and the loss brings with it sobriety and lucidity."

Though it's more comforting to dismiss Grossman's charges by listening to his critics, we owe it to ourselves, instead, to learn from the truths of his sobriety, lucidity and pain.

Let's get smart about Israel advocacy

Earlier this month I attended a lecture by Neil Lazarus on Israel advocacy. For anyone who has not heard of him before, Lazarus is an internationally acclaimed speaker who has worked with many Israeli and Jewish organizations and has built an impressive resume of clients and admirers around the globe.



Gershon Richter in Winnipeg

The seminar was informative and helpful, but it was also fun. Content aside, Lazarus is an engaging and charismatic speaker who peppered his speech with amusing personal anecdotes about his family and past experiences, and he used games to emphasize his ideas. He is an entertainer with a message, one that he makes sure to convey, even going so far as to quiz the audience near the end of the talk.

The most important part of his seminar was not about what to argue when it comes to Israel advocacy (although he did outline several lines of reasoning) but how to make the argument for Israel.

Most people, he says, don't know and don't really care about the Middle East. Their opinions are formed through 15-second news broadcasts and buzzwords.

Thus, the most important thing, I realized, is that trying to convince the other person is not the point of arguing about the Middle East. The issues have been so over-debated that once someone has made up his or her mind and is involved enough with the issues to argue with someone else about them, you're not going to change their views, regardless of how profound your points are. Instead, the debate is important only as a tool in convincing those watching the discussion who have no definite opinion.

Lazarus shows how Israel has been losing an important war – the war over international public opinion. For instance, no uninvolved person would say that he or she agrees with an "apartheid wall" or disapproves of "fighting oppressive occupiers." Letting Israel's detractors introduce the issues in these terms means a supporter of Israel will have already lost any debate in the eyes of someone watching from the sidelines.

This is especially relevant on university campuses, where anti-Israel groups tend to be vocal and pervasive. They sway many people who aren't informed and don't really have an opinion, but are, of course, opposed to "ethnic cleansing." Israel thus becomes wrong on any issue of consequence.

I've also noticed that Israel advocacy suffers from another problem. I've heard several debates about Israel on campus, and I've noticed that the people arguing for Israel are often either unprepared or completely irrational.

People, please, if you want to make your opinion heard, please be informed.

Most recently, I had a debate with someone who was staunchly pro-Israel, but was not at all rational about it. His solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict was to flatten several Palestinian and/or Lebanese towns entirely, making sure that nothing remains of either terrorist or civilian populations, and ensuring that everyone understands that Israel would be prepared to do it again. The civilians, this person argued, supported the terrorists and thus were legitimate targets.

I was horrified. By saying that civilian targets are legitimate targets, this person was justifying terrorism itself.

The target, I said, should never be civilians, but terrorists. But in saying this, we shouldn't be squeamish about collateral damage. If a terrorist is surrounded by cute puppies, kitties and bunnies, the Israeli government should still place more importance on the life of Israeli citizens that the terrorist is trying to kill than the puppies and bunnies. Collateral damage is legitimate, but targeting civilians is not.

Once a normal person hears irrational and extremist pro-Israel arguments, the damage to Israel's reputation is difficult to repair. It's hard to convince people that Israel is a progressive and liberal country after they hear its supporters advocating that it engage in mass killing.

So I urge anyone – and especially students – who wants to advocate for Israel, (even if it's only when someone else brings up the issue) to be informed and rational.

Do some research, be realistic, and argue to convince an audience, not the opposing side.

Many tactics and arguments can be found on Neil Lazarus' website, www.awesomeseminars.com.

Learning about the Shoah – in Antigonish

One of the great things about living in Halifax is that students get the opportunity to do things that in a bigger city might be left to someone who is older and more experienced.

For the past year, I've had the privilege of working for the Atlantic Jewish Council as its director of Holocaust education, which has allowed me to oversee educational projects all over the region. I wasn't surprised to learn that the cities with organized Jewish communities hold a Yom Hashoah ceremony each year and invite survivors throughout the year to share their stories with local schoolchildren. I have been impressed with the hard work of people in these small communities to ensure that the legacy of the survivors live on. I was surprised, however, to discover the low level of Holocaust education among people outside the major cities, and for this reason, I made it a priority to initiate programming in areas without organized Jewish communities.

Mordechai Walfish in Halifax

This has led me to some fascinating discoveries about other people's perceptions of the Holocaust, an event that – for good reason – looms so large in the collective Jewish consciousness.

The first such discovery took place in Antigonish, N.S., a university town of 5,000 people two hours northeast of Halifax. I went to Antigonish last April with Susan Sandager, who performs a one-woman show in which she portrays Corrie ten Boom, a Christian woman from Holland who hid Jews in her home until she was caught by the Gestapo in 1944. We certainly got some funny looks – a 20-year old Jewish boy, driving around the Maritimes with a Baptist from New Mexico, who once in costume as an 80-year old Dutch lady, refuses to speak English in anything but a Dutch accent.

But the oddest moment came after Sandager finished her evening performance in Antigonish. Two ladies came up to me separately, each with tears in her eyes. Both hugged me – as the first Jew either of them had ever met – and informed me that if there was ever a Holocaust in Canada, I could come stay in their homes. They each informed me of the exact dimensions of their respective houses – both sounded quite spacious and were outside town, and thus would be ideal hiding spots.

I was unsure how to react – to be touched by their compassion or dismayed at their being so out of touch with reality, thinking that a genocide was an actual possibility in Canada. But I suppose that this was their way of expressing pain and regret for something that happened many years ago, and it reflected their need to make me understand which side of the persecutor-bystander-rescuer line they would stand on.

As part of my job, I've tried to find museums throughout the region to host an exhibit that we own called "The Courage to Remember," which is produced by the Simon Wiesenthal Center. This year, the only taker was the Colchester Historical Museum in Truro, N.S., a town of 12,000 about one hour north of Halifax.

I was pleasantly surprised that this museum – whose purpose is to document the history of Colchester County, of which Truro is the capital – decided that an exhibit on the Holocaust fit into its broader purpose. Working with the museum on the exhibit has provided another unique learning experience. Its curator admitted that she, too, had never met a single Jew before me (Truro has five), but that her friend's daughter works in a hospital in Montreal where she met a rabbi.

She told me that the rabbi suggested serving apples and honey at the exhibit's opening. Though it was a bit after Rosh Hashanah, I still thought it was a good idea and was impressed that the initiative came from the museum. Now that the exhibit has been open for a few weeks, the museum informs me that at least one person comes to see it every day, and that one woman comes all day, every day, to read the books that I left there as a companion to the exhibit.

While it's possible to look at the comic aspect of these experiences, I find it humbling to have a part in someone's first encounter with both Judaism and the Holocaust. These encounters have taught me to take nothing for granted and to continue to look for people who are open-minded and willing to learn.

The Kirshner File

'Happy is the woman who gave birth to him'

Diplomats come and go and are usually quickly forgotten, but Yaacov Herzog was one of those rare figures who left a mark and is still spoken of in respectful tones. Felled prematurely by a stroke in 1972, Herzog, the son of the chief rabbi of Ireland, was a close advisor to four Israeli prime ministers and Israel's ambassador to Canada. He was also a key figure during the 1956 Sinai war and the first Israeli official to carry on a dialogue, albeit in secrecy, with King Hussein of Jordan.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Michael Bar-Zohar, in a new biography, *Yaacov Herzog* (Halban), describes him as " a scholar by upbringing" and "a statesman by aptitude" whose shrewdness and intellectual breadth served him well at Israel's foreign ministry. One of prime minister David Ben-Gurion's chief aides during a tumultuous period in Israel's history, Herzog had the smarts, the personality and the connections to be foreign minister. Certainly, he was probably more qualified for the position than some of the individuals who filled it. But sadly enough, he never truly fulfilled his potential, his meteoric career having been thwarted by none other than Golda Meir, who succeeded Levi Eshkol, Herzog's patron, as prime minister.

In this volume, Bar-Zohar, a prolific author and former Labor party Knesset member, ranges far and wide. He clearly admires his subject, which is understandable, but the style is hagiographic rather than balanced. And while this is regrettable, *Yaacov Herzog* is still worth reading.

Herzog was born in Dublin on Dec. 21, 1921, during the festival of Chanukah, the son of Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog, the scion of a dynasty of rabbis and scholars. Herzog was three years younger than his brother, Chaim, who would be a general in the Israeli army, Israel's envoy to the United Nations, and finally, his country's president.

Herzog was separated from his parents when his father became the chief rabbi of Palestine in 1936, but he was reunited with them three years later. The separation, however, had a permanent impact, causing him to be introverted and distant. In Jerusalem, he was his father's secretary, advisor and speech writer. But when the 1948 Altalena affair broke, Herzog played "a crucial role" in mediating between the various factions, according to Bar-Zohar.

He adds that while Chaim rebelled against his religious upbringing, Herzog reveled in it. Indeed, Herzog was ordained as a rabbi. As the War of Independence raged, he was appointed head of the department of Christian communities in the newly created ministry of religious affairs. One of his primary duties was to attend to an unpleasant problem that arose during the war – the desecration and looting of churches and monasteries by Israeli soldiers. Several years later, he was put in charge of a special department for Jerusalem and seconded to Israel's United Nations delegation in Manhattan.

As a diplomat, Herzog "faithfully served senior officials and cabinet ministers who were less intelligent than he was," observes Bar-Zohar. But he had a weakness for wordiness, his writing style being flowery and his memoranda and letters being too long.

Still, in recognition of his abilities, he was promoted to acting head of the United States section at the foreign ministry, vaulting over older and more senior officials. In this capacity, he lobbied for a military defence agreement with the United States to match accords Washington had signed with certain Arab states.

When the Sinai war erupted, Herzog was constantly at Ben-Gurion's side, shouldering the burden of Israel's campaign to ward off the fury of the United States, which opposed the co-ordinated British, French and Israeli invasion. Herzog analyzed fire-and-brimstone messages from Washington and also drafted replies. Amid the turmoil and the wrangling, Herzog was essentially "the manager of Israel's foreign policy," displaying resolution and cool-headedness, Bar-Zohar notes. In a letter to Herzog's father, Ben-Gurion singled out his wisdom and his diligence. "Happy is the woman who gave birth to him," he wrote.

Herzog reached the peak of his political influence during this divisive war. Having proven his mettle, he was named minister at the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C., which was on the front lines of Israeli diplomacy. The challenge facing him was awesome: to mend relations with the United States. And while he was up to the task, he was not properly rewarded for a job well done.

When the ambassador, Abba Eban, left his post, Herzog did not replace him, as might have been expected. Instead, he was made charge d'affaires pending the appointment of an ambassador, who turned out to be Abraham Harman, a future president of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Bar-Zohar speculates that Golda Meir, the foreign minister, blocked Herzog's promotion on the grounds that he was not a member of the ruling Mapai party. Nevertheless, Herzog had important work to do in Washington, playing a role in Ben-Gurion's historic meeting, in New York City, with the chancellor of West Germany, Konrad Adenauer.

Shortly afterward, Herzog was appointed ambassador to Canada, a post he had not sought, but for which he was thankful. The highlight of his ambassadorship was the 1961 public debate he waged with British historian Arnold Toynbee at McGill University in Montreal. In a series of lectures at McGill, Toynbee had claimed that the Parsee community in India and the Jewish people belonged to "failed" and "fossilized" civilizations. As well, Toynbee had compared Israel's treatment of the Palestinians with the Nazis' treatment of Jews.

Appalled by Toynbee's remarks, Herzog discovered that his claims had never been publicly challenged. Without consulting his superiors in Jerusalem, Herzog challenged the Briton to a debate, an act that triggered widespread trepidation in Montreal's Jewish community. "Many of its leaders responded with typical Diaspora timidity," Bar-Zohar writes sneeringly.

Pictured with Yaacov Herzog (far right) in 1968 are, from left, Israeli prime minister Levi Eshkol, Canadian prime minister Lester B. Pearson and Canadian foreign minister Paul Martin.

A Jewish delegation that included Maxwell Cohen, McGill's dean of law, urged Herzog to call off the debate, but he refused. Bar-Zohar's verdict is that Herzog was the better debater and won. Readers can judge for themselves by listening to a CD attached to the back cover of the book. Bar-Zohar rates the debate as "the most significant event" of Herzog's term in Canada. But he also notes that Herzog developed friendly relations with the Progressive Conservative prime minister John Diefenbaker and the Liberal foreign minister Paul Martin. Otherwise, Bar-Zohar tells us precious little about Israel's relationship with Canada during Herzog's fairly brief ambassadorship.

He does suggest, though, that while Herzog was a devoted family man, the demands of the ambassadorship were such that he did not spend much time with his wife and two daughters. "I loved him dearly, but he was an absent father," daughter Shira Herzog, now a Toronto resident, is quoted as saying.

Not long after he returned to Israel in the summer of 1963 to assume the position of deputy director general in the foreign ministry, Herzog conferred with King Hussein in London, England, at the office of the monarch's Jewish doctor. It was the first time King Hussein had met a representative of Israel, and Herzog was thrilled by the privilege of establishing a secret channel of communication with him. Herzog saw him many more times, but despite their conversations, Jordan attacked Israel in the Six Day War.

In 1966, Herzog succeeded Teddy Kollek as director of the foreign ministry, the loftiest job he had ever held. When the crisis leading up to the Six Day War began to simmer, Herzog urged the prime minister to explore all political avenues rather than to lash out at the Arabs. He was gravely concerned that a war with Egypt would result in high civilian casualties.

But once Israel initiated hostilities, Herzog turned hawkish, his messianic sentiments coming into play. He thought that Israel should conquer Amman, the capital of Jordan, and he became a fervent supporter of intensive Israeli settlement in the West Bank. Subsequently, he recommended that the Jordan River should be Israel's legal boundary in the east and that the West Bank should be jointly ruled by Israel and Jordan. In addition, he believed that the Palestinians in the territories should be encouraged to be resettled in Jordan. "Looking back, it is difficult to avoid the impression that Herzog was so elated by Israel's possession of… Judea and Samaria that it overwhelmed his political judgment," Bar-Zohar comments in one of the few critiques of Herzog.

With Golda Meir as prime minister, Herzog's star dimmed and his health suffered. Herzog died on March 6, 1972 at the age of 50. More than three decades have elapsed since his untimely death, but he is reverentially remembered in this book.

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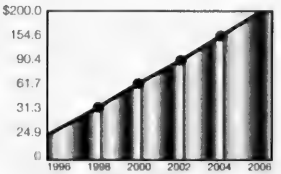

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Hepatitis C patient needs new kidney and liver

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

About 20 years ago, Suzi Kind had a gallbladder operation – not, one would think, a terribly serious procedure.

Kind, however, was among those who contracted hepatitis C from a tainted blood transfusion. The effect on her was devastating.

In December 1999, her liver failed, and she received a liver transplant. Unfortunately, the drugs that treat hepatitis C proved too harsh for her system, and the treatment had to be stopped. She was placed on hemodialysis, but that treatment severely damaged her kidneys.

Now, Kind, 52, needs both a new liver and a new kidney.

Her daughter, Sherry, explained that her mother's kidneys aren't working at all, and her liver is only functioning a little bit.

"When the liver fails, other organs begin to fail, too. She is becoming confused, and might go into a liver coma."

In addition, fluid is collecting in her stomach, which causes considerable pain in her abdomen and back, her daughter said.

It's too late for a live donor transplant, Sherry said, and even with a cadaver, the donor must be the right blood type and the liver must be the right size.

What's more, the waiting period for a liver transplant is more than two years, and nearly 2,000 people are on the transplant list.

People are simply not signing organ donor cards, and so the demand for organs far outpaces the supply, Sherry said.

Suzi Kind, centre, with daughters Sherry, left, and Sarit

She and her sister, Sarit, are desperately trying to encourage organ donations. In Austria and Spain, Sherry notes, there are laws insisting on them, but "Canada and the U.S. have the lowest rate of organ donation in the world. We just don't know what to do anymore."

A hospital in the United States could help Suzi Kind, but it would cost $500,000.

Her family is trying to raise the money in the community. They are also waging a campaign to educate the public about the shortage of organ donors, and to push the government to introduce a "presumed consent" system for organ and tissue donations.

Last week, the family held a fundraising event to benefit the Canadian Liver Foundation. Sarit and Sherry have also spoken on television and to the press about their cause.

Suzi Kind's husband, Yosef, is not well either, having suffered several strokes. Nevertheless, he went to New York to pray for his wife at the grave of the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

Sherry described her mom as an "amazing mother, hostess and cook who kept the family together."

She also described her as compassionate, recounting how she used to make sandwiches for a homeless person who had stationed himself outside the Food Basics store at Bathurst Street and Steeles Avenue, where she worked as a pharmacist's assistant.

She is a movie buff, and loves sewing, reading, talking to friends and travelling.

The family tries to cheer her up by bringing food, books and movies to her.

Still, Sherry said, "there is nothing worse than being in the hospital, totally dependent on others for everything."

For more information, call Sarit Kind at 416-573-5132 or Sherry Kind at 416-427-4636.

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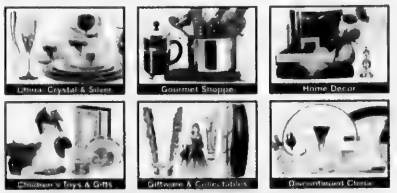

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PROJECT NORTHERN RECOVERY

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Dr. Chava Ankor is an expert on psychological difficulties among children within Israel's education system. And her skills were certainly tested during this summer's war with Hezbollah.

The war, she says, psychologically affected at least 30% of northernIsraelis. One young patient still stutters even though the war is over. Another becomes hysterical when her mother suffers one of her ongoing panic attacks. Many children are constantly listening for sounds of a siren. Often the symptoms are unseen and some may not even show up for two years.

Dr. Ankor's patients are among the reasons for **Project Northern Recovery**, the next phase of **UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007**.

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As Dr. Ankor knows so well, the emergency facing northern Israel is far from over and critical needs remain.

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PROJECT NORTHERN RECOVERY

Survivor eulogizes Czestochowa's Jewish community

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A Jewish community in Poland that was virtually obliterated by the Nazis was eulogized recently by one of its native sons.

At a Holocaust Education Week event at the Miles Nadal JCC, the glories of Czestochowa were evoked by Sigmund Rolat, the president of the World Society of Czestochowa Jews and their Descendants.

Holocaust Education Week

On the eve of World War II, 40,000 Jews lived in Czestochowa, comprising roughly one-third of its population.

"We were the industrial, commercial and cultural engine of the city," said Rolat, the sponsor of the "Jews of Czestochowa" touring exhibition, which is expected to reach Toronto next autumn after an extended run in Poland and the United States.

"The textile industry, the first theatre, was founded by Jews," he added.

The Jews of Czestochowa – the citadel of Christianity in Poland – were doomed once Germany invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939. They were abused, shot, ghettoized, put to work in German war production factories, and deported to Auschwitz and Treblinka.

Rolat, whose father was killed in the 1943 Treblinka uprising, survived by going into hiding and working at a slave labour camp, Hasag Pelcery.

By the end of World War II, only about 6,000 of the city's Jews were still alive.

Rolat, 15 years old in 1945, emigrated after the Kielce pogrom a year later.

"It was difficult to be a Jew in Poland," he said, speaking of the anti-Semitic atmosphere that pervaded the country after the Nazi defeat.

"You didn't know if you would survive the train ride from Czestochowa to Krakow."

Rolat, having immigrated to the United States, became a successful businessman. A frequent visitor to Poland, where he has investments, Rolat is now a promoter of Polish-Jewish dialogue and a sponsor of the soon-to-be-built Museum of the History of Polish Jews in the centre of Warsaw.

Two-and-a-half years ago, Rolat was present at the dedication of the "Jews of Czestochowa" exhibition in his hometown. It took place at the philharmonic hall, the site of what had been a newly built synagogue that was burned to the ground by the Nazis.

The exhibition, consisting of photographs and artifacts, has been seen in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Detroit.

It will be in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., from December until January, and then in Houston, Texas.

A small portion was on display at the JCC and the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the University of Toronto for almost two weeks until last week.

Peter Jassem, the president of the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation, said the exhibition is expected to arrive in Toronto next November, if a suitable venue is found.

Rolat said he sponsored the touring exhibit for a number of reasons.

"I wanted to show my children and grandchildren, and all young people, whether Jewish or not, what Jewish life was like in Czestochowa before, during and after the war. I wanted to bring knowledge of this lost heritage."

The first known Jews settled in the city in 1608 after Poland's disastrous war with Sweden. By the 19th century, Czestochowa was an important industrial centre, thanks in no small part to Jewish entrepreneurs.

With the exhibition, Rolat also hoped to demolish a "slanderous myth" that all Jews went to their deaths like sheep to the slaughter.

Finally, in co-operation with Czestochowa's municipal authorities, he used the inauguration of the exhibit as a catalyst to clean up the town's neglected Jewish cemetery, which had become overgrown and inaccessible to visitors.

Rolat said that, thanks to continually new contributions, the exhibition is still growing. To prove his point, he held aloft a creased Holocaust-era poster, in German and Polish, warning Poles that they risked execution if they helped Jews.

Saying that Jews were never "a foreign element" in Poland, though they were sometimes treated as outsiders by xenophobic and racist Poles, Rolat observed that many young Poles are eager and curious to learn about Poland's Jewish dimension.

Yet the contemporary Jewish community in Czestochowa is but a pale shadow of its prewar self.

Shortly after the war, nearly every Jewish survivor still remaining in the city left Poland.

"It would take a great effort to find a handful of Jews in Czestochowa today," lamented Jassem, who introduced Rolat as a speaker.

By Rolat's estimate, less than 100 Jews currently reside in Czestochowa.

"But it's not a community reborn," he said. "Not quite."

Correction

Incorrect information appeared in the article titled "Book documents neglected period of Holocaust" (*CJN*, Nov 16). It should have said that Morris Gruda lived with Russians for five years after escaping the Germans. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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Greater Toronto Area

'Lost boy' tells CCRJ of long trek to freedom

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Daniel Akech James came a long way to tell his story.

Born in southern Sudan in 1983, James was a "Lost Boy," one of hundreds of orphaned refugees from his country's civil war who in 1987 were forced to trek hundreds of miles through Africa.

Here recently to speak at the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism's biennial convention, held at Temple Emanu-El, James told the group how he was separated from many of the boys and was forced to travel around Africa by foot for 12 years until he reached a Kakuma refugee camp in northern Kenya in 1999.

Daniel Akech James

Then 16, James spoke no English and had never had formal schooling. He studied English – his fourth language – and went to school while waiting for his refugee application to be approved by the U.S. government. In 2001, he landed in San Diego.

Once there, he passed his high school equivalency exam and was one of the first "Lost Boys" to enrol in San Diego City College.

Only 1½ years later, he transferred to the University of San Diego, and this past summer he graduated with a degree in mathematics and theology. He's now working on his PhD in mathematics.

He said that while he's proud of his academic achievements, he's dedicated to his native language, culture and people and is in the final stages of editing a book-length document about the use of the Dinka language.

The document includes a Dinka-English dictionary and relevant cultural background.

He also feels it's his duty "to tell the world my story, and raise awareness about what's happening in Sudan," where a pro-government Arab militia, the Janjaweed, has killed thousands of civilians in the country's Darfur region.

"It's not happening to black people, or to people in Africa. It is a world problem," James said. "The government uses religion as a tool to wipe out tribes, and if we don't act now we don't know who will be next. We don't want another [generation] of lost boys."

James praised the Jewish community for being the only one to take the Darfur issue seriously. "Jews still have a memory of the Holocaust, so if anything bad happens to [another] community, it is easy to be sympathetic."

He urged the gathering to put pressure on the Canadian government to act on behalf of the people of Darfur. "That is the [best you can do.] You can't send money, because it is not accessible there."

Cheryl Englander, CCRJ national social action chair, said Canadians have to continue asking for help from people in power. "We need to continue to push our government to [acknowledge] that it is our responsibility."

The CCRJ's social action committee plans to send the government reminder cards on a monthly basis, and it's asking others to do the same. "If you don't see them at your congregation, ask the rabbi or the social action chair. There is no postage required," Englander said.

"We can do something. We have the capability of being a moral superpower in the world."

WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILED: Jewish War Veterans of Canada recently unveiled a stained glass memorial at Beth Torah Congregation dedicated to the one million Canadian men and women, and particularly 20,000 Jews, who fought in both world wars, as well as in Korea and South Africa. [Carolyn Blackman photo]

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The lost children of Yemen – Pt. 2

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

The Jews of Yemen came to Israel shortly after it declared its independence. In crowded camps and unsanitary conditions, disease was rampant among them. Children, and especially infants, were separated from their reluctant parents and sent to hospitals for treatment.

Through A Sephardi Window

Parents who gave their infants over to the hospital for treatment would naturally return the very next day to inquire about their child's recovery and to spend precious time with them. And they would usually travel a great distance on foot to do so.

At the hospital, these parents were met with avoidance and treated as an outright annoyance. The fact was that the staff could barely cope, and that staff and parents couldn't understand each other because of a language barrier.

But frantic parents wouldn't take no for an answer, and on their own, they'd go searching for their children in the wards, room by room, calling out their names as they went. This behaviour further angered, and alienated them from, hospital staff. Eventually, many parents were taken aside and told that their child had died.

It is, of course, quite possible, reasonable and even understandable to believe that some of the children died. In illness, some will recover, while others will not.

Here, however, begins the mystery: no bodies were ever returned to the families; no one was ever summoned to a funeral; no graves – marked or unmarked – were ever shown to parents; no deaths were registered and no certificates were issued. There was no ritual with which to heal, no occasion on which to grieve, no grave to comfort parents, and no yahrzeit to commemorate. Nothing.

These children, numbering in the hundreds, disappeared as if they had never existed.

Hapless parents were hysterical. At first, they would refuse to accept the explanation that their child had died, and they returned to the hospital and repeated their searches day after day. Only when police were called and threats of arrest were made would such scenes cease.

The Yemenites were recent immigrants, innocent and powerless, who could neither speak out nor stand up for themselves, and they were easily silenced. Eventually, the raw pain of their losses subsided. Other priorities came along: the family had to survive, jobs had to be filled, and a new life had to be established.

But without any form of closure, their grief could not be resolved. In its place, there was guilt and shame – haunting guilt at having given away a child, and searing shame at being so gullible and naive.

These families were forever marked by the presence of an unspoken sadness. Half a century has passed, and no formal inquiry or commission will ever quell the sentiment of a parent whose child has disappeared.

That some of theses babies really died is unquestionable, and that others got lost in the shuffle is just as probable.

But the claim that several hundred died is impossible.

Allegations that these babies were summarily allocated to childless parents have been made over the years. In Israel, many an urban legend has it that those slim, tall, dark-skinned sabra children of fairer, shorter European parents are, in fact, the abducted and adopted babies of Yemen.

The whole truth of this episode will remain a mystery.

The pain and sadness of a parent whose child went missing will, alas, also remain, and never go away.

Guest Voice

Touring Israel's Beit Halochem centres

By RENA GODFREY

Experiencing Israel has always been on the top of my "must do" list. When I was a student I worked many evenings to support this habit of mine, so I could immerse myself in the warmth of Israeli culture for a few glorious months. Whether working on a kibbutz or renting an apartment in Jerusalem, my summer excursions were carefree and intriguing.

Skip to twentysomething years later when roaming the streets of Jerusalem and the hills of the Golan are definitely not in the picture. I'm attached to family and have commitments; life is rewarding but not exactly "free."

This year, however, something totally unexpected happened to me. I decided to go on a mission with an organization called Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada. The whole idea of riding on a bus with people whom I didn't know didn't exactly thrill me. I thought, "Hey, I'm only 43 years old – don't I have to be at least 65 to join this crew?"

I soon realized that this mission, led by Toby and Saul Feldberg, did not require its participants to be of any certain age or status. We were a diversified group of 30- to 80-year-olds, men and women, single, married and divorced. Some were connected to Beit Halochem and others were not. Toby and Saul were determined to show us their passion for Israel and their unconditional support for the many Israeli disabled veterans and victims of terror.

Our emotional journey began an hour after our arrival in Israel, when we stopped at the Kotel before Shabbat for a *Shehechiyanu* and an impromptu hora. Immediately, strangers became friends as young and old embraced.

Intermingled with the expected touring of the country came the unexpected. We established connections with many of the disabled veterans and victims of terror, who are members of the four Beit Halochem centres in Israel.

We toured the centres and learned firsthand how Israel takes care of their disabled, both physically and emotionally. Disabled vets we encountered told us their stories of loss and then rebirth as they discovered new abilities, nurtured by the staff members at Beit Halochem.

Before this trip, I would have never imagined that I could actually do the tango with a man confined to a wheelchair or see a man without legs train on horseback for the equestrian Paralympics, or watch a blind man golf. Wheelchairs are the chariots of these disabled men and women who so proudly and enthusiastically participate in Olympic-level basketball, tennis and swimming programs. They also participate in pottery making and art classes, hydrotherapy, physiotherapy and other treatments and programs.

One evening we dined at Beit Halochem, Tel Aviv, able-bodied beside the disabled, chit-chatting with one another, joking and smiling. I listened to a 19-year-old boy play one of his compositions on guitar for us. He lost both legs while on duty in Lebanon this summer. I sat and chatted with a young gynecologist who lost his arm and almost his life while trying to care for the wounded in Lebanon. He remains hopeful that he will be able to continue practising medicine.

Then Toby got up to say a few poignant words and, without warning, broke down in the middle of her speech. I fought back my tears, knowing that beside me the eyes of several beautiful young men who had just lost their limbs were looking at me... at us.

The evening ended with lively music, dancing and fun.

In fact, despite the many heart-wrenching stories we heard during the day, every evening on this mission ended in lots of laughter and joke-telling before we retired for the night. We needed to unwind and relax after such a full and emotional day.

Now that I have returned to my home in peaceful Toronto, my tears have also returned. I keep on thinking that if I had chosen to live in Israel, as I had planned to in my 20s, I could very well be a disabled veteran or victim of terror. Perhaps my husband or children, or aunt or cousin or friends could be living without an arm, a leg, or suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder.

These brave men and women that I had the pleasure of meeting willingly and lovingly sacrificed their bodies and souls for Israel's safety, for the safety of all Jews in the Diaspora, and for my safety.

Life can change for anyone in a split second. My split second happened on this mission.

Rena Godfrey lives in Toronto.

Jewish Life

Mamet excoriates assimilated Jews

The Wicked Son: Anti-Semitism, Self-hatred, and the Jews **by David Mamet, Random House.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

David Mamet, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and filmmaker, has written a provocative and angry book.

In 37 brief essays he deals largely with three major themes: the persistence of anti-Semitism, the sickness of self-hating Jews and the rich resources of Judaism available to those who care.

Adopting the metaphor of "the wicked son," who at the Passover seder asks the question, "What does this observance mean to you?" Mamet excoriates assimilated Jews who are quick to find meaning and inspiration in other religions, who criticize and denigrate the State of Israel and who attach themselves to a variety of fashionable political and cultural trends.

In his ire he asks: "Who is this… free-thinker, newly convinced Episcopalian, detractor of Israel, and whose approval is he courting? Does he think that his brave assertion of his racial taint, coupled with a repudiation of his people's history, traditions and religion, is going to win him friends anywhere?"

Unhappily, some of the author's strictures border on the hysterical. "Jews who turn their Seders into an expression of enlightened liberal sentiment on the issue of the day are neurotics. Jews who write their own marital vows rather than using the thousands-year-old-formula of Judaism are 'Epicureans.' Jews who support a two-state solution to Israel's conflict with the Arab world are seeking the end of Israel. The secular Jew who attends the local Yiddish discussion group but not the local synagogue is a turncoat."

Consumed with self-righteous passion, he argues that religious observance is the only authentic expression of Judaism. He seem unaware of the many new and varied approaches to Jewish identity and the opportunities for creative involvement in the broad Jewish community.

Mamet overlooks the reality that for most North American Jews – comfortable and secure members of the middle class – anti-Semitism is not a problem. On the contrary, Jews now play a significant and disproportionate role in all aspects of modern society.

Actually, the primary cause for apathy, indifference and alienation among many Jews is their doubt and uncertainty about the worthwhileness of Judaism. What is lost or unlearned for them is the "rationale of Judaism," which consists of the ideas and ideals that are the unique and abiding creation of the Jewish genius. About all of this – the nature and content of this precious heritage – the author has little to say.

About the State of Israel, Mamet is steadfast. "Imagine the anti-Israeli propaganda currently engaged in on college campuses and other institutions of enlightenment directed against Canada – not that Canadians are misguided, wrong, but that they are 'bad' – devoid of the capacity for goodwill, duplicitous, inspired by some nefarious and implacable power to wrong those around them; possessed of a power so diabolical it induces their neighbours to strap bombs on their young and send them into the marketplace to slaughter women and their babies."

Mamet is not easy to read. His style is convoluted and often opaque. He makes reference to Jews as a race, speaks of a "6,000-year-old tradition" (that would go back 2,000 years before Abraham) and is understandably repelled by the very Jews who presumably he is trying to redeem.

The wicked son deserves condemnation, but Mamet's aggressive and confused analysis will neither convince nor encourage those two other sons mentioned in the Haggadah: the simple one and the one too ignorant to even ask the proper questions.

Readers recommend

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Today, once again, I turn the tables and let readers recommend their favourite Israeli and Jewish websites.

The great thing about the Internet is that there is a world of information at your fingertips. The problem with the Internet is that a lot of that information is wrong. A while back I did a column about sites that try to debunk the rumours and hoaxes on the web (like the infamous lie that 4,000 Jews stayed home from work at the World Trade Center on 9/11.) **[http://tinyurl.com/yjmw24]** Yael Yunger has written to me about JewishLegends.com, which sets out to get to the bottom of dozens of Jewish urban legends. Let's see if you can guess whether following are true or false:

- The first trains to Treblinka left on Tisha b' Av.
- A Jew flew an airplane before the Wright Brothers.
- Third baseman Wade Boggs drew a chai in the dirt before every at-bat.

[www.jewishlegends.com]

Earlier this year, I did a column about incredible videos you can find online. Remy Landau has done some digging and sent along this note: "This Internet medium is overwhelming. And while much of what it shows is dross, there is also a staggering amount of very high-quality offerings." Landau came across a marvellous 26-minute documentary about Daniel Liebeskind's Jewish Museum in Berlin **[http://tinyurl.com/ym9clf]**, the entire 1920 silent motion picture, *The Golem* **[http://tinyurl.com/yev9px]** and a real find, *Jewish Life in Munkatch (Hungary) – March 1933*. This incredible piece of video presents everything from a large group of children singing *Hatikvah*, young people dancing a hora in a public square, and scenes from the wedding of Rabbi Rabinowitz to Frime Chaye Rivke Shapira, daughter of Grand Rebbe Eleazer Shapira of Munkatch. I highly recommend this rare and exuberant glimpse of prewar Jewish life. **[http://tinyurl.com/ynxzy5]**

Irwin Glasberg passed along a couple of favourite sites I hadn't visited before: TheYeshivaWorld.com and SeraphicSecret.Seraphic Secret is an award-winning blog created by Robert J. Avrech, whose home-page biography hooked me even before I read his first entry: "I'm an Emmy Award winning screenwriter. I'm also an observant Jew, a religious Zionist, a fierce conservative Republican, and a member of the NRA. I've been writing and producing in Hollywood for over 25 years. But the focus of my life is my family: my radiant wife, Karen, whom I have been in love with since I was 10 years old, and my two daughters, who, thankfully, look like Karen. Not too long ago, we had three children. But our son, Ariel, died at the age of 22 from pulmonary fibrosis. We miss him terribly. We think about him practically every minute of every day. People tell us that time heals, but Karen and I know that is not true. Time grinds away doing its terrible work. Ariel is gone. Yet absence becomes presence." **[www.seraphicpress.com]**

I normally don't focus on commercial sites in my column, however, I received an e-mail about one Israeli site that takes a novel approach and is worth a look. Visitors to Tel Aviv will be familiar with Sheinkin Street, a vibrant area bursting with shops and galleries. Sheinkin Street, the website, tries to duplicate that experience by creating a community of online shops for the dozens of merchants who make their home on the real Sheinkin Street. Even if you just prefer to virtual window-shop, the site has plenty of information about this neighbourhood, including biographies of the people behind the historic street names you'll find in this community. **[www.shenkinstreet.com]**

And if you are in the mood to shop, check out my earlier column with tips for safe online spending. **[http://tinyurl.com/ych468]**

Do you have a favourite Jewish or Israeli website, blog or podcast? Or have you created one yourself? Tell me about it at the address below and I may mention it in a future column. (By the way, about the "rumours": all true.)

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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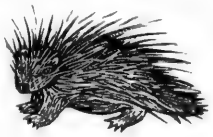

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Cathy Tile

is a much sought-after book reviewer. Her varied career spans writing for CBC radio, curricula design and teaching.

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Amiel rips militant Islam and the United Nations

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Fervently right-wing journalist Barbara Amiel came out swinging last week, lambasting militant Islam, attacking the United Nations, denigrating the record of former U.S. president Bill Clinton and claiming that anti-Semitism might be beneficial for Jews.

Amiel, a *Maclean's* columnist and wife of former newspaper tycoon Conrad Black, made her acidic comments in a wide-ranging, hard-hitting speech at Holy Blossom Temple.

Delivering the second Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman lecture of the season, Amiel, known too as Lady Black of Crossharbour, said that the Islamic world has been left behind in cultural, technical and military terms, possibly because Islam has never undergone a reformation.

Introduced by film producer Robert Lantos as a woman of substance and beauty, Amiel charged that the west is currently appeasing the forces of Islamic radicalism. But she said that western nations ultimately will not allow "theocratic Islam" to win.

Declaring that the United Nations willfully ignores Islamic terrorism, Amiel branded the UN as "that parliament of hypocrisy."

She suggested that John Bolton, the current U.S. ambassador to the UN, has been refreshingly effective.

Amiel, the former editor of the *Toronto Sun*, accused Clinton of "appeasement and dithering" in formulating policy toward such Islamic radical groups and countries as Hezbollah and Iran.

But even Democrats have America's national interests at heart, she allowed.

A British immigrant to Canada, she said that Jews today are the victims of love, assimilation, hate and anti-Semitism.

Paraphrasing the philosopher Baruch Spinoza, Amiel said that anti-Semitism has kept Jews together. "So it can be argued, perversely, that the current wave of anti-Semitism is good for Jews."

Although Jews face challenges, they should know that Jewish identity cannot be erased.

"Go home and procreate," she urged her listeners, saying that the Jewish birthrate is too low at present.

Clad in a chic black outfit, Amiel, an elegant, impossibly slim woman, confessed that her "shortcomings" are all too apparent. As she succinctly put it, she neither speaks Hebrew nor prays, and is married to a dedicated Roman Catholic.

Asserting that Israel's performance in last summer's war with Hezbollah had been less than stellar, she suggested that Israel's military and political establishment was in dire need of a shakeup.

In light of that war, Israel as a "lifeboat for Jews" looks "leaky," she said, adding there is presently no more dangerous a country for Jews than Israel.

But Jews need Israel – "a miraculous, magnificent construction" – to maintain their Jewish identity, Amiel observed.

Decrying the post-Zionist call for a multicultural, secular Israel, she said that Israel's Judaic character must be maintained.

Amiel claimed that "systematic anti-Semitism" in Canada is channelled through the funnel of anti-American and anti-Israel sentiments.

Without naming names, she said that some members of Canada's media and academic elites, including Jews, spout anti-Semitic and anti-Israel views.

Warming to her topic, Amiel said that anti-Semitism is now a redoubt of the anti-capitalist left.

Her comments received a sustained round of applause.

PAST AND PRESENT: Sally Wasserman, centre, spoke to BBYO on Nov. 8 as part of the teen group's Holocaust Remembrance Week program. After watching the film *Paper Clips*, about a Tennessee school's efforts to commemorate and learn about the Holocaust by collecting millions of paper clips, the teens heard Sally's story of surviving the liquidation of her town's ghetto in Poland during World War II.

Bad news and false expectations

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Last week, much of the news from the Middle East was bad. Disorder, chaos and growing threats to stability seemed to be coming from almost every corner. Among the headlines:

• In an attempt to destabilize the Lebanese government, six cabinet ministers allied or belonging to Hezbollah resigned. Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah was quoted as saying, "This government will go." However, Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora vowed not to give in to Hezbollah's demands and pressed ahead with an international tribunal mandated to investigate the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri.

• Repeating his threats to Israel, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also announced significant progress in his country's nuclear program, while the International Atomic Energy Agency reported that it had detected plutonium and enriched uranium in an Iranian nuclear waste facility.

• According to Steven Edwards of the *National Post* ("Somalia risks becoming another Iraq, UN experts say," Nov. 16), a UN report accused Iran of supplying Somali Islamists, who have seized control of the capital Mogadishu, with arms in exchange for Somali-mined uranium.

• Violence and chaos continued unabated in Iraq, with the United States, under newly elected Democratic party majorities in both houses of Congress, reportedly looking for a quick exit strategy.

• In the territories, Hamas and Fatah struggled to forge a new Palestinian Authority government led by "technocrats," although there was no expectation that even they might meet the Quartet's (the European Union, Russia, the United States and United Nations) requirements for resuming financial aid: recognition of Israel, renunciation of violence and acceptance of previous peace agreements. Still, reports circulated that Russia, the Arab states and some Europeans were favouring the resumption of aid anyway.

• Hamas, which repeated its rejection of Israel's right to exist, reportedly has managed to smuggle 30 tons of TNT and heavy arms, including rockets, into Gaza through tunnels from Egypt. Meanwhile, Hamas stepped up its firing of Qassam rockets into Israel last week, killing an Israeli woman in the town of Sderot and wounding others.

• Members of Fatah's al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade vowed to stage suicide bombings inside Israel to "avenge" the recent deaths of civilians in Beit Hanoun, according to a report by the *Globe and Mail*'s Mark MacKinnon ("Support grows for new intifadah", Nov. 13).

However, not all the news was that grim – at least not on the surface. Running alongside MacKinnon's piece in the *Globe* was a Reuters item titled "Arab League calls for new Mideast peace conference." Reuters reported that at the Arab League's meeting in Cairo, there had been calls for an international meeting to "resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute based on the principle of land for peace."

Ironically, one of the foreign ministers in attendance was Mahmoud Zahar of Hamas, which is dedicated to Israel's destruction. Reuters noted that Zahar, who is well known for his extreme anti-Israel rhetoric, refused to say "whether the group would attend the proposed peace conference." According to some Israeli analysts, Hamas' involvement made the idea of the conference appear farcical.

Israel's response was that the idea is premature, because such a conference is called for in the second stage of the internationally sponsored "road map" peace plan. However, the first stage of the road map, which calls for the end of Palestinian violence, and the disarming and dismantling of terrorist organizations such as Hamas, has not yet been met.

Still, Israel is coming under increasing international pressure to make concessions for "peace," even though conditions are far from auspicious.

With the war in Iraq and even Afghanistan providing no end of foreign policy woes for U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, several Western leaders, including Blair, are desperate for something that will show progress, ostensibly to the Arab world.

Apparently, this will involve reaching out to the Palestinians with a bold new "peace" initiative designed to break the diplomatic deadlock. Such thinking is dangerously wrong, because it creates false expectations and ignores reality.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Zareinu show set for Nov. 28

A performance by 12-year-old singing sensation Nikki Yanofsky of Montreal will enhance a presentation that blends fashion, style and music at Zareinu Educational Centre of Metropolitan Toronto's upcoming fashion show.

An Evening of Fashion and Song-Miracles on Nov. 28 features a top-of-the-line runway show that will include creations by talented designers from across Canada.

Last year's show attracted more than 700 people. This year's event at the Paramount Conference & Event Venue, 222 Rowntree Dairy Rd. in Vaughan, will include a cocktail reception and theatre seating for the show. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, call the ticket hotline at 416-787-2933. For more information on Zareinu, visit www.zareinu.org.

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The Jews of Canada:
A Multiracial Community or Many Communities?
SUNDAY
November 26th
7:00 pm

The Jews of Israel:
Diversity, Ethnicity and Equity
SUNDAY
December 3rd
7:00 pm

Book Launch:
"In the Days of Sand and Stars" *by Marlee Pinsker*

Award-winning educator Marlee Pinsker releases her first book – "In the Days of Sand and Stars", *published by Tundra Books*. Aimed at readers aged 9-13, the work presents midrashic stories of legendary Jewish women. The Globe and Mail writes: *"It is as if, by means of Pinsker's lyrical prose, these characters come alive."* Launch features readings by the author and personally-signed copies for purchase.

SUNDAY
November 26th
12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Congregation Darchei Noam
A Progressive, Egalitarian and Inclusive Community

Jewish Toronto

This edition of Jewish Toronto is devoted to the outstanding programs offered by Jewish Family & Child Service, a UJA Federation & United Way partner agency, which enhances dignity and opportunity for thousands of community members.

What drives *Drive for Dreidels?*

New partnership benefits community's children at Chanukah

By ROCHELLE KAHN
Jewish Family & Child Service

Making sure every Jewish child in the Greater Toronto Area has a new toy at Chanukah is a tall order, especially when at least 3000 of them live below the poverty line and countless others belong to our community's working poor. For the past four years, however, Drive for Dreidels has galvanized Jewish Toronto to brighten up the holiday for kids in need. Originating in the inspired vision of the Cooper/Shear family and facilitated by Jewish Family and Child Service, this year's toy drive will reach even more children because National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section (NCJWC-TS), has also joined the dynamic partnership.

Unpacking the first shipment of toys for 2006 Drive for Dreidels. L to r, Rochelle Kahn (JF&CS), Josh Cooper, Bonnie Lawrence Shear, Andrea Pines (JF&CS), Laila Friedman (JF&CS), Bob Cooper, Debbie Wasserman (NCJWC-TS). (photo by Jordan Pines)

"We are thrilled to be working with other caring agencies and individuals, giving us the opportunity to broaden our scope and help more people," explained NCJWC-TS President, Debbie Wasserman. "National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section, is committed to addressing the needs of the impoverished in our community, particularly the needs of the children."

It was the recognition of just how urgent those needs are that motivated Bob Cooper to approach his brother Josh and mother Bonnie Lawrence Shear about launching a community toy collection in the first place. Jewish Family and Child Service was the logical partnership choice for the Cooper/Shear family and, in 2003, Drive for Dreidels made its Toronto debut. The community responded swiftly and with great generosity, but no one anticipated just how creative and committed the Jewish Toronto would be in its support.

The drive soon outgrew JF&CS's limited space , so it moved the storage and sorting operation to the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, next door. "We are very grateful to the BJCC for stepping up to ensure we were able to keep the momentum going," said Karen Paikin, Manager of Communications for JF&CS. "And now we have the good fortune to partner with another neighbour, NCJWC-TS."

New, unwrapped toys can be delivered to NCJWC-TS, 4700 Bathurst Street, starting on Sunday, November 26 until Sunday, December 3. Drop-off hours are: Sunday, 10 am - 1 pm; Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am - 4 pm; Tuesday and Thursday evening, 6 - 8 pm. If you would like to give a present to an older child or teen, gift certificates to book, music or department stores are welcome choices and should be delivered to JF&CS directly, Lipa Green Building, 6th Floor, 4600 Bathurst Street. More information can be obtained by calling NCJWC-TS at 416.633.5100 or JF&CS at 416.638.7800.

"Drive for Dreidels brings our community closer together," noted Linda Steinberg, Service Portfolio Chair of National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section.

Speaking for his family, Bob Cooper is "thrilled to be welcoming National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section, into Drive for Dreidels. I know they will be very helpful," he said, "in helping us reach our original goal of making sure every needy Jewish child in our community receives a gift this year."

Understanding Bipolar and Anxiety Disorders

Depression. Anxiety. Mood Disorders. The sobering reality of modern life is that one in five people will experience depression or bipolar disorder in his or her lifetime, according to the Mood Disorders Association of Ontario (MDAO). Effective treatment and prevention start with wider access to support and information, but many people have no idea where to turn for help or if help is even possible. Jewish Family and Child Service is striving to change that and its comprehensive Family Life Education program is poised to help spread the word.

On November 23, JF&CS will feature Karen Liberman, Executive Director of the MDAO as guest speaker for a community forum on Understanding Bipolar and Anxiety Disorders. This highly anticipated evening lecture is the fourth in a series on mood disorders, coordinated by JF&CS in conjunction with the MDAO.

"In the fall of 2004," explained Shawna Sidney, Family Life Education Coordinator for JF&CS, "we partnered with the Mood Disorders Association of Ontario in an extremely well received program, Depression 101. Positive response from that evening," Sidney said, "launched follow-up opportunities, dedicated to helping individuals and families affected by mood disorders."

Karen Liberman, MDAO Executive Director

The Mood Disorders Association of Ontario is committed to "enhancing the quality of life for all affected by mood disorders through support, information, education and advocacy" and it's touching new audiences through cooperative programming opportunities like Understanding Bipolar and Anxiety Disorders.

Understanding Bipolar and Anxiety Disorders will be held on the 4th Floor of the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst Street, starting at 7 pm, November 23, 2006. Registration is required and space is limited. To reserve a seat ($10 each), please call Shawna Sidney at 416.638.7800, ex 215.

The Family Life Education program of JF&CS is a community outreach program, providing a wide array of psycho-educational groups and workshops to the community, led by trained, knowledgeable and experienced facilitators. "Family Life Education is a solid cornerstone of Jewish Family and Child Service's focus on prevention," noted Sidney.

A complete, updated listing of all JF&CS Family Life Education Programs is available online at www.jfandcs.com or by calling Shawna Sidney at 416. 638. 7800, ex 215.

Honouring Gordy Wolfe's indelible imprint on JF&CS

Agency renames its downtown branch

It was a common question for over two decades. "So, you work at Gordy's Place?" But no one meant the neighbourhood eatery or local pub, even though the spot was a local fixture all the same. Gordy's Place was the affectionate reference to Jewish Family and Child Service during the 22 years Gordon S. Wolfe served as the agency's Executive Director. And, although he retired from JF&CS three years ago, his imprint remains and his commitment to excellence lives on in the quality of the professional staff.

In an earlier career, JF&CS President, David Pelz, worked with Wolfe and describes the profound impact that relationship had on his future. "The lessons I learned from Gordy have stayed with me and helped provide me with a direction for my life. He taught me the meaning of *tikkun olam* (healing the world) and what it means to devote one's life to social justice," Pelz continued. "The day-to-day battle to right the injustices in our society was Gordy's core and I like to think a small piece of him rubbed off on me."

In September, the downtown branch of JF&CS (Bloor and Spadina) at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre was officially renamed The Gordon S. Wolfe Branch. Gordy's family, friends and colleagues joined him at a reception to celebrate the event.

Current JF&CS Executive Director Richard Cummings reflected on Wolfe's enduring vision and unwavering sense of social responsibility to the community.

JF&CS Board President David Pelz pays tribute to his mentor Gordon S. Wolfe at branch naming ceremony.

"Gordy had the consistent ability to influence his colleagues, staff and volunteers to do their utmost to ensure that the mission of JF&CS received the attention and support it needed. As an agency, as a community," Cummings added, "we are ever grateful."

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

The Jewish Hospice Program is all about living

By ROCHELLE KAHN
Jewish Family & Child Service

For many of us, palliative care conjures up sad and somber images of death and dying. But, for two people who are at the very heart of the Jewish Hospice Program, palliative care is all about living life to its fullest possible potential. "Whether it's for eighty minutes or eighty years," explains Rabbi Ronald Weiss, Director of Chaplaincy Services for Jewish Family and Child Service (JF&CS) and an integral member of the Jewish Hospice team, "we strive to maximize each person's quality of life, recognizing that care is often as important as cure."

Launched 13 years ago, the Jewish Hospice Program, coordinated by JF&CS, is a partnership of Baycrest, Circle of Care, Mount Sinai Hospital and UJA Federation. The program is designed to provide compassionate end of life care to people dealing with life-threatening illnesses, while enabling them to live in the comfort of their own home and make decisions about their health care for themselves. The Jewish Hospice responds to the many accompanying physical, psychological, social and spiritual concerns and, annually, serves 100 client families, including approximately 15 children.

Bev Schachter, who took over as Coordinator of the Jewish Hospice Program last February, describes her experience as "a breath of fresh air."

"I was no stranger to gerontology and palliative care but the unique nature of JF&CS enabled me to offer clients a remarkable range of support. Everyone who accesses the Jewish Hospice Program," she explained, "has full access to all the programs and services JF&CS provides."

"What that means for clients," Schachter explained, "is the peace of mind that comes from knowing we are there to assist them with any current or resultant problems – from financial difficulty to unemployment, marital issues to depression."

The Jewish Hospice Program, which works in conjunction with Ontario Ministry of Health services and receives additional funding for special projects from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. In the last few years, UJA Federation support has enabled the Jewish Hospice to develop a respite program, so families get a much-needed break on a regular basis.

As well, grants from UJA Federation have significantly enhanced resource materials available to Hospice clients. A resource bag program has been established, specifically for children, providing them with workbooks and story books dealing with terminal illness and dying, as well as art supplies to help them express their feelings. In addition, a resource centre, housed at JF&CS, offers books, videos and other informational materials for both children and adults affected by life-threatening illnesses.

There are many volunteer opportunities with the Jewish Hospice Program for sensitive, caring adults who recognize the value of quality end of life care. To learn more about the Jewish Hospice Program, call Bev Schachter at 416. 638.7800, ex 201.

Jewish Hospice Program provides compassionate care in familiar home environment.

Homework's a hit for York Region students

JF&CS Homework Club provides extra support

When Noy and Bar enthusiastically rush off to the Promenade Mall on Tuesday nights, it's not to chill with their buddies. They're meeting up with 15 other kids from grades 4 to 9 at the Homework Club, a new initiative of Jewish Family and Child Service for students in York Region. And, after less than two months, the Homework Club is certainly scoring straight A's from the eager participants. "I like that I learn stuff in this program and that there are people who can help me with my homework. I like getting pizza - it's really fun and my best friend is here," said Lilach, Grade 6.

The York Region Homework Club started as a JF&CS pilot project last spring and met with tremendous success. Andrea Pines, the JF&CS Coordinator of Volunteer Services, who heads up the Homework Club, reports that all of the students involved in the original pilot signed up again for the fall. "Response has been wonderful and our volunteer tutors – all nine of them – are as excited as the 16 kids who come out every Tuesday."

Homework Club tutors are mainly university students, recruited from Hillel on the York, U of T and Ryerson campuses, and they are a truly talented and energetic team," Pines said. "The students, their parents and JF&CS are very grateful to them, and to Tzedek Hillel's Social Action Director Devora Schwartz Waxman for finding such an outstanding group for us."

The Homework Club has also received invaluable support from Frontier College and North York Community House, which have partnered in the project to provide tutor training, worksheets, resources and other support as needed."

Geared to provide extra academic help for students already receiving professional support from JF&CS in area schools, students must be referred to the program through a social worker. Jewish Family and Child Service staff works with students in many GTA day and public schools, sometimes because of social or behavioural issues. In other cases, the problem stems from English being a second language and parents being unable to assist their children with their studies.

That's another reason why the Homework Club is such a popular place to be on Tuesday nights. And not only do the kids receive skilled tutoring, personal attention and study opportunities, there's hot pizza and cold drinks too! Who knew doing homework could be so much fun? If you'd like to find out more about the Homework Club in York Region, contact Andrea Pines at JF&CS, 416. 638.7800, ex 266.

JF&CS Homework Club is the newest "place to be" for York Region students. Homework Club Volunteer Sean Friedman (L) shares a pizza break with grade 8 student Bar.

Singing the praises of unsung heroes

JF&CS Board of Directors hits the high notes

Dr. Richard Cummings, Executive Director of Jewish Family and Child Service, is meticulous in his pursuit of evidence-based research to back up his assertions. So, when he describes the contribution of the agency's volunteer leaders as inspiring, he can substantiate the claim. "During its almost 140-year history, Jewish Family and Child Service has attracted a level of volunteer leadership that continues to inspire excellence in every aspect of service to the community," said Cummings. "Truly, these men and women have always been the unsung heroes of JF&CS."

A look through names from past JF&CS Boards of Directors reads like a Who's Who of Jewish Toronto.

Currently serving on the Jewish Family and Child Service Board of Directors are the following members. *Kol hakavod* to each and every one, for their exemplary service to our community.

David Peltz (president), Tammy Balitsky, Arna Banack, David Barkin, Brian Blumenthal, Michael Bowman, Barbara Bresver, Ruth Cohen, Lorne Greenwald, Adam Joseph, Robert Kanee, Evelyn Kohn Rayson, Marc Lipton, Eva Madras, Susan Maldoff, Michael Miller, S. Richard Orzy, Lorie Shekter Wolfson, Sharon Shore, Nancy Stitt, Mitchell Toker, Aviva Wade, Brian Weiner, Thea Weisdorf, Daniel Weisz, Judy Winberg, Cary Wolgelerenter, Paula Zivot.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to 416.638.7800 or info@jfandcs.com

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

On Campus

Anti-Israel activists rally at York, U of T

By JENNA ROSMAN
Special to The CJN

Wrapping up its Week of Action Against The Wall, the local group Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid organized anti-Israel rallies at York University and the University of Toronto last week.

The CAIA, along with the Palestine Solidarity Committee and the Grassroots Anti-Imperialist Network, held a demonstration at York's Vari Hall on Nov. 16, and a march at U of T to "demand an end to Canadian complicity in Israeli apartheid," the CAIA website said.

According to the group's website, the U of T protest meant to target three sites on or near campus that it said have "direct links to Israeli Apartheid," namely the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, Hart House and the Israeli consulate on Bloor Street.

But Adam Hummel, president of Hillel at York, said the marchers at U of T didn't go near the Wolfond Centre.

"They did the march... They said they would gear up at the Wolfond Centre, but nothing happened."

Hummel said a lot of people on both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict showed up for the rally at York, which was not authorized by the university and was organized by groups that are not recognized as student groups by the school.

Although there was a shouting match between students, York security was able to keep the two sides separated, Hummel said.

"They had speakers set up and they were shouting stuff, talking about the intifadah, but we just broke into a horah and started singing *Hatikvah*," he said.

The rally isn't the only recent example of anti-Israel or anti-Semitic sentiments at York.

Earlier this month, an elevator in the Keele campus' student centre was vandalized with stickers that read "Boycott Israeli Apartheid." The elevator was covered from top to bottom with 82 of the stickers, which were created by CAIA.

"This would be the worst and most aggressive type of hate postering that we've had in the 15 years the student centre has been open," Rob Castle, the centre's executive director, told *Excalibur*, York's student newspaper.

The stickers were removed, but the elevator was vandalized again the following day, Hummel said.

"In black marker, it was written 'Anti-Apartheid isn't anti-Semitism.' There were a few things [written]. It said, 'Zionism is Racism,' 'Hillel is a Racist Organization' and 'Israel is a racist state,'" he said.

Meanwhile, York student Britt Aharoni said she is filing a complaint with the university's ombudsperson and director of human rights, Fiona Crean, over comments made by another student in one of her classes.

During a discussion earlier this month in Aharoni's fourth-year global politics class about the nature of evil and the perception of Hitler, a student expressed hostility toward Jews and victims of the Holocaust.

Excalibur reported that the student said he held "the majority of Jews responsible for their tragedy for their failure to rise to arms" and that "six million Jews... catered to Nazi delight, tried to get along, or hid in the attic until they were finally collected off city streets and led to slaughter... The majority of Jewish people [affected] do not deserve the name hero or victim, they share in the guilt of the Holocaust with the Nazis."

Hummel said the atmosphere this year at York has been difficult.

"There is a lot of hostility, much more than last year. It's really bad this year. It's reaching some sort of climax," he said, citing pamphlets titled "Remember the Dead, Fight for the Living" that were distributed by anti-Israel advocates on campus during Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Week, an event organized by Hillel in early November.

"It sort of indirectly said that Hillel is a group that should not be responsible for organizing Holocaust or genocide awareness week because they support Israel," Hummel said.

He added that while being critical of Israel is not necessarily anti-Semitic, there is a fine line.

"When everything on campus is about Israel, when the only country in the world that's being criticized is Israel and when they absolutely refuse to look at any issues with the Palestinians, then it does become anti-Semitic," Hummel said. "As much as I don't like saying or feeling that, it does become uncomfortable for Jews, because when you walk through campus and see it every day, it makes you very uncomfortable."

Hummel said York's administration is aware of the problem and is working on ways to lessen the growing animosity of anti-Israel groups toward Jewish and pro-Israel campus groups.

"They aren't quite sure how to deal with it, because the anti-Israel groups who are responsible for the material about ending Israel are either just not registered as official groups on campus or they are just not interested in abiding by the rules of the school," he said.

Prof. Eric Lawee, associate director of York's Centre for Jewish Studies, said the problem is not limited to York.

"The left is anti-Israel. Campuses tend to be left-leaning... You have very virulent and, in many cases, unjustified anti-Israel expressions across campuses in North America, but of course it's much worse in Europe than it is in North America," he said.

Crean and CAIA did not return calls for comment.

With files from Sheri Shefa

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On Campus

Students welcome support after attack on Hillel

By LAUREN KRAMER
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — Jewish students at the University of British Columbia arrived on campus Nov. 6 to find the front windows of their student centre, Hillel House, smashed by two large boulders.

But by week's end, they had participated in a roundtable discussion at Hillel House attended by police, campus security, Jewish communal leaders, university administration and students.

And Christian and Muslim chaplains also showed their support for what the Vancouver Hillel Foundation has called a hate crime – the third such anti-Semitic attack on Vancouver's Hillel House in three years.

"If there's a silver lining to this terrible incident, it's the outpouring of support and empathy that has come in to students, staff and lay leadership from all over the community," said Eyal Lichtmann, Hillel Vancouver's executive director.

"It's in times of grave injustice that the greatness of the human spirit often rises in response."

While students said the attack took an emotional toll, they were adamant that they wouldn't be intimidated. Holocaust Awareness Week began the day of the attack and continued without interruption.

But the incident certainly left some scars.

"We feel less threatened than violated," said Elysha Ames, UBC Hillel's student president. "This is more than just a building to us, it's our home, and especially for out-of-towners, this is their connection to Judaism. Hillel House is something special and personal to us."

Ron Boaz, president of Alpha Epsilon Pi, the Jewish fraternity on campus, agreed.

"I found it quite disconcerting, and I struggle to believe something like this can still happen on a university campus, which is fairly open-minded," he said.

"You wouldn't think students would be racist in their inclinations," he added. "I felt like this incident was a hit to my Jewishness, my heritage and my people."

The consensus at the roundtable was that members of the university community should plan more proactive events on campus to build tolerance, rather than reacting after something happens.

"We need to encourage students to think about these issues," said Pat Johnson, director of development and communications at Vancouver Hillel. "UBC has equity ambassadors that are already working on this, so it would mean joining forces with them.

"The idea is that the only way to address something like this in the long term is through public education campaigns."

U of T launches Jewish social work class

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The department of social work at the University of Toronto is launching a course like no other in Canada, said a social work professsor.

The course will explore the effect that Jewish culture and history has had on social service agencies in this country, Ernie Lightman said.

He said that the advisory committee to the Jewish studies program approached the dean of social work earlier this year about starting a master's program in Jewish social work.

Since then, Lightman and his colleagues have been busy creating a course set to begin in January 2007 that will teach master's-level students about the Jewish tradition of caring and social action within the context of social work, and prepare students to work for Jewish institutions.

"We're developing a course that is not just for Jewish students. It is a course that talks about what, if anything, makes Mount Sinai Hospital different from Toronto General Hospital? What makes Baycrest different from… any other residence for seniors?" Lightman said.

"Our course is specifically targeted towards the Jewish traditions of caring. Social work as a profession is one that was very heavily Jewish. At one time, our faculty was more than half Jewish. It is a field that Jews have traditionally gone into. So the question is, does this come out of our culture, our history, our traditions?"

Paula David, the co-ordinator of Baycrest Holocaust Resource program who teaches gerontology courses at Ryerson University, is the lead instructor of the new one-semester course called Jewish Perspectives on Caring, and hopes that U of T will consider turning it into a major.

Lightman said that if there is any school in Toronto where a course like this would succeed, it would be U of T.

"Last year, we started a collaborative initiative with the University of Haifa after the British boycott of the Israeli universities, and that was our department that did it," Lightman said.

"We're envisioning this as the first course that would eventually lead to a specialization. That is the hope here," David said.

"This is the first course that has integrated a clinical practice philosophy with a Jewish philosophical and practice-oriented base… It would be showing how one ethnic group has an impact on the larger community and society as well."

The course is designed so that students will be exposed to the perspectives of a number of professionals from different organizations within the Jewish community.

Lightman he said he hopes this elective, which can be taken by master's students at Ryerson and York University as well, will keep Canadian students from going to the United States for this kind of training.

Canadian Coalition for Democracies

The Annual Begin-Sadat Lecture

will be inaugurated by

Salim Mansur

speaking on

Sadat's Conversion and What the Quran Says About Jews in the Holy Land

Date: **Wednesday, November 29, 2006**
Time: **8:00 p.m.** (*doors open at 7:30 pm) Reception to follow.*
Location: **The Great Hall, Hart House, University of Toronto**
7 Hart House Circle, accessible from Wellesley Street
Admission: **Free.**

Dr Salim Mansur, professor of political science at the University of Western Ontario and senior fellow with Canadian Coalition for Democracies, is a founder and director of the **Center for Islamic Pluralism** and a member of the Academic Council of the **Center for Security Policy**, both of Washington, DC. Dr Mansur recently received the Stephen S. Wise ***Profiles in Courage*** award along with Salman Rushdie, Nonie Darwish, Wafa Sultan and Tashbih Sayyid.

The **Begin-Sadat Lecture** has been established by **Canadian Coalition for Democracies** on the 25th anniversary of the murder of Anwar Sadat. Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978 for concluding a peace treaty between their two countries.

Founded in 2003, **Canadian Coalition for Democracies** is a non-partisan, multi-ethnic, multi-religious organization of concerned Canadians dedicated to the protection and promotion of democracy at home and abroad
For more information call (416) 963-8998 or email: info@CanadianCoalition.com
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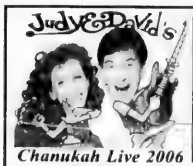

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How many years have Judy & David performed their Chanukah concert?
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All correct answers received by 3 p.m. on **Monday, November 27** are eligible. The winning entries will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at The CJN offices on **Tuesday, November 28**, at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. One entry per person. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*
Send your response to: **Judy & David Contest**, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 416-391-0949
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Coast to Coast

Exhibit on small-town shul to open in Owen Sound

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

After two years of gathering research and artifacts, Owen Sound's Beth Ezekiel Synagogue, Canada's last small-town shul, and Grey Roots, a Grey County heritage museum and visitor centre, are ready to introduce the Georgian Bay community to an exhibit called L'Chaim, the Story of Beth Ezekiel Synagogue.

Jeff Elie, Beth Ezekiel's president, said the exhibit will offer the community, both Jewish and non-Jewish, a glimpse into the history and culture of the Jewish community in Owen Sound, which has been present in the small town since the late 1800s.

"The exhibit takes the course of Jewish history right from the very beginning through to Beth Ezekiel Synagogue," Elie said.

"The exhibit is really geared for non-Jewish visitors, so there is a component that gives them a brief introduction to Judaism, and then it follows the course of Jewish history through to the development of the synagogue and then through to the Diaspora and how the synagogue in Owen Sound came about. From there, it tells Beth Ezekiel's story, which is one of growth and then decline and then rebirth."

Beth Ezekiel Synagogue

Owen Sound, which has a population of about 21,000, is the smallest Canadian town with an active synagogue.

Elie said that just a few years ago, the shul was struggling to stay afloat with a 13-family membership. Today, the congregation has tripled to more than 50 families.

Bob Greenberg, an emeritus professor of architecture at Ryerson University and the exhibit's historical consultant, said he remembers when there were fears the shul would have to close.

"About four years ago, the synagogue was barely there. It was just a ghost, but it was still there. People still came to services, and somehow it didn't disappear," Greenberg said.

Although Greenberg attributes the shul's rebirth to Elie, the shul president said that nothing would have been possible without the support of the wider Owen Sound community.

"We came very close to losing the synagogue, and we realized that the only way to save it was to go out to the community and ask for help. The response that we got was just overwhelming. It totally floored us how quickly the community stepped up to bat for us. That is largely responsible for the rebirth that we've experienced," Elie said.

"Owen Sound is very proud of its little synagogue. It is a pretty white community and having a synagogue here is important to them. I think they value it. I think they really treasure it."

The exhibit will feature background information, photos, artifacts, old prayer books, clothing and more, said Greenberg, who was responsible for presenting the research and artifacts in a comprehensive display and helped edit the gallery guidebook.

"We actually lent to the [Grey Roots] museum one of our Torahs. It will be on display. We found the original ark and bimah from before there was a Beth Ezekiel, before there was a synagogue in Owen Sound," Elie said.

"There was a Jewish community, and they would meet in rented accommodations above stores and here and there throughout town from the late 1800s. We found an ark and bimah and lectern that was in use and that will be on display."

Elie said that he is proud of the attention the shul has received because of the exhibit and thinks that it will add momentum to the shul's growth.

"I think where we succeeded was in getting and maintaining the support of the local community. The local community is very supportive of the synagogue, and that makes us feel good and makes us feel proud," he said.

"It has done a lot for the way we feel about being Jewish here in Owen Sound. It used to be that people were very quiet about being Jewish. There wasn't any anti-Semitism, but we just kept the synagogue off the radar."

He added that now, he gets many requests from church and school groups to tour the shul.

"People around here are really interested in learning more about Judaism, and the exhibit will give them the opportunity to do that," Elie said.

"It is important for the Jewish community in Owen Sound to recognize that it is a vibrant and existing, lively community. For the larger Jewish community, we showed that Judaism is a very large and universal religion and it isn't gathered in only a few urban places," Greenberg said.

L'Chaim, the Story of Beth Ezekiel Synagogue, will open to the public on Nov. 27 and is scheduled to run until February 2008.

Until Dec. 15, ticketholders will also have access to a travelling exhibit from Vancouver called Open Hearts, Closed Doors, which focuses on the lives of orphaned Holocaust survivors who made their way from displaced persons camps and orphanages to countries such as Canada.

For the museum's hours of operation and more information, visit www.greyroots.com.

Coast to Coast

Manitoba's Chief Justice subject of new exhibit

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Samuel Freedman, the subject of the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada's new exhibition, was a remarkable individual.

At an event held earlier this month to open the exhibit, which will run until Jan. 7, 2007, Manitoba's first Jewish judge and first Jewish chief justice, who died in 1993, was praised as a man of outstanding intellect and strong core values who also had a sharp wit. At the same time, speakers said, he remained humble and down to earth.

Close to 300 people came to the Berney Theatre at the Asper Community Campus to hear Freedman's virtues sung by some of the Jewish community's leading legal minds. Master of ceremonies Jack London, who was the University of Manitoba's first Jewish Dean of Law, recalled that, as a young law student in 1962, he was turned away from two major law firms because he was Jewish.

"Those were the dying days of restrictive anti-Semitism," he said. "Jewish lawyers were still ghettoized in smaller firms without access to clients in financial institutions. The Manitoba Club was still off limits to Jews. Sam Freedman broke the barrier at the Manitoba Club."

London explained that when Freedman was president of the Manitoba Bar Association, the tradition was for the association to hold meetings at the Manitoba Club. Freedman refused to hold any meetings there until the club allowed Jewish members. The policy was changed shortly thereafter.

"Before Sam, no one had thought to challenge these restrictive practices that we assumed were normal," London said. "He shone a beacon for us, pointing to a better future. He was a leader before he was appointed to the bench. He fought the good fight and won, so that we who followed would not have to fight."

Brian Schwartz, a University of Manitoba law professor, researcher and author, recalled Freedman as a jurist who could compress judgments into just a few words. "Samuel Freedman epitomized the talmudic dictum of saying little, doing much and greeting everyone with a smile," Schwartz said. "And he always found a way to balance the letter of the law and justice for the accused. He was a judicial virtuoso who believed strongly in the liberalism of the Enlightenment."

Arnold Naimark, who was the second Jewish President of University of Manitoba, got to know Freedman during the nine years (1959-68) that the judge was the university chancellor. He spoke of "Citizen Sam."

"There was hardly an organization to which Sam didn't contribute something of lasting value," Naimark recalled. "He was especially generous in accepting speaking engagements, no matter how large or small the group."

As university chancellor, Naimark noted, Freedman was a champion of governance reform and had a holistic vision of what higher education should be.

Community leader Harold Buchwald remembered Freedman as a mentor, colleague and travelling companion on frequent trips to Israel where they both served on the board of governors of the Hebrew University. He recounted examples of Freedman's humour.

While listening to a certain speaker for instance, Buchwald said, Freedman leaned over to a companion and whispered that not only didn't the speaker know what he was talking about, but it was also obvious he wasn't curious enough to learn about his topic.

The last speaker at the exhibit opening was Freedman's son, Martin, who followed his father's lead into law and the judiciary. Martin Freedman noted that his father was born in 1908 near Zhitomir in Ukraine, the son of Nathan and Ada Chasen (who, after coming to Winnipeg, changed the name to Freedman for reasons that remain unclear). Nathan came here first in 1909, followed by the rest of the family later.

Samuel Freedman grew up as one of seven brothers and sisters in the old north end. His parents always emphasized education. He entered the University of Manitoba as a scholarship student. (The scholarship was worth $100.) His original career goal was to become a professor of the classics. With that ambition unlikely to be fulfilled because he was Jewish, he chose law as a second option.

He married the former Brownie Udow, the only girl he ever dated, on Jan. 26, 1927. The couple had three children, Martin, and his sisters, Susan and Phyllis.

Martin remembered his father as hard working, determined, modest and always calm. "He taught us by example."

He noted that his father was never motivated by money. He also recalled that his father was not mechanically inclined in the least and didn't learn to drive a car until he was in his 40s.

The formal part of the evening concluded with a filmed interview that Samuel Freedman did with the CBC's John Harvard (now the lieutenant-governor of Manitoba) in 1983, on the day he retired from the court. Harvard introduced the documentary.

Freedman's widow, Brownie, and his children were on hand for the ribbon-cutting to launch the exhibition. Jewish Heritage Centre representatives noted that the exhibition was made possible because Brownie Freedman had kept copious records of her husband's career from the time they married until his death. She saved scrapbooks full of newspaper clippings, copies of speeches he made, awards he received and numerous photographs. She also kept a diary of their activities for over 20 years.

The exhibition organizers are encouraging anyone with anecdotes they want to share about Samuel Freedman to log onto www.jhcwc.org/samfreedmanstories.htm.

University of Waterloo

Jewish Studies is pleased to present

The Better Communities Foundation Annual Lecture by

Dr. Stephen Berk

The Henry and Sally Schaffer Professor of Holocaust & Jewish Studies at Union College, Schenectady, New York

on

DEATH IN THE UKRAINE

65 years ago, a terrible event took place at Babi Yar which reveals a good deal about the Holocaust. Nazi behaviour, the collaboration of some Ukrainians and the Jewish response are subjects that are elucidated by the study of this horrible episode in history.

Tuesday, November 28, 2006
7:30pm
St. Jerome's Siegfried Hall, Room 1030
290 Westmount Rd. North, Waterloo, Ontario

EVERYONE WELCOME **Free parking in Lot "A" after 7:00pm** **FREE ADMISSION**

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Ex-Israeli wins Young Entrepreneur Award in Alberta

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Arnon Levy, the founder of Guest-Tek Interactive Entertainment Ltd. founder, won the Business Development Bank of Canada's (BDC) Young Entrepreneur Award for Alberta last month.

Levy, 35, an Israeli immigrant who grew up in Calgary, just made the age cutoff for the award.

For the past 19 years, BDC, a financial institution owned by the government of Canada, has given out awards to successful entrepreneurs between the ages of 19 and 35 in each Canadian province.

This year's awards ceremony, called A World Without Boundaries, Open to New Markets, was held on Oct. 17 in Moncton, N.B. A committee determined the winners based on criteria including success, growth potential and innovation.

Guest-Tek is the first and only company that provides guests in hotel rooms all over the world a full network of technology services, Levy said.

"We provide Internet and other technology services to the hospitality industry. We provide high-speed Internet access to hotels, we provide digital videos, [movies and digital TV] and digital phone systems to hotel rooms… which is something that is incredibly popular these days."

But this multimillion-dollar business, which has offices in Calgary, Los Angeles, London, Rome and Buenos Aires, grew from humble beginnings.

Originally from Haifa, Levy and his family moved to the southwest area of Calgary, close to the Jewish community, when he was 10 years old.

After graduating from the University of Calgary with a bachelor of commerce degree, Levy started the business out of his basement 10 years ago.

"It was really about getting investors, friends and friends of family to invest in us, believe in the concept and the idea, and to slowly build the company off a strong reputation, and then take advantage of the opportunities that came along," Levy said.

Aron Levy

"For us, our first big cheque came in 2001 from the Hyatt hotel group and that's what really got this thing off the ground."

He said there were times when he experienced doubt that his business would succeed, but he never gave up.

"We definitely had our moments when we thought it wouldn't take off, but I always knew that I would keep working my butt off to make sure that it succeeded. But overall, there was confidence throughout the whole process," Levy said.

Today, Guest-Tek is a 300-person-strong business that went public two years ago.

In 2005, Guest-Tek, which is listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, made $44 million, doubling the previous year's revenues.

Levy is also the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year this year, after being nominated three times for that award. He said this is the first time he's been nominated for the BDC award, and is honoured by the acknowledgement.

"It is an incredible honour for us. I think that there isn't a greater honour for an entrepreneur. This is a country that I love and I love living here and I love what this country has offered me," Levy said.

"To be awarded by the federal government this way is a fantastic honour, and I appreciate the fact that I can be part of this nation and the opportunities that arise here."

JEWISH MUSEUM CONFERENCE COMING TO TORONTO!

First time in 30 years!

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2007 Annual Conference - January 21st – 24th

Hosted by:

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and Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum

To view the program and register:

Online: www.jewishculture.org/cajm (*click on* CAJM Conference, *click on* 2007 – to brochure)
Tel: 212-629 0500 Ext. 215 • *E-mail* KRunk@jewishculture.org

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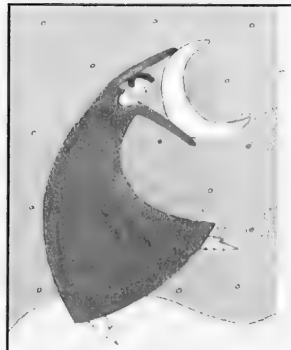

Kolel and The Learning Centre present

L'hadlik Ner

The First of Three Workshops on Women's Light with Rabbi Elyse Goldstein and Dr. Rachael Turkienicz

Bringing Women's Light to Chanukah
Dec. 10, 2006
4-6 PM & 7-9 PM at the BJCC

A two part Chanukah workshop (each one different) exploring texts on ancient women "Maccabees" and modern women "warriors".

Both classes $50 in advance, $60 at the door.
One class $30 in advance, $35 at the door.

To register: 416.636.1880x235

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www.kolel.org

Bathurst JCC

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THE LEARNING CENTRE
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416.630.6488
www.learningwithrachael.com

Coast to Coast

MEZUZAH GIRLS: Chloe Tobe, left, Shane Hyman, centre, and Jayden Fisher of Holy Blossom Temple Pre-School get ready to take home their handmade mezuzot.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION: Rabbi Yehuda Holstein and his Grade 7 students at Netivot HaTorah Day School reflect on a display of moving photographs and information set up by Rabbi Shmuel Ben Michael as part of Holocaust Education Week programming at the school. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

RABBI REMEMBERED: Students in grades 5 to 8 at Leo Baeck Day School honoured the memory of the school's namesake, Rabbi Leo Baeck, with special ceremonies at both campuses Nov. 2. Rabbi Dov Marmur, rabbi emeritus of Holy Blossom Temple, spoke at the north campus about the life of Rabbi Baeck and his contributions throughout the world. Rabbi Danny Gottlieb was guest speaker at the south campus.

Family Moments

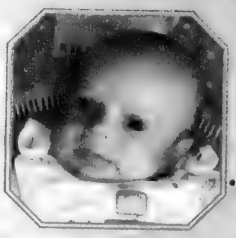
only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

FRAN & CY BULKIS
are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter
RANDI TO DANIEL
son of Elaine & Marty Nixon of Vancouver.
Proud grandparents are Dorothy Marvin and Abe & Esther Nobleman.
A summer wedding will take place in Toronto.

We welcome with love Lilia Jaden, daughter of Tiffany Atkinson & Frank Hintz, grandaughter of Janice Atkinson & Jay Jackson.

Mazel tov to Jason Wang & Keryn Stein, who were married on Aug. 6. We wish you a lifetime of health & happiness.



Mazel tov! Halle Lauren Kagan, born May 5. Thrilled parents Robin & Steve, brother Jared, grandparents Monty, Lindy, Gary & Marcia.

Congratulations Rachel Vella-Zarb on your graduation from University of British Columbia. Love, Nana, Mum, Dad and Ori.

Congratulations Dr. Alisa Naiman on completing your family medicine residency. We are very proud of you. Love, your parents, grandparents, siblings and nieces.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos (25 words or less) and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to:
The CJN, Family Moments,
1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205,
North York, ON. M3B 3K4

JNF
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"Mazel Tov on Your New Arrival"
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416-638-7200

What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

CJN DATING
MEET YOUR MATCH
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JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

What's New deadlines: Monday, Nov. 27, is the deadline for the Dec. 7 issue and Monday, Dec. 4, is the deadline for the Dec. 14 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Nov. 23

INUIT ART AUCTION

Penna Downtown Jewish Day School hosts an Inuit art auction of more than 60 stone carvings, with all proceeds supporting the school. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Al Green Theatre. $10. 416-928-3537

Saturday, Nov. 25

DANCE, AUCTION & FUN!

Temple Har Zion Sisterhood offers an evening of music and dancing from the '50s, '60s and '70s with the band Go Freddie Go. $25, 905-889-2252. Proceeds support the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and temple charitable activities.

PARSHAH DISCUSSION

Morley Goldberg speaks about the weekly portion, Toldot, 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

Sunday, Nov. 26

WINGATE MEETING

Wingate Branch Royal Canadian Legion all-members breakfast meeting, 9:15 a.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-782-5024

LIVING WELL TO 120

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents Living Well to 120: Jewish Pursuit of Health and Wellness – workshops, lectures, demonstrations, exhibits and gourmet lunch presentation by **Norene Gilletz**. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. To register, call 416-781-3514, ext. 25 or 34.

BOOK LAUNCH

Darchei Noam Congregation presents **Marlee Pinsker** reading from her new book, *In the Days of Sand and Stars*, midrashic stories of legendary Jewish women aimed at readers aged 9-13. 12-1 p.m. at 15 Hove St. 416-638-4783

HEBREW BINGO IN BARRIE

The Barrie Jewish community hosts an afternoon of Hebrew bingo. 2 p.m. RSVP, 705-321-7700.

CZECH MUSIC & PROSE

Enjoy an afternoon of Jewish poetry, prose, music and traditional songs from former Czechoslovakia. 4 p.m. at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St. $20, seniors/students $15. Call 416-872-1111 or visit the box office.

SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Walk and Talk Etc., singles 50+, hosts an evening of bowling at Lucky Strike Lanes, in the Vaughan Mills Mall, 5:30 p.m. Pre-register, walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

GLOBAL JEWISH VILLAGE

Darchei Noam Congregation presents Global Jewish Village Seminar Series. Tonight, "The Jews of Canada: A Multi-racial Community or Many Communities?" 7 p.m. 15 Hove St. 416-638-4783

A MUSICAL SOIRÉE

Congregation B'nai Torah presents a musical soirée featuring cellists **Daniel** and **Carey Domb**, playing light classical and Jewish melodies. 8 p.m. Reserved tickets $12, $22 a couple or $15 at the door. Call **Fern**, 416-226-3700.

Monday, Nov. 27

BIALIK BOUTIQUE MARKET

Bialik Hebrew Day School's Annual Boutique Market will be held from 6-9 p.m. Free admission.

Tuesday, Nov. 28

TERRORISM IN CANADA

Beth Tikvah Lunch and Learn hosts York Region's Police Chief **Armande Labarge**, speaking on the impact of terrorism in Canada. Lunch 12:15 p.m. Learn 1 p.m. $12 pre-paid, $15 at the door. 416-221-3433, ext. 352

Continued on page 29

TORAH in MOTION
Confronting the Challenges of Modernity
Yeshiva University

The Legacy of
Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik zt"l
Sat. Dec. 2, 2006. 7:45-10:30pm
Sun. Dec. 3, 2006. 9:15am-4pm
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation 470 Glencairn Avenue

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2 SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING
Lonely Man of Faith: The Life & Legacy of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik
Drawing upon interviews with many of the Rav's students, colleagues and family members. This film powerfully depicts the life and times of a Torah giant. (Those featured in the film include Rabbi Saul Berman, Rabbi Shalom Carmy, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, Rabbi Dr. Aharon Lichtenstein, Rabbi Dr. Aaron Rakeffet, Rabbi J. J. Schacter, Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld). Followed by discussion of the film with director Ethan Isenberg

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3
9:15 am Serving Greatness: Rav Soloveitchik Up Close.
10.15 am The Soul of the Rav: The Rabbi's Halakhic Vision. ▪ Rabbi Hershel Schachter
11:30 am Rav Soloveitchik and the Search for G-d. ▪ Rabbi Shalom Carmy
12:45 pm Lunch
1:30 pm Rav Soloveitchik and the Problem of Evil. ▪ Dr. David Shatz
2:45 pm PANEL. Rav Soloveitchik: The Complex Legacy. ▪ Moderator: Dr. Elliott Malamet

$30 (incl. lunch), $40 after Nov. 27, Students $15 TiMPass Holders $10 (for lunch)
Saturday night/single session $15 www.torahinmotion.org 416.633.5770

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What's New

Continued from page 28

BOOK REVIEW CLUB

Treasures in Jewish Literature series continues with **Cathy Tile** reviewing *The History of Love* by **Nicole Krauss** at the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage. 1-3 p.m. To register, contact 416-635-2883, ext. 111, or jewish publiclibrary@ujafed.org.

ZAREINU EVENING

Zareinu hosts an evening of fashion and song hosted by **Zack Werner**, of *Canadian Idol*, with a live auction, door prizes and dessert reception. $125. Cocktails 6:15 p.m. Show 7:30 p.m. Tickets,416-787-2933, or events@zareinu.org

BARRIE: FILM & TALK

Join Am Shalom Synagogue in Barrie for a screening of *Gloomy Sunday,* followed by a discussion led by **Jack Kugelmass**. 7 p.m. at 767 Huronia Rd. Free. 705-792-3949 or www.amshalom.ca

TEA AND TEACHING

Join Darchei Noam Congregation and **Rabbi Grimberg** for Tea and Teaching, an evening learning about Reconstructionist Judaism. 7:45 p.m. Call 416-638-4783 to RSVP and for location.

CHUG HATANACH

Prof. Carl Erlich leads a study group in a discussion of the Book of Ruth, Chapter 4. 8 p.m. at Beth David Congregation. All welcome.

Wednesday, Nov. 29

FILM: *PAPER CLIPS*

Beth Emeth Brotherhood presents the documentary *Paper Clips* at 7:15 p.m. Suggested donation $5. Reserve by noon Nov. 28. 416-633-3838

PRE-SCHOOL INFO SESSION

Netivot HaTorah Day School hosts an information night for parents interested in its early childhood program. 7:30 p.m. at 18 Atkinson Ave. For information or to arrange a personal visit, call 905-771-1234, ext. 212.

SAR-EL INFO MEETING

Find out about the Sar-El program, civilian volunteers working on Israeli army supply/maintenance bases. 7:30 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-781-6089 or www.sarelcanada.org

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Michael Goldstein, a Jerusalem-based genealogist, speaks about "Finding and Connecting with Your Israeli Relatives," whether they came to Palestine in the 19th century, as Holocaust refugees or as part of the wave of Jewish immigration from the former Soviet Union. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Non-members $5. 8 p.m. www.jgstoronto.ca

Other News

I'M NOT GOING BACK

Ralph Wintrob reads from his wife **Kitty**'s book, *I'm Not Going Back,* the story of her experiences as a child in London during World War II. Thursday, Nov. 30, 8 p.m at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Non-members $2. 416-789-3213

TOVA HARTMAN WEEKEND

Adath Israel Congregation and Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University host **Dr. Tova Hartman** on Dec. 2 and 3. On Saturday, Dec. 2, she speaks from the pulpit on "Gender, Lies and Truth: Is God Listening?" On Sunday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. on "Inclusivity and Exclusivity: Who's In and Who's Out in the Jewish Tradition," and at 7 p.m. on "Ethics of Sacrifice and the Sacrifice of Ethics: Love and Memory." Free. 416-635-5340

YIDDISH WORKSHOPS

The Winchevsky Centre hosts a weekend of Yiddish educational workshops led by **Nikolai Borodulin**, on Dec. 2 and 3. Educators workshops: Instant Yiddish – making Yiddish accessible for students through vocabulary, Saturday, Dec. 2, 2-4 p.m; Yiddish Literacy Made Easy – practical methods of teaching children and adults, Sunday, Dec. 3, 2-4 p.m. Community workshop: Yiddish Games for Everyone – learn 50 common Yiddish words through fun, Sunday, Dec. 3, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fee. For information and registration, call 416-789-5502.

CHANUKAH BOUTIQUE

Shomrai Shabbos Congregation invites the community to shop for Judaica, gifts, toys and accessories at its Chanukah Boutique, Sunday, Dec. 3, 6-10 p.m. at Bais Yaakov Elementary School, 15 Saranac Blvd. Call **Devorah**, 416-781-8025.

TEEN COMEDY NIGHT

Come Laugh Your Tuchas Off, a comedy night for Jewish teens, Saturday, Dec. 9, 8-10 p.m. at the Al Green Theatre, 750 Spadina Ave. $15. Tickets call BBYO, 416-398-2004.

VENDORS WANTED

BAYT Sisterhood is holding a pre-Chanukah craft and gift show on Tuesday, Dec. 5, and Wednesday, Dec. 6, 6:30-10 p.m. To participate, call **Lynda** at 905-731-0351 or e-mail lyndahg@rogers.com

SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN . . .

FOSTER PARENTS WANTED

Jewish Family and Child Services needs new homes for Jewish children who require foster care. For information, contact **Linda Shapiro** at 416-932-9888 or lindashapiro@rogers.com.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse in the Jewish community is often considered a taboo subject, but it does exist and we all have a responsibility to learn more about it. Trained speakers are available for your group at no charge. Call Jewish Women International, 416-630-9313.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jias toronto.org. To register, volunteer, or for more information on these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafés: Newcomers to Canada practise speaking English in a casual friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Interested participants or volunteers should call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

JUMPStart: If you have a networking or job opportunity in the skilled labour market for a newcomer, connect to our JUMPStart program by calling **Elisa**, ext. 28.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna**, ext. 215, for info and registration.

Developing a Successful Business-like Relationship With Your Ex: A workshop to learn to negotiate the day-to-day details of children's lives. Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

Adolescents and Divorce: A workshop for parents to help their adolescent cope with divorce. Thursday, Nov. 30, 7-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

High Conflict Divorce: A workshop for parents wanting to develop strategies and techniques to deal with a high-conflict situation and help to lessen the impact of that conflict on their children. Not for individuals in abusive situations. Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6:30-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

Positive Parenting: A workshop for parents of children ages 2-5. Explores raising happy, motivated and well-behaved children, parenting styles, discipline and more. Tuesday, Dec. 5, 7-9 p.m at the Family Resource Centre in the Promenade Mall.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Sunday Dance, Dec. 3; Casino Rama, Wednesday, Dec. 13; Beginner's Conversational Hebrew, Wednesday, 10 a.m.-noon; Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Nov. 23, movie; Nov. 30, discussion. Call **Menachem,** 905-731-7748.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Friday Afternoon at the Movies, Nov. 24, 1-3 p.m. in the party room. Call ext. 2297.

Lunch and Learn, Tuesday, Nov. 28, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. $5, non-members $7. Reserve in advance at ext. 2267.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Lecture on back and joint pain with kinesiologist Natalie Gindleman. Thursday, Nov. 30, 1 p.m. Free.

The Etrog Club, for Israelis and Hebrew speakers, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Call 905-763-2728.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Chanukah Luncheon with **Marvin Rosenshein** and **Mikhael Khinkis**. Tuesday, Dec. 12. $8, non-member $9.

Join winter courses: Ballroom Dance, Mondays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Latin/Ballroom Dance, Mondays, 8:15-9:15 p.m.; Beginners Bridge, Tuesdays, 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Intermediate Bridge, Tuesdays, 2:30-4:30 p.m.; Beginners Mahjong, Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.; Intermediate Mahjong, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; Yoga, Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m.; computer classes, new session every month. Call ext. 235.

Matinee theatre tickets available for *Glorious*, Wednesday, Dec. 6. Call ext. 235.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Yiddish American Swing, From Tin Pan Alley to Broadway: Great Jewish Composers Make Their Mark with **Jordan Klapman**, Sundays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. $8/lecture, includes bagels and coffee. Info, ext. 111.

Good Age Club, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Nov. 23, "Basic CPR."

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Bert Godfrey	Nov 3/06	645 Castlefield Ave
Leon Faierstein	Nov 4/06	100 Antibes Dr
Erwin Michaels	Nov 5/06	289 Willis Dr
Dr. Ralph Goren	Nov 6/06	35 Feick Cres
Harold Sheffe	Nov 6/06	1 Maison Parc Court
Norman Ross	Nov 7/06	65 Skymark Dr
Sam Abramson	Nov 10/06	7700 Bayview Ave
Aron Ishaky	Nov 10/06	3303 Don Mills Rd
Ruth Grant	Nov 11/06	54 Fairholme Ave
Sally Presement	Nov 11/06	541 Finch Ave W
Ann "Candy" Shanoff	Nov 11/06	753 Briar Hill Ave
Victor Weinberg	Nov 12/06	131 Bloor St W

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Strasberg, Irving	Nov. 5/06	769 Euclid Ave
Roubintchik, Abram	Nov. 7/06	Private
Fitingof, Rachel	Nov. 7/06	299 Mullen Dr
Babitskaia, Minna	Nov. 8/06	Private
Goldenberg, Sophie	Nov. 8/06	41 Livingstone Rd
Moskowitz, Sam	Nov. 8/06	155 Colvin Cres
Scherer, Reba	Nov. 11/06	351 Christie St
Goldstein, Lily	Nov. 11/06	35 Canyon Ave
Pikelner, Mikhaiel	Nov. 12/06	Private
Goldman, Rae	Nov. 13/06	5444 Yonge St
Ganz, Julie Jolan	Nov. 13/06	219 Glenforest Dr
Kimhi, Beka	Nov. 13/06	18 Crossen Dr
Cohen, Louise	Nov. 14/06	Private
Burd, Lika	Nov. 15/06	32 Ventura Way

IN MEMORIAM

Harry Gallinger ז"ל

6 of Kizlev, 5765. Your memory we always treasure. You are deeply and truly missed. Love always, *Sally, Mitch, Martha, Steven, Marsha, Marsha & Stan and grandchildren.*

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wish to express our gratitude to all our dear
family and friends who shared with us
the tragic loss of our beloved wife, mother,
daughter, sister and grandmother,

PEARL SOLOWAY ז"ל

(a woman of valor)

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling.

Markham's Erin Shapero wins on strong environmental platform

Continued from page 3

"We're introducing a green bin into our system, so all organics can be recycled out of the landfill cycle," he said.

He will also pay special attention to Jewish constituents, he said.

"I take that as a very significant responsibility," Shefman said. "[I will] help educate my colleagues and staff [to] understand the needs and diversity of the Jewish community."

Across the way in Markham Ward 2, Erin Shapero won a resounding 83 per cent of the vote on a strong environmental platform.

The 31-year-old will start her third term on council with one clear goal: "To make Markham the most environmentally sustainable community in the GTA," Shapero said.

She will also advocate for more youth and women getting involved in politics.

"I'm the first Jewish woman ever elected to Markham council," she said. "And I've been the only Jew and woman on council for the past six years."

This year, Shapero passed a motion to bar council meetings on Yom Kippur and will continue to foster positive race relations on council and in her ward.

In Richmond Hill (Ward 3), David Cohen beat Natalie Helferty, seizing 62 per cent of the vote, and will serve his seventh consecutive term on council.

Cohen, who sits on numerous subcommittees and is a volunteer board member with Reena, will stay abreast of Jewish affairs.

"Richmond Hill has a growing Jewish population," Cohen said. "And I expect there will be more Jewish issues in the coming years."

Jewish school trustees will also dot the political landscape this term.

In Toronto, Jason Pasternak, trustee-elect for York Centre (Ward 5), will start his first term after winning 53 per cent of the vote.

He promised to address the Toronto District School Board's $84-million deficit.

"We need a new funding formula and get compensated for exponentially rising infrastructure costs," Pasternak said.

Pasternak says he will also look into joint initiatives to bridge the public and Jewish school systems.

"There are opportunities for community outreach," he said. "All parents, whether their kids go to the public or Jewish school system… there are opportunities to share ideas and resources."

In the Eglinton-Lawrence riding (Ward 8), Howard Goodman won re-election with a convincing 63 per cent of the vote.

Goodman, writing to *The CJN* via e-mail, echoed Pasternak's call for more funding, and he also urged increased co-operation among TDSB trustees.

One of his major objectives going forward will be to "reduce the amount of partisan political games among trustees and focus on changes within our budget that would benefit students," he wrote.

He will also champion tolerance among his constituents.

"TDSB Jewish students… will be better protected from exclusion and harassment," he wrote. "I will continue to work with organizations like Canadian Friends of Simon Wiesenthal, [Canadian Jewish Congress], Roots of Empathy, and Future Aces to achieve this goal."

To the south, Josh Matlow was returned for a second term as trustee for St. Paul's (Ward 11), capturing 45 per cent of the vote.

The 30-year-old environmental advocate, teacher and writer will focus on school zoning issues, specifically on fixing random demarcation lines that he says separate childhood friends as they progress through the system.

"In many cases, you see kids who have grown up together forced to go to different schools at a time in their lives where [their] whole world is [their] friends," Matlow said. "So we need to give parents choices."

Matlow will also promote his "Eco-schools" initiative, whereby all schools would teach students how to be stewards of the environment.

Over in Don Valley West (Ward 13), Gerri Gershon won a hard-fought battle against James McQueen, winning by just 1,053 votes. It was her eighth election.

The 21-year trustee said she'll focus on improving student achievement and engagement.

She also acknowledged financial challenges facing her ward.

"We're facing a big deficit again," Gershon said. "We'll be looking to improve the funding formula and looking at our own house to see where we can restructure and save some money. We have some difficult decisions to make."

School trustees north of Toronto also have their work cut out for them.

Susan Geller, trustee-elect for Markham (wards 1 and 2), won her first term by 3,101 votes over closest rival Stan Korolnek.

Geller, a chartered accountant, plans to use her skills in auditing and budgeting to help her school board colleagues.

"I think I have the knowledge to help," she said. "I will be looking to balance the budget and achieve fiscal responsibility and transparency."

But with regard to students, "money isn't everything" she said.

In Vaughan-Thornhill (wards 4 and 5), Joel Hertz returned as trustee with 38 per cent of the vote.

On his agenda are plans to build more schools in York Region to serve increasing education demands.

"We've got a lot of little kids in Thornhill and we've got to keep up," Hertz said.

Another issue Hertz will work on is program accessibility for students.

"Because of the large area we cover we have… kids being bused too long for specialty programs like French immersion," he said. "We need to move some of the programs around instead of the kids."

REMEMBERING THE PAST: Ted Winick, a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 344, shares stories about the importance of Remembrance Day with Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School students, from left, Erin Silverberg, Cooper Godel and David Klein. Accompanying them is trumpeter Samantha Clarke, who performed in the school's assembly.

Clinton praises Canada's role in Afghanistan

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Former U.S. president Bill Clinton praised Canada for sending troops to Afghanistan and thanked Canadians for their continued friendship with the United States at a JNF fundraising dinner earlier this month.

Former U.S. president Bill Clinton, centre, stands with JNF honorees Gail and Stephen Victor.
[Sam Garcia photo]

Speaking Nov. 8 to a sold-out crowd of 1,100 people at the annual Jewish National Fund dinner, which this year honoured Ottawa lawyer and community activist Stephen Victor, Clinton stressed his warm ties to Canada.

"We all want to see a genuine moderate Muslim government in Afghanistan... I know this has been a painful sacrifice for you... I know this is an agony for you... I don't think we should walk away from Afghanistan if we have any chance of having a moderate Muslim democracy that is against the Taliban," he said.

Clinton also spoke of his friendship with the late Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and the work they did together to bring about peace in the Middle East.

"This is always a very sad week for me, because Nov. 5 was the anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination and I loved him so much, and had he lived I am convinced we would have had a lasting peace in the Middle East by 1998," Clinton said.

Former prime minister Jean Chrétien also attended the dinner, as did Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker; former deputy prime minister Herb Gray; MP and former justice minister Irwin Cotler; Supreme Court justices Rosalie Abella and Morris Fish, and many other dignitaries.

Lisa Cogan, president of JNF Ottawa, said the dinner raised $1,100,000 for the Stephen and Gail Victor Botanical Garden at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

"Gail and I chose this project – the Botanical Garden, on Mount Scopus, in Jerusalem, because we believe that the enemies of the Jewish people, the enemies of Israel, will not succeed," Stephen Victor said. "We have faith in the strength, wisdom and moral power of the Jewish people. We have faith in the strength, wisdom and moral power of Israel."

He added: "Just as the plants and flora of the Botanical Garden are rooted in the ground of Mount Scopus, the Jewish people are rooted, firmly fixed, to Mount Scopus, to Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the Jewish people, and to the land of Israel, the eternal home of the Jewish people."

LIEL VISITS BIALIK: Israeli singing sensation Liel, centre, delighted students at Bialik Hebrew Day School with a special performance prior to her Toronto debut concert earlier this month. Accompanied by Bialik's choir, shown with Liel, she sang for students in grades 3 to 8. She later answered questions about her career and her inspiration as a songwriter.

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JACS

The Executive Board and Staff of JACS

extends its deepest condolences to

GARY GOLDMAN
Chairman of the Board

on the passing of his beloved mother

RAE GOLDMAN ע"ה

May the entire family be spared further sorrow.

Wiesel says no to Israeli presidency

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Elie Wiesel says he's not interested in becoming president of Israel.

When asked at a Montreal press conference last week about Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's suggestion that he succeed embattled Israeli President Moshe Katsav, the Nobel peace laureate, who seemed amused by the idea, said he wants to continue to speak freely and not be constrained by a mainly ceremonial public office.

"I am a professor, a writer. The president does not have a political function. He has no power. As a free man, I can do much more to bring peace to the Middle East," he said.

Olmert made the surprise suggestion last month that Wiesel was a possible candidate to replace Katsav, who may soon face rape and sexual assault charges.

Wiesel – a Boston University professor who is best known for the autobiographical book *Night*, about his experiences in the Holocaust – recalled that physicist Albert Einstein turned down David Ben-Gurion's invitation to become Israel's first president, in part, because he did not speak Hebrew.

Wiesel said he does know the language, but having never lived in Israel, he's not the best choice.

He also repeated his earlier call for Iran to be excluded from the United Nations as long as president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is in power.

He said the Iranian leader should be "declared persona non grata. Iran today represents a real danger, threatening not only Israel, but the whole world."

He described Ahmadinejad as "morally degraded."

"He denies the Holocaust, but he says that that will come. He freely affirms that Iran intends to destroy the State of Israel."

Wiesel, a Romanian Holocaust survivor, drew a capacity audience of more than 1,300 mainly non-Jewish university students at the Spectrum in downtown Montreal for a lecture in French titled "Building a Moral Society."

During his speech he deplored fanaticism. While he has devoted his life to the promotion of human rights, he said he doesn't support groups that use violence to attain them, among whom he includes the Palestinians.

His appearance was sponsored by a consortium, spearheaded by Hillel, of some 20 student and young adults' organizations, that cut across religious and linguistic lines. They included the McGill Muslim Students' Association, the Newman Catholic Centre, Le Forum Jeunesse de l'Ile de Montréal, the Université du Québec à Montréal-affiliated L'Institut de Nouveau Monde, and SHOUT (Students Helping Others Understand Tolerance).

Elie Wiesel

Wiesel praised the ecumenical nature of the project, and offered it as a model for others.

"Christian, Muslim and Jewish students working together is an act of hope. We should build on it. If it can be done here, why not elsewhere? It's an example to other universities and communities," he said.

He urged young people to get involved in international humanitarian crises, such as ending the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan. Just signing petitions in sufficient numbers can have an effect, he said.

If every university student in Quebec signed a petition, it could not be ignored by governments and the United Nations, he added.

A "mistake" was made more than 40 years ago in not including Muslims as a "third partner" in the interfaith dialogue that opened between Catholics and Jews after the Second Vatican Council, Wiesel said, and he advocated extending the invitiation to Muslims now.

"It is never too late, but it is late," he said.

Asked if it's time to do something about building a moral society and not just discuss it, Wiesel quickly replied that "discussing is doing something."

What Lies Beneath Jerusalem's Walls –
New Archaeological Discoveries at the Temple Mount

Dr. Dan Bahat

Dr. Bahat is one of Israel's leading archaeologists and a senior lecturer at The Martin (Szusz) Land of Israel Studies Department at Bar-Ilan University. He is an expert on the Temple Mount, Herod's Palace and the 1,600-foot tunnel that runs under the western retaining wall of the Temple Mount.

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שיאר ג'ינג'ו

גידי קורן וחברים

הכביש הישראלי

היתי בשבוע שעבר בארץ, נהגתי בזהירות יתר בצד ימין של הכביש, חשש לחיי, וראיתי איך מתנהגים הישראלים על הכביש. ואחר כך קראתי בעתון כתבה שאמרה: עם שנהג כך, בחסר משמעת מינימאלית, בפראות ופזיזות כל כך בוטות, בלי לאותת ובלי לתת סימן כלשהו על שינוי מסלולים- מה הפלא שהוא מתנהג באותה צורה בצאתו למלחמה, בחוסר דאגה לבטחון חיילו הצעירים והמבוגרים, בחוסר כבוד לחיי אדם. הלא הכל בא מאותו מקום-לזול כללי בזולת, אלא אם כן הזולת הוא במקרה אחיך או חברך מהצבא. כל השאר-על הראסי.

במשאל שערך בשבוע שעבר, ענו 95 אחוז נשאלים ישראלים שבעייה מספר אחת עבורם היא הבטיחות בדרכים, יותר מאשר הטרור שזכה לתשעים אחוז.

ג'ורג' וואשינגטון אמר שלכל עם יש את הממשלה שהוא ראוי לה. בישראל מרבים כולם להתלונן על הפוליטיקאים שאתראים למצב הקיים. אבל יד על הלב-כולם מתנהגים כמו הפוליטיקאים, והכביש הוא רק דוגמא אחת לכך. אבל שישאר בינינו.

"אהבה עברית"

ספר חדש בהוצאות עם עובד. שושי ברייזר, סופרת כמעט לא מוכרת, קיבצה בספר אחד מספר סיפורים קצרים ושתי נובלות, שעוסקות בהיבטים שונים של האהבה, ובעיקר במשבר האהבה של נשים בשנות הארבעים-חמישים לחייהן. לכאורה-עוד פרק של כתיבה נשית, והחומרים דומים לעשרות ספרים נשים בעברית בדור האחרון של נשים "שמחפשות את עצמן", אך הכתיבה פקחית וחכמה, עצובה משהו אך מצחיקה מאוד. בקיצור-ספר אינטלינגנטי ומהנה.

הינה קטע:

"אנחנו לא נשכב בערב במיטה עם מגבת על הראש ונאמר לילדינו שאנחנו נשארים רק בשבילם. לא, אנחנו נתנהל באהבה ובשקט, מתוך כבוד הדדי, נהלך על ריצוף השיש של בתי המדות שלנו. לעולם לא נקרא לבן זוגנו כלומניק או קוּרְבָּה...."

נשרים

רבים מיכם כבר יודעים, אך רבים מיכם עדיין לא "נשרים" הוא ארגון עבור ישראלים ועל ידי ישראלים, כולם מתנדבים ללא מטרת רווח, שמטרתו לתת מענה לצרכים הייחודיים שלנו כישראלים בטורונטו. הארגון פועל בברכת ותמיכת הקונסוליה הישראלים והפדרציה היהודית. במאי 2006 חנך הארגון את "הקונדורד"- מרכז להעשרה בשפה העברית לכל המשפחה. הפעילויות כוללות רפואה חזונה, ריקודי עם ומשחקים להורים וילדים, מועדון הספר, מועדון הסרט העברי, ופעילויות רבות נוספות.לקבלת פרטים ועידכונים:

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German auctioneers drop looted Stern art sale

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — A German auction house withdrew from sale two Old Master paintings that the late Jewish art dealer Max Stern was forced to sell by the Nazis, but only after Stern's estate repeatedly protested.

The Van Ham auction house in Cologne was scheduled to put two works by 17th-century Dutch Baroque painter Mathijs Naiveu up for bids on the morning of Nov. 17, but cancelled less than 24 hours before.

The Stern estate, whose beneficiaries are Concordia and McGill universities and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was informed Nov. 7 by the London-based Art Loss Register that the works had come on the market. There are presently more than 250 former Stern holdings listed with that private database of lost and stolen art. The estate, through the New York State Banking Department's Holocaust Claims Processing Office, immediately requested that the paintings be withdrawn. Clarence Epstein, who heads the Concordia-based Stern restitution project, said Van Ham initially refused and asked for more information on the paintings' provenance.

"The estate is most disturbed by the fact that Van Ham accepted to offer these works without providing any provenance information whatsoever, in particular without noting the Stern restitution claim attached to them. Van Ham was well aware of the tainted history of these paintings," said Epstein, who described Van Ham as a well-established auction house.

After the matter went back and forth over a few days without resolution, Epstein said the estate went to the European media, and it would appear the reports, particularly in the German press, prompted the auction house to drop the sale.

The consigner, however, has shown no willingness to relinquish the paintings to the Stern estate, which claims to be the rightful owner.

The identity of the consignor is not known, except that the individual is a German national. The estate dealt with that individual through a lawyer, Epstein said.

Epstein said the estate is now attempting to change the "possessor's" mind and is hoping Van Ham will assist in the effort to restore the works to the estate.

Market Scene in the Piazza Navona (1691) and *Market Scene in the Piazza del Quirinale* (1698) were sold "under duress" by Stern, who owned an art gallery in Dusseldorf, in 1937, Epstein said.

They were not part of the collection of more than 200 works auctioned off by Lempertz later in November of that year, which was the final liquidation of Stern's inventory before he fled Germany for Britain. After World War II began, Stern was interned as an enemy alien because of his German nationality and then deported to an internment camp in Quebec in 1941.

Upon his release the following year, he joined one of Canada's most prominent art houses, the Dominion Gallery, and a few years later became its sole owner until his death in 1987.

Epstein said the two paintings were among the early pieces that the restitution project identified as among the up to 400 works Stern is believed to have been forced to sell at prices well below their value between 1935 and 1937.

The estate has been pursuing the paintings since they surfaced in 2002. The same consignor tried to sell them through Sotheby's in Amsterdam. When its research confirmed the works' tainted past, that auction house refused to sell them.

Epstein said documentary evidence has been discovered since then that "irrefutably" proves that the paintings had belonged to Stern. In any event, he said it is generally accepted that art sold by Jewish dealers in Germany during this prewar period was done under duress.

The pair were valued a few years ago at close to $50,000 (US).

MITZVAH CORPS IN ACTION: Associated Hebrew Schools students Benjamin Weiss, left, and Elijah Silverman plant trees in Earl Bales Park as part of Associated's Mitzvah Corps, a weekly program in which students volunteer in the community. Other recent projects include a bingo night at Baycrest, meeting and playing with children from the Yonge Street Mission, and organizing a food drive.

Ottawa's only Reform shul marks 40 years

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — A weekend of festivities earlier this month celebrated the 40th anniversary of Temple Israel, Ottawa's first and only Reform synagogue.

The active congregation of more than 400 families began with a handful of people in 1965, when the Canadian Council of Liberal Congregations called a meeting of interested local residents in the hope of establishing a local presence.

Early members met in a variety of venues, including hotels, the Histadrut Centre and the Montefiore Club. In 1971, the congregation purchased the James Street Synagogue when its membership amalgamated with the Orthodox Beth Shalom Synagogue. A year later, the building was destroyed by fire, and the congregation was once again on the move, borrowing space wherever it could.

Finally, in October 1975, Temple Israel was able to move into a brand new building, which still stands on Prince of Wales Drive.

Rabbi Steve Garten, who has been Temple Israel's spiritual leader since 1995, describes the congregation's founding philosophy.

"Its inclusive nature was developed in order to say that married or unmarried, childbearing or childless, men or women, all would be offered an equal opportunity to worship the God of Israel in a welcoming community."

Each committee at the temple – such as its social action and youth groups – is expected to plan at least one activity connected to the anniversary.

"There will be many anniversary-themed activities throughout the year," said temple member Merle Haltrecht-Matte, the 40th anniversary co-ordinator.

"We are also going to be producing a quilt wall hanging, which will involve many hands in its making."

Designed by Claire Cohen, the background is expected to be the Wailing Wall, "and people will be encouraged to purchase a brick where their name will be drawn," Haltrecht-Matte said.

The special weekend of events, held Nov. 10 to 12, included an Oneg Shabbat honouring past presidents of the temple.

Bill Danson, the first president of what was then called the Jewish Reform Congregation of Ottawa and the honorary chair of the 40th anniversary weekend, expressed satisfaction at seeing students from the first religious school take up positions of leadership.

"The place is run by the kids!" he joked.

A service on Saturday, Nov. 11, Remembrance Day, honoured member veterans. The guest rabbi, Dan Danson, was himself a former "temple kid."

The weekend was capped off by a gala dinner dance on Saturday night at Algonquin College. Attendees watched the premiere showing of "See How We Grow: 40 Years Revisited," a DVD about the temple's history that was produced with the assistance of a grant from the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society.

With files from Louise Rachlis

Letting male officers deal with Chassidim just a suggestion, say Montreal police

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — It's all a misunderstanding, the Montreal police department says.

There was no directive that female officers step aside and allow their male colleagues to handle interventions with chassidic men, Insp. Paul Chablo, head of media relations, told *The CJN*.

He said it was a "suggestion" and comparable to the police trying to respect a sexual-assault victim's request to speak to a female officer, for example.

The chassidic communities, meanwhile, say don't blame them; they never made a request for special treatment by the police and there have been no problems.

What was intended to enlighten the force about the customs and beliefs of Chassidim in order for officers not to misunderstand certain behaviours has been taken by the police union as undermining the equality of male and female officers on the job.

Even Public Security Minister Jacques Dupuis demanded an explanation from the police department director after the issue was raised in the national assembly by the opposition Parti Québécois.

The controversy was touched off by an article in the October issue of an internal police department newsletter called *L'heure juste*. The department's inter-cultural relations division has been running a series on the city's different ethnic and religious communities to sensitize the force to cultural differences.

Insp. Johanne Paquin, who is in charge of formulating the department's strategy on inter-cultural relations, defended the recommendation as realistic and stressed the need for officers to understand the people they serve.

The article said that if a female officer has difficulty communicating with a chassidic male or if he refuses to make eye contact, it should not be interpreted as disrespect or resistance, but as a reflection of the communities' beliefs about appropriate interactions between men and women.

"This was absolutely not a directive, or meant as an insult to female officers," Chablo said. "It was simply a tool to better understand Jewish customs. It's telling them, 'Don't be surprised if he doesn't look at you.' All it's suggesting is that, in certain cases, it may be better to let a male colleague intervene."

Chablo added that he is surprised the Police Brotherhood has interpreted the article in the way it has, because similar information has been given to the force about Muslim customs concerning relations between men and women.

Alex Werzberger, president of the Coalition of Outremont Chassidic Organizations, commended the police department for its efforts to sensitize officers.

"But we never said we can't talk to policewomen… I'm not saying there has never been a problem, but I have very close relations with the police and have never heard a word."

Frisking by an officer of a different gender is another matter, he said, but an understanding already exists about the need to avoid such situations, just as it does at airports with security officials.

The newsletter offers the hypothetical situation of a police duo arriving at a bakery at the corner of Hutchison and St. Viateur streets, the heart of the chassidic area, to investigate a reported robbery. The Jewish clerk is questioned by the female officer, but directs his answers to her male colleague and never looks at her.

The article explains that this is normal, because "according to the Torah, the holy book of the Jews, men should not fraternize with women." The author says that sometimes there is no choice but to let the male officer take over.

Police Brotherhood president Yves Francoeur said he was surprised by the recommendation. "It's completely absurd that our policewomen do not have the right to the same respect as men. We are in Canada after all."

Dupuis said in the national assembly that female officers should not have to defer to their male colleagues to accommodate the religious beliefs of Chassidim because gender equality is "a fundamental value of our society."

He made the comment during question period after PQ member Jocelyne Caron described the recommendation as discriminatory and a hindrance to female officers' ability to carry out their duties.

Jewish organizations applauded the Canadian votes

Continued from page 1

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 32 in favour, eight against and six abstaining. Joining Canada in opposing the resolution were the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Romania and the United Kingdom.

France, Guatemala, Japan, Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Ukraine abstained.

Supporters of the resolution included more than a dozen Muslim countries, as well as Argentina, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, India, Mexico, Peru, the Philipines, Russia, Sri Lanka and Uruguay.

Speaking prior to the Geneva vote, Canadian envoy Paul Meyer said Canada viewed the violence in the Gaza Strip with concern, and he urged the Jewish state "to act with restraint and take all measures possible to protect civilians."

He noted that Israel had expressed regret at the incident. "At the same time, Canada recognized that rocket attacks against Israel must stop, and the Palestinian Authority must take concrete measures to address Israel's security concerns and eliminate attacks against Israel.

"Unfortunately, neither this session of the council nor the draft resolution presented took into consideration the respective roles and responsibilities of all parties, and thus was not constructive in promoting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of everyone in the region, the rule of law and ultimately encouraging the widely agreed goal of securing long-term peace and stability in the Middle East."

In New York, senior Canadian UN envoy Alan Bowman explained Canada's abstention on the General Assembly resolution by noting the resolution on Palestinian self-determination did not adequately address the responsibilities of both parties in the conflict.

Jewish organizations applauded the Canadian votes, while a group of Liberal parliamentarians in Ottawa called on Canada to withdraw from the Human Rights Council, which it termed "a flawed body."

Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel co-chair Anita Neville said, "Like its predecessor the United Nations Commission on Human Rights [UNCHR], the newly created UN Human Rights Council is proving to be nothing other than a vehicle for Israel denouncers."

Withdrawing from the United Nations Human Rights Council would be the natural response to Canada's statement to the United Nations General Assembly plenary in 2005, when Canada urged a new process be developed, one that was "free of divisive rhetoric, accurate, detailed in approach and balanced in outcome," Neville stated in a news release.

"The United Nations has failed to heed the call of Canada," said Senator David Smith, co-chair of the parliamentary group. "Trying to work from within to correct a broken system has not worked, and has made Canada seem to be a willing participant in this charade of a process. The time for serious UN reform is now, and in order to prove to the international community how committed Canada is to this reform, it is imperative that the Conservative government withdraw from the council until serious, legitimate, and viable reform is done at the United Nations and its human rights council."

The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) said the Geneva vote reaffirmed that Canada was seeking fairness and balance in UN resolutions affecting Israel, while B'nai Brith Canada applauded the government's "principled stand."

In Geneva, Hillel Neuer of UN Watch said the Human Rights Council seems to be reprising the role of the UNCHR, which was criticized for having too many human rights violators as members and focusing disproportionately on Israel while ignoring abuses around the world.

Neuer noted that the council had held two regular sessions and three special sessions since it was inaugurated in June, all focusing exclusively on Israel. It adopted resolutions critical of Israel in all three special sessions and in one of the regular meetings.

In a speech before the council plenary, Neuer said the most recent resolution ignored the wilful killing of Israeli civilians by Palestinian groups, including the Qassam attack that killed Fatima Slutzker in Sderot and severely wounded others.

"Meanwhile, the council has not had a special session or passed a resolution on… the grave human rights abuses that have been occurring in Darfur, Sudan, and now are spreading to Chad," he said. In the previous 10 days, hundreds of Chadian civilians had been killed by Arab militias.

Neuer told *The CJN* that in the absence of Australia and the United States, Canada had become the most pro-Israel member of the council.

Sara Saber-Freedman, CIC's chief operating officer, said Canada is applying at the UN Human Rights Council the principles expressed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the Francophonie summit in Romania last July. At that time, Israel and Hezbollah were at war, and Harper said Canada would not support a motion that recognized only Lebanese casualties while ignoring Israeli suffering.

Saber-Freedman suggested Canada is adopting a principled position at the United Nations that focuses on fairness and balance. She urged other federal parties to support the government decision to vote against the resolution.

In Israel, officials said they would fully co-operate with Arbour, though they denounced the UN for adopting a one-sided resolution that ignored Palestinian terrorism.

Arbour said she will speak with Palestinian and Israeli leaders during her five-day visit to the region and urge them to stop violence and protect civilians.

She said the primary purpose of her visit was "to emphasize the obligation to protect civilians during armed confrontation, and the entitlement of all, Palestinians and Israelis alike, to live free from fear, free from want and free from harm."

She was expected to visit the town of Sderot, the target for hundreds of Qassam rockets fired from the Gaza Strip, as well as to meet senior Israeli officials.

With files from CJN *news services.*

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Although we have lost a great leader, his influence will live on. It is to our dear Alex that we owe so very much and without whom this journey would have ended long ago.

Our deepest and most profound condolences go out to his beloved wife Genia, his children George and Lilly, his grandchildren, the entire family; and to his friends, his colleagues, the community at large and the many individuals, both here and in Israel, who benefited from Alex's legendary passion for philanthropy.

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Israeli officials blast UN resolution on Gaza

By DAN BARON
JTA

JERUSALEM — Israel and the United Nations are at loggerheads once again.

A UN General Assembly resolution last Friday deplored civilian deaths in a recent Israeli artillery barrage in the Gaza Strip and stirred ire in Jerusalem on Sunday as officials grappled with ways to stop Palestinian rocket salvoes.

"We have no doubt that it is the State of Israel which must respond to attacks on civilians," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told his cabinet. "But those who preach morality and roll their eyes have yet to see fit to initiate a resolution in condemnation of those who are shooting with the goal of hitting civilians as a long-range, systematic policy."

Friday's resolution, which was passed by a vote of 156-7 with six abstentions, deplored the Nov. 8 shelling of Beit Hanoun, in which 19 civilians died. It called for a UN probe and for Israel's immediate withdrawal of troops from the Gaza Strip.

While the resolution was non-binding, it underscored for many Israelis a sense of tacit international support for the Palestinians and indifference to the Jewish state's efforts to contain the conflict.

"Israel withdrew a year ago from Gaza, has deployed its forces on the border with Gaza, was hailed by the whole international community for this step. It has been attacked time and again from Gaza by Palestinians," said Tourism Minister Isaac Herzog.

"We cannot accept in any shape or manner the capability to attack Israel from across the border from Gaza. Any sane nation would do the same, and the UN condemnation is outrageous," Herzog said.

Justice Minister Meir Sheetrit accused the United Nations of hypocrisy.

"How come that Israel, which is the victim of attacks, hundreds of rocket attacks from Gaza at Sderot, Ashkelon and other cities, does not warrant even a discussion in the United Nations?" he asked.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, sounding a rare positive note, said the General Assembly vote appeared to be little more than a frustrated response to the failure of Qatar to get a resolution condemning Israel passed by the UN Security Council. That bid was torpedoed last week by the United States, which cast a veto.

Political sources said that Israel, which already ruled the Beit Hanoun incident a regrettable accident, was unlikely to co-operate with a UN investigation if one is undertaken.

But Olmert cautioned his cabinet colleagues that, given the security situation in Gaza, there was no guarantee such a tragedy would not happen again.

"If anyone has a better way for dealing with the Qassams, let's hear it," he was quoted as having said behind closed doors.

There was no reported response, though Defence Minister Amir Peretz did say he was trying to restart a shelved plan to develop a system that would shoot down the incoming rockets. Having a capable system would take years, security sources said.

Hezbollah units returning to border: IDF

By YAAKOV KATZ
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Exactly three months after a UN-brokered ceasefire ended Israel's war in Lebanon, Israel Defence Forces officers told the *Jerusalem Post* last week that Hezbollah gunmen disguised as civilians were back on the border and collecting intelligence on IDF positions.

Although 15,000 Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and 8,000 UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) soldiers were deployed in southern Lebanon, between the border and the Litani River, the IDF said Hezbollah still had a presence in the area.

"They [Hezbollah] are still there," an officer in the Northern Command said. "We are watching them and they are watching us."

Armed Hezbollah men, the officer said, were no longer along the border as they were before the war, when Hezbollah maintained military outposts right next to Israel.

But he said Hezbollah operatives lived in villages along the border and were spotted conducting surveillance on Israel.

"They are there, but they cannot operate freely like they used to," the officer said. "There is UNIFIL and the LAF there, and this does complicate things for them."

UNIFIL rejected IDF allegations that Hezbollah guerrillas had returned to the border. The UN force's chief liaison officer, Col. Alexan Lalan, told the *Post* that the IDF's actions, in particular the daily Israeli Air Force flyovers, were strengthening Hezbollah and creating new militants for the Shiite group.

"The flyovers harm the credibility of UNIFIL, the credibility of the LAF and the credibility of the state of Lebanon," Lalan said in a phone interview from his office in the southern Lebanese town of Naqoura.

"Every flyover creates new Hezbollah militants and new sympathy for Hezbollah since it shows and demonstrates that UNIFIL and the LAF are not powerful and able to stop them," Lalan said.

Following the ceasefire that went into effect on Aug. 14, UNIFIL set up a liaison office in Northern Command headquarters in Safed and stationed several officers there. Lalan said the officers were responsible for maintaining a good "flow of information" between the IDF and UNIFIL.

Milos Strugar, spokesperson for the UN, could not confirm IDF claims that weapons were being smuggled into Lebanon from Syria – the justification for the continued IAF flyovers – but said Hezbollah was no longer present in UNIFIL's area of operations in southern Lebanon.

"UNIFIL is not deployed along the border with Syria and therefore we do not know what happens there," he said. "In our area of operations, there is no physical presence of Hezbollah armed people, and on a few occasions UNIFIL came across weapons and [Hezbollah] assets and we informed the Lebanese army and they came and destroyed them."

An IDF officer said he thought the Lebanese army would prevent Hezbollah from taking up arms and returning to the border in the same numbers as before the war. "The Lebanese government does not want to repeat the events of this past summer," the officer said. "To ensure this, they need to enforce their sovereignty in southern Lebanon."

Meanwhile, a recent UN report has revealed that more than 700 Somalian combatants aided Hezbollah during the war in Lebanon, the *New York Times* reported last week.

According to the report, the Somalian fighters received training and weapons from Hezbollah via Iran and Syria in return for their help, thus assisting the Islamic forces in Somalia in their battle to control their country.

Though it was unclear how the information was acquired, if proven true, this would be the first sign that Hezbollah received foreign assistance during the war this past summer.

The UN report also mentioned Iran, saying the country had tried to procure uranium from Somalia in exchange for weapons; however, it was unclear whether the transaction was successful.

An unnamed Israeli official at the UN denied any knowledge of Somalian involvement in the war with Hezbollah.

Hezbollah officials could not be reached for comment.

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Israel can't tolerate a nuclear Iran, Olmert tells GA

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

LOS ANGELES — As the annual United Jewish Communities (UJC) General Assembly came to a close last week, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert pledged that Israel will not back down from stopping Iran from becoming a nuclear power.

"We cannot tolerate – we will not tolerate – those who challenge Israel's right to exist while actively seeking to develop the catastrophic weapons to fulfil their goals," said Olmert, who met with U.S. President George W. Bush in Washington D.C., before arriving in Los Angeles to address the North American Jewish community for the first time since the start of the Israel-Hezbollah war.

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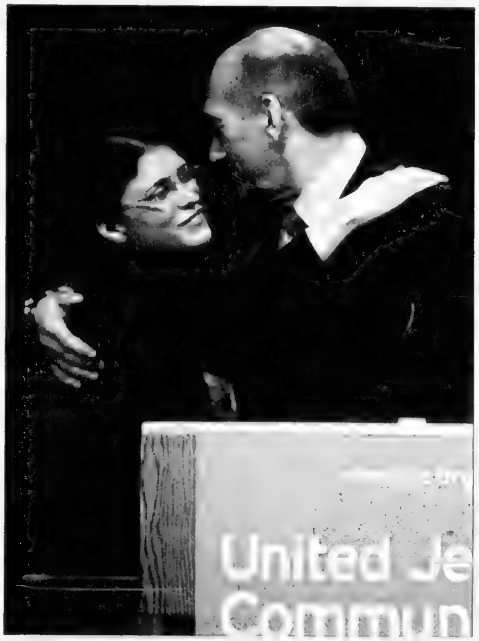
Olmert urged the international community to act against the Iranian nuclear threat, saying that failure to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power is not an option.

"It would be an unbearable sin to future generations to allow Iran to obtain nuclear weapons. What would we tell our children? How can we justify not preventing this catastrophic event? If Iran achieves the ability to produce nuclear weapons, as we know it is seeking to do, we will enter a new era of instability unlike any the world has ever seen," Olmert said.

Addressing more than 5,000 delegates from North American and Israel at the 75th annual GA, Olmert also spoke about the recent war with Hezbollah, briefly touching on Israel's successes and failures.

He also promised Karnit Goldwasser, the wife of kidnapped soldier Ehud Goldwasser, that he would do "the utmost" to bring him, as well as fellow captive soldiers Gilad Shalit and Eldad Regev, back home.



Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert embraces Karnit Goldwasser, wife of kidnapped soldier Ehud Goldwasser.
[RNS/Reuters photo]

(Two nights earlier at the opening plenary, where Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Tzipi Livni was the keynote speaker, Goldwasser made an emotional plea to GA delegates to raise their voices and pressure the international community to help free the captive soldiers.)

Referring to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Olmert said that if there is ever going to be peace between the two peoples, there must be dialogue.

"Here and again I declare, I am willing to meet [Palestinian Authority] Chairman [Mahmoud] Abbas immediately, without any preconditions, to discuss with him means for creating progress for our two peoples and hope for a better future in our region," Olmert said.

He said that Israelis and Palestinians must make a choice.

"We can embrace hope, and together we will revitalize our two peoples and the entire region, providing for our children the opportunity and prosperity that only comes with security and understanding. Or we can be gripped by fear and conflict in which we ruin not only ourselves but the future for generations to come," Olmert said.

"Let me be clear. Israel chooses hope. Israel chooses peace," he said, adding that Israel can't accept a Palestinian government led by an organization, Hamas, that denies Israel's existence.

During Olmert's speech, steps away from the Los Angeles Convention Centre, where the four-day conference was held, roughly 100 people protested the prime minister's appearance.

Holding signs that read "Occupation is a crime," and chanting "Bush, Olmert, you can hide, we charge you with genocide," the protesters were held at bay by the Los Angeles Police Department.

During his address, Olmert also took the time to thank UJC for raising some $350 million (US) since the start of the war, and he emphasized the importance to Israel of having the support of North American Jews.

"To all of you who made a pilgrimage to Israel in the midst of the fighting, your presence reassured me and the entire population of Israel that Israelis and the Jewish Diaspora share unbreakable bonds of allegiance," he said.

"We are one people. We have one heritage. We share one future, a future which we create together."

While Olmert's speech ended on an optimistic note, the night before, the leader of Israel's opposition, Likud leader and former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, used his time at the podium to urge the international community to believe Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad when he threatens to wipe Israel off the map.

Netanyahu said that Iran today is like Nazi Germany in the 1930s.

"It is 1938 and Iran is Germany and it is racing to acquire nuclear weapons," Netanyahu said, repeating this line throughout his speech.

But, he warned, while Israel is Iran's first target, it's not Iran's only target.

"Iran's nuclear program, and its missile program, goes well beyond the destruction of Israel. It goes to the creation of a system that will be geared up to produce 25 bombs a year, within a decade, 250 bombs," he said.

"They've got a missile program that within 10 to 15 years will reach the Eastern seaboard of the United States."

Netanyahu said that world leaders don't understand the global threat posed by Iran.

"They think this is a Jewish problem. They think that the militant Islamists hate the West because of Israel. They've hated the West for hundreds of years before there was an Israel. In fact, they don't hate the West because of Israel, they hate Israel because of the West. Because we represent a liberal civilization."

The bottom line, Netanyahu said, is that Iran's nuclear ambitions must be stopped. "The Holocaust taught us something. No one will defend the Jews if the Jews do not defend themselves."

Addressing GA delegates after Netanyahu, Canadian MP and former justice minister Irwin Cotler echoed his sentiments and offered a North American perspective on the Iranian threat.

"There is no reason why we can't bring the leaders of Iran before the international criminal court and hold them accountable for genocidal intent," Cotler said.

He said that people often say the root of the Mideast conflict is the Israeli occupation, or that Israel is an apartheid state.

"It is time for us to take back the narrative," Cotler said. "Israel and the Jewish people are the only state in the world today and the only people in the world today that are the standing object of an existential threat from Iran and a terrorist threat from all its surrogates."

Cotler said that supporting Israel is not necessarily a Jewish cause.

"I come to the support of Israel, not simply because it is a Jewish cause, but because it is a profoundly just cause, a cause for all Americans and all Canadians."

Cross-border trade a small sign of hope

Continued from page 1

Israel's 80-kilometre-long border with Syria is a quiet one, confirmed three UN peacekeepers who were touring archeological ruins at Bet Shean the following day, on their day off.

"It's calm, but if nobody [like us] went there, everybody would do what they want," said one of them. He added that he sees recent cross-border trade – with Syrians buying apples from Druze villagers – as a small but significant sign of hope.

Three kilometres from the Syrian border, Kibbutz El-Rom is home to some 400 people. The kibbutz grosses $4 to $5 million (US) a year through its studio that makes Hebrew subtitles for American films, as well as the apples, grapes, cherries and blueberries it produces. Visitors – many of whom come to see the studio's 23-minute film on the Yom Kippur War – enter the property by driving through an electronic gate.

Mike Ben-Har, a 53-year-old kibbutz member originally from Connecticut, says the Golan is crucial from an ecological standpoint.

Will Israel give it back? "I sure as hell hope not," he said.

The silver-haired father of two, dressed in khaki shirtsleeves and an outdoorsman's vest, first visited Israel in 1974 and returned under the auspices of the kibbutz movement. "I found this place had not only captured my imagination; it captured my heart as well."

Fellow kibbutznik Dudi Murad, the kibbutz's tourism manager, says only the United States will decide the Golan's fate.

On a visit to the Golan Archeological Museum in Katzrin, which showcases local archeological artifacts from the time of the Mishnah and the Talmud, tour guide Anat Meiri, a former Bible studies teacher, made an impassioned plea for understanding that "we're not just talking about water, politics, security. We're talking about Jewish history here."

The Golan, which controls about one-third of Israel's drinking water, has some three million visitors a year, according to Eshed. About 70 to 80 per cent of them are Israeli, he said. "Tourism is developing very rapidly."

Even during this summer's war, people from the Galilee, farther south, came to the Golan, where there is "more open area," he said.

But local authorities are also looking for business investment in areas like high-tech, Eshed added. "The first software house will open in a few months in Katzrin," he said.

Shuki Shai, a businessman based in London, England, who spends about 100 days a year in Israel, is co-owner of the seven-year-old, upscale Chateau Golan Winery in the southern part of the Golan Heights. He is sanguine about investing millions in a place with an uncertain future.

If the Golan is returned to Syria, he will not get any compensation from the government, he said. "We do our thing. Sometimes we win. Sometimes we lose, but this is our life. That's my personal opinion… There is a chance they'll ask us to go. A good chance. If I have to leave, I'll never touch wine again [as a business]."

A practical businessman, Shai is also a *nefesh romanti* – a romantic soul, said his wife Shosh.

Although he is critical of former Israeli prime ministers who were prepared to give up the Golan, Shai agrees that ultimately its fate hinges on the United States. "When Israelis and Arabs sit down together [alone], they can't come to an agreement," he said.

Politics and anti-Israel sentiment in Europe have not affected the winery's sales to fine restaurants there, Shai said. "If they like the wine, they buy the wine." He believes he was the first to invest private money in the Golan, but added that others have followed.

Eshed said it is important to attract people to the area to "make the country stop talking about giving back the Golan." He admits to a certain ambivalence, however, because he believes the lack of development is part of the Golan's appeal.

A 51-year-old son of Holocaust survivors, Eshed was born in Poland and raised in Upper Nazareth after his parents made aliyah in 1958.

He and his wife, Orna – the former biologist of the Gamla Nature Reserve, who died last year of breast cancer – moved to the Golan 32 years ago "because we thought here is where true Zionists should be."

At first, he said, his parents did not approve. "It looked very dangerous. We were the first citizens that came, but after, they admitted we made the best decision."

Like most of the early settlers, Eshed become a farmer. Later, some 20 years ago, he embarked on business management studies, and still owns a chicken farm in Elyad.

Aside from its strategic significance, the Golan is home to "the most beautiful place in the world," Eshed enthused at a lookout point at the Gamla Nature Reserve.

Speaking in front of a craggy memorial to terror victims and fallen soldiers who lived in the Golan, Eshed pointed toward the deep canyon in front of him, and the hillside village of ancient Gamla, the lesser-known counterpart of Masada.

Three years before Masada fell, in the year 70 CE, the Jews of Gamla revolted against the Romans and committed mass suicide rather than convert, as they would at Masada three years later.

The nature reserve – where tourists may spot furry animals like hyraxes and a variety of birds including partridges, vultures, eagles, and hawks – is a respite, and part of it is wheelchair accessible.

"Stand here for a moment, and listen to the music," Meiri instructed, referring to the sound of the water from the Gamla Stream far below the vulture lookout.

The lookout, which will soon be equipped with a new digital audio-visual system to better see nesting birds both on site and via the Internet, will be named next month in memory of Eshed's wife.

Frances Kraft was in Israel recently as a guest of Israel's Ministry of Tourism.

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Sometimes supplements are the smart solution

Q. I have been hearing a lot of buzz about vitamin D, related to both its disadvantages and its benefits. What does vitamin D do and where is it found?

A. You are right that there is a lot of interest in vitamin D now, and rightly so. Here are the facts: vitamin D is interesting because it isn't like most vitamins. It is actually more of a hormone found in all the cells in our bodies. Vitamin D helps with many important jobs at the cellular level. For example, it helps our body absorb calcium, regulate insulin, keep the immune system strong and build bones and muscles. One of the reasons that you are hearing so much about vitamin D now is that many researchers think we are getting far too little of this important vitamin.

So where is vitamin D found? Well, our skin can actually make it from the sun's ultraviolet rays, but for us, living in Canada, particularly in the winter when we have limited sun exposure, and even in the summer when we are often covered with sunscreen, we may not be getting our required amount. In fact, reports show that in Canada, the UV light is too weak to make vitamin D from late fall through early spring. So as we enter these months, you may want to consider where else you can get your daily serving of vitamin D?

Some fish, for example salmon, contains vitamin D in substantial doses, and milk has some, but only about 10 per cent of the daily requirement per one-cup serving. So how can you get your full amount? Your best bet for this vitamin is a daily supplement of 1,000 international units (IU) per day for adults.

The research on this vitamin is compelling. It is even showing in animal studies that this dose of vitamin D can dramatically reduce tumour growth and therefore the progression of cancers. It is clearly something that we want to include in our diet.

Q. I do not like dairy products very much, and since I keep kosher and like to serve meat meals, I find it hard to get the recommended amount of dairy products each day. Is a calcium supplement okay for me to use instead, and how much should an adult take?

A. It is certainly okay. I recommend calcium supplements to many of my patients of all ages if they aren't consuming enough dairy products.

Calcium supplements come in many forms now – from 1-gram tablets to 200- milligram flavourful chews in a multitude of flavours. Your best bet is a calcium supplement that has calcium and magnesium in a 2:1 ratio. This is best for absorption. You will also likely note that most calcium supplements contain vitamin D too, so take this into consideration if you are taking a separate vitamin D supplement. Aim for about 1,200 mg per day of calcium. It's okay if you eat some dairy on top of that.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

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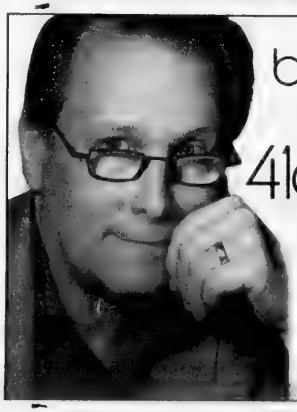
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Archeologist pens thriller about Holy Temple menorah

***Crusader Gold* by David Gibbins, Headline Press of Britain (available under that imprint in Canada).**

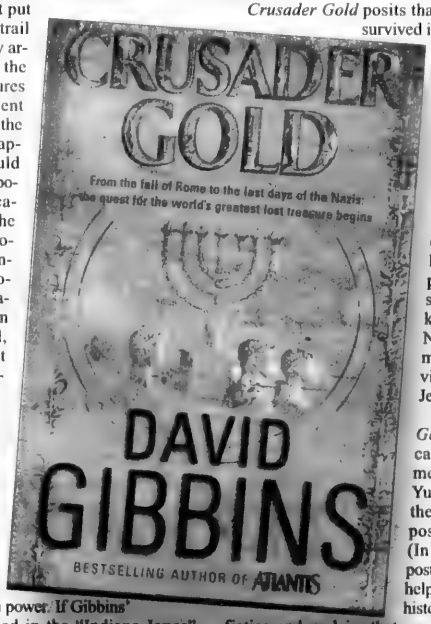
By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

The massive golden menorah from the Holy Temple of Jerusalem is the coveted object that fuels the modern-day action-adventure in Saskatchewan-born author David Gibbins' second novel *Crusader Gold*.

David Gibbins

Gibbins, who appeared at the International Festival of Authors in Toronto in late October, has penned a fact-based historical mystery thriller on the premise that the menorah outlived centuries of Roman captivity, was looted by a succession of historical players, and could have survived intact right down to the present day.

The book's protagonist is Jack Howard, an underwater archeologist who uncovers a set of clues that put him hot on the trail of the legendary artifact, one of the great lost treasures of the ancient world. Because the menorah's reappearance would have enormous political ramifications around the globe, a malevolent group connected to neo-Nazis is simultaneously on Howard's trail, hoping to keep it from resurfacing.



Jack Howard's fictional quest stretches over quite a historical sweep, taking him from the fall of the Roman Empire to the last days of Nazi power. If Gibbins' hero is fashioned in the "Indiana Jones" mould, he's also fashioned after the author himself.

Like his protagonist, Gibbins is an underwater archeologist with considerable field experience. Having earned a PhD at Cambridge in Roman maritime trade, he worked until recently as a university instructor in Roman history. His knowledge and familiarity with the subject give his writing a credible, almost documentary edge that modern readers seem to crave.

His previous book, *Atlantis*, has sold about half a million copies in various translations and been listed on the *New York Times* best-seller list for many months.

As recorded by the Jewish historian Josephus, the Temple menorah was looted by the Romans in 70 CE and brought to Rome. A frieze on Rome's famous Arch of Titus shows the prized object being carried into the city in a triumphal procession. Emperor Vespasian thereafter locked it away in the Temple of Peace, and it subsequently disappeared from the stage of history.

Outside of the realm of fiction, no further evidence has surfaced as to the menorah's fate, but historians have conjectured it was melted down and its gold used to fund the building of the Coliseum. "There was a sudden influx of money into Rome at that time," Gibbins said.

But what if the menorah was not melted down? According to Gibbins, snippets of historical evidence suggest it may have been looted by the Vandals in the fifth century and taken to Carthage, then looted by the Byzantines and carried to Constantinople. "What happens to it after that becomes a very dark mystery," he said. "That's where my story really springs from. It's at that point that my imagination really takes over."

Crusader Gold posits that the menorah survived in Constantinople until the medieval period and was plundered by the Viking warrior Harald Hardrada. An actual historical figure, Harald's exploits as a Crusader are well-known; a future Norse king, he may even have visited Jerusalem.

In *Crusader Gold*, Harald carries the menorah to the Yucatan, where the Mayans gain possession of it. (In an author's postscript, Gibbins helpfully separates historical fact from fiction and explains that no evidence exists for any Viking presence in North America outside of L'Anse aux Meadows, Nfld., and vicinity.)

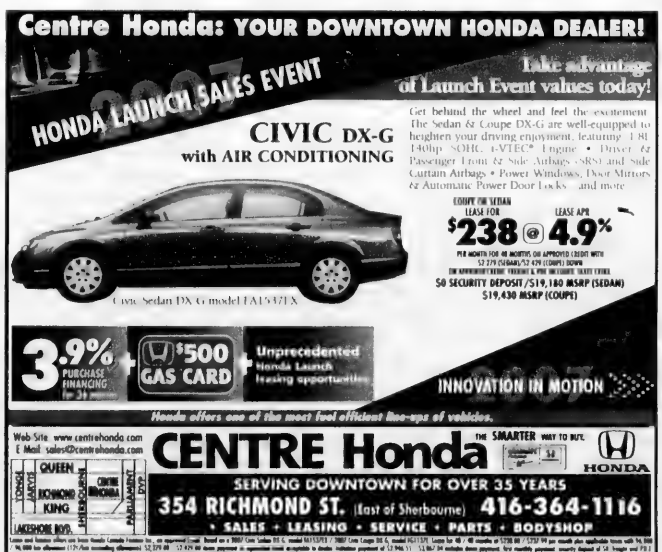
Gibbins said he was loath to weave a tale about the modern resurgence of the menorah in modern times within the context of the Jewish-Muslim struggle, so turned to more exotic story-lines. "There's a challenge between keeping the factual edge and making the book work as fiction," he said. It is perhaps his free use of arcane and incredible historical facts that has drawn so many readers around the world. (*Atlantis* was translated into dozens of languages.)

Another factor in the success of his books must certainly be his taut prose, which delivers both a depth of historical knowledge as well as the stamp of authenticity deriving from actual experience. "I've dived on an awful lot of fantastic wrecks," he said, then he described two that "really stand out."

One was a Roman shipwreck off Sicily, in which he found a Roman surgical scalpel – "the only time an ancient surgeon's kit has been found on a wreck." The other involved the excavation of a classical Greek wreck off Turkey, during which he blew sand from a gully to reveal row upon row of ancient drinking cups. "A sight like that gives you a feeling of immediacy, a feeling that you're very close to the people of antiquity."

Given his success as a novelist, Gibbins said his career as a novelist has trumped his archeological career, at least temporarily. All of the duties attendant upon a bestselling writer have made it impossible for him to accept any new archeological adventures at present. "I've got a contract for two new books, so I've had to backtrack a bit on the field work," lamented the former university lecturer, who divides his time between England and Canada.

During his interview with *The CJN*, he proudly offered a snippet of personal history: his great-great-grandmother, Rebecca Brandon, was a Portuguese Sephardi Jew who lived in London about 1830. And ever since visiting Israel as an archeology student, he has felt a special affinity for the Jewish state. "I continue to be enthusiastic about Israel. I think that the Israeli state is one of the most extraordinary stories of our time, and I hope the problems that plague it can be worked out."



Book gives 'women in the Bible a voice'

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Marlee Pinsker, an educator and author, likens publishing a book to giving birth.

"It's that same feeling of excitement I remember when my three children were born and I felt this moment of unlimited potential. That what I feel with this book," she says.

"It's going to go out into this world and hopefully it will bring people closer to Torah."

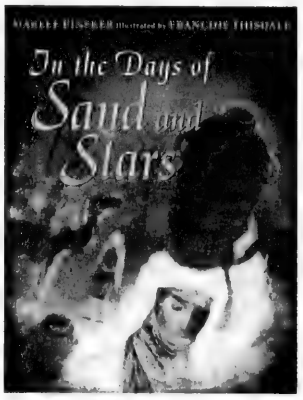
Pinsker's excitement is palpable over the phone as she talks about her first book, *In the Days of Sand and Stars* (Tundra Books), midrashic tales about women in the Bible.

Pinsker will be launching the book with a reading at the Darchei Noam Jewish Book Fair on Nov. 26. The reading will be held at Darchei Noam (the B'nai Brith building) 15 Hove St. from noon to 2 p.m.

Pinsker says one of her goals in writing her book was to give "women in the Bible a voice. Not very many women are quoted in the Bible."

She finds the book's illustrations by Francois Thisdale very moving, "He understood that book to the core. When I saw his picture of Rachel holding Joseph, I just burst into tears.

"He went to the heart of Rachel. He knew what that woman was about. The most important thing about her was that she wanted a child so badly and he captured that love."



Pinsker says the study of midrash is an exploration of biblical text to find new insights.

"We weave stories into the areas in which the text is silent, giving voices to the people we want to understand."

She stresses that *Days of Sand and Stars* is strongly rooted in the biblical text. "It's an imaginative retelling of the stories using the focus of the times that we live in – a contemporary look at ancient stories.

"With midrashic tales, we're being respectful of the stories we're given and adding without contradicting anything we've been told."

The book delves into the thoughts of seven women: Eve, Naamah, (Noah's wife), Sarah, Rebecca, Leah, Rachel and Yocheved (the mother of Moses).

In the chapter *Leah and Rachel*, Pinsker explores Leah's thoughts on her wedding day, when Jacob is duped into marrying her instead of her sister. Pinsker writes: "Under the heavy woolen veil she [Leah] felt she was alone for the first time in her adult life… Leah thought of the fights that were ahead of her when Jacob realized he was cheated out of his chosen bride."

According to Pinsker, this event is the "defining moment" in Leah's life. "She has to come to terms with the fact that she has married someone who doesn't love her and she has to make her life meaningful despite that."

In an earlier chapter, Pinsker describes Rebecca's thoughts as she meets Isaac for the first time: "Rebecca was suddenly frightened. Will he be cruel?…

"Slowly she turned to Isaac. He was gazing steadily at her, taking her in. He did not say a word to her but put out his hand. She took his hand. It was warm and firm and welcoming.

"A gentle husband, yes, and a quiet one perhaps, Rebecca smiled…"

Pinsker has been teaching senior kindergarten at the Toronto Heschel School since 1996 and has guided children and adults in the study of Torah.

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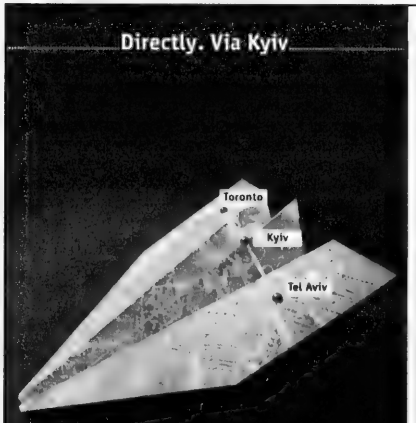

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Arts & Travel

AGO showcases photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Alfred Eisenstaedt (1898-1995), a belt and buckle salesman before his successful foray into professional photography, was one of the pioneers of photojournalism.

One of his most famous photographs, *The Kiss*, was taken in Times Square, in Manhattan, on Aug. 15, 1945, the day Japan surrendered and World War II officially ended. It shows an exuberant American sailor ardently kissing a nurse, his arms draped around her waist.

Simple yet powerful in composition, it was published in innumerable newspapers and magazines and became one of the iconic images of the war.

St. Moritz, Grand Hotel

Regrettably, that striking photograph is not included in a new exhibition on Eisenstaedt at the Art Galley of Ontario, which opened last week and runs until Feb. 4.

In fact, it can only be found in the archives of Time-Life, which has the largest Eisenstaedt collection of photographs in the world.

It's easy to understand why Time-Life is in possession of that photograph. Eisenstaedt, a German Jew who immigrated to the United States in 1935, began working for one of its magazines, *Life*, in its inaugural edition in 1936.

For the next 15 years, he produced a series of photo essays for *Life*, one of the most most widely read magazines in the United States. In 1951, he was hired as a staff photographer, and in this capacity, he photographed personalities ranging from Ernest Hemingway and Marilyn Monroe to John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon.

But as the AGO exhibition demonstrates, Eisenstaedt was not just celebrity crazy. Indeed, as the 72 vintage photographs from the 1930s in this show prove, he was as much interested in everyday people as he was in celebrities.

The photographs, drawn from the Klinsky Press Agency in Amsterdam, were donated anonymously to the AGO in 2002 and are part of a collection of some 800 Eisenstaedt prints.

At a press preview, the AGO's curator of photography, Maia-Mari Sutnik, said that Eisenstaedt composed his pictorial narratives in "a very compelling way." Variously working with Zeiss, Ermanox and Rolleiflex cameras, Eisenstaedt favoured the worlds of art, theatre, music when he still lived in Europe.

Even when he was documenting the rise of Nazism in Germany, he had a propensity to focus on the arts. His disquieting 1934 photograph, *Examination of a German Dancer in the Third Reich*, hints at the degree to which culture was politicized by the Nazis.

By contrast, Eisenstaedt's pre-Hitler portraits of ballerinas are serene. *The Smallest Ballerina* is of a girl in a ballet class, her left hand clasping a bar, her right hand drooped delicately. One of his finest photographs, *Max Terpin Ballet School, Berlin*, features a group of adult dancers huddling and posing theatrically. *Music School in Summer* is timeless. A girl sitting on a chair patiently teaches her younger brother how to play the piano.

The other photographs from Eisenstadt's European period are intriguing as well. They run the gamut from *Baking for the Population: The Largest Bakery in Berlin* to *St. Moritz, Grand Hotel* and *Pictures from Italian Travels*.

But for this reviewer, Eisenstaedt's photographs from America are his best. *Western Union Telegraph Boys* is stark, strong and kinetic. *Los Angeles, East Side* distills the essence of poverty in a Depression-stricken country. *Dark Glasses: The Newest Rage* reflects Manhattan's skyline in a single pair of sunglasses, while *Beverly Hills High School, California: Co-ed of the School*, showing a black student in a segregationist society, is a study in irony.

Eisenstaedt's sharp eye and sense of design are both evident in the photographs now on display at the AGO.

The director of the AGO, Matthew Teitelbaum, commented last week that photography is a medium that "joins the generations." If this is true, Eisenstaedt's photographs may well live on until time immemorial.

Max Terpin Ballet School, Berlin

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Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

HOLY BLOSSOM'S STAGECRAFT PRESENTS *THE CEMETERY CLUB*

Holy Blossom Temple's Stagecraft Company presents *The Cemetery Club* by **Ivan Menchell**, a comedy that director **Michael Ryval** describes as "a wonderfully touching play that reflects on the loss of a spouse, and yet does so with humor and compassion." The cast features **Anna Grosman, Karen Garmaise, Glenda Mindlin, Eric Kirsh** and **Judy Kent**.

Set in New York, *The Cemetery Club* depicts three widows who meet monthly for tea before visiting their husbands' graves. Like sisters, they argue and fuss over one another, and question whether they are ready to start another relationship.

Ida and Lucille are ready but Doris is unable to let go, preferring to live in the past. One afternoon at the cemetery they meet Sam, a widower who is visiting his wife's grave. When a romance develops between Ida and Sam, Lucille and Doris are determined to quash it – with comic and surprising results.

Stagecraft Company was founded in 1994 with a mandate to produce plays with Jewish themes and content. Previous productions include *None Is Too Many*, *Women's Minyan*, *Crossing Delancey*, *The Tenth Man*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *I'm Not Rappaport*, *Yentl* and *The Ride Down Mount Morgan*.

Eisendrath Auditorium. Holy Blossom Temple, 1950 Bathurst St. $15-$10. Thursday, Dec. 7. and Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10, 2:30 p.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 511

* * *

Names in the News: Celebrated Russian photographer **Roman Vishniac**'s haunting photos of Jewish life in eastern Europe were featured in *Children of a Vanished World*, a 1999 book edited by his daughter, **Mara Vishniac Kohn**. The photographs are also featured in a staged musical dramatization created by Toronto-based director **Judy Kopelow**, in which they are projected onto a large screen to the accompaniment of Yiddish folk songs intertwined with stories.

Children of a Vanished World has been performed in Toronto and Prague in years past. It was staged recently in California and is being performed Nov. 16 at Manhattan's 92nd Street Y. The production features an ensemble of young Canadian and Israeli musicians: soprano **Marta Ewa Matulewicz**, tenor **Joey Niceforo**, violinist **Arnaud Sussmann**, cellist **Gal Nyska** and clarinetist **Tibi Cziger**. The music was arranged by Hamilton conductor-composer **Sabatino Vacca**.

Kopelow, a former nurse at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children and now a theatrical director, said she decided to stage the book as soon as she saw it. "These photographs and the memory of these children needed to have a life bigger than that book," she said. "In the performance, we try to imagine the potential of who these children might have become, and to celebrate and remember their lives."

* * *

Bar Mitzvahs to Die For: Some years ago a certain Toronto-area mayor threw a lavish bar mitzvah party for his son that is still remembered for its exorbitance and gaudiness. Now a new book – **Gail Anthony Greenberg**'s *Mitzvah Chic: How to Host a Meaningful, Fun, Drop-dead Gorgeous Bar or Bat Mitzvah* (Fireside Books) – shows how it is done.

In compiling this guide, Greenberg drew on her knowledge of crafts, party planning and Torah. Instructions are given for writing speeches, drafting a d'var Torah, designing a memorable bash (even on a budget) and other essential tasks. According to one reviewer, the book is "the Martha Stewart guide to bar mitzvahs."

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The **RIAS Kammerchor Berlin** choir's Homage to Gubaidulina includes a première of *Die Niemandsrose*, a work by Canadian Jewish composer **Brian Cherney** with text by poet **Paul Celan**. Metropolitan United Church, Nov. 24, 8 p.m. 416-366-7723, www.stlc.com

• Orchestra Toronto's ninth annual Musicale, Afternoon Tea & Silent Auction offers an afternoon of musical entertainment, refreshments and some early holiday shopping, all for a worthy cause. $25. All proceeds go to the Orchestra Toronto Fund. Novotel Hotel, North York. Sunday, Nov. 26, 2:30 p.m. Reservations, 416-489-3131 or hildaw@total.net.

• In the 18 months since their debut, Toronto's **Sisters of Sheynville** have become known for their three-part harmonies and vintage Yiddish swing, klezmer and jazz improvs. The "sisters" (**Lenka Lichtenberg, Isabel Fryszberg, Fern Lindzon, Lorie Wolf, Kinneret Sagee, Rachel Melas**) have performed at numerous festivals and have a CD due in February. They appear at the Trane Studio, 964 Bathurst St. (north of Bloor). $10 cover. Sunday, Nov. 26, 9 p.m. 416-913-8197. Also at the Rex Hotel, 194 Queen St. W. Sunday, Dec. 10, 12 to 3 p.m. 416-599-2475

• Congregation B'nai Torah presents A Musical Soirée featuring light classical and Jewish melodies played by **Daniel** and **Carey Domb**, former principal cellists with major symphony orchestras. Refreshments. $12 ($22 per couple); $15 at the door. Sam Ferman Hall, 465 Patricia Ave. Sunday, Nov. 26, 8 p.m. Reservations, Fern, 416-226-3700.

• Tarragon Theatre's annual program of free play readings (Nov. 28 through Dec. 2) presents six works-in-progress, including **Hannah Moscovitch**'s *Born Guilty*. Set in Panama in the 1960s, the play focuses on a young German who struggles with his own culpability in the face of his father's wartime crimes. Dec. 1, 8 p.m. 416-531-1827, www. tarragonthe atre.com

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EXCLUSIVE

TERROR SUSPECT NAMED

CSIS believes Algerian explosives expert drove Toronto school bus

By Stewart Bell
Former Toronto school bus driver was the ringleader of an alleged Algerian terrorist cell that operated in the city until it was dismantled by Canadian counter-terrorism agencies, the *National Post* has learned

After being denied refugee status in Canada, Nourddine Zendaoui drove a school bus for a company called Student Express in Toronto
(Student Express was bought and now operated by Stock)

...just one of many such instances of terrorists driving school buses!

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Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

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* * *

Another Italian Experience: Another way to see Italy is on an all-woman tour with a celebrated cooking expert. Exclusive Travels offers an intimate vacation to Venice and Tuscany for 20 women with cookbook author Rose Reisman. Cooking demonstrations, hikes, lectures, relaxing spa experiences and gala dinners are all on the menu. Departs April 2007. www.outstandingwomenspeak.com/hotnews.htm.

* * *

New Berlin Museum: Otto Weidt ran the Hackescher Markt, a working home for blind and deaf people in wartime Berlin that produced brooms and brushes. Because the enterprise was considered essential for the Nazi war effort, it was protected from some of the ravages of life in the Third Reich. Most of the employees were Jewish, and Weidt hid a family of four in a secret room and tried by every means to help as many Jews as possible to survive.

The discovery of Weidt's former workshop rooms in their original condition was an opportunity not to be missed. A museum was established, in which the exhibition "Blind Confidence – Hidden at the Hackescher Markt, 1941-1943" is currently on view. Rosenthaler Strasse 39, Berlin. www.blindes-vertrauen.de/introduction.html.

* * *

South African Excursion: Susan Franklin, an ex-South African who has been in the travel industry in Canada for 13 years (including five years with the South African Tourist Board) plans to escort a group tour to South Africa, Feb. 23 to March 11. The itinerary includes four nights in Cape Town and visits to the Cape Wine lands, Oudtshoorn, Knysna, Port Elizabeth, Mpumalanga, the Kapama Private Game Reserve and Johannesburg. $5,675. 905-771-0980, mtm1@rogers.com

* * *

Travel Briefs

• The Canadian Museum of Civilization plans a new large-scale biography-based exhibition for next spring. "Canada Face to Face" will present life stories of historically significant Canadians and "will explore the successes, failures, dreams, convictions, hopes and fears that moved people into action, ultimately creating the decisions that shaped this country," said Dr. Victor Rabinovitch, museum president and CEO.

• Brian Stein of K Walsh Travel is offering a two-week Jewish heritage tour to India. A Passage to India: Exotic Exciting & Jewish takes in Mumbai, Cochin, Alibag, Calcutta and a visit to the Taj Mahal. Departs April 26, 2007. 416-929-5964, ext. 225 or brian@kwtravel.com.

• New York's YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, Leo Baeck Institute and Sigmund Freud Archives host a three-day international conference on the impact and influence of Judaism and anti-Semitism on the founder of psychoanalysis and his patients. "Sigmund Freud: His Jewish World" runs Dec. 2 to 4. 718-728-7416.

Israel Travel Briefs

• The Israel Museum presents the debut showing of more than 40 acquisitions of the past five years, including sculpture, video works, installations and photography. Many of the works on view in "NEWS: Recent Acquisitions in Contemporary Art" relate to aspects of urban life in China, Poland, Turkey and the United States.

• For large parts of November, December, January and February, the Inbal Jerusalem Hotel is offering a price break, with rooms going for $199 (US) per night. Family rooms are available for up to six people, including breakfast and access to the pool and fitness facilities. Students studying in Israel for the year stay free in parents' rooms. www.inbalhotel.com.

• Holland American Lines and Princess Cruises, whose ships last docked in Israel in 2000, have announced plans to return to Israel's shores. The first ships are due to drop anchor in Israel in April; Princess Cruises' first sailings are already sold out.

• Tel Aviv's Sheinkin Street is considered an Israeli icon for fashion, alternative culture, and an abundance of cheerful, beautiful people. The street has been compared to Covent Garden in London, parts of Greenwich Village in New York, Ste. Catherine St. in Montreal, Oscar Freire St. in Sao Paulo, and Oxford St. in Sydney. For a "virtual walk" down Sheinkin Street, visit the website www.sheinkinstreet.com.

Is it good for the Jews? Yes and no, British author says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Is cholesterol good for the Jews? Is complaining good for the Jews? Is Google good for the Jews? Is guilt good for the Jews? Is happiness good for the Jews? Is ice cream good for the Jews?

Ask Jonny Geller. He knows the answers to these questions. His book, *Yes, but is it good for the Jews?*, a tongue-in-cheek account of current events and history, has just been published by Bloomsbury.

Geller, a 39-year-old British literary agent who was here last week to promote it, said that he wrote it in the Jewish tradition of self-parody.

"Jews are world famous for being good at poking fun at themselves. It is an obvious defence mechanism. We laugh at ourselves first before anyone else can."

It is an accidental book.

"I was pitching my clients' books to a New York editor one day," he recalled, "and I made a joke in passing about how funny it might be to view the whole world through the prism of whether it is good or not for the Jews."

Much to his surprise, the editor was intrigued by the idea and asked him to expand it into a full-blown book.

Describing its spirit as "warm and a bit informative," Geller said that it takes his late grandmother's view of the universe to an extreme.

"She used to come over every Shabbat for the Friday night meal, and after dinner, we'd congregate around the television to watch the news. She'd be fast asleep, snoring, but when the softly spoken voice of the newscaster would say, 'And now to Israel,' she'd miraculously wake up, bolt upright. Then, when the newscaster would say, 'And now to domestic news,' she'd go back to sleep like clockwork. It is this instinct I am celebrating and slightly parodying."

As he worked on the manuscript, he quickly realized that everything can be related to Jews. "I actually found it quite fascinating and somewhat shocking at times."

Geller said that his humour is miles removed from fellow Brit Sacha Baron Cohen's Borat-style putdowns.

But he added that, while some readers may find it upsetting, he never intended to offend anyone.

Nor does he deal in stereotypes or rehash classic Jewish jokes. "I tried hard to stay clear of them."

Asked what he had in mind, he recited the following joke: "A mugger approaches old Mr. Fegelstein. 'Your money or your life,' he says. Silence. 'Your money or your life,' he says again. 'I'm thinking, I'm thinking!'"

"No, there's nothing like that in my book," said Geller, whose favourite comedians and humourists have been Philip Roth, Sid Caesar, Woody Allen, Mel Brooks, Larry David and Jon Stewart.

Geller's book, his first, has already been published in Britain. "I wrote it specifically for the American market. But a non-Jewish agent I work with read the American manuscript and thought we should have a go. In the end, three publishers wanted to do it."

He has been thrilled by its reception back home.

"The *Guardian* newspaper, which is quite crititical of Israel, ran extracts on its front page. I was totally gobsmacked. Our own Jewish newspaper, the *Jewish Chronicle*, published excerpts over three weeks."

Though one might not think so judging by the tone of his book, Geller is actually quite a serious fellow.

"No, I'm not a jokester by day. I have to represent grown up writers and thinkers with my day job, so this is a bit of a strange departure. I trained as an actor after leaving university, so perhaps that part of me is trying to get out. I was born in North London, I grew up in the Habonim Zionist movement, and my father was an accountant. Not much funny about that."

Geller, who represents about 40 clients, mainly young and upcoming writers but also Sacha Baron Cohen, figures that this will be his last book.

As he put it: "I have quite a demanding day job and three kids under the age of nine."

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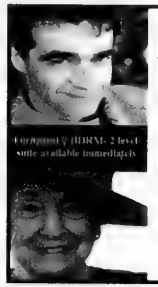

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Longboat Key, Castillian, 3/2.5 corner gulfside unit. Newly reno'd. kitchen. Photos available. $5500/mo. US. Please call 734-662-1878, rkcohen@aol.com

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Ft. Lauderdale, Pine Island Ridge, golf & clubhouse community. 2 bed., 2 bath, 3 mos. min. $1500/mo. US. Avail. Jan. 5th. Please call 248-557-4765.

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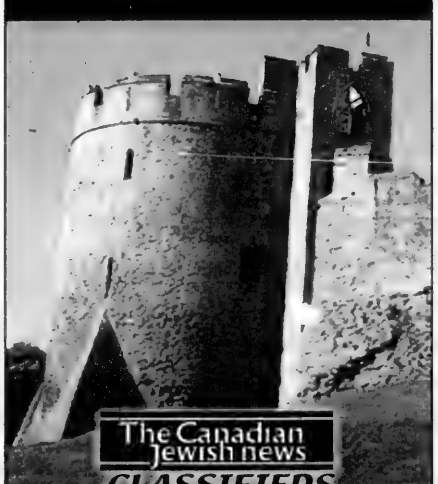

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By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In sports, there are come-from-behind, overcome-the-odds, win-in-the-last-minute victories, and there are lose-the-momentum, blow-the-lead, lose-a-game-you-should-have-won losses.

They usually occur in the same game – it just depends what side of the ball you're on.

Eric Grayson knows what it's like to be on the wrong side of the ball. Earlier this month, his Northern Red Knights suffered a last-minute heartbreaking defeat at the hands of arch-rival East York Goliaths, losing 21-20 in a TDSA South Region Tier 1 playoff game. On home field, no less.

Grayson, starting quarterback for the Red Knights, watched helplessly on the sidelines as East York turned a late fumble recovery at Northern's 45-yard line into the winning score.

Leading 20-15 with only 90 seconds left on the clock, Northern was in possession of the ball and needed only to run out the clock to secure the win.

Grayson, 17, called a running play and his fullback bulled ahead for eight yards. But at the tail end of the run, the Goliaths stripped the ball and recovered the fumble. Two plays later, facing third down and six, East York's quarterback fooled everyone, most notably Northern's defensive backs, and threw a long pass.

The call came out of the blue, Grayson explained, as East York had thrown only two passes in the entire game and one of them was intercepted, nearly for a touchdown.

This pass, however, caught the Red Knights napping and the resulting TD proved to be the margin of victory.

"It was devastating," Grayson said of the late score. "It was quite depressing."

The loss ruined what had been, to then, a remarkably successful season, both for the Red Knights and for Grayson personally. Northern had racked up a perfect 4-0 record, including a 33-6 regular season win over East York in which they "killed them," Grayson said.

Northern dominated the division, which included the Goliaths, the Central Tech Blues, the Leaside Lancers and the Lawrence Park Panthers. The Red Knights scored 119 points overall and allowed only 21.

The six-foot, 170-pound Grayson had a very good year, throwing for 11 TDs, adding a rushing major and tossing only one interception. Although he doesn't have the finals stats, he estimates he completed about 60 per cent of his throws.

A second Jewish player, Zach Sadowski, played cornerback and last year, a third Jewish player, Ely Matlow, was a mainstay of the defence as an inside linebacker. Matlow went on to play college football for the Mount Allison University Mounties.

Primarily a pocket passer, Grayson engineered the successful Northern season, but he felt the team was losing momentum as the year wore on.

"For some reason, the offence began to sputter going into the playoffs," he said. Blocking assignments began to break down and the attitude on the team deteriorated. The Red Knights went from "destroying opponents" to barely getting by them, he said.

Nevertheless, the playoff win was there for the taking. Northern's luck, however, turned bad right from the get-go.

On the first defensive series of the game, the team lost its middle linebacker to a knee injury. Northern sucked it up and played well, jumping to a 12-8 lead. It could have been 21-8 at the half, but the Red Knights were stymied on a third-and-inches gamble late in the second quarter on East York's two-yard line. Ouch.

By the middle of the third quarter, Northern had added to its lead, scoring an unconverted touchdown and going ahead 20-8. The missed convert – one of two that day – would turn out to be crucial, as two points were left on the field in a one-point loss. Ouch and double ouch.

Northern assumed the 20-8 lead after an 80-yard interception return that brought the ball to Goliath's one-yard line. Northern turned the turnover into a major score.

Earlier, Grayson contributed to the offence with a 70-yard TD pass on a deep fade pattern down the sidelines.

Northern's lead held up until very early in the fourth quarter, when East York narrowed the score to 20-15.

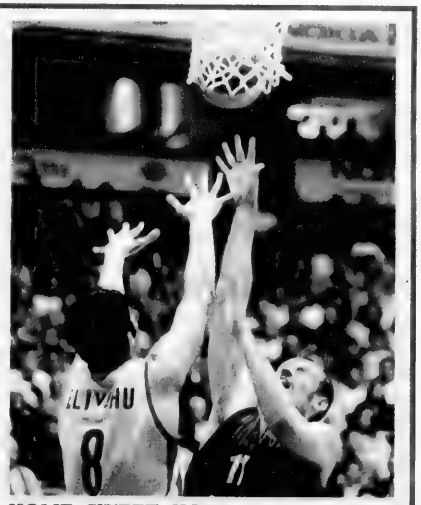
That set up the last-second heroics that left the Red Knights' fans in a state of shock. Adding insult to injury was the fact that East York eliminated the Red Knights in the playoffs last year, that time scoring a last-second field goal.

Grayson, who was the backup QB last year, won't have to contend with the Goliaths next season. A Grade 12 student, he expects to graduate and move on to university football. His dream team would be the University of Western Ontario Mustangs. He's talked to one of their recruiters, but that's as far as it's gone.

If he is accepted at Western, he'd like to eventually study medicine and become a surgeon. His fantasy job is to be a surgeon for a professional sports team.

In the meantime, Grayson expects to play football this summer with the Metro Toronto Wildcats. He'll also try out for Northern's track and field team in the long jump and he'll probably play outfield on the school's baseball team.

Grayson started playing quarterback at age 11 when he discovered he could really throw the ball. His first team was the North York Grizzlies in the Central Ontario Minor Football League, and by age 14 he was so good that he made the Team Ontario under-17 all-star squad. He was backup quarterback on that team, which travelled to Montreal and beat Quebec in an all-star game.



HOME SWEET HOME: Maccabi Elite Tel-Aviv's Lior Eliyahu, left, blocks a shot from DKV Joventut's Barton Lubos during a recent Euroleague basketball Group B match in Tel Aviv. Maccabi defeated the Spanish side 92-75, continuing an unbeaten run of 11 straight home games. Maccabi is in second place in the Euroleague group B championship, behind old rivals Panathinaikos. [Israel photo]

Inside Back

Who's the real fanatic?

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

New Views

In 1959, long before Western democracies began to consider strategies to confront radical Islam, Philip Roth explored the issue of banning religious attire in the public domain in his short story *Eli, the Fanatic*. A lawyer and assimilated Jew, Eli lives in Woodenton, long an enclave of well-to-do Protestants, but since the end of World War II home to a progressive community sprinkled with both gentiles and Jews.

Woodenton's leaders burden Eli with the task of confronting Leo Tzuref, headmaster of a European chassidic yeshiva that had recently moved into an old mansion in town. A yeshiva full of budding religious fanatics doesn't fit the peacefully secular life enjoyed by the citizens of Woodenton, so the townspeople enlist Eli to explore ways that the community can evict the new yeshiva.

While the mere existence of a fanatic religious institution in their midst angers the people of Woodenton, it's the presence of the yeshiva's single public figure that mobilizes them to get rid of the institution. That character, an unnamed rabbi clad in a ratty black hat and a well-worn black suit, shuffles into the town's main thoroughfare every few days to buy supplies for the yeshiva, each time delivering a hand-written shopping list to a store clerk without a word of introduction.

The sight of this shabby relic is enough to call the Woodenton community to action. Eli, armed with a briefcase full of legal technicalities, visits Tzuref at the school in an attempt to convince the headmaster to leave Woodenton. But when that attempt fails, Eli becomes more practical: after a second visit, he changes tactics, delivering a change of modern clothes – suit, shirt, hat, underwear – for the rabbi to wear when he next visits the town's shops. The rabbi complies, arriving in town the next day wearing his new duds. His old, tattered clothes are left in a box on Eli's front porch.

As *Eli, the Fanatic* concludes, the rabbi strolls around town in his new clothes while Eli, suffering from both a mental breakdown and a crisis of conscience, dons the Rabbi's old clothes and starts to wander the streets of Woodenton before being restrained by the townspeople.

Roth's message is clear: there's a fine line between fighting fanaticism and becoming the fanatic. The attempt to celebrate absolute uniformity – at least in the public domain – by outlawing visibly religious attire is actually a veiled (pardon the pun) kind of fanaticism. Eli, of course, experiences both sides of the debate – he starts off as the talking head for the secular fanatics, but is transformed, merely by switching outfits, into the religious fanatic.

In the fight against militant Islam, one of the new theories is this: if you force Muslims to look like everyone else, they'll start acting like everyone else. That thought was the driving force behind the French government's 2004 decision to ban religious symbols in schools. It's also the driving force behind a new bill proposed by the Dutch government that, if passed, would forbid Muslim women from donning facial veils in public, and it's the reason former British foreign secretary Jack Straw admitted in a recent editorial that he asks Muslim women to remove their veils during conversations with him.

The effort to end fanaticism – religious or otherwise – is always a worthy cause. But inherent in this endeavor is the danger of becoming precisely the fanatic you had hoped to eradicate. In the effort to create uniformity and civic equality, it's quite possible that what we reward is actually a form of secular fanaticism.

In 1959, Philip Roth posed the question that we should all be asking ourselves right now: who are the real fanatics?

GINGERED CARROT LATKES

6 cup coarsely grated peeled carrots
6 tblsp flour
1 1/2 tsp salt
3/4 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp ground black pepper
7 tsp finely grated, peeled fresh ginger
3 large eggs, beaten

Canola oil (for frying)

Place carrots in large bowl; press with paper towels to absorb moisture. In another large bowl, whisk flour, salt, baking powder & pepper together. Mix in carrots, ginger, eggs.

Pour enough oil into heavy large skillet to cover bottom and heat over medium heat. Working in batches and adding more oil as needed, drop carrot mixture by 1/4 cupfuls into skillet; spread to 3 1/2". Fry until golden, about 5 min. per side. Transfer latkes to baking sheet. (Can be made ahead. Let stand at room temperature. Rewarm in 350°F oven until crisp, about 10 min.).

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ROCKET ATTACK KILLS SDEROT WOMAN: Faina Slutzker (see inset) was mourned by her husband, family and friends at her funeral last week in Sderot, Israel. Slutzker was killed during a barrage of Qassam rockets last week that fell on the western Negev town. Nineteen rockets hit southern Israel on Nov. 15, killing Slutzker as well as seriously injuring two other civilians, one of them 17 years old, in Sderot. Damage was also caused to civilian infrastructure in the city of Ashkelon. [Israel Sun photos]

Needed: Jewish foster families

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

There are close to 200,000 Jews in Toronto, yet it's possible that Jewish children who need foster families will be placed in non-Jewish homes.

This cannot happen!

Consider the following: at any given time, Jewish Family and Child Service of Greater Toronto (JF&CS) has about 100 Jewish children in Toronto and York Region who need foster care for various reasons, including physical abuse, drug and alcohol addiction, an inability of parents to care for a child, etc.

JF&CS does a magnificent job of working with client families, foster parents and the Ministry of Community and Social Services to ensure that these children are cared for, and that they usually end up back in the homes of their biological parents.

Who are these children? Stereotypically, we might think that they come from low-income immigrant families, but that's not always the case. Children in foster care cross all social barriers, be they economic, religious or cultural.

Recently, JF&CS placed an ad in this paper seeking a foster home for a 14-year-old girl. The ad described her as "artistic and semi-independent, someone who would benefit from a home with teen siblings."

JF&CS was also seeking a home for three siblings ranging in age from eight to 14.

As with the 14-year-old girl, the ad said JF&CS' goal is to place these children in a Jewish home, but if that's not possible, they'll be placed with a family outside the community.

This is not right, my friends. This is not good.

The Jewish community prides itself on taking care of "our own," and we're mandated to do so by Jewish law. We're also perceived by others as being a role model for ensuring that Jews in need are always looked after.

The thought of placing a Jewish child in a foster home outside of the Jewish community is sad – not because the child wouldn't be well taken care of, but because it's anathema to our very essence as Jews – and it requires a powerful reaction from everyone reading this column.

It's very unfortunate that these children must be taken away from their biological families, and it's even more tragic that they will potentially be taken away from their culture and religion as well.

Consider becoming a foster parent. It's not easy, but it can be most enriching. Extensive training is provided, and the foster family works as part of a JF&CS team.

I used to attend a shul where some of the members were foster parents. I recall how infatuated they were both with the children themselves and with the opportunity to fulfil the mitzvah of helping a fellow Jew. I was told by one foster mother that her biological children benefited from having a pair of siblings, as well as another little girl, in their home at various times, knowing they were doing something very important for the community as well as developing a wonderful and responsible relationship with the foster kids. She added: "There were more people in the house, which made it more lively."

There are both long-term and short-term options for foster parenting, and JF&CS compensates foster families financially for their material needs through grants from the Ministry of Community and Social Services and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. JF&CS also accepts same-sex foster parents and single-parent foster families.

If you don't have the resources or ability to foster a Jewish child, consider becoming a big sister or big brother. The same need exists. We simply don't have enough community members interested in this rich volunteer opportunity. You commit to being a companion to one child, and to act as a role model to that child in the way your actual big brother or sister did for you.

The need is enormous!

Please explore these possibilities by contacting Selma Elzas, JF&CS' foster care co-ordinator, at 416-638-7800, ext 298.

Avrum@wahavta.org Sudan?

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Olmert offers comprehensive peace

By HERB KEINON
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert presented a far-reaching vision of peace last week, reaffirming that Israel would be willing to withdraw from a great deal of territory in return for a true peace.

"I am extending my hand in peace to our Palestinian neighbours in the hope that it will not be returned empty," Olmert said in a major policy address at the grave of David Ben-Gurion in Sde Boker, during a ceremony commemorating the death of Israel's first prime minister.

"We, the State of Israel, will agree to withdraw from a large amount of territory and from the settlements that we established there – something that is very difficult for us, [equivalent to] a parting of the Red Sea. But we will do that in exchange for real peace," he said, directly addressing the Palestinians.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

"You must end the violence and terrorism and the desire to harm Israeli citizens in the south, north and centre, recognize our right to live in peace alongside you, and give up your demand for the right of refugee return,'" he said.

Olmert told the Palestinians that "the terror, the violence, the acts of murder and unending attacks on Israeli citizens are liable to lead to us a new painful wave of horrible violence."

He called on them to reject the "uncompromising extremism of your terrorist organizations" and choose a new path.

"We started on a path that I hope will bring us to the goal that we all want to achieve: peace, quiet and mutual trust," Olmert said, referring to last Saturday night's declaration of a ceasefire in Gaza.

The prime minister said if a new Palestinian Authority government accepts the conditions for legitimacy laid out by the Quartet (the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations), implements the "road map" peace plan and releases Cpl. Gilad Shalit, he will suggest a meeting with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to conduct a "true, open and serious" dialogue.

Continued on page 40

Long-lost Jews return home

A group of 51 B'nai Menashe immigrants from India, who claim descent from one of the biblical lost tribes, arrived in Israel last week. Another 167 are expected soon. About 1,000 B'nai Menashe currently live in Israel. The Jewish Agency for Israel, assisted by a donation from the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, is facilitating the group's absorption in Israel.

[RNS/Reuters photos]

Vayetzei
Candlelighting: 4:23
Havdalah: 5:28
Greater Toronto Area

MPs Cotler, Kenney attend Gemayel funeral — please see page 40

The News in Brief

CANADA

Tribunal Hears Case

TORONTO — A white pride activist appeared before a human rights tribunal in Toronto last week for allegedly violating Canada's Human Rights Act with hateful postings on her group's website about Jews, blacks and Arabs, the *London Free Press* reported. Ottawa lawyer Richard Warman brought the charges against Michelle Guille, a leader of the Southwestern Ontario-based Canadian Heritage Alliance. He says the site urges attacks on blacks, Jews and Arabs, and that postings say the Shoah didn't occur and that Jews kidnap Russian children to sexually torture them in pornographic films.

WORLD

Eruv Gets Go-ahead

LOS ANGELES — A California shul won permission to erect an eruv after four years of negotiations. The Shul on the Beach will install the Shabbat barrier along the Pacific shoreline and inland area. The Orthodox congregation in Venice, bordering Los Angeles, won approval from the California Coastal Commission to create an unbroken symbolic border to allow observant families to carry objects outside on Shabbat. The eruv consists of fishing line strung between utility poles. The Venice case was sensitive because the line would run near the nesting area of a protected bird. But after the shul agreed to put metallic streamers on the line near the nesting area to warn off the birds, it got the go-ahead.

El Al Bomb Plot

BERLIN — Germany is probing an alleged plot to blow up an El Al plane. German prosecutors last week said the plot was uncovered when suspects tried to get an airport worker to put a bomb on a passenger plane. The suspects made contact with the person, but couldn't agree on a price to plant the explosive. Authorities arrested six suspects Nov. 17, releasing five the next day. The sixth was held on an unrelated matter. El Al had no comment on the report.

EC Nixes Boycotts

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said it doesn't back boycotts of Israeli academic institutions. The International Campaign for Academic Freedom and Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, two groups campaigning against boycotts, solicited the EC's position after 61 Irish academics wrote to the *Irish Times* in September calling for a moratorium on EU support of Israeli academic institutions until Israel ends its occupation of Palestinian areas. In a letter last week, the EC's External Relations Directorate-General said such boycotts "are contrary to the principles of academic freedom." The EC is the European Union's executive body.

Attacks Down

PARIS — Anti-Semitic attacks in France have dropped drastically due to state initiatives, France's foreign minister says. "We have obtained real results" since a crackdown began in 2002, Dominique de Villepin said in comments to a World Jewish Congress Nov. 12 that were released Nov. 20 by his ministry. "In 2005, anti-Semitic acts fell by 47 per cent compared with the previous year. The figures available today for 2006 confirm this downward trend." De Villepin added that 1,200 police officers are exclusively assigned to protect the Jewish community.

Muslim Backed Irving

LONDON — A British Muslim leader admitted he helped fund Holocaust denier David Irving. Asghar Bukhari, a founder of the Muslim Public Affairs Committee, pledged money to Irving's legal fund in 2000, the *Observer* newspaper reported. He also said in a letter at the time that he would urge Islamic groups to back Irving's efforts to "expose certain falsehoods perpetrated by the Jews." Bukhari confirmed the report, but said he was motivated by anti-Israel sentiments rather than anti-Semitism and that he opposed Holocaust denial.

German Urges Transparency On Looted Art

BERLIN — Germany's culture minister and museums called for greater transparency and more provenance research for the restitution of Nazi-looted art.

The statement came after Bernd Neumann met in Berlin with museum heads on Nov. 20. The meeting followed a contested restitution of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's 1913 *Berlin Street Scene*.

Berlin's Bruecke Museum passed the painting to the heir of the Hess family, which had been persecuted by the Nazis. The heir auctioned the work Nov. 8 for $38 million (US).

The museum's patrons association argued that the Bruecke had given up the work of art too easily and questioned whether the original owner, Tekla Hess, had really sold under duress or received less than the painting was worth.

Germany signed an agreement in 1998 to identify and return works of art illegally taken during the Nazis' reign.

"Restitution must become more transparent, better co-ordinated and more irreproachable," Associated Press quoted Neumann as saying.

The minister is to meet with the Claims Conference later this year to discuss the issue.

Kramer Anti-Semite?

LOS ANGELES — A comedian under fire for hurling racial epithets at blacks once similarly attacked Jews, fans said. Two comedy fans told the website TMZ.com that Michael Richards, who played Kramer on *Seinfeld*, attacked a man speaking during his performance last April as a "f--- ing Jew" and said, "You people are the cause of Jesus dying." The fans wondered at the time if the slurs were part of the act, but came forward after Richards launched a racist attack on two black men who heckled him at a recent performance. Richards' publicist confirmed the April incident, but said it was part of his act, unlike the more recent attack.

Restitution Rejected

RIGA — Latvia's Parliament rejected a law on the restitution of Jewish property. The government proposed paying $58.7 million (US) to Latvia's Jewish community over 10 years for property taken by the Communist government after the Shoah. But parties that back the government, with 67 out of 100 legislators, abstained from the vote, saying the bill needs more discussion.

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Ont. election date conflicts with Shemini Atzeret

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Next year's provincial election is slated for Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007. Unfortunately for Jewish voters, that day is also Shemini Atzeret.

The Election Act, passed in 2005, fixes voting dates and states that every four years, the first Thursday of October will be provincial election day.

If next year's date remains firm, observant Jews will be unable to exercise their democratic right to vote or work in the election.

Oct. 4, 2007, could also see Ontarians voting in a referendum on electoral reform, if the provincial government's Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform recommends a vote on change to the electoral system.

This potential double-vote date is of great concern to Canadian Jewish Congress.

Stephen Adler, director of public policy for CJC Ontario, said his organization began advocating months ago to alert chief election officer, John Hollins, Premier Dalton McGuinty and Marie Bountrogianni, the minister of democratic renewal, about the gravity of the matter.

"We wrote letters providing research showing that it was only the October 2007 date that was problematic and that the dates up to 2023 were clear [of] Jewish holy days," he said.

On Oct. 24, Elections Ontario posted a survey on its website and sent it out to community organizations, asking them to respond with election date concerns by Nov. 24.

CJC Ontario sent out reminders to about 200 Jewish community organizations, urging them to fill out and return the Elections Ontario questionnaire.

'It's not just a Jewish issue,' says CJC

Adler said other communities could be similarly disenfranchised. "It's not just a Jewish issue," he said.

Paula Chung, a spokesperson for Elections Ontario, said under the Election Act, the chief election officer can advise the lieutenant governor to move the election date if there is "sufficient cause," which may include "cultural or religious significance".

The alternate vote date would then have to fall within seven days of Oct. 4.

In 2007, the choices are further limited by the fact that Friday Oct. 5, is Simchat Torah, Saturday Oct. 6, is Shabbat, and Monday Oct. 8, is Thanksgiving.

Heather Bussey, communications manager at Elections Ontario, said any community with concerns about the election date can still contact her office, even though the Nov. 24 deadline has passed.

"We're hoping to have responses in by the end of the year [because] the chief election officer will be looking at them in January," she said.

Bussey added that her office consulted a range of religious and cultural organizations across the province about the date.

"We used various information sources to make sure we had the best cross-section possible," she said.

If the chief election officer does recommend moving the vote, it will then be up to Lt.-Gov. James Bartleman to change the polling date.

"The office of the chief elections officer does not make the decision, and we are not aware of what criteria will be used by the lieutenant governor in council," Bussey said.

Under the Election Act, any decision to move the date must be made by Aug. 1.

Calls to Bartleman were not returned.

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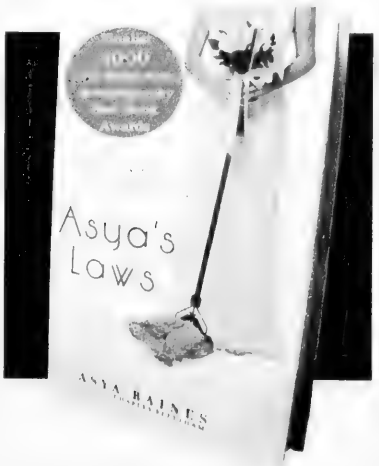

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Opinions of note

From the editor's desk

Two weeks ago in *The CJN*, the editorial pointed to the perfidy of former president Jimmy Carter in tagging Israel as an apartheid state through his newly released book *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*.

The term "apartheid" resonates throughout the world with unambiguous moral opprobrium. It has only one meaning. It evokes only one association. It requires only one response. Apartheid is an abusive, oppressive, repressive human evil that must be eliminated.

Carter knew this as well as anyone. It is reasonable therefore to assume that by so prominently using the term in reference to the conflict with the Palestinians – on the very cover of the book, no less – he intended the association to be made with Israel. He must have also known that he would be echoing the odious charge that has fulminated in the mouths of the most rabidly anti-Israel advocates for many decades.

His polemic is unpardonable.

This cannot be overstated. The harm that may result to Israel is very grave.

For this reason, I call readers attention to an article by Rabbi David Forman that appeared in the *Jerusalem Post* last week.

As an Israeli human rights activist, in fact, as the founder of Rabbis for Human Rights, he is uniquely qualified to comment on the Carter calumny. This is how he began the article.

"If one picture is worth a thousand words, then the cover of Jimmy Carter's new book, *Palestine: Peace, Not Apartheid*, will sear a damning image of Israel into the consciousness of anyone who walks into a bookstore," Rabbi Forman wrote.

"The book's cover shows a thoughtful and obviously troubled Jimmy Carter, who believes that he is the moral voice of all those who suffer human rights indignities, overlooking the security wall Israel has built, with thousands of Palestinians protesting in front of it.

"It is difficult not to draw the 'obvious' conclusion – the Israeli wall is equal to the Warsaw Ghetto wall. Carter equates the wall with the ethnic cleansing of Arabs.

"What a warped sense of history, past and present; what a blatant abuse of our sensibilities. I look at the cover… and ask myself, would it not have been far more appropriate had Carter, instead of superimposing his own humble presence over the wall, superimposed a replica of the hundreds of memorial plaques that dot Israeli bus stops, restaurants, supermarkets, malls and synagogues where Palestinian suicide bombers carried out their acts of murder?

"The security fence did not come about in a vacuum. Would any country in the world do differently if going out of the house meant that its citizens played Russian roulette with their lives?"

Rabbi Forman recoiled at Carter's obvious selectivity in singling out Israel for human rights abuses. He pointedly recalls a long list of abuses of the most horrible kind perpetrated within the Arab world that appear to have been ignored by the former president. He concluded the article thus:

"Despite Carter's perfunctory statements about Arab intransigence and terrorist tactics, for him the blame for the present conflict between Israelis and the Palestinians lies almost exclusively with Israel.

"The barrier is a necessary evil, which unfairly impinges on some of the elemental rights of the Palestinians. But that is a far cry from endorsing apartheid. Indeed, by using such a loaded term, enforced by that indelible image on his book's cover, Carter is purposefully providing a great measure of both respectability for and acceptability of the Muslim world's drive to wipe the Jewish state off the face of the globe."

Why would Carter lend his support this way to the enemies of Israel?

* * *

In a different vein, for the purpose of buoying emotions that have so long lain low, I bring readers' attention to the essay *The War of Fog* by David Hazony, which appeared in the recent Autumn issue of *Azure*, published by the Shalem Center in Jerusalem.

Written in mid-September, Hazony assesses the results of Israel's war with Hezbollah that ended one month earlier. He minces no words. He cites the bad and the good. But it is his very last observation that I wish to share.

The following is an excerpt.

"The war revealed something of inestimable value: a resilience among Israelis that neither its friends nor its enemies counted on…

"This must have come as a shock to Israel's enemies. It is a long-standing myth among Muslim radicals that western democracies possess an inherent weakness: that their love of commerce and bourgeois pleasure will inevitably render them incapable of standing up for their own way of life; that the determination and purity of the jihad will defeat the morally flaccid, potbellied bobos of Brussels and Brookline [N.H.]. Yet time after time, this belief is proven wrong. Even if democratic leaders sometimes show faintness of heart, democratic *peoples* are frequently willing to endure hardship and to fight ferociously to defend their freedom.

"The determination of the Israeli public to lay aside decades of ideological turmoil… and unite in defence of the Jewish state and its values against a deadly enemy was nothing short of breathtaking."

Democracies take heart! –*MBD*

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Greater Toronto Area

CUPE locals reject resolution critical of Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The unanimity that marked passage of CUPE Ontario's Resolution 50 calling for a boycott of Israel is beginning to dissipate.

In recent weeks, sessional lecturers at the University of Toronto represented by CUPE local 3902 passed a motion rejecting Resolution 50 while CUPE local 79, representing 18,000 City of Toronto and community housing workers, announced it would not co-operate in an educational campaign to support the controversial resolution.

Both locals stated that Resolution 50 was unfair, unbalanced and had discredited CUPE's reputation.

Last May, delegates to CUPE Ontario convention in Ottawa voted overwhelmingly in favour of a resolution that supported an international boycott and divestment campaign targeting Israel and that called for development of an "education campaign about the apartheid nature of the Israeli state and the political and economic support of Canada for these practices."

At the time, CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan defended the apartheid reference, saying "it's clear to anybody with any degree of common sense that there are clear parallels with what is happening in Palestine to South Africa."

In a recent letter to Ryan, Ann Dembinski, president of CUPE 79 stated that her local would not participate in training in support of Resolution 50.

"The reason is that Resolution 50 fails the test of even-handedness and fairness and has discredited CUPE's reputation in Ontario. We are distressed to think that the educational tour will now add fuel to those fires."

CUPE 3902, which represents about 5,000 short-term instructors and lecturers at U of T, passed a resolution late last month saying it "will not endorse or implement Resolution 50 passed by CUPE Ontario division.'

The motion goes on to adopt part of a resolution passed by CUPE's national wing in 2003 that "actively work[s] towards an end to all acts of violence that take the lives of innocent people, whether they be Palestinian or Israeli."

It also resolves "that as a local, we will help to promote the interests of our fellow workers in the Middle East by consulting with and actively pursuing positive relations with the free and democratic labour union movement in the Middle East."

'Fails test of even-handedness'

Ari Brodsky, a mathematics lecturer and a member of local 3902, spearheaded the effort to reject the Ontario wing's "outrageous" resolution.

"As a local, we are seen as supporting Resolution 50 if we don't say anything against it," he said.

Encouraged by his rabbi in Ottawa, Brodsky took his concerns to the local's stewards' council, which includes representatives from faculty departments.

The council set up a three-person committee that included Brodsky. After consulting other local members, it proposed the resolution, which later received "pretty strong endorsement" from the council. The resolution then was passed at a general meeting of local members in a narrow vote, Brodsky said.

Brodsky argued that Resolution 50 "is unfair, unbalanced, one-sided and anti-Israel.

"It singled out Israel for criticism and the boycott is completely unreasonable," he said. "I think many ordinary members of the local, non-Jewish, see it as unfair and a divisive measure that CUPE Ontario took."

He noted that when Resolution 50 was adopted last May, its proponents touted it as passing without opposition. CUPE 3902's resolution "shows ordinary Canadian workers support a position that doesn't take sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict" and does not support a boycott.

Local 3902 will not take part in educational programs on the Middle East promoted by the union's provincial wing, he added.

On its website, CUPE Ontario cites support from within the Jewish community and from Israel for its position, including "The Alliance of Concerned Jewish Canadians, a newly formed national organization representing organizations, individual academics and activists from across Canada," Bruce Katz, "the Jewish co-president of Palestinian and Jewish Unity in Montreal" and "Israeli Seekers of Peace and Justice." The latter group sent a letter of support with more than 120 signatures.

Ryan could not be reached for comment by the *CJN*'s deadline.

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Prof sues Jewish groups, York U for $25M

A history professor at York University has launched a $25-million defamation lawsuit against a number of senior Jewish organizations as well as the school's fundraising arm.

David Noble alleges the 13 defendants wrongly suggested he was anti-Semitic when they responded to a flyer he distributed in November 2004. The flyer, titled "The York University Foundation: The Tail That Wags the Dog," alleged that the foundation was biased by the influence of pro-Israel lobbyists and that the bias affected the university administration's treatment of pro-Palestinian activists.

Noble, who is Jewish, alleges the defendants smeared him in a bid to silence him.

Among those named in the lawsuit are United Jewish Appeal of Greater Toronto, Canadian Jewish Congress (Ontario region), Joel Richler (Ontario regional chair of Congress), Hillel of Greater Toronto, Hillel at York University and the York University Foundation.

In October 2005, Noble took issue with the university's policy of cancelling classes during three High Holy Days. In April 2006, he filed a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Commission, alleging cancellation of the classes amounted to discrimination against non-Jewish students.

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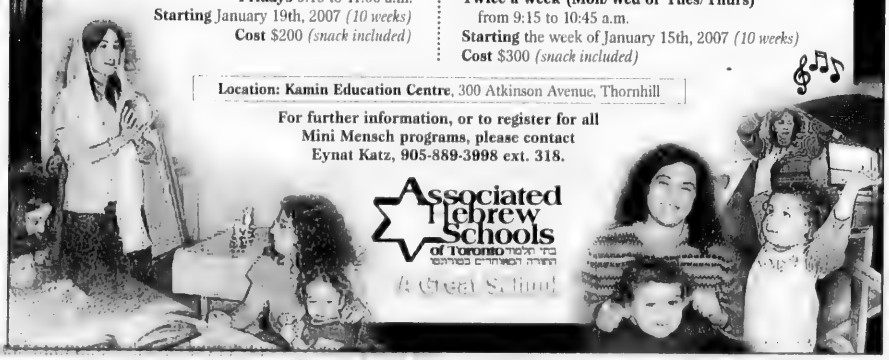

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Jewish groups oppose closure on human rights bill

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Jewish groups and human rights activists are upset with the provincial government for closing debate on a bill that will streamline the process of bringing cases under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Canadian Jewish Congress said it was "disappointed" at the move to end debate, particularly after the province had welcomed discussion on Bill 107.

B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights said "the government plan to pull the plug on Bill 107 committee hearings makes a sham of consultation process."

And Barbara Hall, chief commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, wrote to Premier Dalton McGuinty, saying the way the debate was handled has caused needless divisions in the community.

"When the amendments were announced in the spring, CJC Ontario region welcomed the government's actions to improve and expedite the human rights complaints process for the benefit of all complainants," said Joel Richler, chair of Congress' Ontario region. "The people of Ontario have a vested interest in strong, responsive and accessible human rights legislation and we are disappointed that debate is being ended before all stakeholders can be heard."

Len Rudner, Congress' director of community relations, said the Jewish organization had been scheduled to appear before the standing committee on justice policy on Dec. 7. Congress is concerned that the bill, which would see complainants hire their own lawyers and take their cases directly to a human rights tribunal, sidestepping the commission's gate-keeping role, would leave some without the means to access the process, he said.

The government proposals open a gap in accessibility and the proposed legislation does not provide the legal resources to complainants that would address that omission, he said.

Toni Silberman, immediate past chair of the League for Human Rights said, "the Ontario Liberal Party ran on a platform of democratic reform. What has transpired throughout the process surrounding Bill 107 is anything but democratic.

"This so-called community consultation process on Bill 107 has been fraught with difficulty since its inception. It is now appears that the government is poised to end debate even before it had any meaningful chance of getting off the ground. Fairness, justice and equality demands that the motion be withdrawn immediately in order to allow the committee hearings to continue uninterrupted."

In an open letter to McGuinty, Hall stated that "what should have been a broad, consensus-building exercise in the best traditions of promoting human rights was undertaken in a way which, instead, caused division within the communities concerned."

Ontario Public Service Employees Union president Leah Casselman called the closure of debate "an outrageous assault on the very people who need a strong, pro-active Human Rights Commission the most."

At Queen's Park, Progressive Conservative leader John Tory asked in Question Period, "why is the premier bringing the guillotine down on this debate?" while NDP leader Howard Hampton asked the Premier to justify this "betrayal of trust."

Bill 107 was introduced in April to address a system that had become bogged down. Complaints could take up to five years to be resolved.

Responding to critics, Attorney General Michael Bryant said there had been "ample" debate on the bill and very little that was new was being advanced at committee hearings.

GIVING GALA: Four Grade 7 students at Netivot HaTorah Day School produced an original acrylic painting that was auctioned at the school's Giving Gala, held recently at the Liberty Grand. The painting raised $150 for Jacob's Ladder, a division of the Canadian Foundation For Control Of Neurodegenerative Disease. Pictured from left are Liya Hoseh, Daphna Cohen and Rotem Sapir. Not pictured is Shilat Pachter. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

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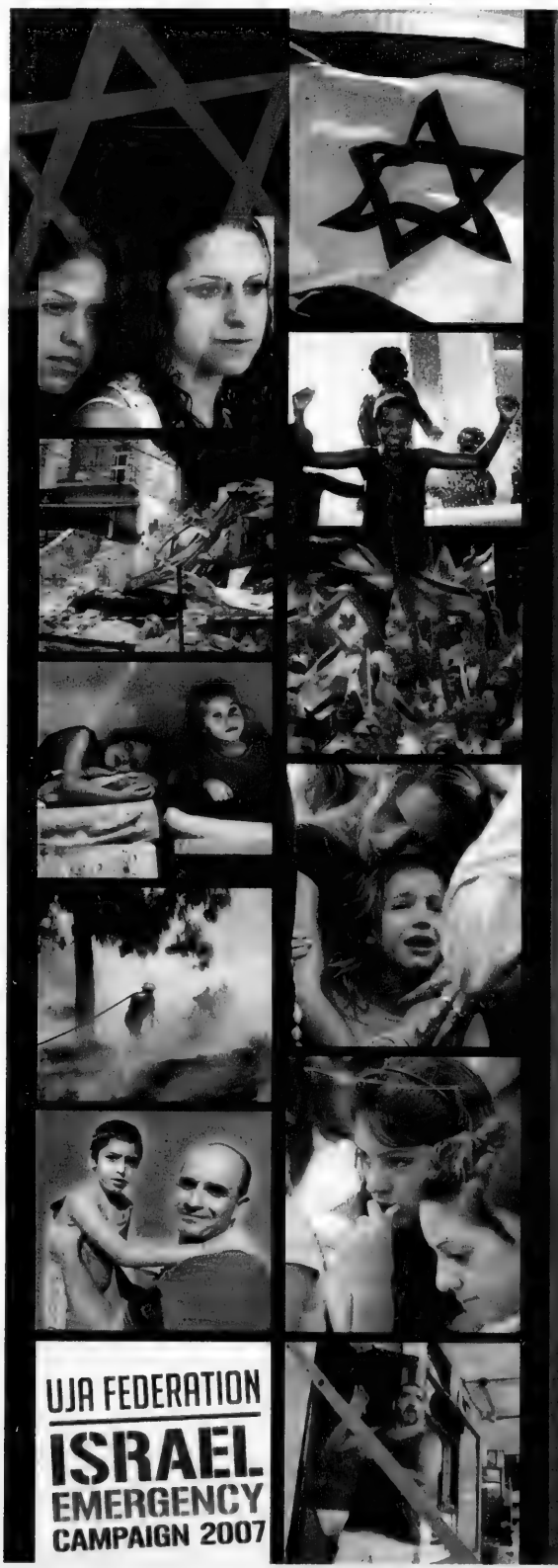

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Human rights or human shield?

Former Canadian Supreme Court justice and current High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour completed a five-day fact-finding tour last week in Israel and the Palestinian territories. She came to the region to investigate charges of human rights violations by Israel after the United Nations Human Rights Council and the General Assembly condemned a strike by the Israeli army at Beit Hanoun in Gaza in which 19 Palestinian civilians were accidentally killed.

At the conclusion of her visit, Arbour spoke to members of the press and expounded upon her findings and upon her theories of relative and absolute culpability for the deaths among Palestinians and Israelis that the conflict has caused.

"In one case you could have, for instance, a very objectionable intent – the intent to harm civilians, which is very bad – but effectively not a lot of harm is actually achieved," she said. "But how can you compare that with a case where you may not have an intent but you have recklessness [in which] civilian casualties are foreseeable?… According to criminal law, there is very little distinction between recklessness and intent," she said. "It is a small distinction as to whether you desire the result, or you foresee it as virtually certain and you do not care. In terms of culpability, there is not a lot of difference between recklessness and intent."

This statement of principle may be technically correct in relation to domestic criminal law. But it has less application in the international arena, where a democratic state is trying to defend itself against armies trying to destroy it. The high commissioner has stumbled on the slippery slide of pre-conceived notions.

The deaths of the 19 in Beit Hanoun was a terrible mistake for which Israel apologized and expressed profound regret. It is not true though, as Arbour implied, that Israel did not care. Indeed, to the delight of the planners and practitioners of terrorism, Israel always warns civilians prior to a strike whenever there is a risk to innocent life. In contrast, Hamas deliberately targets innocents; uses homes and workplaces as rocket launching sites; uses women and children as shields against Israeli retaliation; uses grandmothers, children and pregnant women as suicide bombers; and uses baby carriages, the bags of school children and ambulances to smuggle explosives. Yet, Arbour appears to hold the terrorist leaders to a lesser standard of care simply because they kill actual fewer numbers than they try to. In doing so, she effectively gave them – and their fellow thugs and other genocidalists – a form of legal cover.

Arbour is learned and sincere. But she is wrong. Ironically, the doctrine she invoked against Israel – foreseeability of harm – is the likely result of her intervention. In the name of protecting the human rights of innocents, she has merely provided another shield to those for whom human rights means less than yesterday's detritus.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

U.S. president Ronald Reagan told U.S. Jewish leaders that he stood by a campaign pledge to support a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty with a "vaticanization" of holy sites there. Secretary of state Alexander Haig clarified that this wasn't a change in U.S. policy, which was that the city should stay undivided and its status determined by negotiation.

Dry Bones

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Open dialogue about Israel needed

In his column "The source of Ignatieff's myths" (*CJN*, Nov. 9), Gerald Steinberg does a disservice to all of us, and in particular to the State of Israel. The well-being and security of Israel is uppermost in the minds of Jewish communities worldwide and countless others.

There are cases when vicious propaganda is used. Any intelligent person should know the difference between fact and fiction. Failing to check sources thoroughly is counterproductive and harmful. That, I believe, is what Steinberg has done in his column, which condemns Human Rights Watch. If there can be open dialogue, questioning and critique in Israel, surely we in the Diaspora can engage in a thorough form of discourse.

The Israel Defence Forces admitted there were no rocket strikes from the building at Qana and that there was no Hezbollah presence during the attack. Even Israel does not claim that there were any fighters among the 28 civilians killed.

Human Rights Watch, since 2000, has produced more reports on Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Sudan and Turkey than on Israel. So much for Israel being its "main focus."

HRW publicly denounced the harmful statements made at the UN Durban conference on racism, and its comments were carried by newspapers around the world.

Experienced HRW workers range from former Pentagon officials to workers in several war zones around the world. It took HRW three months to report on Israeli use of cluster bombs, but HRW broke the story that fragmentation bombs were used by Hezbollah.

Israel has not disputed the fact that there was no Hezbollah presence in some two dozen cases resulting in death and injury during the Israeli-Hezbollah war.

HRW is one of the important sources of information. In order to be better informed, in order to assist Israel in a positive sense, in order to engage in meaningful dialogue, Steinberg could have checked his sources. If we are going to disagree on issues, then let those issues, from all angles, be discussed and written about with integrity.

Allan Shiff
Toronto

* * *

UNHRC must speak against Hamas

While grateful that United Nations Human Rights Commissioner Louise Arbour was not injured by a terrorist rocket during her visit last week to the Israeli town of Sderot, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies urges that Arbour urge the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to condemn daily terrorist targeting of Israeli civilians.

While it may have lasted only one day for her, deadly Qassam barrages have been a daily threat for more than five years to the citizens of Sderot and surrounding southern Israeli communities.

Two months ago, I participated in the Simon Wiesenthal Center's presentation to Arbour of Israeli and Lebanese witnesses to Hezbollah atrocities, and unlike the UNHRC itself, she unequivocally declared to us that Hezbollah was guilty of crimes against humanity for firing rockets laden with ballbearings at civilian hospitals and population centres.

Now, as she returns to Geneva, her message to the UNHRC must be that there are two populations, on both sides of the border, that are suffering and this is because of one cause: Palestinian terrorist extremists who target the children of Sderot and use Palestinian civilians as human shields to protect themselves.

Arbour must speak out against Hamas' continuing copying of Hezbollah's tactics. Her role as chief international human rights officer demands it, as do all who seek to live in democracies free of acts of terror.

Leo Adler
Director National Affairs
Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center For Holocaust Studies

* * *

Ahmadinejad on the front page

Do we have to see the face of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on the front page of *The CJN* ("'Israel will disappear soon,' Iranian president vows," Nov. 16)? I don't know the protocols of journalism, but I would not bestow on him that honour.

Jack Benchimol
Toronto

* * *

No complaint made to ombudsperson

While I appreciate that reporter Jenna Rosman made reference to the *Excalibur* article about the anti-Semitic incident in my classroom, she erred in saying that I had said I would file a complaint with the university's ombudsperson regarding the incident ("Anti-Israeli activists rally at York, U of T," *CJN*, Nov. 23).

While I may have made that statement privately, the article itself made no reference to my having said anything of that nature, nor did Rosman contact me to find out if I had actually made that statement. In fact, I have no idea how she even came to this conclusion.

Britt Aharoni
Toronto

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Borat's Jewish problem

By RON CHARACH

Much ink has been spilled over Sacha Baron Cohen's film *Borat*. It has been described by one CBC critic as "a film about how foreigners see Americans and how Americans see foreigners." Unfortunately, it also unwittingly re-enforces conventional anti-Semitic stereotypes.

By now most readers likely know that Borat Sagdiyev is a sex-obsessed, oddly lovable "Kazakh" character, a naïve foreigner travelling through America with his producer friend Azamat making a documentary about American life. Early on, he gets sidetracked by a *Baywatch* video featuring Pamela Anderson and becomes determined to find and profess his love to the glamorous blonde TV Star.

Sacha Baron Cohen, an observant Jew, portrays Borat in a way that anti-Semites will recognize, especially those among them who are more irony-challenged. Borat as Semite is by turns pushy, ingratiating and rude, oversexed, and in hot pursuit of a blonde white "shiksah goddess," Anderson.

The stereotype of the Jew-as-unethical-person (source of the slang term "to Jew" someone) is invoked by the questionable ethics of the film's production team, who may have duped the film's interviewees into saying, or agreeing with, racist or sexist sentiments, only to find themselves exposed, not in the Kazakh media, but in a top-grossing, gross-out American comedy.

Two of the film's subjects have initiated lawsuits, members of a fraternity who claim a breach of trust was involved in consent forms they signed while inebriated with alcohol supplied by the film's production team. The studio has denied any wrongdoing, but even the *New York Times* has weighed in, regretting that the film took unfair advantage of generous midwestern and southern hospitality.

But of more concern are claims by the villagers of Glod, Romania, who allege that their impoverished condition was exploited by Borat's film directors, who set up situations in which women and the physically handicapped were ridiculed, often in an obscene way. Such behaviour clearly runs against treasured Jewish values such as tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam (striving to perfect the world).

Compare this to the highly ethical behaviour of an earlier Jewish comedic impresario, Allan Funt, innovator of the *Candid Camera* series. Funt was good at soothing the hurt pride of those who were taken in by his unlikely scenarios, and he wrote a very catchy theme song urging people to sit back and join others in having a chuckle about their universally shared naiveté. Needless to say, those were more innocent times.

The caricatured Jew-as-outsider and violator of convention is evident in more subtle ways. Borat substitutes his own national song for the American national anthem that he is entrusted to sing at a rodeo show, and he gratuitously insults a southern, genteel (and gentile) dinner party given to welcome him. In one of the least funny moments in the movie, Borat mishears a gentleman guest's claim to be "retired" as "retarded." He also turns out to be one "furriner" you'd better not trust to use your upstairs bathroom, and the excrement he hands to his hostess in a doggy bag represents one of the greatest breaches of continuity in the history of film comedy. Earlier, this same Borat had delighted in displaying photos of women taken in toilet booths, so why should he suddenly be a stranger to such modern conveniences?

Borat reporting on the "Running of the Jews"

Like Howard Stern on radio, Sacha Baron Cohen goes out of his way to invert decency by deciding to cavalierly identify his country of origin as Kazakhstan, instead of, say, Boratstan. Kazakhstan is not, in reality, a worst-offender when it comes to anti-Semitism, though movies like this could change that. Ironically, as a former Communist country, its treatment of women is more egalitarian than what one sees in most Arab Muslim countries. The country has also, in recent years, made co-operative overtures toward Israel.

Clearly, Borat champions many things that are anathema to Jews, such as sexual predation, contempt for the intellectually challenged, cruelty to animals and, of course, voraciously enthusiastic anti-Semitism – all, mind you, in the spirit of a good belly-laugh. It would be easier to see Baron Cohen as a consummate ironist who might, in real life, stand for the reverse of all the things that his character eagerly trumpets. However, the real Baron Cohen offers little guidance to his fans, and rarely comes out of character to offer his audience a bit of direction about his real views. This point was made by a *Newsweek* culture critic who also noted that Borat's shtick – becoming the kind of person he hates – is similar to techniques used by comics such as Sarah Silverman, whose persona is that of a racist and entitled "Jewish American Princess."

Borat in Canada

Why would an apparently observant Jew do such a disgraceful send-up of his people? Was not disgraced Congressman Mark Foley a self-hating gay who championed anti-gay stances? Talk-show host Larry King recently asked comedian Bill Maher, "Why would anyone who was gay take so many anti-gay stands?" Maher, son of a Jewish mother and a Catholic father, shot back, "Because, Larry, self-hatred is the greatest love of all."

It's up to the viewers of a movie like Borat to decide whether Sacha Baron Cohen is extremely funny or careening out-of-control and overstepping the boundaries of true comedy. Likely, both are true, and by the time all this is over, he may have more lawsuits than awards. Some critics have faulted this take-no-prisoners movie for avoiding anything that might overtly offend Muslim viewers. As if he doesn't already have enough *tsuris*.

Extremely funny or careening out-of-control?

Some will vote with their feet and make their exit early in the movie. The nude wrestling scene, for which Borat's co-star Ken Davidian deserves a Purple Heart rather than an Oscar, is a send-up of pornography – never has the 69 position been more inadvertent or less palatable. Even the teenagers in the audience squirmed at it, and screamed at a manic chase sequence that was the ultimate fat joke.

Those who see hilarity as the greatest of all virtues, or political correctness as the greatest of vices, will grant Baron Cohen the same license given to other envelope pushers such as Don Rickles, Howard Stern, Jackie Mason or, to use a non-Jewish example, Dave Chapelle. In an earlier, less liberal era, comics who crossed the line into violating their audiences, such as Lenny Bruce, were on the cutting edge of the limits to free speech and even faced criminal prosecution. Perhaps the height of comedic challenge to conventional authority took place during the "Chicago 7" trials of Abbey Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, a team of "yippies" with the timing of stand-up and the irreverence of a Borat.

In the name of free speech, I support Baron Cohen's right to unfairly pillory the Kazakh people and, by the way of unconscious caricature, the Jewish people. Philip Roth came up with much the same kind of over-the-top synthesis in his controversial novel *Portnoy's Complaint*, though, in fairness, he didn't subtitle it "Confessions of a Kazakh."

Many Jews, particularly the holders of the esteemed, priestly name of Cohen, will wish that this particular comic had chosen a stage name, as did other Jewish comics like Jack Benny, Danny Kaye, the Marx Brothers, Phyllis Diller, Milton Berle, Mel Brooks and Woody Allen. Incidentally, I decided to look up information about one modern comedian who is, to my mind, as funny as Baron Cohen, and found this intriguing entry on Robin Williams, whose Jewish accents always struck me as being too authentic to have been devised in adult life: "Perhaps as a defence against the bullying of his WASP classmates, Williams found himself gravitating towards the Jewish boys at the school. They were obvious targets of discrimination because of their background and that perhaps provided some common ground between them. Williams says, with some pride, that as an 'honorary Jew' he went to 14 bar mitzvahs in a single year. His new friends also provided him with a working knowledge of Yiddish which survives now in the words and phrases that sprinkle his conversations and his stage act."

Williams obviously chose to be the hyphen in the phrase Judeo-Christian. His humour often serves to bridge cultural differences, and certainly, at its edges, he is capable of a manic intensity equal to that of Baron Cohen, who has a hard time appearing on a talk show without dropping both pants and underwear.

The Anti-defamation League may have something to be concerned about with respect to *Borat*. This movie tricks people into revealing the racism, sexism and crudity in all human beings, then makes it look like their own ethnic quirk. Such chutzpah may well increase anti-Semitic sentiment, and that, I would submit, is not "good for the Jews."

Psychiatrist and poet Ron Charach regularly contributes to Canada's national newspapers. His eighth book, Selected Portraits, *will be published next fall.*

Opinions

A generation without Akedahs

We are the blessed generations. Canadian Baby Boomers and GenXers have it better than any other generations in history. No Holocaust, no Communism, no world wars, and no Great Depression. We take for granted unprecedented luxuries and technologies. Twenty-first century North America is a contemporary Garden of Eden.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

At its centre stands a culture of consumerism that worships the individual, catering to every possible appetite. Ad campaigns feature taglines such as "because you're worth it" and "for me, myself and I." Consumers are entertained and pampered. It's a great time to be alive.

Yet there's trouble in paradise. Even though life has vastly improved in the past century, research shows people are less happy than previous generations. (Greg Easterbrook has called this "the progress paradox.") Apparently, happy lives require more than "me, myself and I."

This "progress paradox" came to mind while reading the Biblical narrative of the Akedah, the binding of Isaac. Abraham is told by God to sacrifice his son Isaac, and he immediately sets out to comply with God's command.

Many find this narrative morally disturbing. How could God command Abraham to commit murder? But the text also disturbs us because it's so foreign. Abraham's self-sacrifice is out of place in a culture of self-centred consumerism. And that's precisely the problem.

The Akedah holds the answer to the "progress paradox." Without character, material comfort is meaningless. The self-sacrifice of the Akedah will hopefully never be necessary, yet the selflessness Abraham displayed is a basic ingredient to living a good life. Overindulgence is a series of empty comforts, but an altruistic sacrifice is not only meaningful, it actually makes you happier.

The Akedah's message needs to be heard more clearly. Wendy Mogel, a psychologist working with an affluent clientele, felt frustrated by problems that seemed to transcend her therapeutic techniques. She realized that her clients weren't suffering from psychological problems, but rather from parental overindulgence and overprotection. What they really needed were solid values to anchor their families. In response, she wrote a book titled *The Blessings of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self Reliant Children*. Genuine happiness requires serious values that include antiquated notions such as self control and selflessness.

Yet these values are usually ignored. Some couples will refuse to have an additional child because it will dent their standard of living. They assume this will make them happy, yet this is a tragic mistake. By trading a baby for a BMW, they have performed a bizarre 21st-century Akedah. This faux Akedah is a recipe for a meaningless, materialistic life.

It's time to unravel the "progress paradox." We must learn that values are more important than vanity, and that noble sacrifices actually pay dividends.

It's time to shore up Jewish identity

Instinctively, we know that this brave new world of iPods, Playstations and Internet – for all its wonders – threatens traditional Jewish institutions and identity.

We understand that quality Jewish educational and cultural experiences provide essential first steps in any Jewish journey. We see how North American leisure culture diverts too many Jews from embracing their own heritage. The modern Jewish community must be more welcoming, fluid and creative. We must update our thinking. We can't afford to continue underfunding our Jewish educational system. Individual institutions are thriving – Herzliah Snowdon recently ranked number one among Quebec high schools – but without a massive reinvestment in Jewish education and identity-building, accompanied by a creative rethinking, our institutions – and community – risk sliding into future mediocrity.

Gil Troy in Montreal

Our community is at a crossroads. Canadians don't need a crystal ball. Looking south, the American Jewish community shows us what will happen if we allow the assimilation, ignorance and apathy to spread. Already, an honest communal self-examination would find many Jews disinterested, unaffiliated, and frequently alienated from the Jewish community. The fate of our children – and grandchildren – is in our hands.

We must invest boldly in identity-building educational and cultural programs, reaching out to the unaffiliated, energizing the already involved, making our community the toast of North America.

We need to invest in five critical gateways, five doors that welcome Jews in at various stages of the life cycle, and offer everyone in our community the quality experiences and meaningful engagement they want and deserve.

- Family programming: we must link critical institutions such as schools and synagogues with the family, the incubator for Jewish identity-building, while also creating annual leadership training programs for motivated adults.
- Jewish education: we must make a massive reinvestment in all our schools, especially our Jewish high schools – those primary laboratories for identity development – while also training a new generation of excellent teachers.
- Camps and youth programming require minimal capital investment compared to schools, but great camps and effective youth programs motivate young Jews at a critical developmental stage, allowing them to experience the 24/7 Judaism that research shows is most effective in building identity and fostering Jewish pride.
- Israel experience: we must further popularize the birthright israel program and March of the Living experience, and reinforce them with effective follow-up programming.
- In arts and culture, we must build world-class institutions and fund creative initiatives that stretch the souls and engage the imaginations of young and old alike.

Only one organization in Montreal can tackle this tremendous, expensive challenge, but doing so requires a paradigm shift. Traditionally, Federation CJA has aided the vulnerable. Today, Federation CJA must take responsibility for people whose Jewish connection is at risk. Many in our community, while physically comfortable, are Jewishly impoverished and are spiritually, intellectually, ideologically searching for direction, vision, passion and meaning within a Jewish framework. Our obligation to the needy remains strong, but, fortunately, other institutions also tend to Canadians' physical needs. However, if we don't build our community's Jewish identity and provide positive Jewish experiences for all Jewish Montrealers, who will?

Increasingly, federations throughout North America are taking responsibility for building the next generation of proud Jews – and Jewish donors. Boston's $45-million (US) Peerless Excellence Project in Jewish education invests in educational quality in carefully designated and coached schools. Cleveland, a Jewish community of 81,500 and a 2005 UJA campaign of $31 million, has launched a $137-million Centennial Fund, "to strengthen and grow Jewish Cleveland and make Jewish life more accessible," including a $20-million commitment to underwriting Jewish day school tuition. Toronto's $250-million "Tomorrow Campaign" will fund facilities and programs in three Jewish neighbourhoods.

In the 1980s, the Montreal Jewish community proved that it could survive. In the 1990s, Montreal proved that it could revive, raising $30 million to rebuild its central community campus. Having re-engineered the community hardware so successfully, it's now time for a software revolution. We need a dramatic investment in Jewish programming at all levels – from young to old, from religious to secular – in order to reach out to the culturally inclined, the politically active, the intellectually engaged, the spiritually seeking – whoever they maybe, wherever they may be.

History has proved that our children and grandchildren tomorrow will pay for the cost of inaction today. The time for dramatic action is now.

Abandoning agunot on a broken altar

If a man divorces his first wife, even the altar sheds tears.

On the very last page of the tractate Gittin (Bills of Divorcement), the Talmud presents us with this arresting image, in the name of Rabbi Eleazar. In the midst of exacting discussion of the technical parameters of divorce, and the ethical considerations of divorce, the rabbis don't lose track of the emotional repercussions of divorce.

In imagining the cold stones weeping, the rabbis find a poignant metaphor for the sense of loss and trauma that accompanies the unravelling of a marriage turned irredeemably sour. Enfolded in that image is the memory of a young and hopeful bride and bridegroom, and then the more somber afterimage of the estranged couple, each going his and her own way.

The image is deeply sad, of course. But at the same time, I believe that it subtly opens an avenue of comfort. At a time of profound aloneness, the altar weeps with the man, sharing in his sorrow, easing his burden. It weeps with the woman, too, and eases her burden as well. At heart, I see in this a symbol of divine caring that mitigates the sense of radical loneliness and points the way toward future possibilities.

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

I thought of this image when I first learned of the abrupt cancellation of the planned international Orthodox rabbinical conference in Israel earlier this month to consider halachic approaches to the problem of the agunah, the "anchored" or "chained" woman, bound to a defunct marriage by a husband who refuses to issue a *get*, or writ of divorce. It was cancelled, according to the news coverage, because of fear of the undue influence of "feminists."

But the issue of agunot isn't a battle between feminists and traditionalists. It's a struggle within our tradition between the elements of ethics, compassion and Halachah, elements that should be allied but have – in this matter – become unglued. Agunot require a *get* to move on with their lives – to remarry, to have children. The inequity of roles in Jewish divorce leaves women vulnerable to financial extortion and other forced concessions. Or it pushes women outside of the community that consigns them to this state. For several decades, many women and men have seen this as one of the central issues that Halachah must address, and in a global and principled way, rather than ad hoc and case by case.

The women who exist in this limbo are not the only victims. If there are children from the marriage, they suffer, as well. Children taste the anguish of their parents, and the strain of ongoing animosity. The fabric of the community as a whole is damaged.

One Canadian and American solution to the problem of agunot is to use the civil courts to create disincentives for recalcitrant husbands to withhold a *get*. This approach is both clever and compassionate, but it's only imperfectly effective. Ironically, however, it's also an admission that Judaism has not solved the problem internally, that we must look to systems outside of Halachah in order to keep our halachic lives ethical.

As Chanukah approaches and we commemorate the *chanukat habayit* of our ancestors, the rededication of the ancient Temple and purification of the altar, we might think about putting our own *bayit*, our own house, in order. In our own communities, in the places we pray, study, and live Jewishly, we must always keep this issue in view, especially in the wake of the collapsed conference.

When a man divorces his first wife, even the altar sheds tears. When a man will not divorce his wife, even after the marriage is no longer viable – when a man leaves his wife an agunah – think of what the altar suffers. I imagine it cracked down its centre, shattered by a broken heart.

The Kirshner File

'A sucking chest wound for our country'

An explosive four-letter word with far-reaching ramifications – Iraq – dominated the mid-term congressional elections in the United States earlier this month. In a harsh reflection of the Bush administration's failures in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion and the ouster of Saddam Hussein's Baathist regime, the status quo was shattered and a new political era dawned in Washington.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The Democratic party, having called for a fundamental shift in policy in the face of mounting U.S. casualties and escalating sectarian violence that threatens to tear that country asunder and push it closer to outright civil war and partition, defeated the Republicans and won control of the House of Representatives and the Senate for the first time since 1994.

President George W. Bush was thus put on notice that his handling of the war leaves much to be desired, while Donald Rumsfeld, the secretary of defence and one of the architects of the war, was forced to resign in disgrace. His replacement, Robert Gates, a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has spoken of an exit strategy whose main feature would be a phased U.S. withdrawal from Iraq, a concept the Democrats have promoted, and still do.

As echoes of Vietnam reverberated in the halls of Congress, Bush, who triumphantly boasted three years ago that "major combat operations in Iraq are over," seemed contrite. "I'm open to any idea or suggestion that will help us achieve our goals of defeating the terrorists and ensuring that Iraq's democratic government succeeds," he declared in a show of pragmatism and bravado.

And in a sign of humility, Bush promised not to prejudge the work of the Iraq Study Group, a 10-member bipartisan panel appointed by Congress last March to reassess U.S. strategy and scheduled to release its findings in December. Co-chaired by James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state during the 1991 Gulf War, the Iraq Study Group may yet make a difference. Baker, though reportedly having rejected an immediate or rapid withdrawal, believes that the current situation in Iraq is unsustainable, and that a solution should involve Syria and Iran, countries with which the Bush administration is at odds. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, a close Bush ally, agrees. In a recent speech, he advised Bush to engage Iran and Syria in a bid to defuse the spiralling chaos in Iraq.

Syria and Iran are indeed important players. Some of the insurgents in Iraq entered the country through Syria. As for Iran, it wields enormous influence by virtue of its ties with Iraqi Shiites, who dominate Iraq's government. Yet it is questionable whether Bush will turn for help to Syria and Iran, both of which he boycotts and views as dangerous destabilizing forces in the Middle East. Syria and Iran support Hezbollah, which triggered a war with Israel this past summer. Syria, despite its pullout from Lebanon in the spring of 2005, still meddles in Lebanese politics. Iran, which openly and unabashedly advocates Israel's destruction and denies the Holocaust, is intent on building a nuclear arsenal and thereby changing the balance of power in the Middle East.

It is unclear whether the American military, which is shouldering the burden of battling the Iraqi insurgency, shares the opinion that Syria and Iran must be brought into the equation to pacify Iraq. But Gen. Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has ordered a broad review of strategy.

The situation in Iraq is truly abysmal.

The insurgency, spearheaded by Iraqi Sunni Arabs and augmented by Shiite militias and foreign Islamic fighters, has increased in "scope, complexity and lethality," according to Gen. Michael Maples, the director of the Defence Intelligence Agency, a U.S. government body. Nearly 3,000 U.S. soldiers have been killed so far, and the toll is rising. The insurgency has claimed the lives of many more Iraqi policemen, and by one estimate, 3,000 civilians – men, women and children – are killed each month, the victims of mass suicide bombings and gangland-like shootings.

The United States promised to bring peace, stability, prosperity and democracy to Iraq, yet all but one of these objectives have fallen by the wayside. There have been free elections, but these exercises in Jeffersonian democracy have widened ethnic and religious fault lines between two warring groups, the Sunnis and the Shiites, who form a majority of Iraq's population.

Iraqis elected a transitional government in January 2005, and nine months later, they approved of a new constitution. Last December, they went to the polls yet again to elect a government with a four-year mandate. But as observers have noted, democracy has not yielded the desirable results. Voters have generally cast ballots for sectarian rather than religious parties, and now Sunnis and Shiites are further apart than ever.

After centuries of subjugation at the hands of the minority Sunnis, the Shiites are on the ascendancy, backed to the hilt by Iran. The Sunnis feel marginalized and like second-class citizens, all the more so because Iraq's fabulously rich oil fields are in Shiite and Kurdish areas. Sunnis are also bitter because they were dismissed from their positions when the old Iraqi army was disbanded. In retrospect, the Americans consider this to have been a mistake of monumental proportions. But the new army and the police force that the U.S. is in the process of building to fill the vacuum are riddled with incompetence, laxity and corruption.

U.S. President George W. Bush

Worse still, the Americans have failed to rein in Shiite death squads, which have terrorized the Sunni community. Nor have they subdued Moktada al-Sadr's Madhi Army, which has staged two uprisings. Furthermore, the Iraqi prime minister, Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, has been a great disappointment. American officials have blamed him for not having acted decisively enough to curb tribal sectarian violence, dismantle Shiite militias, eliminate rampant corruption and improve public services, which have yet to be brought up to prewar levels.

These problems, which have turned Iraq into a dysfunctional state, cannot be resolved unless the insurgency is ruthlessly crushed. But with only 140,000 troops in Iraq, the Americans will be fortunate if they can merely contain the uprising. In the meantime, though, the western presence has ironically transformed Iraq into a base of jihadist terrorism. Prior to the invasion, the Bush administration claimed that there was a link between Saddam and Al Qaeda, which was untrue. But now there is a connection, as the Iraqi branch of Al Qaeda appears to be growing stronger.

To their credit, the Americans have chalked up some notable successes in combating the insurgency, having killed Saddam's two sons and local Al Qaeda leader Abu Musab al-Zarkawi. Saddam himself, a symbol of everything that was awful about prewar Iraq, was captured, and now he has been convicted of murder and may yet be executed. But these milestones in the U.S. campaign to reshape Iraq, and by extension the Arab world, have been only blips on the screen.

It may well be that the Bush administration – which still seeks a military victory against the insurgents, a goal deemed impossible by Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state – may well have to redefine its principal objective in Iraq from democracy to stability.

The burning question is how it can be achieved within the parameters of current conditions. In Washington, the debate is in full swing. The Democrats, led by Senator Carl Levin, are pressing for a phased withdrawal to spur the Iraqi government and budding armed forces to take responsibility for rebuilding the country and fighting the insurgency. As Levin caustically put it, "We cannot save the Iraqis from themselves."

Bush opposes "artificial timetables set by politicians in Washington" and is adamant that no withdrawal can be realistically possible until the Iraqis can take over. His Republican ally, Senator John McCain, a 2008 presidential hopeful, argues that American troop strength in Iraq must be increased by 20,000 to bring restive Baghdad and Anbar province to heel. The alternative, he has warned, would be humiliation for the United States and disaster for Iraq. The commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, Gen. John Abizaid, concurs with McCain's assessment, as do a number of retired generals who have been critical of Bush's management of the war.

Certainly, Israel has a huge stake in the outcome of the current debate. A pro-western, stable Iraq would patently be in Israel's interests. But an Iraq that aligns itself with Iran would be an unmitigated catastrophe for Israel, the United States and moderate Arab regimes. So it came as no surprise that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, during his recent visit to Washington, warned of the dangers of a hasty U.S. withdrawal. Yet there is little doubt that the United States is contemplating a pullout. Iraq, *New York Times* foreign affairs columnist Thomas Friedman wrote recently, has "turned into a sucking chest wound for our country."

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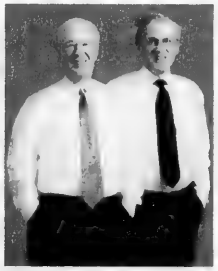

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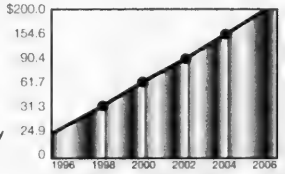

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Peace process done for now, Israeli analyst says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel's peace process with the Palestinians is dead and may not be revived for many years to come, according to an Israeli strategist.

"It has run its course," says Chuck Freilich, who was Israel's deputy national security advisor from 2000 until last year.

Advising Israel to focus its attention on "conflict management" rather than on "conflict resolution," he said, "We have to live with the status quo."

Freilich, here last week under the auspices of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, noted in an interview that Israel has four alternatives in dealing with the Palestinians.

It can try to topple the current Hamas government, which refuses to renounce terrorism, recognize Israel or accept previous agreements signed by the Palestinian Authority.

But this is not a viable option, because the ouster of the Hamas regime could usher in a period of "total chaos," which would not be in Israel's interests, said Freilich, now a senior fellow at Harvard University, where he is writing a book on Israeli national security decision-making.

Alternatively, Israel could attempt to bypass Hamas and work exclusively with the moderate president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas.

But Abbas lacks the capability to deliver a ceasefire, much less a peace agreement, said Freilich, who was once a senior analyst at Israel's ministry of defence.

At best, Abbas might be able to reduce the level of friction, Freilich said.

Israel could also opt for more unilateral withdrawals from the West Bank, but this method has been discredited.

"We withdrew from southern Lebanon in 2000 and from the Gaza Strip in 2005, but all we got in return were Katyushas and Qassams," he said in a reference to Israel's month-long war with Hezbollah last summer and current Palestinian cross-border attacks against Israeli kibbutzim and towns.

That leaves Israel with no choice but to resign itself to the present situation, Freilich said.

Asked whether Israel should consider Hamas' offer for a long-term truce, Freilich replied, "If they want a ceasefire, they can have it, but they would have to stop firing Qassams."

Hamas has offered Israel a lengthy truce if it pulls back to the pre-1967 border and helps resolve the Palestinian refugee problem.

Freilich rejected these conditions and, focusing on the territorial issue, said, "No one seriously thinks that Israel should withdraw to the old lines."

He added that the Palestinians could have won back 90 per cent of the West Bank had their late leader, Yasser Arafat, accepted Israel's offer at the Camp David summit in July 2000. "Arafat rejected an incredible deal."

Turning to Israel's recent war in Lebanon, he predicted that a second round is inevitable because Hezbollah is a jihadist organization hell-bent on wiping out Israel. "Sooner or later, it will happen," said Freilich, who was in Toronto in support of Project Northern Recovery, a campaign to rebuild the Galilee in the wake of that conflict.

He cast aspersions on the international force that patrols Israel's border with Lebanon, saying it's simply not capable of preventing another war.

In his view, both the Israeli government and the army performed poorly during the war. "We blew it on all levels. It was just a very bad show."

The cabinet neither set clear objectives nor conveyed clear-cut commands to the army, he said.

Although Israel was not surprised by Hezbollah's massive missile arsenal, it seemed to have been caught off guard by the ferocity of its attacks.

"We were too focused on the West Bank and Iran," he said, referring to the ongoing violence in the territories and Iran's quest to attain an atomic bomb.

Freilich said that while it failed to crush Hezbollah, Israel did not lose the war and, in fact, succeeded in degrading Hezbollah's stock of long-range missiles.

In a critique of Gen. Dan Halutz, the chief of staff and former commander of the air force, Freilich said that he relied too heavily on air power.

Israel should "gone all-out" in its offensive against Hezbollah, said Freilich, who served in the Israel Defence Forces for five years and is now a major in the reserves.

He said that Hezbollah may yet end up stronger than it was before the war if it manages to become "a primary force" in Lebanese politics.

But at present, Hezbollah is weaker, he claimed. "They took a significant hit in the war."

Freilich cast doubt on the theory that Israel can stabilize its relations with Lebanon if it agrees to relinquish the disputed Shebaa Farms area, which Hezbollah claims is Lebanese rather than Syrian territory.

"It's a canard, an excuse for Hezbollah to attack Israel. Hezbollah has a long list of many more demands."

Freilich said that a resumption of bilateral negotiations with Syria over the fate of the Golan Heights may be a worthwhile exercise, but only if the Syrians are ready for a warm relationship and not a "cold peace" with Israel.

Iran should be offered a broad range of inducements to give up its militarized nuclear program. But Freilich doesn't think diplomacy will ultimately work.

Military force may be the only language Iran understands, he said.

Asked if Israel should launch an aerial assault on Iran's nuclear installations, Freilich hesitated, then said, "Israel will do what it has to do."

If Iran becomes a nuclear power, the balance of power in the Middle East will change to Israel's detriment, he commented.

In his opinion, Iran is now the greatest strategic threat Israel faces. "But the issue goes beyond Israel," he argued, saying that a nuclear-armed Iran poses a danger to each and every nation in the Middle East.

Jews have reached serious crossroads: Hoenlein

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The man who heads the most powerful Jewish organization in the United States issued a dire warning last week, saying that Jews have reached "the most serious crossroads" in their history since the bitter days of the Holocaust.

Alluding to the fateful year prior to Adolf Hitler's accession to power in Germany, Malcolm Hoenlein declared, "It's looking more and more like 1932."

In a doom-and-gloom speech punctuated by flashes of hope, the executive vice-chairman of the New York-based Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations urged his audience "to face realities" in order to overcome the "tremendous challenges" confronting Jews – and Israel – today.

Delivering the third Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman lecture of the season at Holy Blossom Temple, Hoenlein said Jews are duty-bound to assess, confront and debate the threats to their well-being.

In a wide-ranging speech that sounded like a pep talk and a wakeup call, Hoenlein – a modern Orthodox Jew – suggested that today's anti-Israel and anti-Semitic manifestations percolated to the surface at the UN-Sponsored World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa in September 2001.

"The blueprint of the Durban conference is being implemented," he said, his voice rising and falling. "There is a worldwide campaign to delegitimize Israel and intimidate Jews."

Saying that a new world war of values has broken out, Hoenlein defined it as an international struggle pitting the forces of democracy – for which Jews stand – against the forces of totalitarianism.

"This war will determine our future. But there are people who don't want to face up to it."

He said that decisions Jews make today in response to these challenges will affect their children and grandchildren.

Cataloguing the dangers that loom on the horizon, Hoenlein mentioned the prospect that weapons of mass destruction may fall into the hands of rogue regimes, and he talked of the rising tide of terrorism, the possibility that Jews may be squeezed out of Europe by its rising Muslim population, and that anti-Israel voices in the United States are fixated on what they describe as the "Zionist lobby." He also compared Iran's Holocaust-denying president to Hitler.

As he zeroed on in these themes, and denied that Israel lost last summer's war in Lebanon, Hoenlein laid special emphasis on Europe's growing Muslim population and what it may mean to Jews in the future and on Iran.

Asserting that 40 per cent of the babies born in Europe today are Muslims, and that 70 per cent of European Muslims are under the age of 30, he lamented that Muslim ghettos there have become "no-go" zones.

He also said that Jews wearing kippot dare not walk the streets of most European capitals out of fear of being assaulted.

Synagogues in Europe are constantly targeted, and in Britain alone, 100 shuls have been attacked and two destroyed, in the past four years.

As well, he added, universities in Britain have grown increasingly "inhospitable" to Jewish students.

"Jews will have no future in Europe," he said in an apocalyptic tone.

Hoenlein accused European governments of practising a policy of "appeasement and accommodation" toward Iran. Observing that this tactic will not work, he compared it to Europe's stance toward Nazi Germany in the 1930s.

Malcolm Hoenlein
[File photo]

In a sombre commentary on the West's war on terrorism, he spoke of terror plots being uncovered and of anti-terrorist trials now unfolding in Britain.

The war on terrorism is not anti-Islamic, he said.

Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, should be taken at his word when he lashes out at and threatens to destroy Israel. "He means what he says and says what he means."

Hoenlein claimed that the majority of Iranians would back a western campaign to change the current Islamic regime in Iran.

"Eighty five per cent of Iranians don't support Ahmadinejad," he said, without providing evidence.

Proclaiming that Iran should be subjected to economic sanctions, he assured his listeners that such measures can work. "We could cut them off. Let them drink their oil."

Saying that Iran's goal is to extend its hegemony across the Middle East, Hoenlein warned that the Iranians are moving ahead quickly with plans to build nuclear weapons.

Hoenlein said he sees no reason why Jews should not prevail in meeting these challenges.

"Did anyone think we'd free the Jews of the Soviet Union, Ethiopia and Yemen?" asked Hoenlein, who earlier in his career was the founding director of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Calling on Jews to put aside their differences, he urged them to educate their children, convey their concerns to politicians and write letters to newspapers.

He concluded with the potentially uplifting message that amid the darkness, a better and safer world is possible.

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Shlomo Riskin urges intra-communal dialogue

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin offers a message that is rarely heard in Orthodox circles these days – at least not publicly.

"All of a sudden you can't dialogue. If you speak to someone from another side, you're giving him legitimacy. How absurd! That means you can only speak to someone you agree with?" asked the Efrat-based rabbi last week at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, in response to an audience question about Orthodox isolationism.

Referring to a change in attitude since he made aliyah 23 years ago, the 66-year-old founding rabbi of New York's Lincoln Square Synagogue – now the rabbi of Efrat, a settlement of more than 12,000 people in Judea, and dean of its Ohr Torah Stone Colleges and graduate programs – said that when he lived in the United States, he was "constantly" in dialogue with Conservative and Reform Jews as well as Christians.

Even today, Rabbi Riskin – a Yeshiva University alumnus who received ordination from Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik and who was referred to as a "distinguished rav" and a "rabbi's rabbi" in an introduction by Rabbi Baruch Taub – always accepts "with alacrity" invitations to speak at places like Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, the Reform movement's seminary in Israel.

"It's always interesting to hear what other people have to say, and I feel very secure in my Orthodoxy," Rabbi Riskin said.

The rabbi was in town to speak about "The Contribution, the Problems and the Future of the National Religious Community in Israel." His talk was co-sponsored by the congregation's adult education committee and Mizrachi Organization of Canada.

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin

Rabbi Riskin praised Mizrachi, as a political party, for ensuring that from the time the Jewish state was established in 1948, "Yiddishkeit" would be a hallmark. He cited as examples kashrut policies in state institutions, and having Shabbat and Jewish festivals as days of rest.

But he was critical of the religious Zionist movement, particularly its Orthodox settlers, for having built a thriving educational network only for those who share their religious perspective. However, he added, they "did not worry about Klal Yisrael." He noted that the settlements' importance is the major platform of Mafdal, Mizrachi's political party.

Rabbi Riskin said he is now dealing with Israel's ministry of education in the hope of establishing a junior high and high school for both religious and non-religious students.

There is at least one other such school in Israel, located in Modi'in, but they are exceedingly rare.

Although there are some mixed settlements and some like his own without "acceptance committees," he said that most settlements defer to such committees by accepting into their communities only those who are halachically observant.

He noted that in a 2003 study by the Rishon LeZion College of Administration, Palestinians and settlers were the top two categories who were "most disliked," in contrast to the "adulation" he recalls for settlers at the time of his aliyah.

He believes that the time has come for Mizrachi to separate its political party, Mafdal, from its "religious, ethical, ideological movement." While such a political party may have been "mandatory" when Israel became a state, he believes that today it's "counterproductive.

"A religion that attempts to legislate religious laws is seen as being unfairly coercive," he said.

Currently, in Israel, he said, the political party and the religious movement, are seen as "one and the same."

"What we have created is a magnificent network for the religious," he said. "In the meantime non-religious Israelis were going to the other end of the spectrum, and religious Jewry seemingly did not care."

Mizrachi "must reach out to every Jew," said Rabbi Riskin. He believes the majority of Israelis are "willing to be touched by religion" but not to be coerced. He noted that this year, on Yom Kippur, 70,000 non-religious Israelis gathered in more than 300 Jewish centres in Israel in an attempt to learn more about observing the holiday. The centres were opened specifically to address the needs of Jews who "wouldn't go to shul, because they identify the shul with power."

The Torah is "too important to be left for the Orthodox alone," said the rabbi.

"It's not all or nothing," he cautioned. "Because nobody is all or nothing. Each one knows in his own heart the compromises he or she makes.

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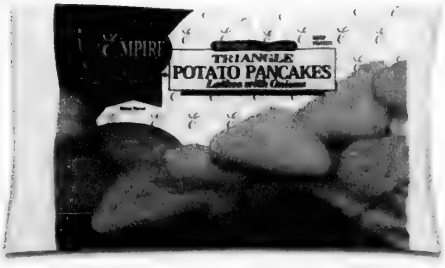

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Jewish Life

Balancing self and God

By RABBI EDWARD ELKIN

Parshat Vayetzei picks up at the point where Jacob is fleeing from the murderous wrath of his brother Esau.

All alone, away from his home and family for the first time, embarking on a dangerous journey to a new place, Jacob comes to a place where he decides to take a rest. There he falls asleep and has the famous dream of the ladder set on the ground with its top in the heavens and angels going up and down on it. The Lord stands next to him and reiterates the promise given to Abraham and Isaac that the Land of Israel would belong to him and his descendants, and God promises to protect him and bring him back to his home one day.

RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

When Jacob wakes, he exclaims, "*Achen yesh Adoshem bamakom hazeh ve'anochi lo yadati*" ("Surely the Lord is present in this place, and I did not know it!").

Many of our commentators notice something unusual about the Hebrew phrase "*anochi lo yadati*." In Hebrew, the first person singular past tense is expressed through the "ti" ending of the word *yadati*. Therefore, the text didn't actually need to say *anochi* ("I"). In order to express the idea "I didn't know it," all the Torah needed to say was *lo yadati*. So why the extra word *anochi*?

Reb Shlomo of Radomsk, in his commentary Tiferet Shlomo, proposes an interesting (if not terribly grammatical) answer. *Anochi* in this verse, he teaches, is not in fact the subject, but actually the object of the phrase, and it refers to Jacob's ego. Why did this amazing divine manifestation occur to Jacob at this particular time? It happened because at this turning point in his life, Jacob was able to utterly disregard his own ego, his own self. "*Anochi lo yadati*" in this interpretation should be translated as "I didn't regard myself" or even "I obliterated myself." Every part of Jacob, body and soul, was directed instead toward the Lord. That ability to transcend himself and his own needs is what brought God so dramatically into his life through the ladder dream.

People can't disregard their own needs forever. Upon waking, Jacob will proceed on his journey, marry, raise a large family, and become quite materially successful. All these things require an ego. They require a regard for one's own needs that is not consistent with Reb Shlomo's understanding of "*anochi lo yadati*."

But this is not a bad thing. The goal is not to spend one's entire life so focused on God that one's self disappears. We couldn't live for long with an obliterated self. But neither is the goal to live a life of self-absorption or a life lived around the principle of "look out for No. 1" with no room for God at all.

Ideally, we live our lives going back and forth between moments of ego gratification and moments of ego denial, with each informing the other and helping us to grow as balanced human beings. For most of us, gratification comes a lot more easily and naturally than denial. So we have much to learn from Jacob's disregard for the self in this week's sedra. It's something we can learn from, even if we, like Jacob himself, don't aspire to live our whole lives that way.

There is something about the experience of periodically disregarding the self and with utter trust opening ourselves up completely to God that can move us to a different spiritual place.

It's from that place that we can grow and change and gain the confidence and faith to do what we need to do in this world.

Rabbi Elkin is spiritual leader of the First Narayever Congregation in Toronto.

Chanukah and Jewish leadership

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Chanukah is approaching and we are again preparing our chanukiyot for candles and starting to build anticipation with our families. We plan the parties and get the chocolate coins ready for the dreidel games. We sing about a great victory, where the many were overtaken by the few and how Jewish unity carried the day.

Midrashic Moments

The holiday of Chanukah also gave us innovations within Jewish law that go largely unrecognized. Until that battle, it was not permitted to fight on the Sabbath. The book of the Maccabees describes a group of righteous Jews who fled into the desert to quietly observe Judaism. The king sent soldiers to attack them and the soldiers prepared to launch their attack on the Sabbath. The Jews decided that they will not profane the Sabbath, but will die pure. They were all slaughtered.

Once the enemy realized this fact, Sabbath attacks could become a newfound weapon. It was the Maccabees, a family of priests, who enacted an amendment to Jewish law that permitted Jews to fight on the Sabbath. They reasoned that if they chose to do what their brethren did in the desert, "they will soon destroy us from the Earth." Immediately after enacting this amendment, they are joined by a group of Chassidim – "valiant Israelites, devout followers of the law" – in other words, the legal initiative was accepted by all.

There are times when Jewish leadership has meant taking bold legal stands that are unheard of up to that moment. We are very familiar with the Maccabees as warriors and unifiers of the Jewish people. We are less aware of them as legal innovators, and yet, Jewish leadership involves viewing the full picture and not merely addressing things in isolation.

By and large, Jews acknowledge that the Jewish people, the Torah – depicting covenant and commandments – as well as the Land of Israel are all components of one composite. We can't separate one element from the others without feeling incomplete and confused. In recent times we have understood this fact when people who verbally attack Israel and Zionism have tried to separate those attacks from the category of anti-Semitism. The Jewish world knows that these areas cannot be separated.

The leadership of the Hasmoneans understood the same thing in terms of unity and composition. The rallying cry of the Maccabees, "Whoever is for God should join me," didn't distinguish one category of Jew from another. And we must remember that there have always been varying factions within Judaism. Unity did not only include separate factions, but the narratives that remain of the Hasmonean events depict stories of women who were equally engaged in the protection of Judaism and its values. Even the story of Judith, although set in another time, is widely recognized as conveying a narrative of Chanukah. Jewish unity is only strong when the invitation for inclusion recognizes the bottom-line priority: engaging with God. The nuances of that engagement are not to be determined when there is an enemy at the doorstep.

Chanukah portrays Jewish leadership as an area in which priorities are realized and addressed. Jewish unity is paramount. Jewish innovation is necessary for survival, and faith in, and commitment to, God and covenant are key. Jewish leadership is complex, in that it can't separate areas for leadership – it must include them all. It might be easy to resort to a strict and ardent rule of law in order to cover all the bases. There is so much at stake and it's such a complex task, perhaps the safest and best thing would be to shut the doors of innovation and unity in favour of a dictatorial and strict approach.

But then the Talmud clearly states: "When a leader dominates over a community, the Holy One weeps every day because of him."

Jewish Life

The Dead Sea Scrolls: a personal perspective

By ALEX GROPPER

Past Forward

When people are asked to name the most important archeological discovery of the past century, they inevitably answer the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Yet the scrolls are only part of a number of major archeological discoveries dealing with the Bible that have fascinated those interested in the field.

What is interesting about these finds is the way they were made. Many were discovered by illiterate peasants who, although they knew nothing about archeology and the Bible, knew their own terrain in minute detail. Such was the case with the Dead Sea Scrolls.

My own interest in the scrolls began as a young boy living in Israel who was fascinated by archeology. When my family moved to Canada, my fascination grew and provided me with a source of Jewish identity. University gave me a chance to explore these interests in a more formal fashion, and my career provided me with an opportunity to make others aware of this fascinating material.

It was during the time of the Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt that I first got an opportunity to delve into the story of the Dead Sea Scrolls in detail, and to speak to some of the people who played a crucial role in their study. At the time, I was teaching a course in archeology at the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies, as well as preparing a documentary series on major manuscript discoveries, titled *The Romance of Lost Scripts*, for *Ideas* on CBC Radio. Needless to say, the Dead Sea Scrolls would feature prominently in the series.

One of the key figures in the ongoing saga of the scrolls was the eminent Israeli archeologist, Yigael Yadin, who was head of the Institute of Archeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Yadin enjoyed a fabled career. He was head of the Haganah during the War of Independence, and at the time of the Camp David Accords, he was deputy prime minister of Israel. His father, Eliezer Sukenik was one of the first professors of archeology at Hebrew U, and he was also one of the first people to get a batch of the scrolls and to recognize their importance.

This happened on Nov. 27, 1947, the day the United Nations voted to partition Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish state. What a miraculous irony that the scrolls, which had disappeared when the last Jewish state was destroyed by the Romans, would reappear on exactly the day, almost 1,900 years later, when it was announced that a new Jewish state would be created.

I decided to try to contact Yadin right at the time he was involved in negotiating the Camp David Accords – not exactly the best time to try to reach a very busy man. I was in Florida at the time and couldn't fall asleep one night, so on a whim, I thought I would try to call the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem directly.

Imagine my surprise when I somehow managed to get through to Yadin's secretary, a Mrs. Bailey, who said he would be delighted to be interviewed on the scrolls, as opposed to the vexatious issues of Middle East politics. Coincidentally, she told me that he would be coming to Canada within a few weeks.

The interview went very well, and I was able to get the untold story of some of Yadin's exploits with the scrolls for my show.

At that time, the editor of the Dead Sea Scrolls publication project was Pere Pierre Benoit of the École Biblique Dominicain in Jerusalem, who had succeeded the legendary Pere Roland de Vaux. It was ironic that the men who headed the project delving into one of the most important aspects of Jewish history were Catholic priests. Today, all that has changed, and the scrolls are now under the control of the Israeli Antiquities Authority.

Now that we've talked about the past, let's move forward into the future. The Israeli Antiquities Authority has just been registered as a Canadian charity and has approached me for help in bringing the Dead Sea Scrolls to Canada, starting with a blockbuster exhibit at the new addition to the Royal Ontario Museum. Negotiations have begun. Stay tuned to this column for more information.

Dreidels – clay and otherwise

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Whether yours is made of clay and little or from silver and big, Chanukah's four-sided top never fails to instill lovely memories in children and bring back delightful ones in the not-so-young. There are so many wonderful pages devoted to dreidels on the Web. Today, the best ones.

How did the dreidel – or *sevivon* - become associated with the holiday of Chanukah? The World Zionist Organization site mentions one explanation. "One anecdote recalls the dreidel from the times when the Syrians prohibited the Jews from studying Torah. When the Syrians saw a group of Jews together, they checked to see that they were not studying. The Jews would hide their books and take out their dreidels and trick the Syrians into thinking they were just playing a game." **[http://tinyurl.com/yf6h9o]**

David Golinkin disagrees. The president of Jerusalem's Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies says explanations like the one above were "invented after the fact. The dreidel game originally had nothing to do with Chanukah" and similar games had "been played by various people in various languages for many centuries." **[http://tinyurl.com/d9bc8]**

Regardless, the dreidel is now a firmly entrenched and beloved tradition that has even developed a mystical side. Lee Ratzan suggests that like a dreidel, "the human spirit has four primary attributes: self (soul, *nefesh*), body (*guf*), reason (*sechel*) and everything (by extension, evil, *hakol*). When the dreidel is spun, the four sides can no longer be distinguished and blend into a harmonious oneness about a single infinite point. Spinning the dreidel is a symbolic act of striving for that harmony." **[http://tinyurl.com/yhcpuj]**

If you think you know exactly what a dreidel looks like, pay a visit to Eran Grebler's Draydel-House for dozens of delightful designs. **[www.draydelhouse.com]** Marsha Plafkin's Braille Dreidel is a simple yet striking variation. **[http://tinyurl.com/v2j8c]**

If you are inspired to make your own dreidel, you can make one out of paper. **[http://tinyurl.com/68f27]** Oh, and if you've never had a little dreidel (and made it out of clay), it's not too late! Just follow the instructions at ehow.com. **[http://tinyurl.com/yfo2hd]** I came across an advanced mathematical discussion looking at probability and the dreidel. **[http://tinyurl.com/yxnpk3]**

Nothing can replace that visceral thrill of spinning your own dreidel. But since everything seems to have gone high-tech these days, you can try your luck on your computer with some virtual dreidels. My favourite is the delightful one at the Jewish Outreach Institute. **[www.joi.org/dreidel]**

I found a couple of online game that should also please dreidel lovers. The Dreidel Slide Puzzle challenges you to unscramble the pieces to make a picture of a dreidel. **[http://tinyurl.com/ydoeyj]** Once you've solved that, try the elegant yet challenging dreidel jigsaw puzzle. **[http://tinyurl.com/yyfhzk]**

Although the classic Chanukah foods are latkes and the jelly-filled sufganiyot, there's no reason you can't indulge your passion for dreidels. Try out Candy Dreidels **[http://tinyurl.com/ydkpmn]**, Dreidel Cookies **[http://tinyurl.com/srcmf]** some Dreidel Toast **[http://tinyurl.com/yykdhk]** and Fruity Dreidels that make good use of strawberries, bananas and canned pears. **[http://tinyurl.com/vpy78]**

What would Chanukah be without the music? Some of the holiday's sweetest tunes pay homage to the little toy. Sing along to *Sevivon, Sov, Sov, Sov* and *I Have a Little Dreidel*. **[http://tinyurl.com/y6x92m]**

Everybody's favourite little dreidel is (we know!) made of clay. But if you want a new dreidel to sing about, look no further than the Hava Nashira Jewish Songleader's Resource. There are dozens of modern variations of the classic, including:

- I have a little dreidel, I made it from cement.
- And now our lovely hardwood floor has a nasty dent.
- I have a little dreidel, I made it out of glue.
- The baby tried to spin it, and now she's spinning, too.
- I have a little dreidel, made from a CD-ROM.

It helped me launch a startup called DreidelSpin-dot-com! **[http://ot006.urj.net/dreidl.htm]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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Israelis and North American Jewry look at each other over an ever-increasing divide

Friday, December 1	Erev Shabbat Service at 8:00 p.m. Topic: Me and You: Israel and the Diaspora are on the move - away from each other.
Sunday, December 3	Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Lecture at 10:00 a.m. Topic: If all Israel wants from us is Aliyah, and since there already is a Jewish State, and since some things it does actually bother me - what point is there in still being a Zionist?

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Play about Rachel Corrie may open here in 2007

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

A controversial play about Rachel Corrie, a young American activist who was killed after being run over by an Israeli bulldozer in 2003, is likely to open in Toronto next year.

Martin Bragg, the artistic producer of CanStage, a Toronto-based theatre company, is negotiating the rights to *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, a play co-edited by the *Guardian*'s former editor Katherine Viner and directed and co-edited by actor Alan Rickman, the British actor who starred in films such as *Truly, Madly, Deeply* and as Severus Snape in the Harry Potter series.

If CanStage is successful in obtaining the rights, the play will be staged in the 2007-08 season.

The play, which is based on Corrie's e-mails, letters and journal entries, had two sold-out runs in London at the Royal Court Theatre in 2005, and one in New York is running until the end of December at the off-Broadway Minetta Lane Theatre.

The theatre acquired the rights after James Nicola, the artistic director of the New York Theatre Workshop, postponed his production, which was eventually cancelled, reportedly because of pressure from Jewish groups who felt the play was anti-Israel and anti-Semitic.

Since Corrie's death three years ago, the 23-year-old woman from Olympia, Wash., who travelled to Rafah in the Gaza Strip as a member of of the pro-Palestinian International Solidarity Movement, has been immortalized as a symbol of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Depending on what side of the conflict you're on, Corrie is seen either as an idealistic, naïve girl who slipped in front of a bulldozer while interfering with the Israeli army when it was trying to destroy tunnels used by terrorists to smuggle weapons, or she was a courageous martyr who was murdered trying to protect the home of an innocent Palestinian refugee.

Despite the controversial way Corrie died, Bragg said the play is not anti-Israeli propaganda, but a portrayal of an extraordinary woman's journey.

"For me, it was just a really fascinating journey of how some privileged 23-year-old kid from Seattle [sic], Washington – what it was that drove her to that experience in Gaza," said Bragg, who has read the script and will see the play in New York before its run ends.

"I have a son in university and I have a 17-year-old daughter. I was really moved as a parent by the end of it. I wasn't judgmental at all," he said, adding that he doesn't think of it as "political-based theatre."

But Jonathan Tobin, the executive editor of the *Philadelphia Jewish Exponent* who wrote an article called "Rachel Corrie was a liar," criticized the political one-sidedness of the play.

"She is portrayed as a sensitive American kid who went off to Gaza, where she wound up questioning her belief in the humanity of the Israelis who were battling her Palestinian pals. Seen through Corrie's peculiar tunnel vision, Israel is an evil power whose only purpose seems to be to make nonviolent Palestinian Arabs miserable."

Although Bragg said the play is not political, a number of excerpts from the play about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict suggest otherwise.

"The vast majority of Palestinians right now, as far as I can tell, are engaging in Gandhian non-violent resistance," Corrie says in the play.

"What we [Americans] are paying for here [in Israel] is truly evil… I'm really scared, and questioning my fundamental belief in the goodness of human nature. This has to stop."

In one scene, Corrie speaks to her mother on the phone and tells her what to tell journalists about her experiences in Rafah.

"If you talk about the cycle of violence, or 'an eye for an eye,' you could be perpetuating the idea that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a balanced conflict, instead of a largely unarmed people against the fourth most powerful military in the world."

When talking about Palestinian refugees, she says, "I wonder if you can forgive the world for all the years spent existing – just existing – in resistance to the constant attempt to erase you from your home."

Bragg said that since the news broke that CanStage is negotiating for the rights to the play, he has only received one complaint from a subscriber who said CanStage's decision to produce the play will influence that person's decision to subscribe again next year.

"The interesting thing about it is that most of the people [who oppose the play] are operating on what I would call the hysteria level. They have not seen the play, they have not read the play, they are dealing with assumptions," Bragg said.

"I am not anticipating a level of protest. We are a very tolerant society," he said.

Alicia Richler, associate director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee, said that although everyone in Canada has the right to free speech, the timing of the news is poor, since an Israeli man was recently killed when a rocket launched from the northern Gaza Strip hit a factory in Sderot.

My Name is Rachel Corrie recalls "the days of Athenian drama, when theatre was used to achieve a political end," Richler said.

"While CIC has no comment on the artistic merits of the show, it is unfortunate that a Canadian theatre company would choose to produce a play that draws attention away from the real victims in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

Israeli foundation helps victims of terror

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Israelis have experienced more than their share of death and destruction at the hands of terrorists, but for years the feelings that go along with such loss have been suppressed. Today, however, "the country is coming out of an emotional freeze," said Sherri Mandell, herself the victim of terror. "We're part of it."

Mandell, whose son Koby (Yaakov) was bludgeoned to death in a cave near their West Bank home in Tekoa, has created the Koby Mandell Foundation to maintain her son's memory and to assist others to deal with the loss of loved ones.

"We are speaking a language that they are just beginning to hear – the language of feeling," she said.

Koby, along with his friend Yosef Ish-Ran, were killed in May 2001 after playing hooky from school and going on a hike in the gorge near Tekoa. They were found in a cave a day later, beaten to death. Dental records were required to identify the bodies.

> ***'We are speaking a language that they are just beginning to hear – the language of feeling'***

Needless to say, Sherri Mandell was devastated by her son's murder. She describes her spiritual journey in coping with the tragedy in *The Blessing of a Broken Heart*, a work that won the National Jewish Book Award of the Jewish Book Council.

She and her husband Seth set up the Koby Mandell Foundation (www.kobymandell.org), a privately funded organization with a budget of around $1.5 million (US) that operates programs for those who have lost a close family member to terror. She was in Toronto recently to meet with Canadian Friends of the Koby Mandell Foundation, increase the organizations' profile and to solicit financial aid for its work.

This week she will be in New York for a fundraising dinner that will honour baseball legend Willie Randolph, one of the first black managers in the major leagues.

Koby, who spent many of his early years in the United States, was a baseball fan who idolized Cal Ripken Jr. and who played baseball for a little league team in Tekoa. Ripken, who set the major league record for most consecutive games played, appeared at the first foundation fundraiser a year ago and helped create awareness for the organization.

Mandell was effusive in her admiration for Ripken, saying his participation opened doors that would otherwise have remained shut for the foundation.

Money raised at the Manhattan fundraiser will go to support the organization's work of providing assistance to those who have suffered personal loss and maintaining "the healing community" established by the foundation.

The foundation operates youth camps during Chanukah and Pesach, with 300 kids attending each session. The camps provide healing activities like hiking, yoga and art therapy and guided imagery therapy. Children have fun while learning to express their emotions.

Other foundation programs include a mother's retreat, a family healing retreat, a big brother/big sister program, and a young adult friendship program.

"Children," Mandell said, "really are the silent victims." They are faced for the first time with purposeful evil that has taken from them a loved one, and sometimes their family tries to shield them from that reality. At the Chanukah camp last year, a nine-year-old girl at a Shabbat program told the other campers the story of her mother's death. Her mom was driving a car in front of a bus in which the girl was riding, when her mother was shot and wounded and taken alive to the hospital. Her father and grandmother were able to visit her but her mom died before the little girl could see her.

Another little girl sitting next to her turned to Mandell and said the same thing happened to her. "'I didn't get to go,'" the little girl said.

"I think they feel left out."

Mandell said Israelis have for years dealt with the grief of losing loved ones, but the foundation provides the mechanism to "process" the feelings.

"If you can take the pain and transform it into something giving...

"Sadness has to be transformed into something positive. You can't just sit in grief or else it will kill you or make you sick," Mandell said.

Her own experience of losing her first-born (she has three younger children) was so intense, she compared it to becoming "a dead person.

"When you have a murder in the family, you are dead. At first you feel like you want to die. You live in another world. I didn't want to eat.

"People would bring me food and 'ugh, not for me. I'm not in the world.'

"It's hard. You have to pretend everything is okay."

Mandell said she received advice from others who experienced similar loss and she avoided the fairly common pattern of masking sorrow with tranquillizers and sleeping pills.

She was assisted by a friend who is a counsellor and who taught her "what you're feeling is okay. She gave me permission to feel."

Making her smile this summer was our task. Changing her life is our commitment.

For five weeks, Kamilla Rosenblum and her single mother endured bombardment in Nahariya. Only when New Israel Fund programs allowed her to travel south – and enjoy her fifth birthday party – did the smile return to her face.

Kamilla and her family are not alone. Millions of "invisible Israelis" have suffered from years of budget cuts and government indifference to the needs of the North and the Negev – Israel's periphery, geographically and psychologically.

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Jewish Toronto

Alex Grossman z"l leaves an unforgettable legacy

Jurists, philanthropists and a former premier mourn his passing

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

On November 17, Jews in Toronto, Israel and around the world lost a community leader who devoted his life to teaching the lessons of the Holocaust while doing what he could to keep our Jewish community strong.

Grossman - who championed many causes including UJA Federation, State of Israel Bonds, Shaare Zedek Hospital, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and Israel's Massuah Institute for the Study of the Holocaust - arrived in Toronto with his wife Genia from Belgium in 1950 at the age of 30. Both Holocaust survivors, the couple had escaped from Krakow to Austria and on to Hungary, before finally reaching Belgium.

Unfortunately, the families of both Alex and Genia died at the hands of the Nazis.

"At first we felt strange in this new country but soon we acclimated and quickly made friends," Grossman wrote in his 2005 entry into *The Book of Life* – an initiative of UJA Federation's Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto which invites community philanthropists to write their life stories. "I remember the generosity of so many individuals who taught me one of my most valuable lessons in life. To appreciate your community, you must give back to it."

Alex Grossman z"l, pictured here at a Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto Book of Life event on Sept. 27, 2005 at Beth Tzedec congregation, passed away on November 17.

And give back to it he did. Grossman was a man who did more than simply talk the talk, backing up his words with tremendous vision, compassion and generosity.

Grossman's personal tragedy with the Holocaust led him to be a founder – with the late Gideon Hausner – of the Massuah Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, at Kibbutz Tel Yitzak. Since its inception in 1972, Grossman, who started Belmont Construction with Abe Bleeman and the late Joe Silver after his arrival in Canada – has donated millions of dollars to the institute. Most recently, Grossman's million-dollar gift helped Massuah establish the Grossman School - International Centre for Holocaust Studies.

"I established the Canadian Friends of Massuah because I have always believed that future generations must be taught about the horrific experience of the Holocaust – to ensure it doesn't happen again," he wrote.

"For us, Mr. Grossman was an everlasting pillar of support," said Massuah's director, Aya Ben Naftali. "Massuah's reputation in Israel and abroad is the result of his nearly 40 years of public activity in instilling Holocaust consciousness for posterity at the Massuah campus. Mr. Grossman made the idea of bringing young people from Israel and abroad to an education centre where they could study the Holocaust era, a reality."

The recently retired chief justice of the Supreme Court of Israel, Aharon Barak, was surprised and upset to hear of Grossman's passing.

"I had the distinct privilege of knowing Alex Grossman and of appreciating his philanthropy relating to Holocaust education in general, and to the Massuah Institute specifically," Barak, who appeared in Toronto at a joint UJA Federation – Massuah event, told Jewish Toronto. "His passing is a great loss, not only for his family and the entire Toronto Jewish community, but also for his numerous friends in Israel who recognized his work here, and who greatly valued his tireless efforts. I am honoured to count myself among them."

"I came to know Alex Grossman fairly well over the years," said former Ontario Premier, William Davis. "And, while he was quite successful in the business world, I think, from my standpoint, he will best be remembered for his commitment to family and to his community and his involvement with the State of Israel and other charities in Toronto and in other areas. For those he will always be remembered."

Another prominent world Jewish leader remembers Grossman fondly.

"Alex Grossman had an incredible zest for life and for getting involved and, when he did, he wanted things to be perfect," said Toronto's Kurt Rothschild, chairman of the board, World Mizrachi. "I got him involved in Israel Bonds in the mid-seventies and from there he rose in its ranks. Alex possessed a great and colourful personality, full of energy until sickness struck. He is not a man who will be easily forgotten."

Steve Ain, a senior consultant with UJA Federation and a former CEO of UIA Federations Canada, worked with Grossman for many years.

"What set Alex apart from others was that he simply would not take no for an answer," said Ain. "That's the way great leaders get things done. Alex had such determination and an inner strength that always ensured that he reached his philanthropic goals."

"While small in stature, Alex was a giant of a man when it came to business and, even more importantly, community life," said UJA Federation president Ted Sokolsky. "So many of our institutions, services and programmes would not be here today were it not for the vision and tenacity of Alex Grossman. He was a community builder in so many senses of that word. While we all have benefited from his legacy, we are all the less from his passing. I for one will miss him terribly."

"We must never let the spirit of giving die," wrote Grossman. "We must never take freedom for granted. It is our obligation to keep the Jewish community strong and we must all do our part."

And fortunately for all of us, that's exactly the way Alex Grossman lived his extraordinary life.

Torontonians bike for charity in Israel

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA Federation

After five grueling days of riding across desert terrain in support of Alyn Hospital, Ruth Ekstein triumphantly entered Eilat on her mountain bike with 424 other riders amidst a cheering crowd. "It was the most exhilarating thing I've ever done," says the long-time UJA Federation volunteer. "We didn't know if we should laugh or cry or yell and I think we did a little of all three."

One of 50 Torontonians who completed this year's Wheels of Love charity ride, in which participants biked from Jerusalem to Eilat to raise money for Israel's only comprehensive pediatric and adolescent rehabilitation centre, Ekstein describes the experience with unbridled enthusiasm. "The scenery was spectacular, the weather was amazing, and there were 425 riders from ten countries so the opportunity to meet a bunch of crazy like-minded people was fantastic. I'd go again in a heartbeat."

Earl Haltrecht, an orthodontist from Toronto and co-chair of UJA Federation's Partners Circle raised US $5,500 on the charity ride. "I love riding, I love Israel, and it's a fabulous cause, so I'd say it was win-win-win."

Alyn Hospital, a world leader in rehabilitation of children with a broad range of physical disabilities, is the only facility of its kind in Israel.

"Any time there are children involved - whether it's a congenital deformity or accident victims or victims of terror, your heart opens up and you'll do anything for them," says Haltrecht.

Although Ekstein has been supporting the Alyn ride for many years, this was the first year that the occupational therapist from Toronto put her feet where her money is.

From October 29 to November 2, she averaged 100 off-road kilometers each day, going "where roads don't go, which was really exceptional," and raising almost US $7,000 for Alyn, which is well on its way to reaching its $2.5 million goal for this year's ride.

Toronto's Ruth Ekstein spent five grueling days riding her mountain bike across Israel's desert terrain in support of Alyn Hospital.

Ekstein first got involved with Wheels of Love five years ago, when her best friend participated in the ride and asked her to help fundraise. At the time, her husband - Alan Lechem - was co-chair of the Israel Action Committee at Beit Rayim Synagogue, and the synagogue took on fundraising for Alyn.

"My husband decided,'why just fundraise when I can also ride,' so in 2004 he went with four members of our synagogue and then last year he went again. But this year I and another woman from our synagogue said,'well if the boys can do it, we can too,'so we went this year and my husband stayed home with the kids."

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Prosserman family showers Toronto with generosity

Philanthropist signs agreement for $12 million toward new JCC

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

Speaking in front of his family, Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant and UJA Federation leaders at a small, informal gathering recently, Martin Prosserman signed an agreement for $12 million saying: "I thank you all for letting me pay off this debt – a debt I incurred as a child in Montreal, and something I consider myself fortunate to be able to do."

The $12 million represents the lead gift towards the building of the new Prosserman JCC, which will replace the current, 45 year old Bathurst Jewish Community Centre on Bathurst Street, just north of Sheppard.

Construction on the new Central Square campus on which the Prosserman JCC will be a key component, is scheduled to begin next fall as part of UJA Federation's $250 million Tomorrow Campaign.

Chaired by Lawrence Tanenbaum and Gerald Schwartz – the Tomorrow Campaign is creating three new campuses for Jewish life throughout the GTA - downtown, in Vaughan and at the Bathurst and Sheppard location.

Prosserman – who grew up poor in Montreal - recalled how if it weren't for the Montreal YMHA where, for a nickel, he would receive a clean towel, a bar of soap, and a hot shower, he might not be here today.

The Prosserman family (l-r) Gary, Ron, Martin and Brian, share a smile after Martin signed an agreement for $12 million towards the construction of the Prosserman JCC, which will replace the current 45-year-old JCC at Bathurst and Sheppard.

"I never really thought this was going to happen; we started talking about this five years ago, but, thanks to Carol Seidman (director of UJA Federation's capital campaign) and UJA Federation President Ted Sokolsky, it's really going to happen, and my family and I are so thrilled," said the elder Prosserman.

Prosserman made his comments in the boardroom of a private investment firm started by the family after selling Moores the Suit People in 1996.

"I saw it in Martin's eyes," said Sokolsky. "He wanted to do something great, something that would make a major difference to this city, a city that has always welcomed wave upon wave of immigrants – just like Martin's own Ukrainian parents. This new facility will serve the needs of young and old alike, for generations to come."

"I remember talking about the concept of Central Campus with Martin and his boys five years ago," said Peter Cohen, chair of the Central Square redevelopment committee. "It's really quite astounding how you can go from needing a JCC in Montreal in order to take a hot shower, to having your name on a brand new, state-of-the-art JCC here in Toronto."

"Every community requires its key leaders to step forward and make a special contribution and truly perform a mitzvah, a mitzvah like the one Martin Prosserman and his family have performed today," said Bryant. "As the husband of a Jewish Montreal ex-patriot, I'm thrilled that you're in Toronto now and that you have given so much. Thanks for being such a wonderful neighbour."

Ron Prosserman, who stood with brothers Gary and Brian during the proceedings, spoke about the significance of the Prosserman JCC.

"It has extra special meaning to our family because it honours the memory of my mother who, like the building, was in a class of her own," he said while fighting back tears. His mother Ellen passed away in 2002.

"My mother was always happy and loved by those who knew her. She treated everyone with dignity, compassion, honesty and respect. The elderly, poor, vulnerable and the general community will all be treated with this same kindness and care in this exciting new JCC."

Also on hand for the historic agreement was Leslie Gales, chair of the Tomorrow Campaign leadership committee.

"Martin told me that he wanted to see this project come to life while he was still here, to make sure it came to fruition," said Gales. "Well, Martin, it's really happening," she said with a smile.

Toronto doctors lend expertise to Israeli hospitals

Physicians volunteer before UJA Federation mission

By A.M. SEGAL
UJA Federation

While visiting Israel a year ago, Toronto's Dr. Wilfred Steinberg spent some time at Yoseftal Hospital, a small, somewhat isolated healthcare facility in Eilat which made a distinct impression on him.

The physician was touched by the hospital because despite its size, it came to the rescue of numerous victims of the Taba terror attack in Egypt in 2004, which killed and injured scores of Israelis.

"This small hospital, with only 68 beds, was suddenly called upon to handle a major crisis and I was moved and impressed by how they did it," said Steinberg.

Steinberg kept the hospital's efforts fresh in his mind and recently, he decided to lend a hand to the facility.

Prior to joining his wife, Susan, and more than 40 colleagues and their spouses on UJA Federation's Medical Services Division mission to Israel, the pair decided to spend a few days volunteering at Yoseftal Hospital.

Before the journey, Steinberg, who works at St. Michael's Hospital, asked St. Mike's to provide medical equipment it no longer uses to Yoseftal. "And we found a generous supplier who has volunteered to ship the equipment to Israel," he said.

"In Israel I had the opportunity to work with the hospital to discuss ways in which we could improve everything and anything they do," Steinberg added.

A patient's room at The Nahariya Hospital of the Galilee was devastated by a Hezbollah rocket during this summer's war.

In just a few days, they set in motion a plan to link Yoseftal with Toronto's medical community.

"At St. Mike's, we have teaching and academic-based rounds which will be beamed to Yoseftal via video conferencing," he enthused. "This will erase the hospital's feeling of isolation."

A mentoring program, which would bring young physicians from Yoseftal to Toronto, is another idea being explored.

Meanwhile, Susan Steinberg volunteered her time with the cause that is particularly meaningful to her – the development of human capital.

"I met two young Israelis who are working with troubled kids and I was very inspired by them," she said.

On the mission, chaired by doctors Michael Gordon, Irving Gottesman, Linda Ingber, Howard Price, Rachel Shupak and Jerry Title, the Steinbergs and their colleagues spent most of their time in central and northern Israel, meeting with guest speakers, touring and engaging with fellow medical professionals.

The mission was part of UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 which is raising funds to help northern Israel recover from this summer's war with Hezbollah and for urgent local needs. So far, the campaign has raised $72 million with $19.5 million designated for Israel's emergency needs.

A mission highlight was a visit to Nahariya Hospital, which was hit by Hezbollah rockets during the war.

Capital Ideas

Time running out for 2006 gifts

This is the first in a series of regular columns in which Jamie Golombek will discuss how you can get the most out of your money.

By JAMIE GOLOMBEK

With only a month to go before year end, December is the ideal time to sit down and review your portfolio for last-minute tax planning opportunities. Ordinarily, this year-end tradition amounts to nothing more than "tax-loss selling": an annual ritual through which investors cull their portfolios of any losing stock or mutual fund positions to ensure that any capital losses can be triggered in time for use in the current tax year.

Jamie Golombek

This year, however, a unique opportunity awaits investors who have significant accrued gains on some of their positions as a result of the tax changes announced in the May 2006 federal budget.

Earlier this year, the government eliminated all capital gains tax payable on a donation of securities, mutual funds or insurance segregated funds to a registered charity. That's right – no tax at all on any and all accumulated gains in your portfolio if you donate the appreciated property to charity. And, you get a tax receipt equal to the fair market value.

But, what if you want to hold on to this winning stock beyond 2006? No problem. Just buy it back, bumping up your adjusted cost base (ACB) or tax cost to fair market value. Let's illustrate with a simple example.

Isaac owns shares that he originally purchased for $2,000 in 1995 that have more than doubled in value to $5,000 by November 30, 2006. He wants to make his annual $5,000 donation to charity this December.

Instead of writing a cheque out of his savings account for $5,000, he donates the appreciated stock "in-kind" to the charity and receives a donation receipt for $5,000. Since Isaac wants to continue to hold the stock for the long term, he uses the $5,000 in his bank account to buy back the stock on the open market.

The net result: a tax receipt for $5,000, no tax on the $3,000 accrued capital gain and an increased ACB on the stock after repurchase of $5,000, ensuring that he only pays tax down the road on any future appreciation above $5,000.

Sounds like a win-win-win to me!

Jamie Golombek, CA, CPA, CFP, CLU, TEP is Vice-President, Taxation & Estate Planning, at AIM Trimark Investments in Toronto. He is also co-chair, communications sub-committee of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto's Professional Advisory Committee (PAC). He can be reached at jamie.golombek@aimtrimark.com

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Educators examine leadership issues

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Lucy Cohen

Mark Smiley

Lucy Cohen, head of school of United Synagogue Day School, and Mark Smiley, director of education of Associated Hebrew Schools, were among about 50 participants in a "think tank" earlier this month that focused on recruitment and retention of qualified school leaders.

The two-day event took place at the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and was sponsored by about a dozen organizations, including Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE) and RAVSAK: The Jewish Community Day School Network.

"Many schools are looking for leadership, and there are not enough people out there with sufficient qualifications and experience to fill these roles," said Cohen, who will retire at the end of this school year.

To some extent, the day school system has too many jobs for too few qualified applicants, because it's the victim of its own success, Rabbi Joshua Elkin, executive director of PEJE and a think tank planning committee member, told JTA before the conference.

There are roughly 800 North American day schools, including 60 that have opened since PEJE started in 1997, Elkin said.

Although Cohen has been in her current position for 10 years – not an atypical situation in Toronto – she said there is an "extremely high" turnover rate among school administrators in the United States.

Some schools have addressed the situation by using interim leadership or leadership teams, she said. Others have hired qualified non-Jews or "CEOs" who are not educators.

"All the movements have to work together," she said. "It's too serious a situation for each organization to do it alone."

Smiley, who was not reachable by phone, wrote in an educators' listserv that for him, the "most poignant remarks were made by people who were honest of why they are not rushing to headship." Among the reasons he cited were dual careers and an "abundance of excellent second-tier alternatives" in larger communities.

He also wrote of "a bright spot on the horizon": a willingness of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform educators to work together.

Planners are preparing to follow up on the meeting, said Cohen.

With files from JTA

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

שלום עליכם שרייבט וועגן יידישע וויבער

וויי איר געדענקט האָבן מיר היינטיקן יאָר אָפּגעצייכנט די 90סטע יאָרצייט פון גרויסן קלאַסיקער. אויפֿער מיר ענ־ זיקן דאָס יאָר דרוקן מיר איבער 2 פון זיינע קורצע ווּאָכן.

טעמע־ביילע

טעמע־ביילע די נגידית איז דווקא אַ יידענע אַ נידעריקע און אַ גראָבע, זעט אויס ווי אַ מעשן שטייסל, אַדער ווי אַ בייקיק סאַמאָווארל מיט אַ קליין שפּיציק טשייניקל אויף דער קאָנפֿארקע. ווי גראָב אין קיילעכיק זי איז פון אונטן, אַזוי קליין און שפּיציק איז דאָס קעפּל, און שטענדיק זיצט דאָס, דאָס בייקיקע סאַמאָווארל, זיצט און זשומעט, אין כעס אויפֿן מאַן, אין כעס אויף דער דינסט, אין כעס אויף די כתּרילעווקער ציגן און ווייבער, אין כעס אויף דער גאַנצער וועלט!

דאָס גאַנצע גליק איז, וואָס סיי דער מאַן, סיי די דינסט, סיי די כתּרילעווקער ציגן און ווייבער, סיי די גאַנצע וועלט הערן זי, ווי פּסח דעם קאָטער, אָדער ווי המן דעם גראָגער. דער מאַן האָט צו טאָן שטענדיק מיט קהלשע נעשעפטן, מיט נאַטשאַלסטוועס; די דינסט טוט איר אויף צו להכעיס, ברענט צו די קאָשע, פֿאַרשרפּעט די קאָרטאָפֿליעס, זידט איבער די מילך אין אויוון; די כתּרילעווקער ציגן טוען איר צום טויט, שפּרינגען אויפֿן דאַך און צופּן איינציקווייז די שטרוי פון דער סטריכע; די כתּרילעווקער ווייבער דערגייען איר די יאָרן אין מאָרק בייַ די פֿיש, אין יאָטקע ביים פֿלייש, אין שיל בייַ די תּחינות און להבדיל, אין באַד אפֿילו . . .

(די גרויסע בחלה פון די קליינע מענטשעלעך)

ניין מאָס רייד

— גוט שבת, — זאָגט די מומע יענטע — כ׳האָב געוווסט, אַז ס׳איז בייַ אייך דאָ פֿרישע סמעטשקעס; דער חיסרון, וואָס ס׳איז נישטאָ מיט וואָס צו קאָכן. נישט מער זאָל מיין שלימזל לעבן, וויפֿל כ׳האָב ציין אין מויל . . . ווי געפֿעלט דיר, מלכה, די היינטיקע פֿיש, וואָס ס׳האָט זיך אָפּגענטאָן בייַ זייַ?

כ׳טרעג אים, מנשה דעם פֿיליער, וואָס אַזא יקרות אויף אידן — שפּרינגט אונטער שרה־פֿערל די נגידית: „גיט מיר גיכער, גיט מיר, ווערט מיר אַפֿ דאָס העכטלי" וואָס אַזאַ הינ אויף אייך, גאָט איז מיט אייך, זאָג אין, דער טייך ברענט נישט, און מנשה וועט די פֿיש נישט צוריקפֿירן. ביי די נגידים, זאָג אין, איז אָפּנים געלט וואָלזול און שכל טייערע

גייט זי דאָך מסתּמא און עפֿנט אויף מיר אַ מויל: „קבצנים, זאָגט זי, האָבן דאָ נישט וואָס צו טאָן . . . אַן ארעמאַן, זאָגט זי, טוער זיך נישט גלוסטן". . . וואָס זאָגסטו אויף אַזא הולטייקע? לאָגב איז זי געשטאַנען מיידלווייז מיט איר מאַמע אין מאָרק ביים טישל און פֿאַרקויפֿט סטענגעלעך? . . . פּתקט אַזוי ווי פֿעסל, פֿייס־אברהמס, נעמט זיך איבער מיט איד טאָכטער, וואָס זי האָט תּתנה געהאַט פֿאַר אַ גביר פון סטרישטש, זי נענומען ווי זי שטייט און גייט . . . יידישע גליקן.

מ׳זאָגט, זי ווערט פֿאַרשוואַרצט, קיין ערך־הרע, אויף אירע יאָרן און טעג, קען נישט הירן מיט די קע־ דער . . . וואָס זשע, ס׳איז גוט צו זיין אַ שטיפֿמאַמע? מ׳זאָל גאָר באַהיט ווערן אָט נעמט תּהלע — דאָכט זיך, וואָס האָט מען צו אירי? זאָלט איר זען, וואָס זי האָט פון שטיפֿקינדער! טאָג ווי נאַכט הערט מען קולות, מ׳משטעלט זיך פֿייגן, פּיטש־פֿאַטש, דריי שלייערס אַ גראָשן. (דער יינגער)

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Teacher brings playfulness to the classroom

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

"Who wants to tell Frances what my number 1 rule is?" Heidi Larman Brown demanded of her Grade 1 class on a recent Sunday morning, after introducing a visiting *CJN* reporter.

"They are our teachers..."

Immediately, a chorus of giggling voices answered, "No smiling!"

The playfulness that Larman Brown brings to her students at the Downtown Jewish Community School mitigates the possibility that they will view her as some "crazy, scary lady," as she put it in a recent interview. At 6-foot-1, Larman Brown's height alone could be intimidating for a small child.

"She's so creative. She's sweet, warm and enthusiastic," said DJCS principal Joan Schoenfeld, who Larman Brown views as her mentor.

When Schoenfeld hired her more than 20 years ago, Larman Brown – a Montreal native who moved here at age 10 – had no teaching experience and little confidence in her ability to do the job, because she was dyslexic and had never been a good student herself.

But Schoenfeld had seen Larman Brown perform for kids in an interactive dramatization of a children's book, found out that she'd spent a year in Israel and knew Hebrew, and thought she had a "natural talent for being a teacher.

"She absolutely delighted and enthralled [the children]," Schoenfeld told *The CJN*. "I saw that she really cared about the kids and that she really cared about what she was doing."

A lesson from the teacher: *"I try to enjoy life. When I get to school most days, I plan on having a good day. It works, generally."*

Larman Brown, now 45 and the mother of a three-year-old son, recalls that Schoenfeld used to observe her in class and make suggestions. She also encouraged her to attend teacher training seminars.

But it wasn't until Larman Brown was 33 that she set out to pursue a university education.

"I was really eking away at my BA, taking a course here and a course there," she recalls. She graduated from York University with a bachelor of arts in history in 1997, having earned a diploma in education from Queen's University two years earlier. Once she received her BA, the diploma was upgraded to a bachelor of education.

Since then, she has taught commercial food preparation, family studies and English as a second language in the public school system, and home economics at Associated Hebrew Schools on a one-year contract in the mid-1990s.

As well, Larman Brown taught life skills at George Brown College, where she earned a diploma as a community worker in 1985. She also has an interprovincial certificate of qualification as a cook.

From 1988 to 1994, she managed a café/catering business that provided on-the-job training to recovering psychiatric patients, and authored a cookbook of the café's recipes. She was also a kosher caterer for a brief stint at the Lower East Side Café at the University of Toronto's former Hillel House in the 1980s.

At the DJCS, housed in the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, Larman Brown says her main goal is to "try and convey a love of Judaism."

With her background in food preparation, she often brings edibles to class to complement a lesson, or involves students in preparing foods like challah or hamantaschen.

Her husband, David Brown, is a former consultant in the meat industry. "Between us, we eat very well," she said.

Larman Brown, who serves as the "story lady" at the Beach Hebrew Institute (also known as the Beach Synagogue) during children's services on High Holy Days, said she hated Hebrew school when she was a student. However, her frustration didn't affect the love for Judaism and Israel that was imbued in her by her parents, Elliott, a retired social worker who worked at Jewish Family and Child Service for many years, and Shirley, a jewelry designer.

Heidi Larman Brown instructs her students on decorating challah plates.
[Frances Kraft photo]

"I have the best job, period, in Jewish education," said Larman Brown. "[Grade 1 students] have a little bit of knowledge to build on. They're not bored with the process, and they're ready to have fun. It's great."

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DJCS students take on kidnapped soldiers project

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Grade 5 students at the Downtown Jewish Community School are hard at work writing letters to raise awareness about Israel's kidnapped soldiers, urge officials to take action, and to express their sympathy to the families of Gilad Shalit, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev.

On Dec. 10, Ya'acov (Cobie) Brosh, Israel's consul general in Toronto, will visit the class and collect their letters to the families.

The students are also sending letters to the International Committee of the Red Cross to ask them to ascertain whether the soldiers are alive, visit them and arrange for their release; and to Canada's foreign minister Peter MacKay, to request that the government put pressure on Lebanon and Syria to learn if the soldiers are alive, and arrange for visits and their release.

Yehudit (Judy) Shier Weisberg, the children's teacher, told her students about the soldiers in October, with the idea of doing something to help.

"We want to be role models to get others to do something, because the Israeli government has a lot of political considerations that the Jewish community doesn't have to abide by," Shier Weisberg told *The CJN*.

The fate of the three soldiers, who were abducted this past summer, is unknown. "It's so cruel to the families," she said.

Now that the students have had their consciousness raised, they are doing their best to take an active role.

Alan Healey-Greene, who two years ago asked his friends for donations to the United Way in lieu of gifts for his eighth birthday, believes that in general, "kids like helping people.

Leah Berson-Wainberg, left, and Alyssa Kahane, work on a letter to the family of kidnapped Israeli soldier Eldad Regev.

"Unless they're bullies," added his classmate Reuben Labovitz, who wrote a letter to Shalit's family with Alan. "We all remember your son," they wrote.

The letter-writing project is the first social action project the class has undertaken, said Shier Weisberg. Although she didn't plan it that way, it ties in with the focus on the Jewish month of Cheshvan as a month of social action, as the students read in the November issue of the Jewish children's magazine *BabagaNews*.

Student Sophie Mason said that she didn't know a lot about the missing soldiers at first. Kids are into "cartoons and stuff," she said. She hopes the letters to the soldiers' families "will make them feel better."

Also, she said, the students were writing to the Red Cross "because they should go try and find them."

In the letter Sophie wrote with Talia Speigel to Shalit's family, the girls said they have not forgotten Shalit and would continue not to. The letter ends with a postscript, in tidy upper case printed letters, "GOOD LUCK."

Some children tried to put themselves in the families' position. Talia told *The CJN* she has a sister who's the same age as one of the soldiers. It would be "pretty awful" if her sister were kidnapped, she said.

"If I was one of his younger brothers I would be very sad and concerned," Bronte Morris-Poolman wrote to the Goldwasser family. "We hope he can be found."

Brittany Weinberg Hadley wrote that she knows how hard it is to lose a family member, having lost her grandmother over the summer.

In a letter to the school's parents and students in a recent school newsletter, Alyssa Kahane and Leah Berson-Weinberg – who indicated she had a vague awareness of the issue beforehand – said they hoped others would join them in the project.

"We want to show the people of Toronto and the Jewish community that we're role models, and to show the Red Cross and Peter MacKay that they should do something," said Alyssa.

Reuben Labovitz, left, and Alan Healey-Greene teamed up for their class letter-writing project.
[Frances Kraft photos]

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Gaza rockets and human shields draw media attention

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

In "Human-shield tactic works again in Gaza" (*Globe and Mail*, Nov. 20) Sonia Verma reported that Hamas and other "militants" used Palestinian civilians, including women and children, as "human shields" to protect their property against Israeli strikes.

In fact, these retaliatory strikes were preceded by calls from the Israeli military warning the owners to vacate their homes. Verma wrote that such warnings have been "a standard procedure for the Israeli air force in recent months in order to avoid civilian casualties."

Although the *Globe and Mail* story arguably gave short shrift to the rockets launched from Gaza against Israel, Verma did quote Israeli spokesperson Noa Meir: "Not only are [the Palestinians] using their civilians as human shields, they continue to endanger the lives of our civilians with their rocket attacks. It presents us with a very difficult dilemma, because we want to do everything possible to keep civilians out of harm's way, but we need to protect our people by ending rocket fire."

A *National Post* editorial, "The root of Palestinian misery" (Nov. 20), argued that while the use of human shields worked to protect the militants' homes, "the tactic may have backfired from a propaganda perspective: It served to demonstrate that Israel does not seek to kill Palestinian civilians wholesale, as Arab propagandists constantly claim. Indeed, it is clear the Palestinians themselves do not believe their own propaganda about Israel's alleged thirst for blood. Otherwise, they never would have been able to recruit all those human shields."

In "Both attacked and condemned" (*Ha'aretz*, Nov. 21), Yoel Marcus explored the dilemma facing Israelis. While residents of Sderot live under constant fire from Qassam rockets, the international community ignores their plight. But when "19 Palestinians were killed by mistake, a huge majority at the United Nations sees Israel as the cruel aggressor. Its apology was not accepted."

Marcus wrote: "Israel is the only country in the world in which one of its cities is a target for rockets every day… No country would put up with the situation in which one of its cities is a permanent shooting range, and where crossing a street or going to the grocery store has become death poker."

On CBC Newsworld Nov. 21, Ian Kalushner reported throughout the morning on the visit of United Nation Human Rights Commissioner Louise Arbour to Sderot, filling in some of the details that many Israelis believe have been ignored by the international media.

Kalushner noted that Arbour was able to get a sense of what Sderot residents experience under constant threat of rocket fire – indeed, during her visit, a rocket landed in a nearby factory, mortally injuring a worker. Kalushner's report included the Israeli statistic that more than 1,000 Qassams have been fired this year, including about 150 during November alone – leaving residents angry and frustrated that the UN has done nothing to prevent these attacks.

* * *

On the Nov. 16 edition of the *The Agenda* on TVO, host Steve Paikin interviewed Israeli author Yossi Klein Halevi, who discussed how Hamas' rejection of Israel and Iran's repeated threats against the Jewish state were destabilizing the Middle East.

Paikin then featured a panel discussion in which all three participants – Tarek Fatah, Hisham Mehlem and Eric Margolis – blamed Israel for refusing to negotiate with the Palestinians. It was as if the "Oslo" years of painstaking negotiations leading up to the failed Camp David/Taba talks of 2000-2001 had never taken place.

But truly stunning was Margolis' insistence that once Israel "recognizes 3.5 million Palestinians" and "allows some to come back to Israel" Hamas, in turn, will recognize Israel. This is utter rubbish. Margolis' claim bears no relation to reality. Hamas has consistently said it will never recognize Israel under any circumstances and that Israel must be destroyed.

Margolis, acting as an apologist for the Iranian regime, also chastised Israel for "beating the war drums against Iran." He bitterly opposed the idea of an Israeli pre-emptive strike against Iran by drawing an analogy to Pakistan: "Why can't [nuclear-armed] Pakistan attack Israel tomorrow because Israel is threatening a nuclear [sic] strike against Iran?"

To which Paikin interjected: "You haven't got the prime minister of Israel giving speeches every day saying Pakistan should be wiped off the face of the map."

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Corrections

The picture titled "War Memorial Unveiled" in the Nov. 23 edition of *The CJN* should have said in the caption that the memorial was unveiled by the Canadian Jewish War Memorial Association. *The CJN* regrets the error.

* * *

A picture caption in last week's paper incorrectly identified Shane Hyman of Holy Blossom Temple Pre-School as a girl. Shane is actually a boy. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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On Campus

Concordia gives anti-Israel British MP a forum

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Jewish students were not pleased that they were forced to move a planned activity at Concordia University's main Hall Building because of a speech by left-wing British MP George Galloway, an outspoken critic of Israel, but they say the university administration handled what could have been a contentious issue with understanding and tact.

Both events were scheduled for the same time on Friday night, Nov. 17.

Hillel ended up holding an interfaith Shabbat dinner with two guest speakers from One Voice, an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue effort, at a nearby downtown hotel, with the university assuming the costs, while Galloway's lecture went ahead in the Hall building's ground-floor auditorium, H-110.

Organized by the Syrian Students Association and the AnNahda Arab-Palestinian Association, Galloway's lecture drew more than 1,000 people.

The Hillel dinner was to have taken place in the 7th-floor cafeteria, with a lecture following on the 9th floor.

"I think it's a shame that the rhetoric of hate superseded dialogue," said Concordia student Ryan Schwartz, co-president of Hillel and an organizer of the dinner. He questions how serious the risk was when the events were to have been seven storeys apart.

Hillel was informed by Concordia vice-president Michael di Grappa on the Thursday night that, for security reasons, the Hillel event could not be held in the Hall building.

University spokesperson Chris Mota told *The CJN* that the decision to move the Hillel event was made on the recommendation of Montreal police.

She said Samuel Bronfman House, the Visual Arts building and possibly a third on-campus venue were offered to Hillel as an alternative, but it refused them. She noted that Hillel had written to the administration earlier that it was, in her words, "not pleased" that Galloway had been allowed to speak on campus.

The Galloway event had been booked two or three weeks in advance, before the Hillel event was.

In an apparent goodwill gesture, Concordia president Claude Lajeunesse and di Grappa both attended the Hillel event, which drew about 130 students, Jews, Muslims and Christians among them. Although Hillel would have preferred that Galloway had not been given a forum at Concordia, it did not explicitly ask for it to be cancelled and the interfaith event was not held as a counter-event, Schwartz indicated.

He said that there was no choice but to hold it that night, because it fit the two guest speakers' schedule.

Schwartz suggested the Galloway event might have been kept to an audience of no more than 200 and held elsewhere. "Don't give him such a big pulpit."

A Hillel staff member, who asked not to be identified, said the university administration handled the situation as best it could, and Hillel remains on excellent terms with it. The incident should not be seen as discrimination against Jewish students, he insisted.

The bigger issue, he believes, is how to handle controversial speakers in the future. Organizers and the administration will have to consider whether it is justified to "shut half the university," inconveniencing many other people and not enhancing Concordia's image.

The Hillel event was too big to be accommodated at Hillel House on Stanley Street, and in any event, Hillel wanted to hold it at Concordia, where Hillel has been involved in a number of initiatives that promote dialogue this year.

The Hillel event participants were not the only ones affected by Galloway's appearance. There was a heavy police presence outside the Hall building, and the main entrance was barred to all except ticket-holders for the event.

Galloway's appearance at Concordia was protested by Sam Lebens, a national executive member of the National Union of Students of the United Kingdom. In a letter to the student newspapers the *Concordian* and the *Link*, he wrote that Galloway publicly praised Hezbollah and its leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah at a rally in London on July 22 during the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict.

"It is my belief that Mr. Galloway is a dangerous figure who seeks to emphasize division rather than to build bridges and who comes very close to glorifying terrorism and inciting violence were it not for his intelligent and eloquent use of language used to shield him from the law."

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On Campus

Anti-Semitism on campus focus of CIJA campaign

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Countering anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist views on Canadian campuses is one of the main priorities of the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy for the next year, says its executive vice-president.

Speaking to Canadian delegates at the United Jewish Communities (UJC) General Assembly in Los Angeles earlier this month, Susan Davis said she hopes that the efforts of the National Jewish Campus Life (NJCL), an arm of CIJA and an organization of Jewish students who work together with local Hillels and other campus groups, will help counter anti-Israel activities on campus fuelled by the Israel-Hezbollah war last summer.

"It is an interesting, troubling, but challenging agenda that is happening on campus now because what is happening is not these eruptions that happened at Concordia," Davis said, referring to the violent protest that broke out in 2002 when former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu was scheduled to speak at Concordia University in Montreal.

"It is a slow and steady co-ordination of groups with planning and sophistication, a long-term approach to winning. [About] 80 per cent of the Canadian student body doesn't agree with either side."

She said that during the past summer, CIJA organized focus groups comprised of non-Jewish students to try to understand where they stood on the Middle Eastern conflict.

"The basic understanding was that they don't agree with either side and they don't want to be put into a situation of having to decide who is good or bad, who is right or wrong. They want us to have peace. And they want the campus to be a safe place," Davis said.

She said that Jewish students involved with NJCL developed a website called RoadtoPeace.org that aims to introduce people to the complexity of peace in the Middle East and create a forum for dialogue.

Davis added that students at the University of Toronto and York University have been working with non-Jewish groups to get them to buy into the Road to Peace initiative.

"I have to say that when we do act through non-Jewish voices we are at our best and our most effective in terms of leverage," Davis said.

During the presentation, Davis also referred to a job posting in the *Globe and Mail* for a Middle Eastern international relations officer at the University of Alberta, who would maintain contacts "to further the strategic objectives of the University of Alberta in the Middle East region," and would have to be fluent in Arabic.

"Where we do we fit in this? Where on campus do we find influence, not to overcome this, but just to be heard along with this, to balance this kind of thing?" Davis asked, adding that it is important for that students to be exposed to both a positive Jewish presence, and moderate Muslim voices.

"Twenty years from now, the University of Alberta is going to be a very different campus, both in terms of the programs and the people who attend those programs."

Other objectives CIJA has planned for its fourth year of operation, include mobilizing strategic alliances with interfaith and ethnic groups on campus and throughout the community, reaching out to the younger demographic to teach them about Jewish contributions to Canadian society, and ensuring that Israel does not become a wedge issue in the Liberal leadership contest.

She said that although CIJA is a young organization that continues to be a work in progress, she emphasized to students in particular that it is not going to become "institutional."

"Students should know that if something is not working, we will work with them to change it."

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Jewish studies program to arrive at Western

By LISA VARANO
Special to The CJN

For the first time ever, University of Western Ontario is planning to offer a minor in Jewish studies.

The course will be headed by Holocaust historian Martin Gilbert who is coming to campus this winter. His arrival is expected to spur the eventual creation of a full-fledged program.

This program will complement Western's "vibrant and multifaceted" Jewish community, said Naomi Mazer, executive-director of London Jewish Campus Services.

Mazer estimates that there are about 3,000 Jewish students at Western, representing about 10 per cent of the student body.

"It's a natural fit," she said of a Jewish studies program. "It's amazing that it hasn't happened yet."

Western is a popular choice among Jewish students from Toronto because it is close to their home, has a sizeable Jewish community on campus, and is a school where students get involved in university life, said Mazer, adding that students are excited about the new plans.

Martin Gilbert

"A lot of them have commented that they're sorry they're graduating shortly and they won't be able to participate in the program themselves," she said.

Tali Bogler, president of Western Hillel, said the creation of a Jewish studies program is an important step for the university in general.

"For Jews and non-Jews it's really going to positively impact everyone and just create more awareness," she said.

Western has been keen on introducing programs such as Jewish studies in the last few years, said Brian Timney, dean of social science.

"The idea for a Jewish studies program was a response to interest from the university community.

"I see [it] in exactly the same way as I see any other interdisciplinary program," he said. "The only thing that is different is that because it's affiliated with a religious as well as ethnic group, then it leaves open the possibility that people will want to debate it more."

The program is being developed within Western's history department and will eventually offer courses in various areas. It will not be a religious studies program about Judaism, said Ben Forster, chair of the history department.

"We're looking at the broad array of Jewish experience," he said. "I think it's incorrect to view the community as being kind of monolithic in character. It doesn't work that way in any cultural group."

Forster said Western already has about 10 Jewish-themed courses.

"Someone who would be interested in learning about the variety of experience that Jewish people have in the world could patch something together, if they wanted, now, but it wouldn't be cohesive," he said. "What we want to do by developing a program is provide a cohesive perspective."

He predicts the program will have broad appeal.

"We'll have to work hard to develop courses to attract a wide variety of students," he said. "There will be a huge array of students interested in these courses – not just people of Jewish background."

Western's program is a latecomer to Jewish studies in Canada, Forster said. "Comparable programs were developed in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

"I think it's developing now because… it takes a long time to get these things to gel in various sorts of ways," he said.

It is coming together, he said, because of support from the department of history, faculty of social science, and fundraising branch of the university.

Grant Stirling, associate vice-principal of development for Western, said more than $200,000 has been raised for the Jewish studies program so far, including a $75,000 donation from the London Jewish Federation and some donations from non-Jews.

"Fundraising in support of academic priorities allows us to fulfil our mission, which is to provide the best student experience among Canada's research-intensive universities," he said.

"I see the development of a proposed Jewish studies program as directly fulfilling that mandate."

An outline of the Jewish studies minor is expected to reach the university senate for approval this spring.

HELPING TERROR VICTIMS: Grade 7 students Orli Bogler, left, and Michelle Zive of Associated Hebrew Schools' Danilack Middle School, school presented a cheque for $12,000 on behalf of the school to Sherri Mandell, founder of the Koby Mandell Foundation. The money will send 12 children to camp next summer and were raised by students and teachers during the 2005-2006 school year through initiatives such as a basketball tournament, T-shirt sales and a talent show.

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Campaign helps needy children in Israel

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

After a visit to Israel just after the Yom Kippur War in 1973, Goldie Burstein, a member of what was then called Pioneer Women, returned home determined to make Chanukah brighter for needy kids in that country.

That was the beginning of Chanukah Dollars for David, a campaign run by what is now called Na'amat Canada, Toronto, that raises money to buy Chanukah presents for Israeli children who might otherwise receive nothing.

Lorraine Levene, executive director of the organization, says Burstein's "heart went out" to children she met at Na'amat's day-care centres. "She didn't want any of these children to go without."

After asking *The Canadian Jewish News* for help in promoting the project, she says, Burstein and then-editor Ralph Hyman decided to insert envelopes in the paper that readers could use to donate money to the campaign.

Since then, the orange envelopes have been inserted annually – they are in this week's edition – and they're also distributed to Hebrew day and supplementary schools.

In Toronto alone, she says, the drive usually raises close to $30,000, which allows each of the approximately 20,000 kids in Na'amat daycares in Israel to receive a present.

Dollars for David is particularly big at Toronto's Bialik Hebrew Day School, says Levene, where parents are asked to donate to the campaign instead of giving Chanukah gifts to teachers.

Janis Spinner, who has co-chaired Dollars for David in Toronto for a number of years, says it's her "pet project because it is about children helping children.

"Our children have so much, and it's important that they share some of their Chanukah gelt. This campaign gives them an opportunity to do that."

Spinner says she's happy to go out to schools to talk to students about the campaign. "For me, Dollars for David is the best part of winter. I love watching children doing what they can to help out those who are not as lucky."

The Canadian Jewish news

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FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

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Mirrett/Davidson
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Happy 5th birthday to Billie Madison, daughter of Maxine & Josh Schulman. Love Bubbie Henna & Zaide Irving Pomeranz.

To the best mother and aunt in the world, Ruth Kartzowitz. Have a happy birthday! We love you!

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What's New

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What's New deadlines: Monday, Dec. 4, is the deadline for the Dec. 14 issue , Monday, Dec. 11, is the deadline for the Dec. 21 issue and Monday, Dec. 18, is the deadline for the Jan. 4 issue. NOTE: There is no issue Dec. 28; the Dec. 21 issue will cover Dec. 21-Jan. 3. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Nov. 30

BROADWAY'S JEWISH ROOTS

Join **Jordan Klapman** for The Jewish Roots of Broadway. He explores the music of **Leonard Bernstein** and **Stephen Sondheim**. 8 p.m. at Beth David Congregation. 416-633-3838

I'M NOT GOING BACK

Ralph Wintrob reads from his wife **Kitty**'s book, *I'm Not Going Back*. 8 p.m at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Non-members $2. 416-789-3213

RABBINIC AUTHORITY

Nishma continues its series on rabbinic authority with **Rabbi Aaron Selevan** through Dec. 7. 8 p.m. at 52 Theodore Pl. Tonight, "The Structure of Authority"; Dec. 7, "Other *Kochot* of *Chazal*." 416-630-0588

Saturday, Dec. 2

PARSHAH DISCUSSION

Abe Birenbaum speaks about the weekly portion, Vayetzei, 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

LIFE IN BIROBIDZHAN

The Winchevsky Centre presents Yiddish scholar and Birobidzhan native **Nikolai Borodulin** on "Growing up in Birobidzhan: The Soviet's Forgotten Jewish Homeland." 8 p.m. $5, non-members $8. 416-789-5502

Sunday, Dec. 3

A HEALING SERVICE

The Toronto Healing Project offers a healing service with **Rabbi Martin Berman** and **Yehudit (Judy) Shier Weisberg**. 3-4 p.m. at the Council of Jewish Women Building, 4700 Bathurst St. Wheelchair access. 416-944-3359

UNDYING LOVE

The 2003 Oscar nominated film *Undying Love: True Stories of Courage and Faith*, the stories of people who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and continued to live with dignity and hopes for the future, is being shown at the Lodzer Centre Congregation, 3-6 p.m. 416-636-6665

CHANUKAH BOUTIQUE

Shomrai Shabbos Congregation invites the community to shop for Judaica, gifts, toys and accessories 6-10 p.m. at Bais Yaakov Elementary School, 15 Saranac Blvd.

GLOBAL JEWISH VILLAGE

Darchei Noam Congregation continues a series on the global Jewish village. Tonight, "The Jews of Israel: Diversity, Ethnicity and Equity." 7 p.m. 15 Hove St. 416-638-4783

JUDAISM AND INFERTILITY

Temple Kol Ami Adult Education presents **Rabbi Danny Gottlieb** on "Medical Ethics: Jewish Responses to the Problem of Infertility." 7:30 p.m. at the Israeli Source. 905-709-2620

Monday, Dec. 4

BOOK AND FILM CLUB

Beth Tzedec Library's Contemporary Jewish Book and Film Club hosts **Cynthia Good** reviewing *The Magician's Assistant* by **Ann Patchett**. 1:30 p.m. $14, dessert served. Register, 416-781-3514, ext. 25, or e-mail library@beth-tzedec.org.

CLUB FOR THE BLIND

The Hebrew Club for the Blind hold its annual Chanukah party at 6:30 p.m. at the Borochov Centre, Non-members $15. Reservations required. For information and reservations, call **Bess Lokach**, 905-508-2892.

Continued on page 31

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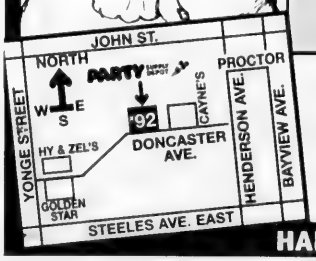

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Continued from page 30

THE JEWISH LIFE CYCLE

Canadian Seaway Branch Women's League for Conservative Judaism presents From Womb to Tomb: The Jewish Life Cycle, a three-session program with **Rabbi Jennifer Gorman** beginning tonight 7:30 p.m. at Shaar Shalom Synagogue. The program continues Jan. 16 at Beth Tikvah Synagogue and Feb. 5 at Adath Israel Synagogue. $10/$25 for series. Call **Fran**, 905-881-4830, to reserve.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

TRADITION & NUTRITION

Beth Tikvah Sisterhood presents the final evening in the Jewish diet makeovers series Recipe Renovations: Balancing Tradition with Nutrition, with nutritional consultants **Aviva Allen** and **Sheri Rapp**. Includes discussion of alternative ingredients to use in preparing traditional Jewish cuisine and an introduction to foods bubbie never talked about. 8 p.m. Non-members $5. 416-221-3433

Wednesday, Dec. 6

JOURNALISTS ON ISRAEL

Beth Tzedec Library hosts a symposium on "Journalistic Viewpoints on Israel and Jewish Issues," with **Mordechai Ben-Dat**, editor, *The CJN*; **Jonathan Kay**, editor, *Comment* pages of the *National Post*; **Patrick Martin**, editorial page editor, *Globe and Mail*, and **Bob Hepburn**, editorial page editor, *Toronto Star*. 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3514, ext. 25

Other News

MYSTERY OF DREAMS

Join a Carlebach Shabbaton at the Minsker Shul, Friday, Dec. 1, and Saturday, Dec. 2, with **Rabbi Avrum Trugman**, of Moshav Modiin and Ohr Chadash. Trugman talks about his new book, *Mystery Of Dreams*, and other topics at the meals. Contact 416-595-5723 or reachus@theminsk.com to reserve.

TOVA HARTMAN WEEKEND

Adath Israel Congregation and Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University host **Tova Hartman** on Dec. 2 and 3. On Saturday, Dec. 2, she speaks from the pulpit on "Gender, Lies and Truth: Is God Listening?" On Sunday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. on "Inclusivity and Exclusivity: Who's In and Who's Out in the Jewish Tradition," and at 7 p.m., on "Ethics of Sacrifice and the Sacrifice of Ethics: Love and Memory." Free. 416-635-5340

LEGACY OF THE RAV

Torah in Motion presents The Legacy of **Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik** Dec. 2 and 3 at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. On Saturday, Dec. 3 at 7:45 p.m. a screening of *Lonely Man of Faith: The Life and Legacy of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik* followed by a discussion with the director **Ethan Eisenberg**. Sunday, Dec. 3, 9:15 a.m., **Rabbi Mordechai Feuerstein** on "Serving Greatness: Rav Soloveitchik Up Close"; 10:15 a.m., **Rabbi Herschel Schachter** on "The Soul of the Rav: Rabbi Soloveitchik's Halachic Vision"; 11:30 a.m., **Rabbi Shalom Carmy** on "Rav Soloveitchik and the Search for God"; 1:30 p.m., **David Shatz** on "Rav Soloveitchik and the Problem of Evil"; and 2:45 p.m., a panel discussion on "Rav Soloveitchik: The Complex Legacy." $40. To register, www.torahinmotion.org.

CRAFT & GIFT SHOW

Shop for gifts and special items at BAYT Sisterhood's pre-Chanukah craft and gift show, Dec. 5 and 6, 6:30-10 p.m.

TKUMA: THE IN-GATHERING

See a screening of *Tkuma: The In-Gathering* with an introduction and commentary by **David Goldberg**, director of research and education, Canada-Israel Committee, Thursday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. at Beth David Synagogue.

SHINING CHANUKAH ON US

Rabbi Abraham Greenbaum, speaks on "Shining Chanukah into Our Hearts," Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m. at the Lodzer Centre Congregation. $10. 416-208-0610 or www.jewishhealthalliance.com

THE MUSIC MAN

JACS presents the play *The Music Man* at the Vaughan City Playhouse, Sunday, Dec. 10, 11:30 a.m. $65. Contact 416-638-0350 or www.jacstoronto.org for tickets.

MANAGING CHRONIC PAIN

The Wellness Library at Baycrest Hospital hosts a free information session on managing chronic pain. Monday, Dec. 11, 2-3:30 p.m. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 3374, to register.

SACRED AGING WORKSHOP

Temple Sinai Congregation holds a workshop on sacred aging called Birth Is a Beginning: Seeing Life as a Sacred Journey, with **Rabbi Richard Address**. Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m. Free, registration required, 416-487-4161.

AMPUTEE SUPPORT

Chazak V'Ematz, outreach support for all amputees to help them adjust to life is planning a Chanukah party. For information, call **Ruth**, 416-783-3717.

EATING DISORDERS SUPPORT

Eating Disorders of York Region provides services, education, support groups for families and friends of individuals who are affected by eating disorders. Join them in Richmond Hill Thursday evenings 7:30-9 p.m. For information, contact 416-576-0457 or visit www.edoyr.com.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration, 416-638-7800, or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna**, ext. 215, for info and registration.

High Conflict Divorce: A workshop for parents wanting to lessen the impact of that conflict on their children. Not for individuals in abusive situations. Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6:30-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

Positive Parenting: A workshop for parents of children ages 2-5. Parenting styles, discipline and more to be discussed. Tuesday, Dec. 5, 7-9 p.m at the Family Resource Centre in the Promenade Mall.

When You're About to Separate – What To Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation on how and when to tell the children and strategies to best meet children's needs. Tuesday, Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tikvah Friendship Group for those 65+ presents the country music of the Donna Green Sanderson Band. Sunday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m. 416-221-3433

Beth Tzedec Senior Haverim and Holy Blossom Lunch and Learn present Original Impressions, three musicians playing Broadway and klezmer songs on antique instruments. Wednesday, Dec. 6, 1:30 p.m. at Holy Blossom. $2. Reserve by Dec. 1. 416-781-3511 or 416-789-3291, ext. 233

The Association of Jewish Seniors hosts its annual Chanukah Party Luncheon with **Yitzchak Argaman**, Thursday, Dec. 21, 11:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $15, non-members $20. Reserve by Dec. 14. Call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Sunday Dance, Dec. 3; Casino Rama, Wednesday, Dec. 13; Saturday Dance, Dec. 30; Intermediate Conversational Hebrew, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Nov. 30, discussion. Call **Menachem**, 905-731-7748.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

The 2007 fitness session begins Monday, Jan. 8. To register, call ext. 2267.

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Concert, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 1:30 p.m. $3, non-members $6.

"Living Beyond Past Experiences," with **Judy Weiss**. Thursday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m. Free.

"Boost Your Memory" every Thursday, 11 a.m, with trivia riddles and games. Free.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

BJCC's Chanukah celebration, Sunday, Dec. 3, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Chanukah luncheon with **Marvin Rosenshein** and **Mikhael Khinkis**. Tuesday, Dec. 12. $8, non-member $9.

The Koffler School of Music presents **David Broza**, Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Tickets, call ext. 228.

The BJCC computer lab specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+. Inquire about openings in "Getting Started on Your Computer" and "Using the Internet and E-mail" courses. Each is four weeks long, two classes per week, for a total of 16 hours. To register, call ext. 235.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Diversity: Being Jewish in a Multicultural World is an interactive workshop that examines issues intermarried families face while raising Jewish children. With **Alena Strauss**, Sunday, Dec. 3, 10-11:30 a.m. Free.

Books and Bagels presents **Susan Glickman** reading from her prize-winning novel, *The Violin Lover*. Sunday, Dec. 3, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. $5, includes bagels and coffee. Books available for purchase.

Good Age Club, Thursdays, 1-3.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 27

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Jennie Strauch	Nov 12/06	1 North Western Ave
Irving Allan Paisley	Nov 12/06	19 Montressor Dr
Ruth Kates	Nov 13/06	35 Craighurst Ave
Murray Collis	Nov 13/06	1441 Ontario St
Julia Ruby Lean	Nov 13/06	645 Castlefield Ave
Alex Rosenberg	Nov 13/06	125 Sandringham Dr
Bernie Victor	Nov 14/06	3303 Don Mills Rd
Marie Levine	Nov 14/06	205 Cummer Ave
Morris Schwartz	Nov 15/06	5 Robinwood Ave
Rose Edelist	Nov 15/06	3560 Bathurst St
Daniel Camenietzki	Nov 16/06	251 Richmond St
Raye Wagman	Nov 17/06	3560 Bathurst St
Alexander E. Grossman	Nov 17/06	3900 Yonge St
Arthur Stevens	Nov 17/06	1 Balmoral Ave
Charles Newman	Nov 17/06	8111 Yonge St
Bela Pukier	Nov 18/06	1 Emerald Ln

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Noik, Mary	Nov. 16/06	151 RedMaple Rd
Lastofsky, Evelyn	Nov. 16/06	7601 Bathurst St
Weisz, Julianna	Nov. 16/06	7440 Bathurst St
Benatar, Eli	Nov. 17/06	14 Alta Vista Court
Hock, Morris	Nov. 17/06	1101 Steeles Ave. W.
Smith, Joseph	Nov. 17/06	95 Pondview Rd
Marantz, Mintza	Nov. 17/06	19 Jenkins Dr
Maidenberg, Mary	Nov. 18/06	3560 Bathurst St
Genraich, Lillian Risa	Nov. 18/06	Private
Dechtiar, Josef	Nov. 20/06	5430 Yonge St
Geigner, Alexander	Nov. 20/06	Private
Wajcenberg, Boris	Nov. 20/06	Private
Zarembo, Volodja	Nov. 21/06	Private
Elmalem, Fortune	Nov. 23/06	1925 Steeles Ave. E.

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

Rakhil Okoun	Nov 14/06	205 Cummer Ave

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Alex Grossman had 'a deep sense of responsibilty'

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Alexander Grossman, who died Nov. 17 at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre at age 87, was known in the Jewish community as a successful businessman with a passion for philanthropy and a love for Israel.

Grossman, who had been suffering from multiple myeloma, a form of cancer, is survived by his wife, Genia, and his children George and Lili.

Grossman was a Polish Holocaust survivor who escaped from Krakow to Austria, then to Hungary and then to Belgium before he made his final move to Toronto.

In a speech he delivered five years ago at the 100th anniversary of the Jewish National Fund, when he was accepting JNF's tribute to him at its annual Negev Dinner, Grossman said that while he and his wife started making plans to emigrate to Israel, his cousin Sam Waxman, convinced them to come to Toronto instead.

After arriving in Canada in the early 1950s, Grossman began his successful career in land development by teaming up with Abraham Bleeman and the late Joe Silver to form Belmont Construction.

"The three of us formed a partnership and began building apartment buildings as Belmont Construction. Alex was always proud that we were able to contribute to the growth of the city of Toronto," Bleeman said, adding that their relationship extended beyond business, as they had been neighbours for 30 years.

Grossman also became the president of Grossman Holdings, chairman of Pinedale Properties and the director of Egis Holdings and Primegg.

As devoted as Grossman was to his business projects, he couldn't turn his back on his other passions – giving back to the Jewish community and supporting Israel.

"Alex was a man with a deep sense of responsibility to his family, people, community and to Israel," Bleeman said.

From 1975 until the early 1990s, Grossman was the national chairman of the board of State of Israel Bonds, an organization that sells securities issued by the Israeli government.

"I visited every major bank in Canada to ensure their support for a Canadian dollar Israel Bond. It was not very easy or very fast, but it was accomplished. Since then Canada, on a per capita basis, has become the top country in the world in bonds sales, and still is today," Grossman said in his 2001 JNF speech.

A eulogy that was written for Grossman by members of the State of Israel Bonds organization in Toronto and given to his family recalled the way he jumped head first into revitalizing the organization.

"He was learning everything he could, soaking it all up like a Zionistic sponge. And as anyone who knew him will tell you, Alex was a quick study. In fact, Alex became absolutely insatiable in his work on behalf of Israel, and as we all know, his involvement later expanded to countless other Israel and community-based causes."

Grossman was also the chairman of the board of Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, vice-president of the executive committee of the Jewish Community Centre, on the board of governors of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and chairman of Canadian Friends of Massuah.

In one of his last and most significant acts of philanthropy, Grossman donated millions of dollars to Massuah, an organization that teaches students and teachers how to commemorate the Holocaust.

The donation was instrumental in establishing the Grossman School International Center for Holocaust Studies in Tel Yitzhak, Israel.

Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich of Beth Sholom Synagogue, who presided over the funeral service for Grossman at Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel in Toronto, which was attended by about 1,000 people, said that whether or not you knew Grossman directly, it was obvious that he was a "true community person."

"The list of organizations that he was either instrumental in founding or was an instrumental part of vitalizing them, was just outstanding," Rabbi Flanzraich said.

But, he added, although his track record as a businessman and philanthropist is impressive, he was dedicated to his family.

"The most remarkable thing about Alex Grossman… was what people saw on the outside was just a part of what the people close to him saw," Rabbi Flanzraich said.

He added that there are some people who seem wonderful to the community, but their families never get to enjoy them on that level.

"But with Alex Grossman, it was just the opposite. What people saw on the outside was just a little bit of the goodness that was on the inside, which was what the people closest to him [saw]."

The rabbi said the leadership and the love that he showed his family was truly genuine.

"People are going to miss Alex Grossman because of the remarkable ingenuity and the energy that he brought to the community. We are very fortunate because his children and his grandchildren are uniquely aware of the legacy that their father and grandfather has left them and they are not prepared to shrink from it."

Memorial donations can be made to the Canadian Friends of Massuah care of 970 Lawrence Ave. W., Toronto, Unit 303, or by calling 416-256-2900.

Local politician 'fought to see his ideas go forward'

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Irving Paisley, the businessman and former North York politician who died Nov. 12 at age 87, was known for having ideas that were years ahead of his time, says his son Michael.

"He envisioned things – such as fluoride in the water supply, carpool lanes, group homes, and an east-west transit line – that other people hadn't thought of," he said.

As well as being an alderman, controller and deputy mayor of the old municipality of North York in the 1960s and '70s, Paisley – known for always wearing a three-piece suit, white shirt and tie – was founding chair of York Finch General Hospital, a founding member of Temple Sinai, played a role in establishing the Canadian Save-the-Children Fund, and served on the board of the Reena Foundation.

He also founded Paisley Manor Insurance, a brokerage now run by Michael and Michael's brother-in-law Ira Kuchinsky.

His father could be counted on to stand up and be heard, Michael said. "He never wavered, once he committed himself to a cause. He touched [people] deeply with a sense of passion and urgency. He did not merely take on a task. He would become enveloped in it.

"When he decided that North York was underserviced and needed a new hospital, he went ahead and organized a committee to raise funds, and sought doctors. When Queen's Park told him there was no money, it didn't stop him.

"He raised, within 10 years, almost half of the budget needed for the hospital to open. It was an almost overwhelming task," Michael said.

His father always baffled people with what he could get done, he said. "Even in the last days of his Parkinson's dementia, he baffled the doctors. He read the newspaper, knew people's names, and at our break-the-fast dinner this past Yom Kippur, he made a speech for his 87th birthday. He died fighting."

Continued on page 33

Coast to Coast

Duceppe says Palestinians suffering since aid cut

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Calling for an end to "terrorism, colonization and occupation," Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe urged Canada to convene an international conference to find a way to ease the plight of Palestinian civilians.

Duceppe claimed the Palestinians are being adversely affected because humanitarian aid is not getting through and because of restrictions on freedom of movement since the election of a Hamas-dominated government.

Duceppe said in an address at Federation CJA's Gelber Conference Centre, organized by the Quebec-Israel Committee and the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee, that ordinary Palestinians should not have to go through "eight checkpoints" to get to work, or have difficulties going to schools or hospitals.

"We cannot wait until the peace process gets back on track before helping the Palestinians. And we must not let the extremists – be they Israelis or Palestinians – dictate the agenda," he said.

Neighbouring Arab states such as Egypt and Jordan should be doing more to help the Palestinians as well, he said.

Duceppe acknowledged the suffering of Israelis as well, and noted that the Bloc supported Prime Minister Stephen Harper's insistence on Israelis being included as victims of the conflict along with the Lebanese in the declaration of the recent Francophonie summit in Bucharest.

The more than 200 people attending the public event gave Duceppe, who spoke mostly in French, a polite reception, occasionally applauding. No questions were accepted from the floor afterward. Duceppe answered the three previously submitted written questions of a general nature, selected by the organizers.

The billed "evening with Gilles Duceppe" was over in 50 minutes.

Duceppe mentioned at the outset that he hoped the invitation to speak to the community proves wrong Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker's "very harsh" comment that he had caused "irreparable damage" to relations with Israel and the Jewish community. Baker make the comment in a letter after Duceppe's participation in a rally of 15,000 people in Montreal on Aug. 6 against the Israeli-Hezbollah war. Baker felt it was inappropriate for a political leader to be at a "blatantly anti-Israel" event that attracted Hezbollah supporters.

Duceppe said he was there to demand a ceasefire and to denounce what he considered "excessive" force by Israel.

"I also very clearly denounced Hezbollah for its attacks and also for its refusal to recognize Israel's right to exist," he added.

Duceppe favours a negotiated two-state solution, with Israel returning to its pre-1967 borders and Hamas renouncing violence and recognizing Israel and its previous agreements with the Jewish state.

If Hamas refuses these "minimal demands," he said the international community has to ensure that it is "not ordinary Palestinians who pay the price… and that the weight of the occupation is less heavy."

As a sovereignist, Duceppe said he fully understands the "right and will" of both Israelis and Palestinians to have their own states.

He called Israel the "most authentic" democracy in the region and said the lack of democracy among Arab states is hindering the settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He said extremists are using the conflict to incite hate and violence.

"Their primary motivation is not to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and not usually to help the Palestinian people, but on the contrary to stir up conflicts."

Duceppe's tone was generally conciliatory. He said he wants dialogue with the Jewish community and that it has been too long since he addressed the community directly.

He affirmed that Jews are Quebecers and, as "part of the family," should participate fully in public discourse, although he advised that they do so in French, so that the majority understand them.

In listing some great Jewish Quebecers, he included the late writer Mordecai Richler, despite his disagreement with some of his views.

The following day in the House of Commons, Bloc MP Caroline St. Hilaire (Longueuil-Pierre Boucher) reiterated Duceppe's call for an international conference, saying the Palestinians are in "a hopeless situation" without international aid. Canada, as chair of the Middle East Refugee Working Group, is "in a privileged position to propose solutions to the humanitarian crisis in Palestinian territory," she said.

"If the European Union was able to set up a temporary process to get humanitarian aid to Palestine without going through Hamas, what is stopping Canada from using its privileged position to do the same?"

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay responded that the government is concerned about the plight of the Palestinian people and is "looking for a way to get aid directly" to them.

He said he was working with other foreign ministers, as well as international bodies including the United Nations, to find a solution.

Elsewhere in his speech, Duceppe gave qualified support for federal funding of security for religious institutions that feel they need it, a proposal that has been made by the Liberals.

"But this measure must be temporary… the real solution is to eradicate hate, and often fear of the other is at its root."

He is disturbed that any community lives in fear, and regrets the level of security that has had to be installed at Jewish schools and the sense among those of Arab or Muslim origin that they are being singled out.

He said nothing justifies attacks motivated by hate, including that caused by the unresolved Middle East conflict, and deplored that "foreign conflicts are being imported here."

Duceppe has presented a bill to extend the section of the Criminal Code that allows for extra penalties for hate-motivated attacks on cemeteries and religious institutions to include schools, day-care centres, colleges and community or sports facilities clearly identified with a particular group, a suggestion that was applauded by Canadian Jewish Congress.

Quebec has the lowest incidence of violence against minorities in North America, he said, and Quebecers are increasingly accepting of those who are different.

"But we must always be vigilant, showing openness to dialogue and patiently and serenely explaining that differences are an enrichment," he said.

Former Toronto mayor praises Paisley

Continued from page 32

Former Toronto mayor and longtime North York mayor Mel Lastman, called Paisley a gentleman who cared deeply about his community, about North York and about Toronto.

"I've never met anyone else as devoted. I'm going to miss him deeply," Lastman said.

Toronto city councillor Mike Feldman, who was chair of the planning board when Paisley was on North York council, said he was always impressed with the vision Paisley had for the development of the municipality.

"They were not just visions, though. He fought to see his ideas go forward. He attended the first dinner to raise funds for the Reena Foundation, and he helped establish the organization's first group home."

Paisley was "articulate and bullheaded, and took ideas to the 'nth' degree. We didn't always agree with him, but we certainly respected his opinions," Feldman said.

Ira Kuchinsky said that the word "excess" can describe his father-in-law.

"He loved [his wife] too much; he loved his children too much; when in politics, he worked for his constituents too hard; and when in the insurance business he fought for his clients too hard," Kuchinsky said.

"He did not know how to do things in half measures or in moderation. He lived his life with a zeal and enthusiasm that was unparalleled in anyone else that I have ever met."

In addition to Michael and Ira, Paisley leaves his wife Adele, daughter and son-in-law Susan and Elliot Schwartz, daughter Paula Kuchinsky, daughter-in-law Diane Paisley, and son and daughter-in-law Stephen and Hiroko, as well as 10 grandchildren.

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Israel, Manitoba partner on agricultural deal

By RHONDA SPIVAK
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — Israel's consul general to Toronto and Western Canada, Cobie Brosh was here this month to meet with several Manitoba ministers to promote co-operation between the province and the State of Israel.

Last June, Premier Gary Doer's government signed a letter of understanding with the Jewish National Fund (JNF) to promote research, innovation and development in agriculture and water management.

"Israel is the only country in the world where the desert is shrinking, not expanding," Brosh says, adding that he believes Israelis have much to offer the people of Manitoba in sharing their agricultural expertise.

During his recent visit, Brosh met with Manitoba Deputy Premier and Minister of Agricultural Affairs Roseanne Wowchuk, as well as with Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Oscar Lathlin.

Wowchuk had just returned from accompanying a group of Jewish Federation community leaders on a one-week mission to Israel, where she met with her counterparts to discuss co-operation on such issues as water irrigation projects and agricultural techniques.

Brosh says the government of Manitoba is "very interested in Israel sharing its experience with greenhouses," which have been built all over the Jewish state, including in the Negev.

Israel's rapid growth greenhouse technology is of particular interest to Manitoba's isolated, northern Aboriginal communities. Given the high cost of commercial food in remote areas, Aboriginal communities are looking for ways to grow more nutritional food locally. The Israeli greenhouse experience can help them promote traditional harvesting, gardening and food self-sufficiency, Brosh says.

Doer has committed $1 million to the partnership with JNF through the province's Agri-Food Research and Development Initiative, which funds agricultural development provincially. This will enable researchers from Manitoba to travel to Israel to study agricultural, greenhouse and water irrigation techniques.

Another area where Israel's experience is of interest here is in the management of small communities.

"Israel can share the kibbutz and moshav experience to assist small agricultural communities in Manitoba," Brosh says. "Our experience could be relevant to issues of how small farming communities can work together. Additionally, we can share our experience in terms of techniques in growing, including which machines to use, and which equipment. Manitoba would decide what to grow, but we can share our experience on how to grow [crops] in a way that best suits Manitoba's climates and conditions."

Looking at other kinds of co-operation, Brosh met with Manitoba's minister of culture, Eric Robinson, to promote cultural exchanges with Israel and explore the idea of exchanges in the area of sports.

Since the Israeli consulate in Canada is located in Toronto, Brosh explains that "when we have a project in Winnipeg, we need to enlist the help of the Jewish Federation of Manitoba or the Winnipeg office of the Jewish National Fund. Both have been happy to be enlisted."

He also met with Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz, who was recently re-elected for a second term.

"Since Winnipeg's sister city is Be'er Sheva, we would like to organize a visit by the mayor to Be'er Sheva in the coming year," Brosh says.

Katz, who is Jewish, was born in Rehovot, Israel in 1951 and is the son of Holocaust survivors. His family immigrated to Winnipeg when he was four years old.

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Winnipeg federation program helps new moms

By REBECA KUROPATWA
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — The shalom baby baskets program started after a group of moms brainstormed to come up with new programs to welcome moms and encourage them to be a part of the community. Now three years old, the program is thriving, with 63 baskets handed out last year and 36 so far in 2006.

"The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg wanted to make new parents and families, locals and newcomers, get reconnected or connected, to other people in the community," says Stephanie Jacobs-Lockhart, leadership development director of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg Young Adult Division (YAD).

YAD volunteers assemble and distribute the FAB (feed and burp) Moms 'n' Babies shalom baby baskets, with volunteers getting together at least twice a year or more often, depending on how many births take place in the community. The most recent meeting of program volunteers was held Oct. 18. Along with assembling the baskets, the volunteers deliver them in person and take the time to visit with the new moms.

"During the visits, the volunteers talk to the new moms about the wide variety of programming and events going on in the community, as well as the many services, organizations and groups at their disposal," Jacobs-Lockhart says.

From left are Bonnie Buchalter, Lisa Sinclair and Florencia Katz, volunteers in the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg Young Adult Division (YAD) FAB Moms 'n' Babies program. [Rebeca Kuropatwa photo]

Rady Jewish Community Campus, Gray Academy and local businesses and professionals donate merchandise for the baskets.

New parents have been invited to FAB Moms 'n' Babies first formal program of the year, on Nov. 12, at Ambrosia Spa. Experts in infant massage and aromatherapy will show parents how to soothe and relax their baby. A herbalist will talk about natural ways to nourish baby and parents themselves. After the program, people will have a chance to reconnect with old friends and make new connections over a little nosh.

"At this program, we will hand out the shalom baby baskets. Part one is making the baskets. Part two is an informative relaxing program, where the baskets are handed out. Part three is ongoing throughout the year – as babies are born, moms will deliver baskets to other new moms in the community," Jacobs-Lockhart say.

The volunteers present at the Oct. 18 meeting, who are also former shalom baby basket recipients, were Bonnie Buchalter, Florencia Katz and Lisa Sinclair, chair of FAB Moms 'n' Babies programming.

Upcoming programs include a Chanukah party (Dec. 3), Kindermusik (Jan 11), and a baby-and-toddler-food organic cooking class (Feb 15).

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Crown seeks jail time in Web hate case

MONTREAL — The Crown is asking that a Montreal white-supremacist skinhead who pleaded guilty to wilfully promoting hatred on a website he created and managed be sentenced to one year in prison, followed by three years of probation.

In his recommendation earlier this month to Judge Martin Vauclair, prosecutor Thierry Nadon noted that Jean-Sebastien Presseault's crime was premeditated and violent in tone, and the punishment should be exemplary.

"The sentence has to dissuade others from fomenting hatred," Nadon said.

As further evidence of Presseault's belief, Nadon pointed to the 24 tattoos of racist and extremist groups' symbols, including a swastika and the words "Sieg Heil," that cover Presseault's body.

He suggested that during the probation Presseault not be permitted access to the Internet or to associate with racists.

Presseault, now 30, faced a maximum penalty of two years in jail after admitting his guilt in Quebec Court last June.

Presseault's lawyer Gilles Fontaine recommended a suspended sentence or a sentence served in the community, noting that the site was addressed to people who share the same views.

Fontaine also noted that since his arrest, Presseault has distanced himself from extremist groups and is now married and a father.

This is the first time that the Montreal prosecutor's office has pursued a case under article 319 of Canada's Criminal Code, which deals with hate propaganda.

On the site, Presseault expressed hostility to blacks, as well as admiration for Adolf Hitler and right-wing extremist Timothy McVeigh, who was executed for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. The site consisted of some 50 pages of text, cartoons, games and downloadable music. It was found on cjb.net, a free, U.S.-based web hosting site.

Presseault was arrested in December 2003. He was living on welfare at the time.

He had been out on bail until last May, when he was arrested for uttering a death threat against the judge in his hate propaganda case, and he has been detained since then.

A search of Presseault's home uncovered a loaded gun and various items associated with fascism and the extreme right, but did not link him to any particular organization.

Defence lawyer Fontaine argued in June that Canadian courts have no jurisdiction in this case because the site was hosted in the United States. He also contended that the type of expression on the site is tolerated in that country because of its more permissive laws regarding freedom of speech.

The two sides were scheduled to be back in court Nov. 30.

In September, an Alberta judge gave an 18-month prison sentence, followed by three year's probation, to a man convicted of promoting hatred on his website, in what was described as a groundbreaking Internet hate-crime case. Reni Sentana-Ries was convicted by a jury last December of one count of hate propaganda for denying the Holocaust and saying Jews were debauched and created diseases such as AIDS and the Ebola virus.

It was the first criminal conviction for Internet hate speech under the Criminal Code.

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Hebrew U teams with U of M on research project

By RHONDA SPIVAK
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — The Hebrew University in Jerusalem has partnered with the University of Manitoba to conduct a research project dealing with the interplay between economics and ethno-territorial conflicts.

The project will compare the Palestinian territories and Northern Ireland to examine how economic interactions have affected political conflicts.

Amos Nadan, a senior research fellow at the Hebrew University, was in Winnipeg for three weeks recently to meet with Sean Byrne, director of the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice at the University of Manitoba, and continue working on the project. While in Winnipeg, he met with a group from the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University to share some of his preliminary findings.

Nadan's research will outline the lessons to be learned from Israel's economic interactions with the West Bank and Gaza, whose economy is in many ways dependent on the stronger Israeli economy. Byrne will be analyzing the conflict situation in Northern Ireland.

"We have been finding that the two areas of conflict have more and more in common," Nadan says.

Byrne adds that "although each conflict is unique, there are some issues that cross over," including how to deal with issues of "economic deprivation and poverty levels."

Nadan, who has a doctorate from the London School of Economics, believes that in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, the most appropriate economic model is one that considers economics as "one of a number of factors that contribute to the conflict, but by no means explain the whole story."

Unfortunately, Nadan says, there have been many examples in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict where economic assistance did not have the effect intended by the investors. One such example is the case of Israeli investment in the Erez industrial area in northern Gaza where some 4,000 Palestinians were employed.

"Because the Jews were the managers and the Palestinians were the labourers, this economic development only increased ethnic and political tensions, even though it created job opportunities for the Palestinians," Nadan says.

From 1967 to 1987, before the first intifadah, the fact that Palestinians worked for Jewish employers "created a high level of employment for Palestinians, but also created tensions because Palestinians earned roughly 40 per cent of what the average Jew earned," Nadan says.

Accordingly, even though the Palestinians were earning more than they would have if they were not employed in Israel, the daily interaction between Palestinians and Jews only served to increase tensions. Nadan says one of the main reasons Palestinians joined the intifadah was that they believed their Jewish employers cheated them unfairly out of wages and treated them unjustly.

Nadan concludes that in the long run, the separation of the Israeli and Palestinian labour markets is desirable. But "in the short run, until alternatives are available, both sides would benefit from a certain level of Palestinian employment in Israel."

As for the relationship between unemployment and terrorism, Nadan says that "the people in the Palestinian sector who run the terrorism business are usually wealthy. However, the fighters are low-income earners. Therefore, money invested in the Palestinian economy must be directed specifically to the poor people. Unemployment encourages more participation in terrorism, as the unemployed have time on their hands and are willing to take risks. Employed Palestinians have less time to be active in terrorism."

Accordingly, he says, to turn down the volume of the conflict, "there must be employment in the Palestinian territories and wages must be high."

In his research, Nadan considers the question of whether it is wise for Israel to invest in the Palestinian economy. He says Israel should not do so, but should leave such investment to the Palestinians or other third parties, although he adds that there are problems with third party investment as well. American investment is seen as too pro-Israeli, while investment by the European Union has sometimes been diverted to projects such as weapons purchases that were not intended by the donors.

"Maybe Canada would be a good choice to be a neutral third party," he says.

Byrne anticipates that his joint research project with Nadan will continue for the next couple of years, and that he and Nadan may co-author a book about their findings.

SWIMMING, SWIMMING: Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School Grade 1 students – from left, Kohava Mendelsohn, Hannah Shiller, Chloe Strachan and Rachel Brooks – enjoy swimming as part of the school's physical education program at its home, the Miles Nadal JCC.

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to the entire Grossman Family
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ALEX GROSSMAN ז"ל

He was a man of great vision, a kind heart, and a staunch supporter of Yad Vashem.

He will be greatly missed by all those who loved him and benefitted from his generosity of time, passion, and wisdom.

SHE'ARIM PERFORMS: Students of the Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School, Sara and Sam Hennick Education Centre recently presented the play *Bone Button Borscht* as part of the Jewish Book Fair. The play, based on the book by Aubrey Davis, was directed by Anna Chatterton. The two performances at the Leah Posluns Theatre were attended by hundreds of children from Toronto-area day schools. Pictured, from left, are Matan Boker, Mitchel Moses and Alicia Aquino.

BODY PARTS: The senior kindergartners at Or HaEmet Sephardic School display their self-portraits, made in Hebrew class while learning about the different body parts.

Muslim-Jewish group hosts Judea Pearl

By ABIGAIL CUKIER
Special to the CJN

HAMILTON — Right before he was decapitated by terrorists in Pakistan, *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl looked into a camera and said, "My father is Jewish, my mother is Jewish, I am Jewish."

It could be expected his father would want revenge.

But what is Judea Pearl's idea of revenge? Eradicating the hatred that took his son.

Pearl and Akbar Ahmed, a leading authority on contemporary Islam, believe they are slowly changing the world.

And in their quest to change Hamilton, the Committee for Hamilton Arab, Muslim and Jewish Dialogue called upon the two men to help. More than 800 people came to hear them speak at Hamilton Place on Nov. 12.

Pearl and Ahmed lead the Daniel Pearl Dialogue for Muslim-Jewish Understanding, a positive, respectful dialogue on issues such as foreign policy.

They believe that if two men – a Muslim and a Jew – can sit down together for open dialogue, hope exists for co-existence and non-violence.

Pearl, a computer scientist at UCLA, is president of the Daniel Pearl Foundation and Ahmed, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University, is the author of *Islam Under Siege*.

Daniel Pearl was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists in Pakistan in early 2002. People around the world, along with his pregnant wife Mariane and family, prayed for his release. As described in his wife's book *A Mighty Heart*, his mission as a writer was to build bridges between diverse cultures.

The Daniel Pearl Foundation was formed in his memory to further the ideals that inspired his life and work: to promote cross-cultural understanding through journalism, music and communications.

Pearl and Ahmed have travelled together to speak in places such as Toronto, New York City, Ottawa, London, England and at Duke University in North Carolina.

The set-up is simple – two chairs, two microphones, two men talking about misunderstanding and tension.

And in Hamilton, it seems, people were listening.

Since the event, Lorne Finkelstein, a member of the Committee for Hamilton Arab, Muslim and Jewish Dialogue, has received countless e-mails, letters and phone calls from Hamilton residents expressing their gratitude for bringing the event to the city.

After the event, some members of the Muslim community complained that the speakers were pro-Israel and did not discuss enough local issues. After some arguing, this group of men invited Finkelstein to meet and discuss their issues.

"This is what it's all about to me. We are not out to change each other's politics. We are here to ensure, that what happens there we can't control, but we can have civil discourse in Hamilton," he said.

The Committee for Hamilton Arab, Muslim and Jewish Dialogue was formed last September in the wake of controversy over the Hamilton police chief's trip to Israel. When vicious invective between pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel supporters brought a public forum on the trip to an abrupt end, a group of leaders from the Jewish, Arab and Muslim communities decided to meet once a month to discuss issues and plan events to promote understanding.

Members worked for six months to bring Pearl and Ahmed to Hamilton.

Finkelstein said that 70 per cent of donations to cover the men's airfare, transportation costs and fees came from the Christian community.

"This is a reflection of the respect for what we are doing to try to promote peace," Finkelstein said.

The evening also included a performance by a choir of Jewish, Arab and Muslim youth, accompanied by the Hamilton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, as well as a question-and-answer session.

After watching a video clip last fall of a choir of Jewish and Arab children in Israel singing songs of peace, Finkelstein decided that a similar choir had to be formed in Hamilton.

"There are people here who against any dialogue, but if in Israel, Arabs and Jews can come together to sing songs of peace, why not in Hamilton? How can anyone disagree with this?"

Ahmed hopes his and Pearl's work will help change the world one community at a time.

"Dialogue brings respect, respect brings friendship and with friendship, you can talk about difficult issues."

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Bake someone happy

By NORENE GILLETZ
Special to The CJN

Dorie Greenspan loves baking! In her latest book *Baking: From My Home to Yours* (Houghton Mifflin), she shares three decades of her favourite recipes as well as the secrets she learned in the kitchens of the world's greatest chefs. This beautiful book contains 300 recipes and fabulous photos that will make any baker's dreams come true!

You'll find breakfast sweets, cookies, cakes, pies, tarts and delectable desserts, and you won't know what to try first. This amazing recipe selection includes Caramel-Peanut-Topped Brownie Cake, Tribute-to-Katharine-Hepburn Brownies, Blueberry-Sour Cream Ice Cream, Apple Cheddar Scones, Four-Star Chocolate Bread Pudding, Perfect Party Cake, Chocolate Chocolate Cupcakes, Corniest Corn Muffins and Pecan Honey Sticky Buns.

Greenspan also includes hundreds of professional hints and an abundance of stories in this one-of-a-kind cookbook. There is a Dessertmaker's Glossary, with more than 100 entries, from why using one's fingers is often best, to how the bundt pan got its name. It includes a helpful list of ingredients, tools and techniques to educate bakers of all levels.

This cookbook definitely deserves a place on any baker's bookshelf. Treat yourself! Here are two recipes from the book to give you a taste of what you'll find. These cookies certainly grabbed my attention!

GRANOLA GRABBERS

It would be hard to find a more after-schoolish cookie than these chunky, bumpy, both chewy and crunchy cookies packed with little surprises. Greenspan created these with her son in mind, but her husband is their biggest fan. Use granola without dried fruit. The fruit in packaged granola cereals is usually too dry and won't soften up in the batter, so you may end up with cookies that are hard and dry.

3 cups granola without fruit
¾ cup moist, plump raisins (dark or golden)
½ cup salted peanuts
½ cup slivered almonds
½ cup sweetened shredded coconut
⅓ cup wheat germ
1¾ sticks (14 tbsp.) unsalted butter, at room temperature
¾ cup (packed) light brown sugar
¼ cup sugar
1 large egg
¼ tsp. salt
1 cup all-purpose flour

Position racks to divide oven into thirds and preheat oven to 375. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment or silicone mats. Put granola in a large bowl and break up any clumps with your fingers. Add raisins, peanuts, almonds, coconut and wheat germ and mix together.

Working with a stand mixer, preferably fitted with a paddle attachment, or with a hand mixer in a large bowl, beat butter at medium speed until smooth, about 2 minutes. Add sugars and beat for another 3 minutes, or until creamy. Add egg and salt and beat until well blended. Reduce mixer to low and add flour, mixing only until it is incorporated, then steadily add granola and fruit. Stop mixer when most of granola mix is blended into batter and finish the job with a sturdy rubber spatula, making sure to get up any bits of dry ingredients left in bottom of bowl.

Scoop out rounded tablespoonfuls of dough, pack the scoops between your palms and arrange mounds on baking sheets, leaving about 1½ inches between them. Flatten lightly with your fingertips.

Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, rotating sheets from top to bottom and from front to back at the midway point. The cookies should be golden brown but not firm. Allow them to rest on sheets for 1 to 2 minutes before transferring to racks to cool to room temperature. Repeat with remaining dough, cooling baking sheets between batches. Makes about 40 cookies. Store in a covered cookie jar for about 3 days. To keep them longer, wrap them airtight and freeze for up to 2 months.

CHOCOLATE CHUNKERS

You'll never eat just one! These big, gooey, exceedingly chocolaty, chunky cookies are stupendous made with hand-chopped excellent-quality chocolate, but you can make them with store-bought chocolate chips in a pinch.

⅓ cup all-purpose flour
¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. baking powder
3 tbsp. unsalted butter, cut into 3 pieces
6 oz. bittersweet chocolate, coarsely chopped
1 oz. unsweetened chocolate, coarsely chopped
2 large eggs, at room temperature
⅔ cup sugar
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
6 oz. semisweet chocolate, chopped into chunks, or 1 cup store-bought chocolate chips or chunks
6 oz. premium-quality milk or white chocolate, chopped into chunks or 1 cup store-bought chocolate chips or chunks
1½ cups coarsely chopped nuts, preferably salted peanuts or toasted pecans
1 cup moist, plump, raisins (dark or golden) or finely chopped moist, plump dried apricots

Centre a rack in the oven and preheat it to 350. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment or silicone mats.

Sift together flour, cocoa, salt and baking powder. Set a heatproof bowl over a saucepan of simmering water. Add butter, bittersweet chocolate and unsweetened chocolate and heat, stirring occasionally, just until melted – chocolate and butter should be smooth and shiny but not so hot that butter separates. Remove bowl from heat and set on counter to cool.

Working with a stand mixer, preferably fitted with the paddle attachment, or a hand mixer in a large bowl, beat eggs and sugar together on medium-high speed for about 2 minutes, until pale and foamy. Beat in vanilla and scrape down bowl. Reduce mixer speed to low and add melted butter and chocolate, mixing only until incorporated. With a rubber spatula, scrape down bowl, then, on low speed, add dry ingredients. Mix just until dry ingredients disappear into dough, which will be thick, smooth and shiny.

Scrape down bowl and mix in semisweet and milk (or white) chocolate chunks, nuts and raisins. You'll have more crunchies than dough at this point. (Dough can be wrapped in plastic and refrigerated for up to 3 days.)

Drop dough by generously heaping tablespoonfuls onto baking sheets, leaving about an inch of space between mounds of dough. Bake cookies one sheet at a time for 10 to 12 minutes. Tops of cookies will look a little dry but the interior will still be soft. Remove baking sheet and carefully, using a broad metal spatula, lift cookies onto a cooling rack to cool to room temperature.

Repeat with remaining dough, baking only one sheet of cookies at a time and making sure to cool baking sheets between batches. If, when cookies are cooled, chocolate is still gooey and you would like it to be a bit firmer, just pop the cookies into the fridge for about 10 minutes. Makes about 24 cookies. These cookies will keep (not "stay") in a cookie jar or container for about 4 days. They can be wrapped airtight and frozen for up to 2 months. Defrost in their wrapper.

Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For updated information about her cookbooks, classes and culinary services, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at http://www.gourmania.com.

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Qassams still land in Sderot

Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Despite the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire declared the previous day, two Qassam rockets fired from the Gaza Strip landed in open territory in the Sderot area on Monday afternoon.

No one was wounded and no damage was reported. Five other rockets landed in Israel on Sunday. A ceasefire went into effect at 6 a.m. Sunday and was followed by the Israel Defence Forces' withdrawal from Gaza. The pullout came after a phone conversation between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in which Abbas said he received agreement from all the Palestinian factions for a ceasefire in return for Israel's withdrawal.

Although the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, the military wing of Abbas' Fatah party, claimed responsibility for Monday's rocket attack, many in the Palestinian Authority said the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) were actually responsible, since one of their group was killed by Israeli forces late Sunday night.

Earlier Monday, a leader of the Islamic Jihad in Jenin, Mahmoud Al Saadi, said his group would carry out suicide bombings deep inside Israel in response to Israeli violations of the ceasefire in the West Bank.

Al Saadi called on his counterparts in Gaza to reject the fledgling truce unless it covered all the Palestinian territories and warned that his group might launch a suicide attack on Israel.

In a related development, Jerusalem didn't respond Saturday to Hamas chief Khaled Meshal's threats that Israel had six months to negotiate a deal on a Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank based on pre-1967 borders or "face a third intifadah."

Meshal's comments were the strongest confirmation of a willingness to give Abbas the chance to negotiate with Israel. But it was also the first time he set a deadline with an explicit threat of a new wave of violence.

With files from Associated Press

A ceasefire unworthy of praise

By ANSHEL PFEFFER
Jerusalem Post

Comment

The ceasefire in Gaza seems to be holding for now. The ceasefire between the Palestinians, that is. As to the hostilities between the Palestinians and Israel, the situation is still murky.

Officially, all the main organizations have given their agreement to the deal reached between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, but the salvo of Qassam rockets fired toward Sderot a couple of hours after the ceasefire was supposed to be in force was more than just a childish gesture.

It was the best illustration of the dismal state of affairs Israel has reached on the Gaza border.

The harassed people of Sderot and neighbouring communities might have a few days and nights of peace now, but they will remain in the intolerable position of being hostages to the Qassam gangs. Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Fatah breakaways and a plethora of other splinter groups can break the quiet at will, and it might have nothing to do with retaliation to Israeli military actions.

Like almost every terrorist act carried out from the start of the intifadah in 2000, the Qassam firings have had a double motive. As much as the intention was to kill and maim Israeli citizens, the primitive, unguided explosive tubes were an expression of autonomy, not from Israeli rule, but a finger in the eye of collective wannabe Palestinian governments, both of Fatah and Hamas.

That's why the most visible sign so far of the ceasefire is the deployment of 13,000 Palestinian troops, apparently loyal to Abbas, in a desperate attempt to finally assert authority. But why should these ill-equipped, barely motivated grunts succeed where the Israel Defence Forces failed? Does anyone seriously believe that they will shoot at fellow Palestinians just to stop them from launching more missiles at Sderot?

Nonetheless, the IDF is now out of the Strip and on orders to remain on best behaviour. From a tactical perspective, the battle against the Qassams was successful. Israel eliminated hundreds of Qassam terrorists and managed to limit the operations of the surviving ones so that they were unable to effectively aim their rockets at Israeli targets. A limited number of serious casualties were achieved only by the terrorists blindly firing thousands of rockets. However, the perception, due mainly to panicky politicians, sensationalist media and an ambitious mayor, was one of crisis, anarchy and despair. This public feeling also pushed Olmert to reach an unsatisfactory, incomplete deal with Abbas.

From the outset of the Qassam threat it was clear that there were only two courses of action to achieve close to total elimination of the problem: either reoccupying large swaths of the Strip for a prolonged period by mobile forces with authorization to shoot at every suspicious movement, or to get down to serious comprehensive negotiations with the Palestinian side, including representatives of the Hamas government. Both options, of course, have serious downsides, so the government went for a little bit of both. Limited actions and short-term incursions, coupled with ineffectual talks in the form of occasional phone calls to Abbas.

The inability to choose a clear course of action cost Israel twice in the shape of heavy international criticism after dozens of Palestinian civilians were killed in Beit Hanun, and in being forced to swallow an empty ceasefire deal with absolutely no firm assurances. And to make matters worse, Abbas is just a façade. The deal is really with exiled Hamas leader Khaled Meshal, who still holds the fate of Gilad Shalit in his hands.

The Palestinians have gained the breathing space necessary to replenish the Qassam stockpile and come closer to receiving international recognition of a Hamas-controlled government and a resumption of foreign aid, while Hamas continues building its new Iranian-inspired army in preparation for the next round. In return Israel has gotten nothing, save for a shaky and uncertain respite. Confidence on the home front has been shaken once more, so shortly after the north was forsaken in the summer's war.

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Activist urges prayer, pressure to help people of Darfur

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan (CASTS) is calling for a "weekend of prayer" for the besieged people of Darfur to coincide with International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10.

Congregations across the country are being asked to address the issue of genocide based on their faith's traditions and responses.

CASTS is also urging its supporters to join a letter-writing campaign initiated by the student group, STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur) to make Ottawa lawmakers aware that Canadians support vigorous international leadership to help prevent the slaughter in Darfur.

Norman Epstein, founder of CASTS (www.geocities.com/castsudan/), said Canada must display "forceful diplomacy" and take the initiative in mobilizing an international effort to prevent the murder in Sudan's Darfur region.

Despite a UN Security Council Chapter 7 resolution, which mandates the use of aggressive force, little has been done to stop Arab "janjaweed" militias from killing black Darfurians.

"The janjaweed have stepped up attacks, and the fear is they will finish off the genocide unless the international community decides to act," he said, adding that international inaction is giving the government in Khartoum, which backs the janjaweed, a "green light."

Epstein, who has spent years attempting to convince Canadian politicians to stake out a leadership role on Darfur, recently participated in a discussion on genocide and Darfur at Carleton University in Ottawa. The meeting was sponsored by the newly created Parliamentary Committee on the Prevention of Genocide. MP Irwin Cotler moderated the discussion and suggested that civil society should urge politicians to act on Darfur.

Epstein said that "Canada has a golden opportunity to take leadership, as there is a leadership vacuum."

Epstein said it would take very little military action for outside countries to save lives. Doing as little as enforcing a no-fly zone over refugee camps in Chad, Sudan's neighbour, would prevent Sudanese helicopters from dropping bombs on civilians, he said.

By taking the lead in offering that kind of military force, Canada could persuade others to follow.

"If we don't stop it now, there will be more genocides, the UN will become more irrelevant and the international community will be more impotent," he said.

Cotler, Kenney attend Gemayel funeral

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler, part of a two-member Canadian delegation that went to Beirut last week for the funeral of assassinated Lebanese Industry Minister Pierre Amine Gemayel, said he sensed a semblance of "solidarity" among the country's notoriously fractious religious factions in the wake of the killing.

"The grief was palpable," Cotler, an acquaintance of the Gemayel family dating back 31 years, told *The CJN* in a phone interview from the Lebanese capital.

Cotler was travelling with Tory MP Jason Kenney, parliamentary secretary to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and the two men reportedly supported the creation of an international tribunal to investigate a string of almost 15 attempted and successful political assassinations in the country over the last 1½ years.

Cotler told *The CJN* that the United Nations has already passed a draft resolution to look into the cases, including the March 2005 assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, which triggered the so-called "Cedar Revolution" that drove Syria from Lebanon.

Cotler, however, still pointed to Syria as being most likely responsible for the death of Gemayel, 34, who was a critic of Syria and a member of the Maronite Christian Phalange Party.

"It appears to be that," Cotler answered when asked if he felt Syria was behind Gemayel's death.

Kenney and Cotler later met with Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora and Cotler quoted Siniora as saying that Canada could play a "leading role" in Lebanon's reform and reconstruction, to be discussed at a special international "donor" conference in Paris next January.

Cotler said he raised the issue of Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, who were kidnapped in southern Lebanon last July, an act that triggered Israel's war with the Hezbollah Shiite terrorist group.

According to Cotler, Siniora said he didn't "know anything" about the soldiers' whereabouts or fate. "He said: 'I don't know, I just don't know,' and on that point he sounded genuine," Cotler said.

However, Siniora, Cotler related, also pointed to the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the return of the disputed Shebaa Farms to Lebanese possession as important elements in allowing the Lebanese government to "assert its sovereignty"

Siniora said if Israel gave back Shebaa Farms, "that issue would be taken away from Syria and Iran," Cotler reported.

He described the atmosphere in the funeral crowd at Beirut's Martyrs Square as electric, with tens of thousands in the streets grieving and angry. Some, Cotler said, called for Lebanese independence. He said he didn't see Hezbollah colours among the throngs.

Inside St. George's Maronite Church for the funeral mass, the Canadian delegation sat close to the Gemayel family and commiserated with them.

The family's grief was "immense," Cotler said. "They have suffered so much."

Cotler was referring to Pierre Amine Gemayel's uncle, Bashir Gemayel, who was assassinated in 1982 only three weeks after being elected president. Cotler was in Lebanon at that time.

He also remembered being in Lebanon during the late 1970s when Pierre Amine Gemayel was just a toddler. Pierre Amine's father, Amine Gemayel, also served as Lebanon's president, while his grandfather, Pierre (the father of Bashir and Amine), was known as one of Lebanon's great power brokers and himself survived several assassination attempts.

Cotler said the Gemayels are a Lebanese political family dynasty like the Kennedys in the United States.

Cotler acknowledged, however, that while the Gemayels are one of Lebanon's most prominent families, the Christian Phalangist movement the family founded, is "a very nationalist Christian rightist movement" that's also divided Lebanese society.

Only two days after Bashir Gemayel's assassination in 1982, for example, Maronite Christian Phalangist militias, in apparent retribution, committed the massacre of Palestinians at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

Still, it was Cotler's sense that Pierre Amine Gemayel's assassination served to bring together Jews, Christians and Shiites in solidarity behind the Gemayel family. Several speakers at the funeral denounced Syria in the strongest of terms.

The ramifications of the assassination "can cut in different ways," Cotler said. "It could bring about a reaffirmation of the Cedar Revolution.

"There's some feeling the revolution has been eroding or diminishing and that Syria has been seeking to reinvolve itself and undermine Lebanon's independence."

In that sense, different religions coming together for the funeral "seemed to be a kind of rallying cry," he said.

Before returning to Canada last Friday, the Canadian delegation met a number of Lebanese officials, including Justice Minister Charles Ruzk, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Michel Pharaon, Telecommunications Minister Marwan Hamadeh and Maronite Patriarch Cardinal Nasrallah Sfeir.

Olmert says independent, viable Palestinian state achievable

Continued from page 1

Olmert said that within this framework and in line with the road map, the Palestinians could establish an independent, viable state with contiguous territory in the West Bank, and have full sovereignty over recognized borders.

He said that within this framework, Israel's borders would be established, and they "would be different from the territory which is now under Israel's control."

Olmert said he understands the importance of the release of Palestinian prisoners to the Palestinians, adding that with the release of Shalit, "Israel would be willing to release many Palestinian prisoners, including those who were sentenced to long prison terms, in order to increase the confidence between us and prove that our hand is outstretched in true peace."

Olmert told the Palestinians he believes many of them are tired of the high price extremism is exacting on their society. "An end to terror and violence could enable us to present you with a long list of steps that can be done between us," he said.

He stressed that if the Palestinians respond, Israel will significantly reduce the roadblocks, increase freedom of movement, open and improve border crossings for goods and merchandise, and release Palestinian tax revenues held in Israel since the Hamas victory in last January's elections.

Olmert also said Saudi Arabia, the Persian Gulf countries, Egypt and Jordan could play an important supporting role in direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Olmert signalled, for the first time, a formal, positive, Israeli response to parts of the 2002 Saudi initiative that offered peace in exchange for a solution to the Palestinian problem, and said he would invest efforts in furthering relations with Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf nations. He said he was appreciative of their efforts to bring about an end to the violence in the region.

Olmert said the circumstances in the region have created an opportunity for Israel and the Palestinians to take a "courageous step that involves painful compromises," but that this means they need to part from historical dreams in order to "start a new chapter that holds out hope for a good life for all of us."

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Liberal Judaism grows in Poland

By DINAH A. SPRITZER
JTA

PRAGUE — With the installation of Poland's first progressive rabbi since World War II, pluralism is gaining a foothold in the country's Jewish community.

Inquiries have been flowing to Beit Warszawa, the only Reform congregation in Poland, since Rabbi Burt Schuman arrived last month.

"About two months ago, some Jews in Lublin came out of the closet, said they wanted an alternative and approached us," Rabbi Schuman said, referring to the phenomenon in Poland of Jews discovering or embracing their long-dormant Jewish identity. "We met with about 33 people, which is more than the official community there of 11."

A New York native, Rabbi Schuman was most recently at a Reform congregation in Altoona, Pa. Since he arrived in Poland in August, progressive groups have formed in Lublin, Krakow, Gdansk and Jastrzebie Zdroj, a city of 102,000 in southern Poland.

The surge of interest in progressive Judaism shows the difference that the presence of a rabbi can make to those who would like to become involved in Jewish life but aren't drawn to Orthodoxy.

Requests for information, education and help in starting a Jewish congregation are coming from Jews, people with Jewish roots and even non-Jews, according to Magdalena Koralevska, 24, a Beit Warszawa member who converted last year and is helping to co-ordinate the congregation's outreach.

> ***'The future is in bright colours'***

"The future is in bright colours and it's all been happening in the last three months," she said. "My hands are almost too full because of the interest coming in from everywhere."

Rabbi Schuman says he gets so many phone calls from potential congregations outside Warsaw that he wants to hire a rabbi next year to travel around the country to help the new progressive groups.

Among them is Poland's first group of Jews by choice – or converts – which is led by a Jewish teacher in Jastrzebie Zdroj.

"This is remarkable because it's in an area that I would compare with the American Bible Belt, very conservative and lots of listeners to Radio Maryja," he said, referring to a fringe Catholic broadcaster that has aired anti-Semitic content.

Sometimes it's the generation gap and not the style of observance that has led those with Jewish roots to look outside the existing communal system, where Orthodoxy is the governing principle.

Across Poland, members of Jewish communities tend to be in their 60s and 70s, while many of the people seeking out progressive Judaism are in their 20s, 30s and 40s.

"I was a member of the Lublin community but things there were completely dead. It was all old people and no activities at all," said Adam Kopciowski, 32. Through Beit Warszawa, he "realized that one could have a completely different approach to Judaism."

Beit Warszawa is a cultural organization in Warsaw of about 200 members. Founded in 1999, it's heavily subsidized by Seweryn Ashkenazi, a Polish-born California real estate developer.

The Warsaw Jewish community has about 500 people, and a total of 5,000 to 8,000 people are registered as members of Jewish communities in Poland. But local Jewish leaders say the real number of Jews and those with Jewish roots is 10 to 15 times higher.

There has been an ongoing discussion in Poland and across Europe about how to help these people reconnect with their Jewish identity.

For Rabbi Schuman, it starts with making Judaism appealing in the secular world.

In Warsaw, he has initiated "cheesecake coffee houses" for schmoozing, Jewish-themed movie nights, lectures by acclaimed academics like historian Jonathan Sarna of Brandeis University, and Yiddish musical performances.

There also is an eight-month conversion course that he called "very serious and very demanding."

Rabbi Schuman believes he can particularly connect with those who like Reform Judaism's more inclusive attitude toward patrilineal Jews.

"Of course I encourage them to convert, but first they have to feel welcome," he said. "Why is gene pool more important than intention and practice in so many Jewish communities?"

He said relations with Rabbi Michael Schudrich, a fellow New Yorker who is Poland's Orthodox chief rabbi, are positive.

"The more ways one can be Jewish, the stronger the Jewish community is," Rabbi Schuman said. "We both know we're in the business of making Jews. If one starts in one place and ends up in another, we're still making Jews."

Rabbi Schudrich, for his part, welcomes Rabbi Schuman's presence in Poland. "Anything that contributes to the development of Judaism in Poland is good. I'm sure there are things we can co-operate on," he said.

But Rabbi Schuman said he has run up against opposition from the official Jewish community in Krakow, which he claims forbade him to use the synagogue for a service. Owned by the community, the synagogue hosted a liberal congregation before World War II.

"The question is, do you want to build living Judaism or keep the synagogue as a museum?" he asked. "I assure you that when we're strong enough, we'll come back to the community and address the issue of ownership of that synagogue."

In the meantime, Rabbi Schuman plans to hold monthly services in Krakow at a restaurant.

Piotr Kadlcik, chair of the Union of Religious Jewish Communities in Poland, the country's main Jewish umbrella group, found Rabbi Schuman's claim of opposition from the Jewish community disheartening and put it down to a misunderstanding.

He added that only a tiny percentage of union members are Orthodox.

"There is one requirement to be a member, and that is you must be Jewish according to the Law of Return," he said, referring to an Israeli law that makes citizenship available to anyone with a Jewish grandparent.

"At Beit Warszawa, anyone can be a member because it is a cultural, not a religious organization."

Another sticking point in relations between the union and Beit Warszawa, he said, was whether to recognize as Jewish those who had undergone Reform conversions.

"This is definitely an issue, and in time, we'll have to deal with it," Kadlcik said.

Israel Briefs

Shalit no closer to release

Hamas has raised the price for the release of kidnapped Israeli soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit and is now demanding 1,400 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails, a senior Hamas official said last week. Earlier reports had suggested Hamas, one of three groups that have been holding Shalit in Gaza since his abduction last June, was prepared to exchange him for only a few hundred Palestinian prisoners. Osama Hamdan, Hamas' representative in Lebanon, confirmed that Syria-based Hamas leader Khaled Meshal was in Cairo for "crucial" talks on the possibility of conducting a prisoner exchange with Israel.

Medics to Uganda

For the second straight year, Israeli doctors and health care workers will be heading to Namuwongo, Uganda, next month on the "Helping Hands Medical Fellowship" to volunteer for a community in need. The first delegation will be leaving Dec. 3 and returning Feb. 5 in an effort to build the Ugandans' capacity to sustain a higher level of health.

Sharansky exits

Natan Sharansky has officially quit Israel's parliament. The Soviet refusenik-turned-Likud MK tendered his resignation and received a farewell ceremony in the Knesset last week. He is expected to take up a full-time position at the Shalem Center, a conservative Jerusalem think tank.

Qassam victim dies

A Sderot resident died from injuries sustained in a Palestinian rocket salvo. Yaakov Yaakobov, 43, died in hospital after being critically wounded in an attack on the meat-packing factory where he worked. He was the seventh resident of the southern border town to be killed in rocket attacks from nearby Gaza.

Israel helps UN sappers

Israel's armed forces are training UN peacekeepers in dismantling cluster bombs that Israel left behind in southern Lebanon. The UNIFIL sappers are disposing of thousands of unexploded munitions in ex-Hezbollah strongholds.

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Canadians honour Israel's forgotten firefighters

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM – As Hezbollah launched rocket after rocket at Haifa during the month-and-a-half-long war that erupted between Israel and Lebanon on July 12, often the only people on the city's streets were firefighters.

"While all the citizens of the city fled into bomb shelters, we stayed above ground, running from incident to incident, in the midst of the falling rockets," said Hezi Levi, captain of the Haifa Region Fire Department.

He said they had no choice, since the collateral damage from the rockets included active fires, search and rescue operations, and gas leaks – and that even one extra minute could have meant the difference between life and death. "It was the hardest month and a half of our lives."

The constant barrage of rockets meant dealing with the new phenomenon of multiple, simultaneous incidents, which the department was unprepared for. It was understaffed, underequipped, and under the gun.

"Because the Hezbollah launched eight to 10 missiles at a time, and each one hit a different part of the city, we had to send crews to all locations. We had to learn how to manage a new system for operating, and learn fast," said Levi. "The amount of hours that the firefighters had to put in was crazy. We didn't go home."

When they did finally return home, it was to empty houses, since all of them had sent their families to safer locations in the southern reaches of Israel. "It was a double challenge," said Levi. "Here we were, working so hard, our lives constantly in danger, and when we came home, our families weren't there. This added a level of mental strain to the already extreme physical strain the firefighters were under."

Levi said the second Lebanon war marks the first time that firefighters have, en masse, required treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Please see photos on page 55

The firefighters of the northern region gave it their all. Unfortunately, their hardships went virtually unnoticed.

Not, however, by Canadian philanthropists Gerry Schwartz and his wife, Heather Reisman, who in a ceremony in Safed last week, honouring the Israeli firefighters, donated three mini-pumpers (small trucks) to fire stations in Safed, Acco and Nazareth.

"This is a way that Heather and I could act in solidarity with the citizens of Israel and, in particular, Israeli firefighters, who played an essential and heroic role in confronting terror during the war with Hezbollah," said Schwartz.

He was accompanied not only by Reisman but also by a delegation of Canadian officials, including Monte Kwinter, minister of community safety and correctional services for Ontario; Douglas Crawford, Ontario's deputy fire marshal; and William Stewart, chief of the Toronto Fire Department as well as Moshe Ronen, chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, and Steve Shulman, Ontario regional director and national general counsel for the Canadian Jewish Congress, which helped organize the four-day *mifgash* between Canadian and Israeli fire officials.

The ceremony attracted the participation of around 100 attendees, among them chief rabbi of Safed, Shmuel Eliyahu; the mayor of Safed, Yishei Maimon; Israel's fire and rescue commissioner, Shimon Romach; and a group of firefighters from stations across Israel's north.

Far from your average donation ceremony, this one involved a live demonstration in which a car, bound for the scrap yard, was set ablaze and extinguished to show the effectiveness of the mini-pumper.

According to Levi, the mini-pumper is the most vital piece of equipment for the Israeli firefighter. Because they are smaller than regular trucks, they can access fires via narrow streets, as well as heavily forested areas, where dense brush makes for narrow passageways. They are the "first respondent trucks," said Levi, the ones that are first dispatched to the scene of a fire, so they play a crucial role in stopping the immediate spread of fire. With the mini-pumpers donated by Schwartz and Reisman, there are only 40 mini-pumpers in all of Israel.

But the meeting was not only about the donation of much-needed equipment; it was just as much about expressing solidarity and establishing a real connection between Israeli fire services professionals and their Canadian counterparts.

"This trip gave a real opportunity for both sets of professionals to focus on the commonalities and differences between fire-fighting systems in Israel and Canada," said Shulman. "After spending four days with them, I can tell you that there is a special language that firefighters speak. There is a real brotherhood among them – a very special connection."

In some cases, the meeting was not the first one. Levi had met some members of the Canadian delegation in August 2004, when he participated in a training course at the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst, Ont.

According to Levi, the best fire education he ever received was in Gravenhurst, where he studied high-rise fires. Afterward he wrote a handbook on fighting high-rise fires. It is used by all fire stations in Israel.

High court orders ministry to register gay marriages

JTA and Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Israel's High Court of Justice last week ordered the government to recognize five gay couples who got married in Canada.

The court found in favour of petitions filed by the couples, who had married in Canada and wanted to be registered as married by the Interior Ministry in Jerusalem.

As a result, they will face fewer bureaucratic hurdles regarding marital rights such as inheritance and tax breaks.

The ruling won't apply to same-sex unions performed in Israel, which are not recognized by the state.

Religious politicians said they would block any attempt to parlay the High Court's decision into new legislation that would accord gay marriage full state recognition.

One Israeli gay couple married in Canada, which approved gay marriage in 2005, said they intend to apply immediately to be registered as married.

"We are very happy today," said Yosi Ben-Ari, whose married status will appear on his identity card from now on.

"Three years after our marriage in Toronto and two years after filing this petition, we are happy that the outcome was in our favour," he told reporters at a briefing held by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI).

ACRI sponsored the first two of five petitions by gay couples married abroad. The court ordered the Interior Ministry to record all five couples.

A panel of seven High Court justices, headed by retired Supreme Court president Aharon Barak, ruled unanimously that the Interior Ministry must record the couples as married. (Judges have three months after retirement to complete cases they were working on.)

The ruling was in accordance with a 42-year-old judicial principle that states the Interior Ministry clerk must register the status of applicants whether they are citizens or new immigrants as long as the applicant has a public document to prove his claim. In this case, each couple had a marriage certificate issued by the province of Ontario.

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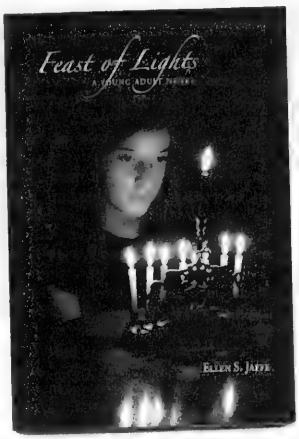
Heartwarming Chanukah books written by Canadians

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor



Two Chanukah books for children by Canadian authors have recently been published.

In *The Lubavitchers Are Coming to Second Avenue*, the Bernsteins are the only Jews living on Second Avenue in Ottawa. Davika and her three siblings always feel different at Christmas time, but they try to make the best of it.

Their best friends, the Racines, an Anglican family, always invite them to help put up the Christmas tree. And on Christmas Eve, Davika takes homemade cinnamon buns to the Racines.

Up to the age of nine, Davika also believed in Santa Claus, and that he never visited her house because she was Jewish.

Well, one Christmas Eve, the Bernsteins get a visit, but not from some jolly bearded man in red. Instead, they are visited by two Lubavitchers.

They make themselves at home in the Bernsteins' kitchen and regale them with tales about the Baal Shem Tov.

Soon the Racines themselves come over, and before you know it the Besht himself makes an illuminating appearance.

The Lubavitchers Are Coming To Second Avenue, A Hanukkah Story by Sharon Abron Drache, and illustrated by Jayne Lemon (L'Dor Valdor Publications), is a story about festive magic, tolerance, and most of all, sharing traditions, for children ages nine and up.

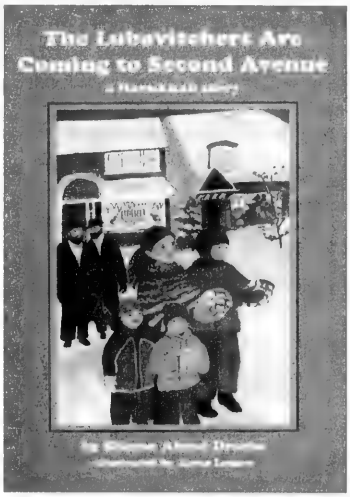
It gives a short history of the Besht and his importance to Jewish culture and shows that though different than Christmas, Chanukah is just as important and festive.

And playing on the Festival of Lights, the book ends with a wonderful display of lights.

***

Feast of Lights by Ellen S. Jaffe (Sumach Press) is another magical Chanukah story, this one for young teen readers.

The holiday is not the same for 12-year-old Sarah Goldman anymore. Since her little brother died, her parents seem distant to her, and have little interest in lighting the menorah with her.



But when Sarah discovers her great grandmother's ancestral chanukiyah, she decides to clean it up and light it each night without her parents.

This is no ordinary chanukiyah.

For eight nights, after she lights the candles, Sarah falls asleep and is transported magically to her past and witnesses events in her family's history.

Her travels take her to a crowded ship transporting immigrants to the new world; to a synagogue in turn-of-the century Europe; to a store in prewar Kensington Market.

Sarah meets her grandparents and other relatives when they were very young and learns about her history, culture and traditions.

Feast of Lights is a heartwarming Chanukah tale that intertwines past and present, joy and mourning, and celebrates the importance of family and heritage.

SickKids to get state-of-the-art movie theatre

By MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Barry Avrich

For a kid coping with sickness, spending a few hours in a movie theatre could provide some much-needed healing power.

Between the comfortable seats, booming surround sound and giant screen flashing riveting images, the theatre's ambience offers an escape to an imaginary world.

That's why the Hospital for Sick Children is embarking on a unique project called Hollywood at SickKids, which will put a state-of-the-art movie theatre into the heart of the hospital, the first of its kind in North America.

"For a few hours, the child can ultimately forget everything," said project visionary Barry Avrich, a filmmaker who is overseeing the theatre's development.

"It's going to be invaluable medicine for the kids."

The 250-seat theatre, replete with the bells and whistles of mainstream theatres, will show newly released movies, as well as films from a large movie library.

The films will also be broadcast to patient rooms via closed circuit television.

Hollywood at SickKids has partnered with the Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children, to show movies that will air at the festival this coming spring.

A variety of donors are contributing to the project.

"Entertainment plays a vital role in contributing to the health and overall well-being of children," said Mike O'Mahoney, president of SickKids Foundation.

"This theatre will go a long way to help minimize the negative impact of illness and hospitalization for patients and their families."

Avrich, president of Endeavour Marketing, has visited friends and family in hospitals many times and has always lamented the fact there wasn't a place to escape to in the hospital with more pleasant surroundings.

"I was sitting in a hospital room with my friend and I felt like taking us to another place, but there really was nowhere to escape," he reflected.

"So the idea of a movie theatre, where kids can go in, have the lights go down and shut off their world, seemed natural."

Construction of the theatre, which will be built in an existing auditorium, is expected to be completed by April 2007.

Acclaimed designers Joe Brennan and Daniel Greenglass, of JF Brennan Design Build Inc., and design consultant Chris Hansen, are working together on the design.

"They are extraordinary builders and designers who know how to take raw spaces and make them beautiful," Avrich said.

In addition to putting smiles on kids' faces, the technology from the project, such as the 35-millimetre projectors, will be used for educational and telemedicine efforts, putting smiles on health-care professionals' faces, too.

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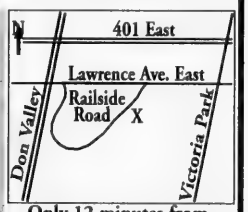

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Arts & Travel

Chrétien adviser pens insider's memoir

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Eddie Goldenberg had a bird's-eye view of government when Jean Chrétien was a cabinet minister and then Canada's prime minister. As Chrétien's adviser, principal secretary and chief of staff, he dealt with a wide variety of domestic and foreign policy issues.

Reflecting on his three-decade career, Goldenberg has written an insider's memoir of life at the top of the heap. *The Way It Works: Inside Ottawa* (Douglas Gibson Books) will appeal to both the average reader and to political junkies.

The 400 page book is an exposition of the Chrétien years and a primer on Canadian politics. It's worth dipping into, because Goldenberg was at the centre of things and knew how to exercise power.

He helped establish and implement government priorities. He was involved in the preparation of federal budgets and elections. He participated in meetings with provincial premiers. He met world leaders, including the late Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and U.S. President George W. Bush. He managed Chrétien's often testy relationship with Paul Martin, the finance minister who coveted and subsequently assumed Chrétien's job.

Goldenberg also had a hand in formulating the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and played a role in two Quebec referendums and the passage of the Clarity Act.

Goldenberg also advised Chrétien on what position Canada should adopt in the looming war in Iraq.

So this is clearly a book that can't be ignored.

Despite his partisan ardour as a Liberal,

Eddie Goldenberg with Jean Chrétien

Goldenberg is a seasoned analyst who can size up a complex situation in a few telling words.

Consider this snippet on Iraq: "Canada soon faced a difficult decision. On the one hand, the government did not want to go to war in Iraq without the sanction of the United Nations. On the other hand, it was acutely sensitive to the impact of Sept. 11 on the United States, Canada's closest ally, and hoped it wouldn't have to make a decision that would appear insensitive to the trauma caused by the attacks on the World Trade Center."

Goldenberg's analytical skills are similarly at work in this paragraph on the 1995 Quebec referendum: "Chrétien's dilemma was that he might not be able at the last moment to persuade Quebecers of the real intentions of the Yes forces. He had an awesome responsibility. If he… stated bluntly that a Yes vote would mean the breakup of Canada and then the Yes side won, how could he argue… that the vote was illegitimate because the question was unclear? On the other hand, if he did not make the argument that a Yes vote would mean the breakup of Canada, then the Yes forces had a much better chance of winning."

Bush impressed Goldenberg as a president who spoke his mind. Shortly before the United States attacked the Taliban regime, Bush told Chrétien, "I have to manage the bloodlust of the American people."

Goldenberg, however, was shocked by Bush's poor taste in jokes. At a meeting with Chrétien at the White House about a year later, Bush declared, "If I catch anyone who leaks in my government, I would string them up by the thumbs. The same way we do with prisoners in Guantanamo!"

In his epilogue, Goldenberg sets out his "iron rules of politics" in Canada.

A sampler:

"Prime ministers will continue to be accused of exhibiting dictatorial traits when they set government priorities and make unpopular decisions; and they will continue to be accused of lacking in courage when they don't make such decisions."

The Way It Works is obviously written by a person who is intimately familiar with the corridors of power in Ottawa.

Biblical history may never be the same

Filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici asks the million-dollar question in his compelling documentary, *The Exodus Decoded*: Can the flight of the Israelites from Egypt be supported by archeological evidence?

Now available on DVD, *The Exodus Decoded* will be of interest to Jews, Christians and Muslims, since that biblical story lies at the heart of Judaism and is important to both Christianity and Islam.

So is the Exodus fact or fiction?

Archeologists have not yet found irrefutable evidence that it ever even happened. But Jacobovici claims to have solved "the ultimate archeological mystery." His verdict is that the Exodus, far from being a fairy tale, is based on facts.

He makes his case like an old-fashioned investigator, bolstering it with visits to archeological sites in Egypt, interviews with experts and state-of-the-art 3D computer graphics.

To his credit, he acknowledges that none of the experts buy his theory. Nevertheless, biblical history may never be the same again after *The Exodus Decoded*.

Treading where archeologists have apparently never gone, Jacobovici offers a persuasive scientific explanation of the Exodus.

He begins with the well-documented eruption of a volcano on the Greek island of Santorini around 1500 BCE.

The dust from that explosion – which destroyed the Minoan civilization – drifted some 750 kilometres into Egypt and set in motion a series of events. It brought on darkness, caused the parting of a body of water that enabled Moses and the Israelites to escape the wrath of a pharoah, and afflicted the Egyptians with a plague of flies, frogs and locusts.

Scholars maintain that the date of the Exodus is 1270 BCE, but according to Jacobovici, the actual date is about 1500 BCE.

How does he know?

He examines a stele in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo that refers to a great storm that enveloped Egypt in darkness during that period.

He finds a wall painting in a desert tomb that supposedly records the migration of the Israelites from Egypt.

He reads a wall inscription in a deserted mine in the Sinai Peninsula that refers to Israelite slaves.

He discovers a Minoan painting that appears to confirm the parting of a sea.

Jacobovici convincingly argues that this proverbial event occurred not in the Red Sea but in Lake El Balah, now a salt marsh.

In a similar vein, Jacobovici's explanation of why the waters turned red and why first-born Egyptian boys died rings true.

Digging deeper, he supposedly identifies the pharoah who hounded and chased the Israelites, and claims that Mount Sinai – where Moses received the Ten Commandments – is actually somewhere else in Egypt. Last but not least, Jacobovici says that a certain gold image is none other than the lost Ark of the Covenant.

It all seems fantastical, but Jacobovici seems to be on to something significant, judging by his marshalling of the evidence. Watch *The Exodus Decoded* and then decide yourself who's right. –S.K.

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Arts & Travel

Montreal singer scores with *VJ Search*'s theme song

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

At 13, she knew she wanted to sing; by 19, she was rocking out: hard core.

Montreal native Lindsay Robins burst onto the Canadian music scene this year as the voice behind MuchMusic's *VJ Search* theme song, "What Would You Do."

Possessed of a powerful voice and natural swagger, Robins wowed viewers and listeners everywhere with her edgy vocals for the music channel's show.

But she didn't come from nowhere.

Robins, who embodies the "wild girl" image on her rocking 2006 debut album, *Dirty Chemistry,* comes by her talent honestly.

Her mother was a professional singer on the Montreal wedding circuit, and educated her on the business of singing before she even graduated high school.

At six years old, she was singing with her mother's band at weddings. By 13, she was writing, recording in studios and dreaming of making it big as a music star.

But first she had to find her identity.

Being the "nice Jewish girl" singer was not an option for Robins.

"I never really liked singing bubblegum music, and over time I became sick of being told to make my vocals sound less aggressive," she writes on her blog.

Though secure in her Jewish identity, her comfort level while attending Montreal's Bialik High School was anything but.

Her persona didn't fit in with the more conservative atmosphere at Bialik.

"Let's just say that… [Bialik] was very clique-y and if you're different, which I always was, they didn't like that," Robins said.

She eventually transferred to St. George's High School, realizing she needed space to grow.

"I wasn't going to change," she said. "So I wanted to broaden my horizons and meet new people who I could get along with better."

That didn't mean she forsook her Jewish roots. Quiet the contrary.

"It definitely plays a part in my character. It helps make me who I am," she said. "Obviously, I was raised [Jewish] and that [informs] my sense of family."

Still, her heritage created some challenges for her along the way.

"One time when I was in a club, there was this boy who didn't stop saying, 'Jews can't be singing rock music, there's no place for Jews in rock music.' He didn't stop," Robins said.

Her response?

"I punched him across the face and he never bothered me again," she said.

Though she doesn't condone violence, her feisty spirit doesn't tolerate abuse or failure.

Robins insists she will make it in the business, even though she knows it's a hard road.

"There was nothing I ever wanted to do more than singing," she said. "People tell me, 'Choose a backup plan.' But my backup plan to music, is music. So it better happen."

Her onstage persona may be wild and carefree, but her off-stage one is determined.

Robins is going about her career as professionally and level-headedly as possible.

She is present at all her contract negotiations and insists on being involved in every step of the recording process.

"I made sure when I signed the record deal that I retained as much control as possible," Robins said. "I'm a sponge. I like to know what managers, [and] a CEO of a [record] label does. Because who knows? Maybe when I'm older I'll do more than just sing and write."

For the moment though, Robins is content to keep touring and working on her songwriting.

Though she works in pop-rock, her musical tastes are not confined to that genre.

"I don't think you can be a complete writer unless you listen to all sorts of music," she said. "There's so much to learn about phrasing and instrumentation. You can't pick that all up through pop music."

So what would she do if her rock career ended?

"I'd probably be singing at weddings like my mother," she said with a laugh.

Robins concludes her current Canadian tour on Dec. 2 with a show at Montreal's Club Soda.

She will rest over the holidays and resume touring in 2007. No dates have been set yet.

To check out Robins' blog and get album details visit, www.myspace.com/lindsayrobins

Lindsay Robins sings with her band on the set of her first video, *Freaks* this past summer. [Ivan Otis photo]

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Musician is the poster boy for positive Israeli PR

By KARIN KLOOSTERMAN
Special to The CJN

Sabras see him as an "ethnic" Israeli musician; African-Americans embrace him as a brother promoting Ethiopian culture and Black History Month; Jews take him as a poster boy for positive Israeli public relations, while the rest of the world defines Idan Raichel, producer, musician and singer, much in the same way he describes himself – as a world-music artist.

We know him best for the mass of dreadlocks tamed by a Middle Eastern turban and the catchy tunes from the 2002 *Idan Raichel Project* CD – songs strung together with nuggets of enchanting Ethiopian melodies, Yemenite chants, Caribbean rhythms and biblical references.

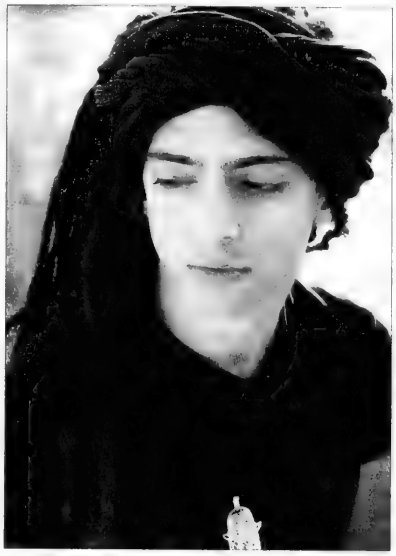
His songs can be heard playing in the dancehalls of Ethiopia, on North American radios and in the car stereos of Orthodox Jewish girls in Israel who listen to decidedly Jewish music.

Raichel, 29, says the use of Torah references in his songs was a natural choice. "There are no better love songs than the Song of Songs, no poems more philosophical than Kohelet [Ecclesiastes], and no story of faith stronger than that of Job."

Spiritual lyrics, partnered with the sounds of traditional Yemeni, Moroccan and Ethiopian melodies, have won Raichel a place in the hearts of Israelis of all ages who can, at the very least, hum the immensely popular hit *Im Telech (If You Go)*. His concerts in Israel are usually sold out.

Outside of Israel, Raichel and a handpicked collection of artists he has plucked from his studio sessions have performed from Singapore to New York City, begging the question – how is it, that a third-generation Ashkenazi Jew from Israel, whose first instrument was the accordion, has rocked the world-music scene?

"It is true that I tried to play on a 'non-cool' instrument," Raichel told *The CJN* at his Tel Aviv home, on a quiet street across from Meir Park. "But I know it is the roots for what I am doing."



Idan Raichel

Raichel is dressed in a long-sleeved T-shirt and loosely fitted parachute pants, with their strings dangling on the sides. His signature dreadlocks are undone and he sits on a kitchen chair, legs crossed, in his living room. An African drum, a piano and a MacBook Pro laptop are the only instruments in sight. "The recording studio is still in my parents' basement in Kfar Saba," he says.

Raichel comes off as personable and sweet as Israelis say he is. And Canadians were lucky to get a taste of his charm recently when Raichel and seven other musicians performed to a crowd at the Music Hall in Toronto. Canadians, whom he would like to get to know better, are "very open-minded," he says.

The performance in Toronto headlined the event Yachad (Together), a concert organized by the Jewish university student unions to show their solidarity with the people of Israel. Sponsors of the event included Hillel of the Greater Toronto Area, the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the Israel Program Center, the Consulate General of Israel and the March of the Living. Local artists including the Varsity Jews, Hol Neshama and the Hallelujah Drummers also performed.

"There have been a lot of negative experiences for students on campus since school started in regards to this summer in Israel and Lebanon, and the continued situation within Gaza," Michal Kaye, director of the Israel Program Center, said. "The concert with Raichel," she notes, was "meant to show a different side to Israel."

Raichel is famous for presenting Israel's different sides, including that of the Ethiopian Jewish community. He has appeared at venues such as the B.B. King Night Club, New York's Apollo Theatre, Peter Gabriel's WOMAD festivals and has lectured about black Jews for Black History Month in the United States.

Raichel's songs – in Hebrew, Amharic, Arabic and Hindi – are popular the world over because "people can find themselves or parts of their own culture in the project," he says.

And as a Jew, Raichel is certainly happy to play the poster boy that shows another side to Israel. "I am very happy that there is this side effect [to my music]," says Raichel, "that in addition to performing all over the world, we can help do some PR for Israel to a worldwide audience."

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

GUESS WHO'S COMING FOR SHABBAT WINS JEWISH PLAYWRITING CONTEST

Phil Pivnick of Toronto is winner of the 2006 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Contest for his play *Guess Who's Coming for Shabbat*. It was chosen from 20 entries and four semifinalists, and concerns a family's coming to terms with a son's prospective gay marriage. (The title is an obvious allusion to *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, the famed 1967 Spencer Tracy-Katharine Hepburn film on the social taboo of white-black marriage.)

"This is a provocative play, truthfully but humorously portrayed," said a member of the Jewish Theatre Committee of Toronto, which co-sponsors the contest with the Nadal JCC. Honourable mention goes to runner-up **David Copeland** for his play *The Rabbi of Ragged Ass Road*. The winning play will receive a staged, professionally directed reading in the spring, said **Esther Arbeid**, theatre and film co-ordinator for the Nadal JCC.

* * *

Jewish Museum Conference: The Council of American Jewish Museums, an affiliate of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, is holding its annual conference in Toronto, Jan. 21 to 24. Local hosts are the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum. Register by Dec. 1 for early-bird discount. www.jewishculture.org/cajm. 212-629-0500, ext. 215

* * *

Heinrich Heine Program: Heine and Yiddish Song, a program of the Goethe Institute, features a panel discussion on the celebrated 19th-century German romantic poet with **Jeffrey L. Sammons** of Yale University, **David Pugh** of Queen's University, **Stefan Haas** of the University of Toronto and **Mark Webber** of York University.

A concert follows with Canadian composers **David Wall** and **Marilyn Lerner** and Israeli songwriter **Chava Albershteyn**. Discussion 7 p.m., concert 9 p.m. Free admission. Wednesday, Nov. 29, Goethe-Institut Kinowelt Hall, 163 King St. W. 416-593-5257.

* * *

Chanukah Celebration: Friends of Yiddish annual Chanukah Fayerung celebration features Montreal singer **Helene Engel** in a program of Yiddish, Ladino and French songs, with latkes and other treats. Members $7, guests $12. Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave. Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m. RSVP to Sandy, 416-736-8073 or 416-458-1440.

* * *

Children's Author to Read: Ottawa author **Jacques Shore** visited the late Pope John Paul II at his Vatican residence in June 2003, then wrote the children's book *Friday Night with the Pope* (Gefen Publishers). "Who could believe that from an unlikely encounter, a child's story for adults could burst forth a resonating hope for peace, friendship, and profound respect?" offers Ottawa's **Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka** as endorsement. Shore reads from and discusses the book at The Israeli Source, 60 Doncaster Ave., Thornhill. Free admission, refreshments. Saturday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m. 905-482-2025

* * *

Film Notes

• *M – A City Looks for a Killer*, the classic 1931 German film by **Fritz Lang**, focuses on a child murderer who so threatens the serenity of Berlin that even the criminal underworld chase after him. **Peter Lorre's** portrayal of the killer set the benchmark for his career. The film has been called "one of the defining movies of European pre-World War II cinema" and is considered the predecessor to all serial killer thrillers like *Psycho* and *Silence of the Lambs*. The Goethe-Institut presents a rare screening. $5. Thursday, Nov. 30, 8 p.m. www. goethe.de/ins/ca/tor/enindex. htm

• **Shlomo Schwartzberg**, film critic and former programming director for the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, introduces **Karin Albou's** *La Petite Jerusalem*, a French film about the complicated lives of two Orthodox Jewish sisters. Set in present-day Paris, the film lovingly showcases the religious rituals and traditions of the sisters while telling their stories, set against the backdrop of a society filled with racial and religious tensions. In French, Arabic and Hebrew, with English subtitles. $8-$4. Bloor Cinema, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The Yorkminstrels' production of *Grease*, the hit musical about the lives and loves of teens at fictitious Rydell High, continues at Leah Posluns Theatre through Dec. 3. $28.50-$21. 416-291-0600, www.yorkminstrels.com

• The Koffler Centre School of Music present Grammy Award-winning pianist **Yefim Bronfman** and internationally renowned violinist **Jacques Israelievitch** in performance at the Sandra Ainsley Gallery. $175. 55 Mill St., Distillery District. Thursday, Dec. 7, 7:30 pm. Reservations, 416-636-1880, ext. 228.

• **Late Night Giggin**, a troupe of eight "hilarious comedians," headline *Laugh Your Tuchas Off*, an evening of sketch comedy, improv activities and short funny films aimed at teens involved with the B'nai Brith Youth Organization. Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. Saturday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.

• **Kitty** and **Ralph Wintrob** read from and discuss Kitty's book *I'm Not Going Back*, a memoir about a spirited 10-year-old sent to the countryside from London during World War II. Presented by the Entertainment & Cultural Committee and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood. Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, Sisterhood Hall, 470 Glencairn Ave. Thursday Nov. 30, 8 p.m. Refreshments. Members free, guests $2.

* * *

At the Galleries

• An exhibit and sale of watercolours by **Leah Belfon**, including many new works, takes place at Leah Belfon Fine Art, 436 Lawrence Ave. W., Apt. 3 (north side of Lawrence, east of Bathurst). Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 to 10:30 p.m. 416-787-3888

• **Willowdale Group of Artists** present paintings in a variety of media. Kathleen Gormley McKay House, 197 Main St., Unionville. Wednesday, Nov. 29 to Sunday, Dec. 10.

• The diverse visions of photographic masters **Ansel Adams** (1902-1984) and **Alfred Eisenstaedt** (1898-1995) come alive in a current exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Adams' iconic images of Yosemite National Park and the American west reflect a deep natural grandeur, while Eisenstaedt's candid and realistic style, developed in interwar Germany, captures the lives of ordinary people engaged in cultural activities and vivid everyday moments. Until Feb. 4.

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Books & Authors

Personality quirks, rotten luck diminished Adele Wiseman's career

The Force of Vocation: The Literary Career of Adele Wiseman **by Ruth Panofsky, University of Manitoba Press.**

By NORMAN RAVVIN
Special to The CJN

Writing careers can be fragile mechanisms – introduce a few uncontrollable ingredients, whether they be personality quirks or simple bad luck, and you have a recipe for self-destruction.

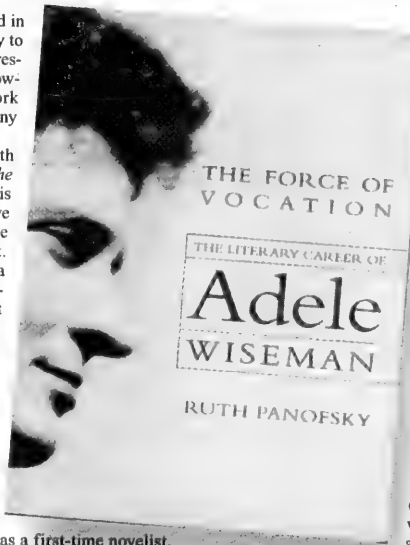
Norman Ravvin

Among the best anecdotes for conveying the importance of good fortune in literary lives is a story concerning the release of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road.* Because the regular *New York Times* reviewer, who would have buried the book, was on holiday, it was reviewed by Gilbert Millstein, a sympathetic freelancer who described its publication as a "historic occasion." Call this the Millstein Effect.

At the opposite pole from Kerouac's good luck were the brutally unlucky circumstances that greeted Nathanael West's 1933 novella *Miss Lonelyhearts*. The reviewers – influential figures among them – loved the book, but its publisher descended into an acrimonious bankruptcy and the stock was locked up in a warehouse as part of the ensuing legal battle. Even West's death was a spectacle of rotten luck: a notoriously inattentive and talkative driver, he flew through a highway stop sign at top speed and was killed by an oncoming vehicle.

Winnipeg-born Adele Wiseman was a victim of the latter pattern – the West Effect – often bringing rotten luck and diminished expectations down upon herself by wilfully odd or wrongheaded decisions. Her first novel, *The Sacrifice*, won the Governor General's Award in 1956, was published internationally to good reviews, and gained her the prestigious opportunity to take up fellowships at Yaddo in upstate New York and at the MacDowell writer's colony in New Hampshire.

Yet the writer's life, told in Ruth Panofksy's *The Force of Vocation: The Literary Career of Adele Wiseman,* is notably lacking in circumstances we might recognize as being under the influence of the Millstein Effect. Instead, in turn after turn, we see a writer with a seeming desire to graduate from the Nathanael West School of Hard Knocks.



Panofsky offers a sympathetic and knowledgeable account of Wiseman's life and work, making every effort not to judge, or view ironically the trajectory of her subject's career. She concludes by suggesting that Wiseman, always "the agent at the centre of her career… did not regard her incremental loss of literary recognition as fatal. Her monumental success as a first-time novelist, when she won prestigious awards and honours and reached an international audience, did not impede her vision of the writer as moral witness to her time. In fact, as Wiseman's career unfolded with increasing difficulty, she grew convinced of the integrity of her vision of the writer. The further away she moved form the exhilarating success of *The Sacrifice*, the more she believed that her work held meaning outside market conditions."

But Wiseman's "increasing difficulty" was not of the kind familiar to most struggling authors. Her completed fiction and non-fiction manuscripts were published by major houses; influential editors supported and enabled her work; she was well and often positively reviewed in the mainstream press; and she had the personal and professional backing of Margaret Laurence, one of Canada's most influential and best loved postwar novelists.

Still, the West Effect was routinely at the wheel. After the success of *The Sacrifice*, she rejected the advice that she follow it with a novel, and worked for years on a four-hour-long play titled *The Lovebound*, which was never judged producible by theatre professionals, while publishers were unwilling to bring it out in print. A second novel was not published until 1974, a fatally long time after her initial success, at a moment when readers and critics were not ready for its rollicking, gritty mix of the grotesque and down-and-out old-world characters in Winnipeg's North End.

When the publisher of Wiseman's 1978 memoir, *Old Woman at Play*, managed, after upward of 60 rejections, to find the book an American publisher, Wiseman rejected the offer from George Braziller as "unsatisfactory." Add to this the difficulty the publisher encountered in educating booksellers about how to categorize and promote Wiseman's portrait of her mother's doll making. It's a sad day for both publisher and author when they find that their expensively produced memoir, penned by one of the country's serious novelists, has been filed in the "crafts" section.

These latter two incidents, described to Panofsky in interviews with Wiseman's publisher at the time, include the right balance of wilful self-destruction, rotten luck and inadvertent black humour required to place Wiseman at the top of the class at West's School of Hard Knocks. What can one say about a writer who says no to George Braziller, whose backlist would soon include such names as Langston Hughes, Albert Einstein and Marc Chagall? Most would agree that such a writer deserves to find her memoir not only in the crafts section, but on a low shelf at the back of the store.

Panofsky does not wish to say as much. She is, rightly, Wiseman's supporter, and this support is justified by a resurgence of interest in Wiseman's two novels, which now seem prescient in their feminism as well as in their portraits of ethnic milieus.

Wiseman's relationship with Margaret Laurence is also of interest to scholars and fans, and Panofsky's previous work includes a thoroughly readable collection of the letters these two writers sent each other over many years.

By giving Wiseman credit for her stoutheartedness, and her wilful tendency to be "the agent at the centre of her career," Panofsky tells the life as it was, and not as it might have been. One can argue that this is a fair-minded and admirable approach, which refuses to second-guess the decisions that directed Wiseman's career.

Still, when we think of West, talking at his companion as he drove straight to his own end, there is pathos and a species of true human nuttiness. One expects that a fair-minded reading of Wiseman's life and work could be made to include some of these things, too.

Norman Ravvin's novels are Cafe des Westens *and* Lola by Night. *He chairs the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University.*

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Teens susceptible to drug abuse, expert says

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Fulfilling the obligation of raising our children properly means being aware of all the possible pitfalls, says a family doctor with an interest in addiction medicine.

"We live in a society in which values have deteriorated. There is a lack of discipline and a lack of restraints," said Dr. Michael Kirzner, clinical head of the Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre.

Speaking about teen drug addiction during a recent lecture at the Aish Learning Centre's Thornhill branch, Kirzner said the adolescent brain is still in the process of maturation, which leads many teens to take part in high-risk behaviour.

"This dispels the idea of becoming a true adult at age 13. At that age, they are responsible, but only partially responsible. They still have to mature."

Kirzner said that he has read statistics indicating that about 50 to 60 per cent of adolescents ages 12 and 13 have had sexual relations. "Even if that figure is exaggerated, is 30 per cent any better?"

He said that in his practice, he has seen girls with fallopian tubes scarred from infection, and others who are pregnant at age 15 or 16.

"They're not ready to raise kids, and even if they have an abortion, they pay the price of being emotionally scarred."

Drugs are easily accessible in every school, said Kirzner, and violent crimes have increased. "Some teens have guns, and people are at risk of being shot. In certain aspects, society is moving in a terrible direction."

Behind this behaviour, he said, are kids who are anxious, or have low self-esteem, attention deficit disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder or learning disabilities.

"There are also kids who are spiritually or socially dysfunctional, and others who are modelling their behaviour after others. They see [other kids taking part in certain activities] and it becomes normalized for them."

In the Jewish world, he said, parents are wondering if the problem is because of them, their kids or society.

"The answer is complex, so we have to look at all the factors. Is the parents' marriage working? Are the siblings well? Is there emotional or physical abuse? These things have bearing on the child's behaviour."

To some kids, he said, taking to the street is very tempting. "[It seems to them] like a warm, open place, but once they adopt the street culture, they start to get diseases such as HIV or hepatitis.

"When people end up on the street, they [lose] their values. They do what it takes to survive. A Jew on the streets is a hollowed out Jew, and when our values are poor, we accept the values of the dominant culture."

If parents are concerned about their child's behaviour, have them tested, Kirzner advised. "Don't run from any issues."

Warning signs that kids may be in trouble, he said, include less talking, more time out of the house, and increased hostility.

"Change in normal conversation is a problem. If they stop talking to you, that's a red flag. If they're pushing away from you, that's also a red flag."

Experimenting with drugs may be normal, Kirzner said, but "we don't know which kid will get addicted and which one won't. We have to be wide awake, keep our eyes open and be vigilant. A kid may not come out of the other side of a phase."

Kids become addicted to drugs when they try to fill a hole in their soul, he said. "We have to give kids values that will fill the void. Without values, we are in trouble."

He added: "Honour your kids, because a person who gives honour is honoured. [Show them that you're happy] and at one with events in life. [Also become one] with adversity, because challenges are an opportunity for growth."

Kirzner also advised his listeners to make their homes a safe place for kids. "Love them unconditionally, and build on their strengths and aptitudes."

He concluded: "Raising children is holy and special, and you should pray for your child's safety in the world. You should feel no guilt, because you are not in control of the final outcome, but you can keep working on it."

Woman gets kidney, liver transplants

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

As reported last week in *The CJN*, Suzi Kind was in desperate need of both a liver and kidney transplant due to complications arising from hepatitis C, which she contracted after gallbladder surgery about 20 years ago.

On Nov. 20, she got a new liver and new kidney.

Her daughter Sarit said in a media release that her mother, 52, had received a pass to leave the hospital to attend an event earlier this month that the family sponsored to raise awareness about the need for organ and tissue transplants. The very next afternoon, she got a call that there might be a liver and a kidney available.

After a 12-hour surgery fraught with many tense moments, the family was informed that it appeared to have been a success and that Suzi was stable.

Sherry Kind, Suzi's other daughter, said that as of last week, two days after the surgery, she was in intensive care at Toronto General Hospital, asleep under deep sedation.

"I think she can hear us – she seems to respond when we talk to her. And she opens her eyes sometimes, although I don't think she can really see us," Sherry said.

She added that when her mother had her first liver transplant in 1999, she said that one of the worst parts was waking up and feeling discomfort from the tubes and IV lines.

Still, "we pray that every day will be a better day. [The doctors say] that the liver and kidney seem to be working."

She said that even though her mother has had her transplants, the family intends to continue to raise awareness of the need for organ donations.

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LIVING HEALTHY: **More than 80 seniors listened with rapt attention Nov. 1 as naturopath Lorenzo Diana, left, talked about food preparation and how to naturally cure ailments. He was the featured speaker at the Bernard Betel Centre's Senator David A. Croll Memorial Wellness Lecture. Croll's daughter, Eunice Mouckley, middle, introduced Diana. At right is Esta Wall, executive director of the Betel Centre.**
[Kerry White photo]

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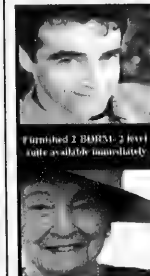

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Coast to Coast

Bone marrow clinic draws more than 100 potential donors

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — A stronger than anticipated turnout for a Winnipeg Jewish community bone marrow clinic led organizers to schedule a second day.

"We did so well on the Sunday [Nov. 19] that we decided to have it again on Wednesday evening, tying it in with parent-teacher meetings at [Gray Academy of Jewish Education] and the Jewish Book Fair," said Stephanie Jacobs-Lockhart, leadership development director of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg's young adult division (YAD), which organized the Giving the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Donor Drive at the Asper Jewish Community Centre.

Jacobs-Lockhart said 116 people were tested.

Every year, she said, thousands of people are stricken with leukemia and other blood-related diseases. In the past, such a diagnosis often meant certain death. Chemotherapy and radiation treatments could often induce remission, but rarely offer a cure.

Today, transplantation of healthy stem cells donated from related and unrelated people offers hope to many patients suffering from these diseases.

Since tissue type is inherited, like eye or hair color, Jacobs-Lockhart said, a patient's best chance of finding a genetic match lies with people of similar ethnic ancestry. Unfortunately, minorities are poorly represented in the worldwide donor pool.

YAD's donor drive aimed to help increase the availability of potential matches for Jewish people in need. The Holocaust severed bloodlines, so Jewish representation in the worldwide donor pool is particularly low.

Jacobs-Lockhart said the testing process was free, fast, and painless – requiring only a swab of cells from inside the potential donor's cheek. No blood was drawn at this initial stage.

While Toronto's Jewish community held a bone marrow clinic at about the same time as the YAD clinic, the two were not directly related.

Toronto's drive focused on finding a match for one Toronto-area person who needs a transplant. Jacobs-Lockhart noted that the donors who came out to the Winnipeg drive will be entered in the Gift of Life's registry of volunteer donors for the benefit of patients worldwide who need life-saving matches.

"Perhaps a match will be found among our group for the individual in Toronto," Jacobs-Lockhart says.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION: The London Jewish Film Festival hosted 1,153 elementary and high school students on Nov. 20 from 15 schools in the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) and the London District Catholic School Board for three screenings of *Paper Clips* and one screening of *Knowledge is the Beginning*. The latter shows the development of a youth orchestra culled from Israel, the Palestinian territories, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, while *Paper Clips* chronicles a middle school in rural Tennessee that honoured the Jews murdered in the Shoah by collecting six million paper clips and putting them in a railway car used during the war. Holocaust survivor Eva Olsson, centre, gave a 30-minute talk after each screening of *Paper Clips* about the horrors she saw in Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen.

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Local gymnast eyes Beijing Olympics

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Fourteen years is a long time to spend concentrating on any one thing, but Marci Bernholtz has done it with dedication.

The 18-year-old Toronto native is one of Canada's premier gymnasts and is looking forward to the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

From Oct. 13 to Oct. 31, Bernholtz accompanied Team Canada to Aarhus, Denmark, to compete in the 39th World Gymnastic Championships before moving on to Germany for a World Cup event.

Aarhus was a first step toward team qualifying for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

The Canadian team placed 14th overall.

"We qualified for next year's world championships in September," Bernholtz said. "[But] we'll need to qualify in the top 12 in order to send a full team to the 2008 Olympics."

It wasn't an easy trip for Bernholtz.

She competed with a chronic knee injury that her coaching staff estimated left her with just 60 per cent mobility.

"But they still wanted her on the team. She's still that good," said Donna Katz, program director of the ASF Gymnastics Club in Thornhill, Bernholtz's long-time training facility.

Bernholtz managed to place 11th out of 22 on the uneven bars and 12th out of 22 on the beam in Germany on Oct. 27.

Gymnastics has always been a part of Bernholtz's life.

Her parents noticed a natural aptitude in her when she was very young and encouraged her to try athletics.

Once enrolled, Bernholtz's abilities attracted professional coaches and she soon began competitive training.

But she said she couldn't have done it without her parents.

"They are incredible. They support me so much and made so many sacrifices," she said.

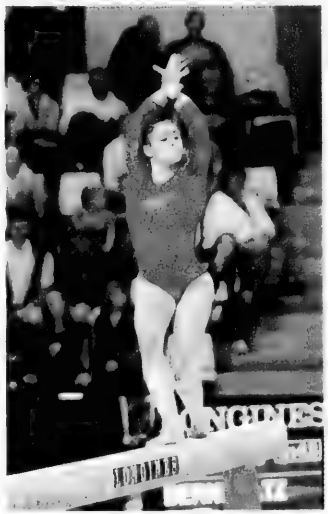
Bernholtz began training at ASF at age four and by 16 was a member of the 2004 Olympic team.

As a further testament to her abilities, she maintains a gruelling 35 hour-a-week training schedule and still manages to excel in school.

Last June, her athletic and academic work ethic paid dividends when UCLA offered her a full scholarship upon graduating from Thornhill Secondary School's elite athletics program.

Bernholtz decided to defer acceptance until after the 2008 Summer Olympics.

"I'm taking some time off school right now. But I just signed my letter of intent with UCLA and I'm going there after Beijing," she said.



Bernholtz demonstrates her style on the beam in Aarhus, Denmark, last month. [Heather Maynez photo]

Once there, Bernholtz will study physiological sciences.

"I've always been interested in human kinetics and the body," she said. "So I think I'll [choose] a medical career. We'll see how it goes."

In the meantime, Bernholtz is focused on one thing: qualifying for the 2008 Olympics.

Her coaches have set up a schedule that will allow her knee to recover while improving her routines.

"I can't train the way I used to, so I've adapted my training," she said. "That's been really helpful on the body."

Bernholtz is taking her road to Beijing one step at a time.

Despite her experience, she knows she must first maintain her place on team Canada's roster before thinking about Beijing.

"If I make it, it'll be amazing," she said. "I'm just hoping to go out there, do the best that I can and hit all my routines."

When asked what advice she would have for children hoping to follow in her footsteps, Bernholtz said they should expect a lot of hard work, but also much reward.

"The experiences you'll have will be incredible, and you'll remember them forever," she said.

Police shoot fan assaulting supporter of Israeli team

Jerusalem Post

PARIS — A plainclothes police officer shot into a crowd of skirmishing soccer fans in Paris last Thursday as he tried to protect supporters of Hapoel Tel Aviv, killing one person and injuring another, police said.

The late night incident at a McDonald's fast food restaurant near the Parc des Princes stadium occurred after Hapoel Tel Aviv defeated Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) 4-2 in a UEFA Cup soccer match.

The police officer, later identified as Antoine Granomort, was trying to protect a Hapoel Tel Aviv fan set upon by some 150 PSG supporters, police said.

The officer lobbed tear gas when the crowd went after the Hapoel supporter, then fired two shots, "having been driven into a corner," police said.

Two PSG fans were injured. One died later, police said. The prosecutor's office identified the dead man as Julien Quemener.

Describing the moments preceding the shooting, police union official Luc Poignant said, "They were shouting 'filthy Jew' and when they saw our colleague, who comes from the Caribbean, they also yelled, 'filthy black, we're going to get you.'"

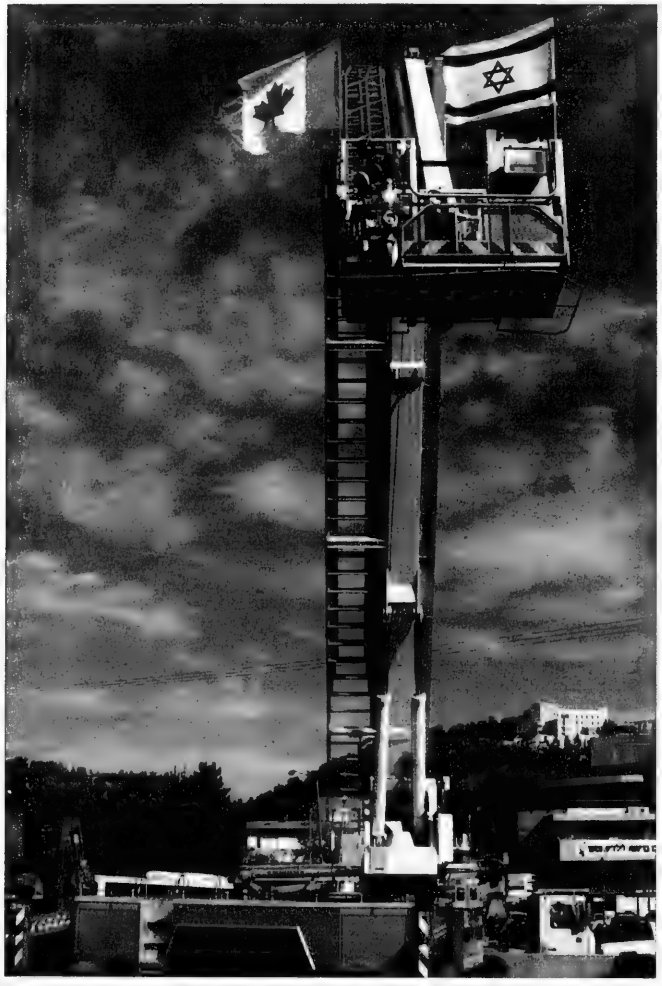
Police said the two men who were shot were members of PSG's far-right fan base that has a notorious violent and racist history.

Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said some PSG fans shouted "Death to the Jew" as they attacked the Hapoel fan, whom officials said was French. The police officer first responded with tear gas, but was knocked to the ground by a blow to the head and kick to the stomach, Sarkozy said. He then drew his gun and opened fire.

Paris prosecutor Jean-Claude Marin said the PSG supporters had made Nazi salutes and shouted, "Le Pen, president," a reference to Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the extreme-right National Front party.

With files from CJN news services.

Inside Back



APPLE LATKES

2 eggs, well beaten
1 1/2 cup orange juice
2 cup flour
1 tsp baking powder
Dash of salt
1/4 - 1/2 cup sugar depending on taste
3 medium apples, peeled and coarsely grated
Vegetable oil for frying
Confectioner's sugar

Mix eggs with orange juice in a bowl. In a separate bowl combine the flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Add dry ingredients to the egg mixture along with the grated apples. Heat a thin layer of oil in a skillet. Allowing 1 large tablespoon of batter per latke or pancake, drop into the hot oil. Cook about 2 minutes on each side, or until slightly golden.

Drain on paper towels, sprinkle with confectioners' sugar, and serve.

Yield: Approx. 3 dozen latkes.

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BROTHERS FIGHTING FIRES

In recognition of the donation of three mini-pumpers by Canadians Gerald Schwartz and his wife, Heather Reisman, to the firefighters of Akko, Nazareth and Safed, a special ceremony involving firefighters from both countries was held last week in Safed. From left are Ontario's minister of community safety and correctional services, Monte Kwinte; Gerald Schwartz; Toronto fire chief, William Stewart; an unidentified Israeli fire official; Ontario's deputy fire marshal, Douglas Crawford; another unidentified Israeli fire official; and Israel's fire and rescue commissioner, Shimon Romach, stand in front of one of the donated mini-pumpers. [CJC photo]

Indifference: you're the other half

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

Don't get caught up in reports about the world standing by while Iran and Korea are building their nuclear arsenals, and while the Sudanese government is slowly crushing Darfur. Don't listen to pundits who come to town and criticize World War II Jewish leaders for remaining quiet while Jews were killed in Europe.

Don't, because this is only half the story. You are the other half.

It's so easy to blame "the world" for its silence. Yet how often have most Jews in Toronto of any age asked themselves, "What would I have done in the 1940s to save Jews and so many others? And what am I doing today?"

Ask yourself the following questions – honestly and without bias. If you answer "no" to most of them, you may want to rethink your position about your place in the world and your response to its ills.

• Am I truly aware that millions of people have been murdered, thrown out of their homes, raped and tortured in Darfur?

• Have I contacted my local MP, rabbi, social action committee or local organizations such as Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan to physically and directly address the war in Sudan?

• Have I accepted the reality that while a number of Jewish university students and local Jewish community members are working hard to fight these evil acts of genocide and cruelty, most of us are not?

• Have I asked myself: Where was the world while Jews were being killed in Auschwitz? If so, why aren't I asking the same questions now as countless millions of people in our world are dying in refugee camps, at the ends of machetes and guns and from infectious diseases that can be prevented?

• Do I know that Iran is building a nuclear bomb and that its "leadership" has stated clearly that they will obliterate Israel? What have I done to actively fight and protest this?

• Am I so disturbed by the fact children are losing their lives in countless war zones throughout the world that I have asked my shul leaders to say prayers for them?

• Have I attended more Holocaust program than I can remember and ever gone home and written down: "Tomorrow I am going to throw myself into saving the world, and teach my children how to do the same"?

• Am I convinced that I am powerless to change anything, so I don't even try?

Be honest with yourself. If you simply don't care, then don't criticize the rest of the world for being indifferent. If you find it easy to blame the problems of the world on our leaders, ask yourself why you're not a leader, be it of a group of five or an assembly of thousands.

It's easy to sit back and feel awful about being persecuted – in fact, it's almost pleasurable – but it's courageous to stand up and fight when you're able to. Get out there and change our world. There is more to being a Jew than simply reading shocking headlines and applauding speakers bearing sad messages. To be a Jew is to fight back.

We know this because we applaud those who have done exactly that. We celebrate the courage of Moses, who stood up to the mighty Pharaoh, and we applaud the sheer guts of the men and women who fought for Israel's survival in all of its wars.

Tomorrow, when you read your newspaper, notice the headlines on each page in the front section. Over and over, you will discover death and destruction. Our world is filled with it, and those affected cry out for help to those of us who live in our oasis of a country.

To be a Jew is to fight back.

Fight back. We expected others to do so.

Avrum@veahavta.org. Sudan?

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The Canadian Jewish News
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PARTY PLANNER

Plan in advance for children in the wedding party

By GAYLE KERTZMAN
Special to The CJN

Just a month before my third birthday, I was to have the honour of being a flower girl at my uncle's wedding. Unfortunately, I never made it down the aisle, because I had a temper tantrum just before the ceremony.

The only memory I have of this event is a picture taken of my mother as she walked down the aisle. Needless to say, she didn't look happy.

Now fast forward 30 years later. History was about to repeat itself. My three-year-old daughter, Elana, was going to walk down the aisle as a flower girl at her uncle's wedding. I was determined that her fate would be different from mine.

We bought the dress a year in advance, we had been to all the parties leading up to the wedding and we had been reading picture books about being a flower girl. All those months of role playing and discussion finally culminated as the big day was upon us.

Things ran like clockwork. Elana had her hair done, she had her nap, she posed for pictures, she ate her snack and she went to the bathroom. The moment we had talked about for months was finally here – we were about to walk down the aisle.

Well, it seems the pressure of the moment got to Elana and she began to cry. She needed to go to the bathroom! My daughter, who could hold it in for days, all of a sudden needed to go – but the procession had started.

I told her to hold it in, but that only made her more anxious to go, so I attempted to take her to the bathroom before we walked down the aisle. That freaked her out and she began to scream – the clear beginning of a temper tantrum. All I could hear was my future sister-in-law saying she hoped Elana would make it down the aisle, my mother telling me to take her away, and some late-coming guests asking what was going on.

Thank goodness the best man, my husband, came to the rescue. He grabbed the teary-eyed Elana, told her to stop crying and wiped her eyes. Then the two of them walked into the sanctuary and down the aisle. She did it! She made it down the aisle.

The rest of the evening went without incident, and Elana and I danced all night. I mentally noted that I should jot this milestone down in her baby book, and come to think of it, she never did mention the bathroom again that night!

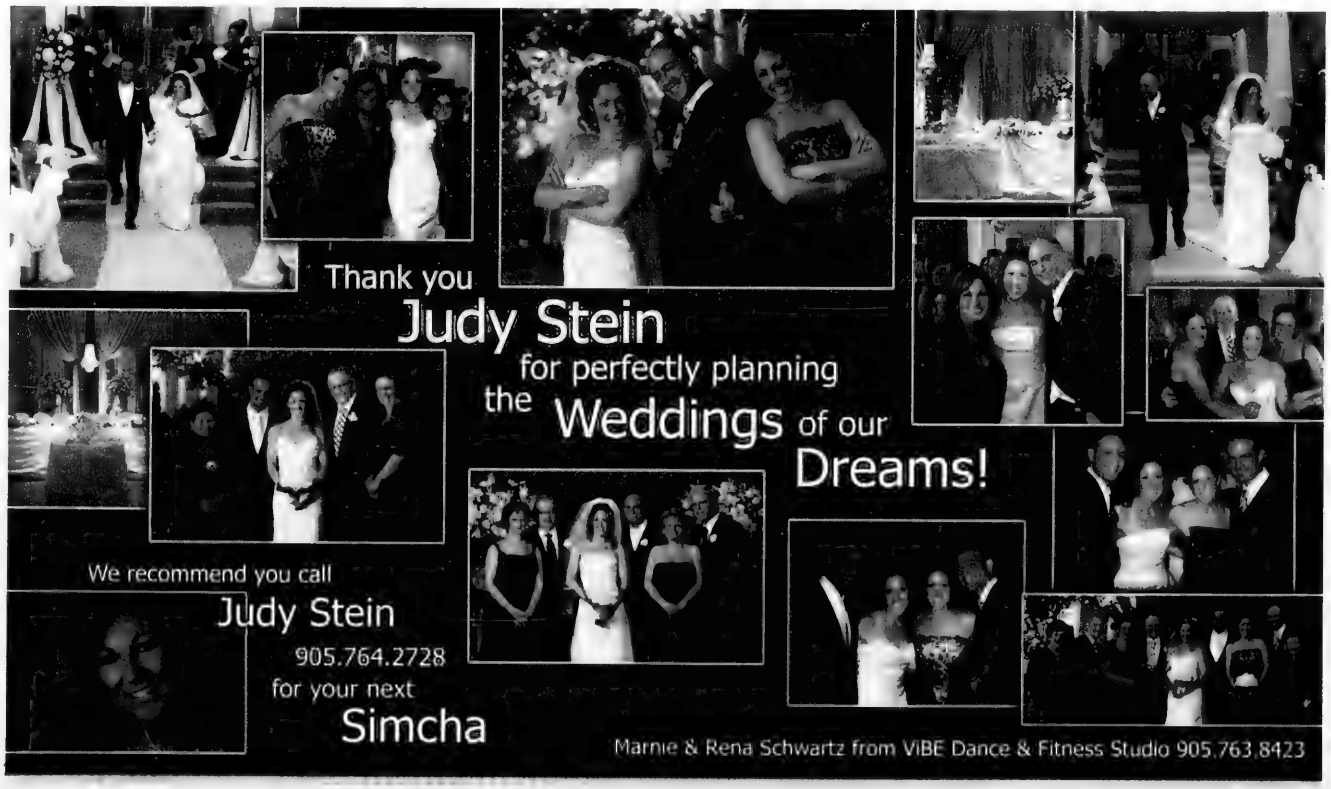
My story is not an uncommon one when young children are part of the bridal party. While children under the age of six can look absolutely adorable, they are often associated with an added stress for the bride and groom.

Here are some of the lessons I learned to help alleviate that stress:

- Even though it's nice to include a niece or nephew in the your big day, be aware of a child's limitations. Remember it's easier to reason with a five-year-old, than with a two-year-old in the middle of a temper tantrum.
- Schedule photographs as late in the day as possible. Many young children need an early afternoon nap, and without it, they won't survive the excitement of a long day.
- Be flexible – anything can happen at the last minute. If the child chooses not to walk alone, but wants to walk with Mommy or Daddy, so be it.
- If the children's parents are standing under the chupah, have someone they are familiar with waiting for them in the front row. It also helps to have a new book or quiet toy waiting for them at the end of the aisle.
- Seat children near an exit, in case they become to noisy or restless and their caregiver needs to leave the ceremony discreetly.
- At the reception, have a small loot bag of treats waiting at the table. Fill it with dollar-store finds, such as activity books, crayons, stickers and stamps. This is a good way to keep the children occupied during the speeches.
- Remember to order child-friendly meals. A hungry child, is a cranky child.
- If there are a number of babies in your immediate family, try to set up a quiet room with a portable crib and change station. Hire a babysitter, so that parents can enjoy themselves.

Gayle Kertzman is the mother of two daughters, Elana and Eryn, and also runs her own business as a wedding and special event planner.

Pictured, from left, Elana walking down the aisle with her father, Stephen Kertzman; Elana with her mother, Gayle Kertzman; and bride Dina Naiman with Elana;



Judaica shopping made simple

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Shopping for Judaica can be expensive and difficult, but Chuck and Barbara Elnekave make it easy.

Last February, the couple opened The Israeli Source: the Ultimate Jewish Shopping Experience gift store at 60 Doncaster Ave., Unit 1, in Thornhill.

Growing up in Toronto's Jewish community made them realize that the costs involved with "buying Jewish" shouldn't be prohibitive.

They practise that wholesale-pricing philosophy every day at their store.

"We felt there was a need for a low-cost alternative to the traditional judaica 'boutique' that is more prevalent in Toronto," said Chuck Elnekave. "Kind of like the big-box mentality, but instead of being applied to books, like Chapters, or hardware, like Home Depot, we applied that approach to Judaica."

It's definitely something new in the industry.

Customers can walk into The Israeli Source's 3,000-square-foot store and shop for what they need without all the "fancy-shmancy" trappings of other, more upscale Judaica shops, Elnekave said.

"We're more of an 'active warehouse,'" he said. "The customer shops for products that are all on display, [not for] items that are kept in a back room."

And because The Israeli Source buys products in bulk, savings are passed on to customers.

But don't think this more casual approach means the store isn't fully prepared to meet your needs.

The Israeli Source stocks a variety of gift items for many occasions. Whether you want Aleph Bet magnetic toys for toddlers or havdalah sets for your home, the Elnekaves have it.

Want technology? They have that, too.

From specialty religious CDs to the mainstream DVD comedy *The Hebrew Hammer* to Hebrew keyboards, it's all there.

Additionally, their knowledgeable staff is always on hand to answer questions or help customers find items in the store.

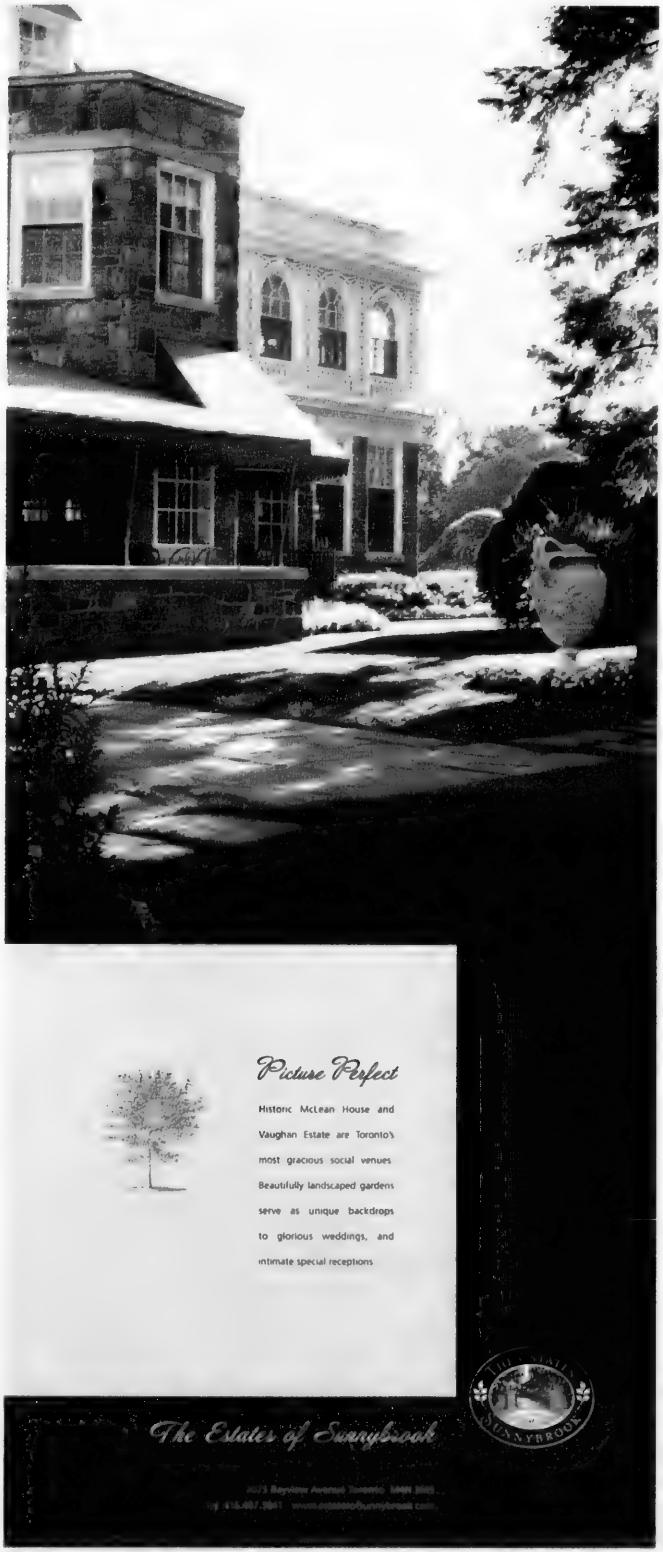
The Israeli Source also has some terrific holiday gift ideas.

"We have some special items for Chanukah this year," said Elnekave. "We have an array of unique menorahs by Israeli designers and a selection of sterling silver menorahs by Hazorfim [Home Jewelry]."

When asked what makes The Israeli Source the ultimate Jewish shopping experience, Elnekave answered succinctly, "Low prices, great service, and extensive selection."

Simple.

For more information visit, www.israelisource.com, or call 905-482-2025 or toll free 1-877-613-1818.



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Good service is key, and Marriott has it

By MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

When it's show time for your party, phenomenal service at the event venue is paramount, says Debra Hughson.

"One of the first features people are looking for is that the level of service is tailored to their specific needs," says Hughson, sales and marketing director at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre.

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The Marriott features a special "red coat service" whereby a designated person, attired in a red coat, is on duty throughout your affair to ensure everything runs smoothly.

"If you need a quick change in the room temperature, or there's a request for a meal change, this person is at your beck and call, throughout the night," she says, likening the role to a maitre d'.

Since there are numerous vendors involved in most events, Hughson notes that it's important for the venue to work collaboratively with all third-party vendors before, during and even after an affair.

"Whether it's the DJ, band or the special props and décor brought in, even if this is done through a third-party vendor, the onus is on [the venue] to collaborate to make sure everyone is aligned," Hughson reveals.

Party venues are becoming increasingly versatile these days, able to hold many different kinds of social and corporate events.

The downtown Marriott has a total of 18,000 square feet of event space, including a grand ballroom that can host 850 people.

Affairs at the Marriott range from weddings and bar mitzvahs to corporate galas and fundraisers.

So how do you find the right venue for your specific party?

While size and ambience are obvious factors, you'd be advised to pay attention to other details, including lighting and layout.

"You can transform any room through the lighting, so it's important to ask the venue about what types of equipment they have and their ability to change the lighting," Hughson says.

In terms of layout, be sure to check out where the kitchen is located.

"If the kitchen is located close to the ballroom, that makes a huge difference," she says. "Because if someone has a last-minute request for a vegetarian meal, for example, we can service that relatively quickly because everything is contained on one floor."

The same applies to shipping and receiving.

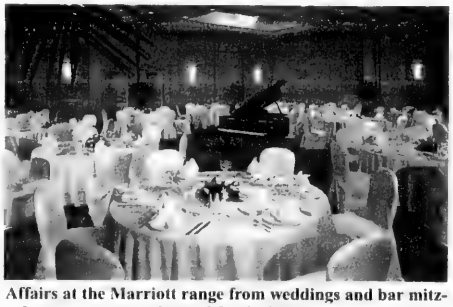
To that end, if your party involves bringing in audiovisual equipment and other amenities relating to décor, it's good to have shipping and receiving located near the party room.

Party venues book up quickly, so Hughson encourages people to book between one to two years in advance.

For events at downtown hotels such as the Marriott, weekdays are considered peak time, so scheduling weddings on the weekend may be ideal.

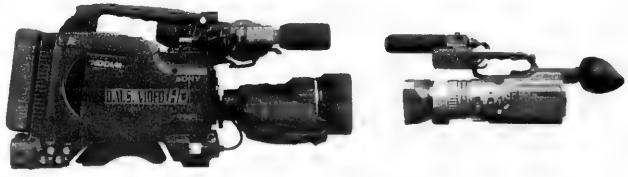
Although the Marriott doesn't have a kosher kitchen, kosher meals can be brought in by an off-site kosher caterer.

For more information about the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, visit www.marriotteatoncentre.com, or call 416-597-9200.



Affairs at the Marriott range from weddings and bar mitzvahs to corporate galas and fundraisers.

US THE OTHER GUYS



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Fine kosher catering for generations

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Every simchah needs a nosh, every chag some chow, and what better way to get food than from two caterers who know the Toronto Jewish community like the back of their seder plates?

Nearly 75 years ago, when Zuchter Berk went into the restaurant business, little did he know his entrepreneurial endeavour would become synonymous with fine kosher catering.

Certified by the Kashruth Council of Canada (COR), Zuchter Berk Catering operates on the philosophy that "execution is everything."

Now run by partners David Berk, Walter Vaz and Isaac Drookman, the company can do it all.

From the smallest family dinner to the grandest event venue in the city, Zuchter's can see to the food needs of the Jewish community from top to bottom.

"We listen to our clients so that we may give the professional advice they depend upon," states their website.

Zuchter Berk also recently started offering full-service dairy catering for baby-namings and brit milot. "We will cater to people's homes," said Vaz.

Beyond that, they are also the exclusive kosher caterer for Air Canada and various other airlines, and they cater to corporate events and sponsor Jewish charitable events every year.

"Every year we pick a [charitable] organization to fund," said Vaz. "It's a way for us to give back to the community."

Zuchter Berk is dedicated to staying in the know because even their traditional clients are starting to experiment with new food ideas, said Vaz.

"We're always sourcing new ingredients and new products," he said

The company can also help plan arrangements for wine and liquor, linens, chair covers, flowers, table settings and other amenities such as chocolate fountains, martini bars and ice sculptures.

For more information, call 416-386-1086 or visit www.zuchterberk.com.

Another company providing Toronto's Jewish community with great food from generation to generation is Rose Lazar Catering Services.

Named after the company matriarch who founded the business 45 years ago (and who is still dispensing advice and guidance), they have consistently produced adaptive, delicious and nutritious kosher creations for their clientele.

"In today's environment, people are more knowledgeable in food preparation and ingredients," said David Lazar, the company's vice-president of operations.

That might be daunting for some, but at Rose Lazar, it's welcomed.

"Our clients come to us with all these wonderful ideas and we tailor [our] menus to accommodate their wishes," he said.

In keeping with their clients' ever-increasing needs for new taste blends, Rose Lazar has created new entrées such as glazed apple chicken, sesame orange chicken and Thai coconut chicken.

"The hardest part is adapting recipes to meet the kosher requirements," said Lazar.

But adapt they do.

Heather Lazar, the company's culinary researcher and tester of new recipes, ensures their menu is always de rigeur.

Rose Lazar caters solely to kosher events and is the exclusive caterer for the Lodzer Centre Congregation.

"We are a family-oriented business," said Lazar. "We treat each customer as a member of our extended family [and] provide personalized attention to all details of the simchah... to ensure that the celebration is a worry-free event."

Rose Lazar Catering suggests calling them at 416-633-0344 for any questions customers have about setting up menus for their upcoming events.

Other kosher caterers advertising in this supplement are: Caterers York/Sweet York Desserts, 416-783-4293; Ely's Fine Foods, 416-782-3231.

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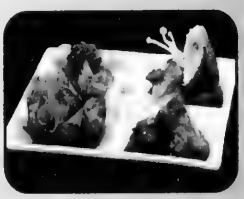


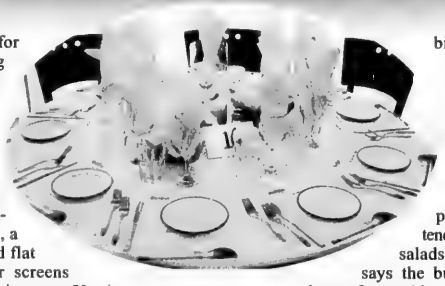
Hard Rock hosting wedding receptions, bar/bat mitzvahs

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

Any rock 'n' roll buff will know that the place to check out great music memorabilia is the Hard Rock Café. But they probably don't know that the same place that holds your favourite rockers' guitar can also throw a mean wedding reception.

There are plenty of reasons why the Hard Rock is a great place to have a party, says Marcello DeOliveira, sales and marketing manager for the Hard Rock Café (416-362-3636) on Yonge Street at Dundas in Toronto, but the main attraction is what's on its walls. "There's already a theme for the event," he says. "Very little decoration is needed. Most families end up requesting centrepieces and that's it. There are guitars, costumes and hats from artists all over the world."

If you've been to the Hard Rock, you might be wondering where events are held. Above the restaurant, on the second floor, is a big room that can hold about 150 people and a DJ for entertainment. "Most of our private events are held on the second floor," says DeOliveira, "about 80 per cent of them." The other 20 per cent are held on both floors. "You can have the reception on the second floor, keeping it casual with not a lot of seating. Then you can move to the main floor for dinner and move back upstairs for dessert. Using both floors will definitely wow your guests."



The café also has a few things to wow their clients. In-house lighting, a PA system and flat panel monitor screens make entertaining easy. You just need to bring the DJ.

But what if you want your party kosher? No problem, says DeOliveira. For an extra fee, clients can hire an outside caterer for the party. If a bride and groom only need a couple of kosher meals, the Hard Rock staff will serve them along with the rest of the food. But for those who prefer to use the Hard Rock's kitchen, it's got a lot to offer.

"Salmons and steaks are popular," says DeOliveira. "Adults are mostly going with plated services with different choices of entrées." Kids, though, have always gone gaga over the buffet and that hasn't changed in 2006. "A buffet for children is the easiest way for them to eat. They can eat at their own pace. Kids are usually running around and dancing, so they don't eat at the same. They go grab a little bit of food, and then they're off and running again."

The kids' meal offers the usual buffet staples: pizza, chicken tenders, pastas and salads. DeOliveira says the buffet includes plenty of vegetables, too. "We work with our kitchen to develop menus that parents and children will be happy with."

For dessert, the Hard Rock can serve up a chocolate fountain or a make-your-own sundae station. "Kids are provided with ice cream, and we have several choices of toppings, gummy bears and M&Ms. They can go crazy and top the ice cream with whatever they want."

Besides the food options and the memorabilia on the walls, DeOliveira points out that the Hard Rock's location is another big selling point. "We aren't underground, there are lots of windows, and whether your event is during the day or at night, you can look at one of the busiest intersections in the city."

But a busy intersection can pose security concerns, which is something the Hard Rock is aware of. "We have security at every event," says DeOliveira, "but especially when he have an event with kids. We make sure every exit is monitored and kids can't leave the building without an adult. If we can't see a family member parked right in front of the café, we make sure they [kids] don't leave by themselves."

With that in mind, DeOliveira wants parents of 13-year-olds to consider using the hard rock as their place to party. Bar and bat mitzvah receptions have been held at the location for a year now. In 2006, they held eight parties, and that number will grow next year. The café already has booking inquiries for 2008.

If you're considering booking the place, there's one other thing DeOliveira can offer – great customer service. "We listen to our clients," he says. "That's the most important thing – to get feedback on our menus and our services so we can keep things easy and simple."

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Liberty Grand offers range of venues to suit your needs

By MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Being attracted to the look, feel and overall ambience of a party venue is a subjective thing.

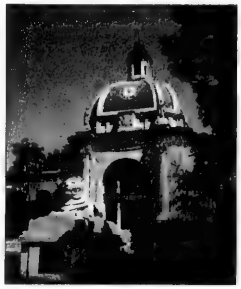
As a party host, you will have your own unique preferences, and the only way to discover a venue that meets your needs is to visit the site.

"Come in and see the venue," advises Robert Rosset, director of sales and catering with the Liberty Entertainment Group.

"The bride or groom should bring other people they are close to with them and they'll know whether the venue… has the right look and feel. After that decision is made, we'll walk them through the costs."

To that end, staying within your budget is a fundamental consideration, so the venue's price has to be right.

When figuring out the dollars and cents, be sure to factor in the price not only for the venue, but also the food and beverages.



The Liberty Grand

"We don't do booking until people know what the food and beverages cost," says Rosset, noting that the Liberty Entertainment Group encompasses 12 properties, ranging from restaurants and nightclubs to upscale lounges and banquet halls.

Once the price is right, securing a date is the next step.

Rosset notes that dates get booked quickly and therefore encourages clients to arrange a date as much as 1½ years in advance.

Many venues have special event professionals on staff who can assist with the booking of other vendors, though Rosset says clients are welcome to have as much independence as they like in this regard.

"Most facilities are moving further away from providing the one-stop shop," he says. "We can provide support, but we'll encourage you to do your own research."

For instance, the Liberty Entertainment Group welcomes kosher caterers to provide food at its venues, but the party host will typically line up a kosher caterer on his or her own.

Food is a major part of all parties, and Rosset says many venues are now customizing menus to cater to what clients, and their guests, want.

"The executive chef will design the menu that is somewhat specific to the occasion and the demographics," he relates.

He adds that a growing trend at bar and bat mitzvahs is food stations, where a chef prepares and serves some food on-site, right in front of guests.

Another trend caters to guests' appetites for a late-night snack.

"Weddings and corporate events are now offering midnight Chinese buffets, with things like chicken balls and fried rice," he explains. "It doesn't have to be Chinese food, but the idea is to provide late night snacks."

For more information about the Liberty Entertainment Group, visit www.libertygroup.com or call 416-542-3789.

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Venues offer the best of settings for simchahs

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

With hundreds of party venues to choose from, it's often hard for people to decide where to hold their special event. Thankfully, the following two locales in the GTA offer some of the best settings for simchahs.

The Royalton Banquet hall in Woodbridge has provided a glorious location for kosher events for years.

Its three main rooms have hosted scores of simchahs and will continue to do so for years to come. But in May 2007, the Royalton will proudly unveil its sister venue, the Bellvue Manor, giving clients two excellent choices for party locales.

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"We have listened to clients and taken the next step in event planning," states Robert Marra, president of the venues, on the Bellvue Manor website.

"People want the 'country manor' type of look now," says Marra "We wanted a new venue, something nice that no one else has." And it seems they will accomplish just that.

When construction is finished, Bellvue Manor will boast a kosher kitchen, four banquet rooms, with two smaller, restaurant-like dining rooms upstairs and will accommodate 900 partyers with ease.

"Bellevue Manor will look and feel like a grand country estate. With its old-world elegance and our reputation for exceptional food and service, you can rest assured you have booked the best," claims the website.

An artist's conception of the Bellvue Manor, which opens in May 2007, from the outside. [Courtesy of the Bellvue Manor]

And the word is already spreading.

The not-yet-built venue is already booked Saturdays throughout 2007.

Though there is still availability, "it's going fast," says Marra. He advises those wishing to book for next year to do so soon to be one of the first to have a simchah at what is sure to be one of th e most talked-about new venues,

For more information on The Royalton, visit www.theroyalton.com and, for the Bellvue Manor, visit www.bellvuemanor.com.

* * *

Another new venue is the Easton Group's Hilton Garden Inn and Toscana Banquet and Conference Centre in Vaughan.

The Toscana offers party-planners a terrificly versatile banquet hall facility.

The Toscana

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The spacious ballroom offers 7,590 square feet of room for dining, dancing and schmoozing. It can also be partitioned into three separate halls at 2,500 square feet each.

The hall accommodates 800 people in its theatre-style setup and 500 with its seating setup.

Reetu Gupta, director of marketing for the Easton Group, says the Toscana was built with Jewish clintele in mind.

"In our hall we have a retractable skylight built specifically for the chupah," she said. "It's the most requested room for Jewish weddings."

But space is at a premium at the Toscana.

"People should book sooner rather than later because we are starting to fill up for next year," said Gupta. "Depending on dates needed there is some limited availability."

The Toscana banquet hall also offers great technological conveniences.

A surround-sound speaker system is complimented by mobile lighting that can make shapes on walls and even recreate corporate logos for a "wallwash" effect.

What's more, pinpoint lighting is embedded in the ceiling and can illuminate guest tables in many colours if you want a colour-themed event.

"So you don't need DJs to come into the hall with their systems because everything is already there. It's less hassle and is a lot cleaner [to set up]," said Gupta.

For information, call 905-660-5200 or visit www.toscanabanquethall.ca

For Hilton reservations, call Reetu Gupta at 905-660-4700.

Other kosher places to party advertising in this supplement are: Baycrest Hospitality Services, 416-785-2500, ext. 2477; Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 416-221-3433, ext. 307; Copper Creek Golf Club, 905-893-3370, ext. 202; Toscana Banquet & Conference Centre, 905-660-5200; King Solomon's Table, 416-630-1666; Park Hyatt Toronto, 416-925-1234.

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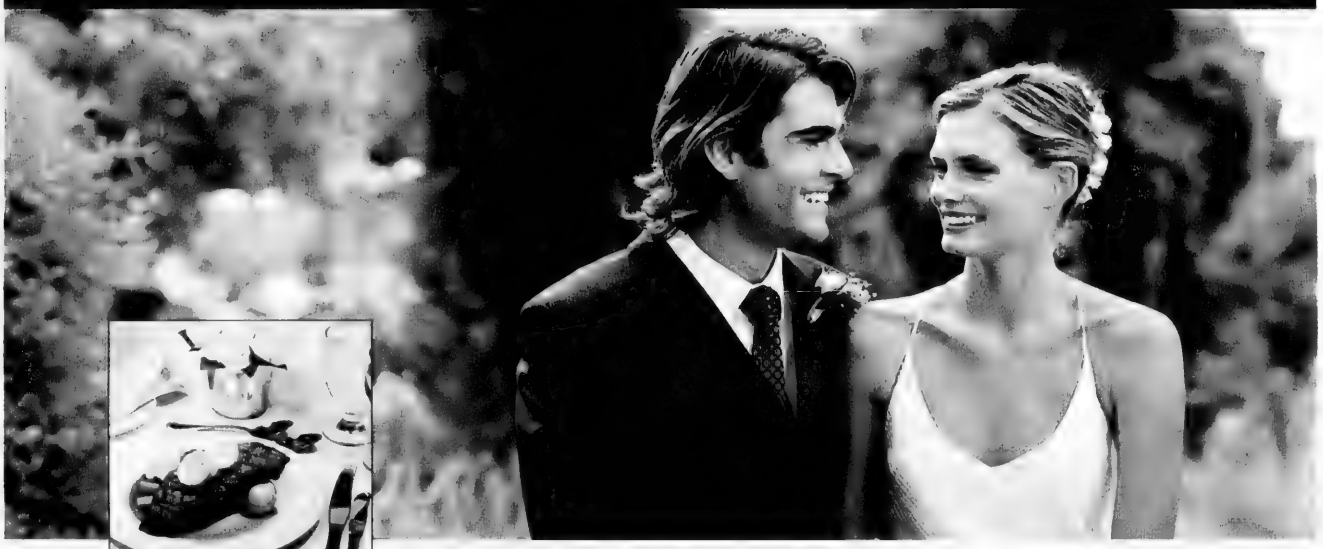

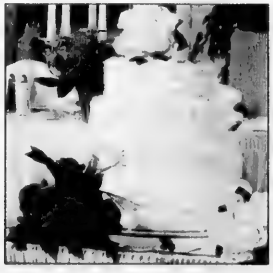

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Speeches with sincerity and style

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
Special to the CJN

You can probably count on the fingers of one hand the really good speeches you've heard, but you'd need a whole extra body to start counting the lousy ones.

Sisters Marsha Zinberg and Cheryl Plener, of The Write Touch (647-428-1150), help clients create "speeches with sincerity and style."

If your first thought when it comes to speechwriters is politicians, forget canned sentimentality and cheesy sound bites. Zinberg and Plener don't usually even describe themselves as speechwriters. "We help shape the speech that you'd like to give," Zinberg says.

Whether you're confident about what to say or foundering for ideas that won't leave listeners yawning, The Write Touch offers a buffet of services you may not even realize you need until it's too late.

"People just don't spend enough time preparing," Plener says. "They leave the speech to the last minute."

"They feel they can wing it, not accounting for how emotional you feel at the time," but then they're "surprised nothing comes at that moment."

From wording invitations, shaping and polishing presentations and delivery coaching to the wording of thank-you notes, Zinberg and Plener can help craft every word that goes into your event.

The two bring a wealth of experience with words spoken and written to their business. Zinberg has 23 years' experience as a corporate spokesperson for a publishing company, and Plener's background is in drama and communications. "We complement each other," Zinberg says.

Beginning with a consultation three months before the event, The Write Touch gets clients thinking about what to say. Clients write a draft, in paragraph or point form, touching on topics or impressions like "there's a great story about my Aunt Sue that I'd like to tell."

The Write Touch helps clients create speeches with sincerity and style.

Then The Write Touch takes over, editing and polishing the speech into a presentation that is original, interesting, heartfelt and honest.

"We tweak it," Plener says. "We edit it down." They find the intentions behind the words – and help choose the best possible words. "We see they're trying to go someplace… ask, 'Is this what you're trying to say?' and make suggestions like, 'Can we say it this way?'"

Often listeners don't have all the information they need to understand a story or a reference in a speech. "We'll say, 'What do you mean here about the tennis game?' and have them explain it," she says.

They also ensure that nothing gets left out. At one bar mitzvah, Plener says she noticed that the father's speech accidentally omitted a younger brother who was acting as MC. A bride may forget to thank her in-laws or maid of honour – small things that are often lost in event-planning chaos.

The Write Touch can also co-ordinate all the speeches in a family or wedding party, meaning less repetition. "People don't show each other their speeches," Plener says. "They get stuck… like if the groom plays hockey, everybody talks about the groom playing hockey. After you've heard that five times, you're no longer interested."

Plener's theatre background serves her well – a touch of drama is at least as important as good writing. "Maybe they've written a good speech, but you can't hear it – they don't know how to use the mike properly, they don't have confidence," she says.

The Write Touch offers delivery coaching, with the option of audio or videotaping. "People have no idea how they come across," until they see or hear themselves speak, she adds.

Speeches are too often overlooked while spending a lot of money to create the perfect simchah or corporate program. "You're standing in a beautiful dress, in a lovely room, offering people a beautiful meal… it would also be nice if you spoke elegantly and eloquently, and said what you had to say about this beautiful time in your life," Plener says.

Rebecca, a 24-year-old bride who recently used The Write Touch for her wedding, agrees. "You put so much time in to your flowers, makeup, dress," but speeches are "one of the most important things," she says.

"Cheryl gave me tips in terms of my presentation… she made me own the room." She's still getting compliments months later, saying her speech "resonated… because they were my experiences, my feelings; I wasn't just quoting a beautiful poem."

Plener says: "It is their speech, their vocabulary, the way they tell a story… they're the one delivering it. There are no cookie-cutter speeches."

It's "going to be their speech, not a canned speech," Zinberg agrees. "It's their own touches. We want them to deliver the speech that they want to give – but we are going to help them do it."

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The view from the Park Hyatt in downtown Toronto.

Park Hyatt offers luxury at a competitive price

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

A hotel offering a variety of services may be the ideal venue for your celebration, because if it has many of the things that you need in-house, you save money and make it easier to organize your event.

In downtown Toronto, one such hotel is the Park Hyatt Toronto (416-925-1234, www.parkhyatttoronto.com). Not far from the carriage trade shops of Yorkville, it's at the northwest corner of Bloor Street and Avenue Road.

Catering director Michael Rosen takes pride in the hotel's high standard of service.

Whether it's a gala affair, or one that's small and intimate, there's always plenty of qualified, helpful staff on hand.

"Whether it's a bar or bat mitzvah or a wedding, every party gets the five-star treatment," Rose says. "That's what we're all about."

Rosen adds that "when you're making a wedding [or any other milestone event], you have only one shot. There's no hit or miss."

The Park Hyatt has a kosher kitchen, and at every kosher event, a mashgiach is on site for the duration of the party.

And while Park Hyatt is a luxury establishment, Rosen assures clients that its catering prices are reasonable.

"Kosher doesn't have to cost a fortune. Our prices are competitive in the kosher marketplace. For the quality of the food, service and surroundings, we offer great value."

Nor is kosher cuisine restricted to the traditional repertoire of dishes, delicious and comforting as they are.

"Our kitchen staff is talented and creative," Rosen says. "The greatest compliment we get is how good our food is."

Rosen credits executive chef Joan Monfaredi, who also oversees the kosher kitchen, for the Park Hyatt's high standard of both cuisine and presentation.

She will create any menu style, be it an eight-course dinner or a buffet, he says.

Rosen points out that the Park Hyatt has its own china and flatware. Also, nearly everything, from hors d'oeuvres to desserts, is made in-house, which further reduces costs.

The Park Hyatt also has more than one party venue to choose from. On the 18th floor, the Rooftop Salon can accommodate 102 guests for a sit-down dinner with dancing, or 120 for a meal without dancing.

On a clear day, you can see the lake from the Rooftop Salon, which is above and across the street from the Royal Ontario Museum.

"It's the perfect setting," Rosen says. "There's a small wraparound terrace, and the view is breathtaking."

And in the winter, the working fireplace makes the room even more inviting.

The Queen's Park Ballroom can hold 270 to 280 guests, with dance floor and band. If a ceremony is held there, and the hotel is charging for food and beverages, it doesn't charge for the ballroom. And a wedding includes a complimentary deluxe guest room for the bride and groom.

The Park Hyatt's social catering manager is Donald Hillis. Rosen praises him highly for his experience, attention to detail and likeable personality, calling him "our resident wedding specialist."

Currently, the Park Hyatt is offering a special program, called "One Perfect Day, Two Perfect Nights," for couples holding weddings there before June 30.

"The couple will enjoy two complimentary nights at any Hyatt resort or any Park Hyatt Hotel worldwide," Rosen says.

You can use it for your anniversary, or for a romantic getaway.

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Choose a photographer who gives it their best shot

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

At any wedding or other personal milestone, you want lasting mementos worthy of the event.

This is especially true of photos. Long after food, music and even decor are faded memories, the pictures will remain, so let them be the best you can get.

Both Greg Dean of Signature Studios (416-784-4488 www.signature-online.com), and Adrian Holmes of Adrian Holmes Photography (416-481-9522, www.holmesphoto.com) have reputations for fine work, and they encourage you to insist on the highest standards.

If you look at their photos, you will see evidence of this. Both men show an ability to break down the old, stereotypical boundary between commercial and artistic photography, combining soft edges with subtle colour.

Photo by Adrian Holmes Photography.

When choosing a photographer, Dean says, consider quality of work first of all. Then make sure you're compatible and that you see eye to eye, "with the same vision and sense of humour," as he puts it.

If Holmes himself were choosing a photographer, he says he'd place a lot of value on referrals and reputation. Also, he emphasizes that a photographer should have experience in a given market.

Pictures by Signature Studios.

"Most of my business is with the Jewish community," he says. "But a photographer has to respect the different customs in all the different communities. What's going on at a given moment in a ceremony, and what it means, has a direct bearing on where the cameras should be."

Yours and the photographer's personalities should work well together, both Dean and Holmes advise, and he or she should mesh well with other party professionals such as the videographer.

A good photographer, Holmes continues, must have some organizational ability.

"If someone books me, he also books my staff. Along with taking photos, this entails answering messages and returning calls. Politeness and organizational ability are closely related," he says.

"Taste and tact are also important," Holmes adds. "A client should like my style, but I should also be ready to adjust my style to the client's tastes."

So a photographer should be flexible and versatile, not a "one-trick pony," he adds.

Versatility, in Holmes' view, includes working under difficult conditions.

A rain shower at an outdoor event, he says, won't stop him from doing his best work – it's just a challenge to overcome.

"As a client, you should be paying for guaranteed work, knowing your photos will turn out well," he adds.

At the same time, Holmes likes every shoot to be different. He doesn't want to offer a merely competent but predictable service, where you know what you're getting, but it's not exciting.

He wants to give every client and event something unique that can't be duplicated elsewhere.

Also, Holmes thinks ahead: he sees working for a client at one event as a step towards a longer-term relationship.

"If the clients like the wedding pictures I take, the wedding can lead to baby pictures, maybe to bar and bat mitzvahs," he says.

Signature's albums are bound coffee-table books, with spine and attached pages. A wide-angle or panorama shot can be spread across both pages, a format that's ideal for weddings or celebrations such as family reunions, where you want to get everyone in one picture.

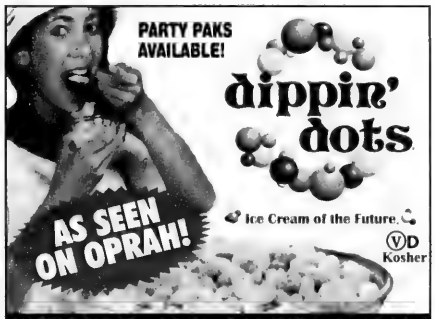
Signature will have three photographers present at your wedding. With two cameras going at all times, they can do posed and candid shots at the same time, and someone's always there for backup.

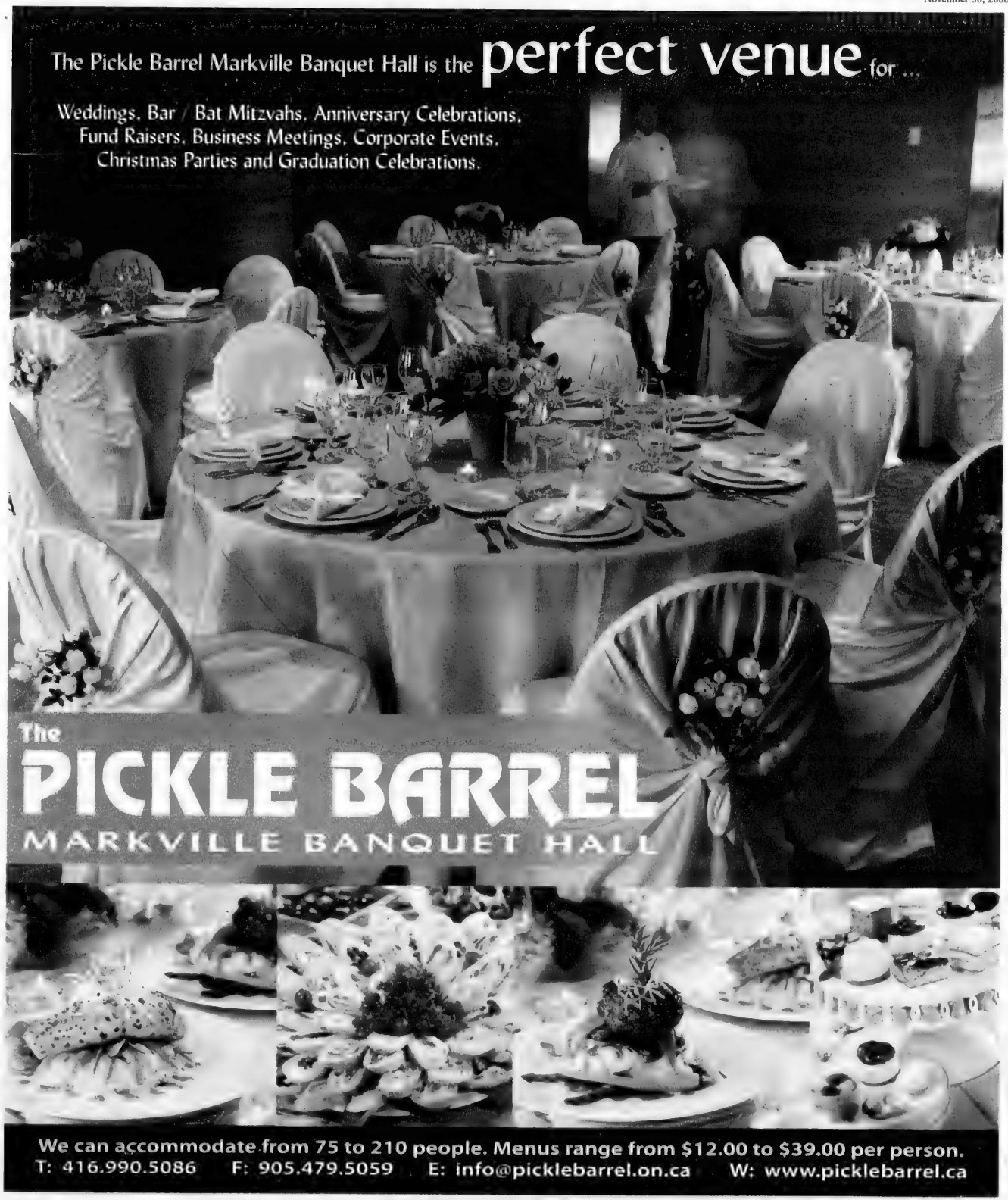
Dean urges you to book your photographer as far ahead as you can – at least a year.

"I have bookings into 2008 and '09," he says.

The more reputable studios, says Holmes, book from six months to a year ahead for weddings, and six months to two years for bar or bat mitzvahs.

Other photographers advertising in this supplement are: David Amoils Photography, 905-882-6770; Horvath Studio of Photography, 905-707-5770; Platinum Studios, 905-709-7754; Special Event Photography, 416-410-3311.

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PARTY PLANNER

Toronto Party Guide Show is a one-stop extravaganza

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Pictured at the recent Toronto Party Guide show hosted at the Beth Emeth Synagogue are, from left, David Berk, Lynn Cohen, Lorraine Berk, and Walter Vaz (Zuchter Berk Creative Caterers).

Planning your upcoming party can be easy and stress free, thanks to www.torontopartyguide.com and the Toronto Party Guide Show.

Rick Levine, president of Custom Graphics, who organizes the show along with Lynn Cohen and runs the website, says he and Cohen started working together 10 years ago because they wanted the public to be aware of "the quality of products and services out there.

"We also wanted to make life easier for people trying to plan a great party."

Visitors to the show – the next one is Jan. 16 at Le Parc Conference and Banquet Centre – have an opportunity to connect with party planning professionals who can help make any event a success, he said.

"One visit to the show can save a huge number of phone calls and visits. Think of the time people can save."

Rick Levine and Lynn Cohen, show co-ordinators for the Toronto Party Guide event.

Exhibitors at the upcoming show include bands, disc jockeys, caterers, photographers, hotels, party consultants, and florists, as well as people who specialize in balloons, caricatures, dance instruction, novelties, ice sculptures and invitations.

"If you're looking for something special for your party, it will certainly be featured," Levine says,

He says the shows – he and Cohen run about three a year – usually attract between 1,500 and 2,000 people who are planning an event within the next one to three years.

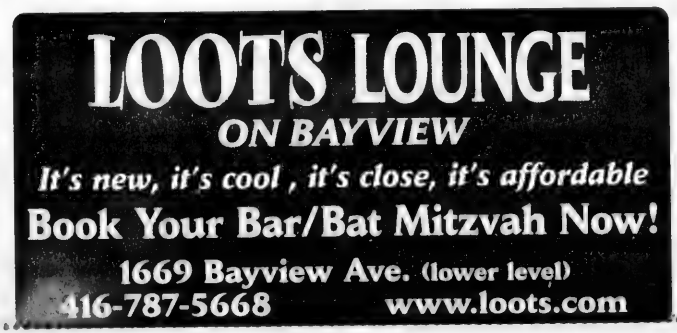
The website can assist them, he says, "because with the comprehensive, updated list of services and professionals, they can plan who they're going to visit."

When visitors attend the show, it's almost like being at a party, Levine says. "They can hear the entertainers, experience the decor, smell the flowers, taste the food samples, and receive a lot of giveaways."

At the pair's last event, held earlier this fall at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, caterer Zuchter Berk did "a phenomenal job," Levine says. "He gave out food samples and put together a sweet table. Visitors really did think they were at a party."

Some people hire professionals on the spot, while others shop around to compare prices. "Many come together with their family, because most parties are a family affair," says Levine.

For information on the show, call Levine at 905-881-6400.



Menswear retailers offer quality, reasonable prices

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

In an age of mass-produced fashion, a truly well-made suit has become something of an art form. And since it seems that tailoring has been forsaken for throwaway clothing, finding a suit worthy of special occasions is one overwhelming task.

Thankfully, there are two men's clothing shops where quality is the most important issue of all.

Korry's (416-463-1115, www.korrys.com) has been offering the best in high-end designer formal and casual menswear for more than 55 years. The shop carries a superb selection of suits, outerwear, denim, sportswear and accessories for men of every age, including well-known European names such as Hugo Boss and Zegna Sport and homegrown brands such as Arnold Brant, Korry's. It's the perfect mix of quality and trend. One of Toronto's most well-renowned retailers, Korry's has built a long clientele list that includes politician John Tory and skater Elvis Stojko.

Korry's is staffed with a friendly and expert staff ready to cater to your every need. "People want to shop here," says Korry's president, Saul Korman.

With a resident tailor on hand to do custom work, Korry's truly acts as a one-stop shop for men's shopping.

Always on top of the latest trends, Korry's maintains a high-fashion edge with its seasonal trunk shows (a traveling collection of designer clothing) and other events. There's more experimentation in the shop's selection of outerwear this season, with velvet and corduroy as the hottest fabrics for men's jackets. And to inject a bit of Hollywood into a wardrobe, mix a velvet blazer with denim pants.

With more than 21 locations across Ontario, Stars Mens Shops (416-650-1404; www.starsmenshops.com) is the surest way to look like a million dollars without spending it. Stars Mens Shops have been catering to men of all ages since the company's inception over 50 years ago in Kitchener, Ont. Jon Strauss, took the business over from his father, Harry, the company's founder.

High-end design from Korry's.

Stars Mens Shops carries the finest quality suits at affordable prices. To keep the prices as low as possible – suits start at just $149 all designing and manufacturing is done in Canada. Stars Mens Shops mixes in-house labels such as Jonathan Robert and Gianni Antonio with international names like Calvin Klein and Perry Ellis. P. Diddy's clothing label, Sean Jean, is sold exclusively through Stars Mens Shops.

Catering to men of all shapes and sizes, Stars Mens Shops' carries size 34 short to 54 tall. The stores carry dress shirts, casual wear and leather outerwear for one-stop shopping.

Top designs from Stars.

Stars Mens Shops across the province are stocked full of brown, brown and more brown, among the hottest colour trends of the season. Contrasting with the brighter golden shades of the season, brown is finally coming back in full force for men this fall.

Whether you're shopping for a simchah or just buying a new polo shirt, with the help of Korry's and Stars Mens Shops, you'll be well dressed for every occasion.

Other men's fashion places are: Crawford Boys, 416-782-8137; J Kaur Manufacturing, K. Barketti, 416-225-6733; Le Club Menswear, 416-488-7848.

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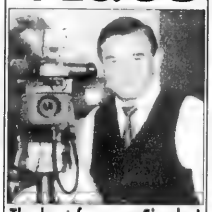
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PARTY PLANNER

Bar mitzvahs in Israel make the milestone unforgettable

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

When you compare the view from atop a bimah at one of Toronto's synagogues to the view from atop Masada in Israel, it's no wonder more families are choosing to celebrate bar and bat mitzvahs in the Holy Land.

"We've been [booking bar mitzvah tours] for years. It's nothing new. Although [the number of families doing] it has grown," said Avi Rodak, vice-president of Aufgang Travel, an agency that specializes in trips to Israel.

He said that his agency books about 200 trips a year for families who choose to celebrate this milestone in Israel.

Stanley Morais, Canadian general manager of El Al Israel Airlines, said that during the height of the intifadah in 2000, business from Canada was slow, but it's picked up since then.

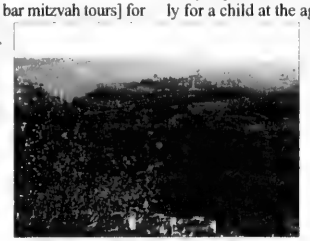
"Families are taking the opportunity to celebrate an important life cycle event from a Jewish perspective while having this opportunity to visit Israel," Morais said.

"Some people join family bar mitzvah groups… Our specialty is that we will put together a tour that is fit for your family," Rodak added.

"Instead of your family, which may be a group of four or 20, being on a bus with other people, going on a fixed itinerary, we customize an itinerary just for you. We plan the programs, book the hotels independently, book the guides independently – it's a tailor-made trip to Israel."

Morais said that some families choose to plan a tour on their own, but he suggests that people work with a professional, because making arrangements from here could be complicated.

"A lot of people do have friends and family in Israel who are willing to work with them, but if you're taking your family on a tour, you need to go do it properly with the guide and driver and really experience Israel to the fullest – especially for a child at the age of 12 or 13, where this impression is going to last them for the rest of their lives," Morais said.



The view from Mount Scopus

Masada

Rodak said his agency is involved in planning the bar mitzvah itself, which is just one morning out of the one-week or two-week tour.

Both Rodak and Morais agreed that the two most popular places to celebrate a bar mitzvah in Israel are the Western Wall or Masada.

"A lot of people do it at Masada because Masada is an example of Jewish strength and Jewish resistance that we will always be there no matter what, and that's why for some people, Masada is still a significant place in terms of doing something like that," Morais said.

But for those looking for alternative locations, Rodak suggests other places in Israel that have breathtaking views of the Old City.

"We've held one at the southern Wall which is in the same area of the Kotel, but around the corner. We've had it at a place called the Haas Promenade [a park in Jerusalem], which has a wonderful overview of the southern part of the city of Jerusalem, and there is another one on Mount Scopus, which has an amazing view of Jerusalem from the north," Rodak said.

While bar and bat mitzvahs in Israel are the most common milestones that North Americans choose to celebrate in Israel, Morais said there is also a growing trend of people getting married in the Jewish state.

"A lot of it is linked to the fact that there is a growing Israeli community here in Toronto and that there is something still very significant about getting married in Israel. Of course, getting married in Israel is very different from having a bar or bat mitzvah, because [a wedding] has to be organized through the rabbinical courts," Morais said.

He said that people often celebrate other milestones in Israel, such as birthdays or wedding anniversaries.

"A lot of people are saying, 'For my 50th birthday, I want to be in Israel with my entire family. For my 35th wedding anniversary, I want to take my children and grandchildren to Israel with us.'"

Regardless of whether you're planning a wedding or a bar mitzvah, the planning should begin about a year in advance, both Morais and Rodak advise.

For more information, call Aufgang Travel at 416-789-7117, or El Al at 416-967-4222.

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Inquire about healthy dining options

By MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Healthy eating is all the rage these days, and in catering circles, that means cooking up customized, nutritious recipes to satisfy clients.

"There is definitely a trend to eat more healthily," says Shawn Smallacombe, president of Catered Affairs by Chapman's, a full-service catering company that started more than 50 years ago.

"We have to accommodate that by customizing menus."

So when clients meet with a caterer to develop a menu for their affair, they are advised to inquire about healthy food options.

For instance, Smallacombe notes that Chapman's frequently uses organic vegetables and pays special attention to how much trans fat is used when preparing meals.

As well, instead of white bread and buns, which have high carbohydrate contents, another option he recommends is pita chips or whole wheat flatbreads.

Another fashionable trend in catering is international foods.

"Everybody loves to sample international fusion cuisine nowadays," says Shana Daniel, corporate and special events planner at Food for Thought Catering & Event Management.

"When you go to a bar mitzvah, you will likely see Japanese food, such as chicken teriyaki, as an hors d'oeuvre."

Food For Thought chef Michael Collis adds that many party hosts are requesting that caterers serve smaller quantities of a variety of foods with each course, a culinary approach known as tapas.

Catered Affairs by Chapman's

"With a tapas-style menu, you might prepare four smaller types of desert on a plate as opposed to just going up to a buffet," he says. "Or you might make a few types of chicken, served with beef or fish."

When meeting with prospective caterers, it's important to feel comfortable with them and be open about your requirements, such as matching food to a theme and ensuring the caterer is aware of your budget.

"If you have budget constraints, the caterer should work within it," Smallacombe says.

☐ Kosher
☑ Non-Kosher

"The client should feel comfortable with the caterer and not pressured."

Daniel agrees.

"We like to meet with the client to get a sense of who they are and what they're looking for," she says. "We can then build on what they envision."

Smallacombe and Daniel both note the importance of the caterer's experience, and Smallacombe points out it may be ideal to choose a caterer with specific experience at your party venue.

And remember to book a caterer at least six months in advance.

To learn more about Catered Affairs by Chapman's, visit www.chapmanscatering.com or call 416-636-9009.

To contact Food For Thought, log onto www.foodforthought.ca or phone 905-943-9346.

Other non-kosher caterers advertising in this supplement are: Josh Okorofsky Catering and Special Events, 647-292-3953; Personal Catering & Private Chef, 416-519-5571; Lesley's Party Sandwiches & Catering, 905-660-0551; St. Louis Bar & Grill, 416-663-2000.

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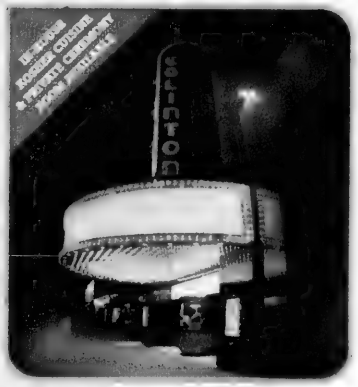

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Primping for your special day

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

On the day of your big event, nothing makes you feel more like a princess than being pampered. Whether they are giving you a full-body massage or applying a full face of professional makeup, these estheticians are sure to make you feel even more beautiful than you already do.

For 27 years, Estee Levine (647-887-5257) has been beautifying brides and bat mitzvahs all over Toronto, as well as giving makeup lessons. She works with an efficient team that includes her daughter.

Levine likes to meet with the bride before the wedding day to try out various makeup techniques, so that the bride can decide what she look likes best. "It's so important to listen to the clients," she says.

In many cases, Levine will do the makeup for the engagement party as well as the wedding.

While many cosmeticians tend to go overboard with exaggerated evening looks, Levine prefers a natural enhancement of the bride's existing assets. Citing natural pinks, bronzes and browns as the most popular shades for bridal makeup, Levine always aims for a classic look.

Levine offers an affordable service, which includes application as well as touch-ups. Her prices start at $65 for three people. For $900, Levine will be at your beck and call the entire day of your event, ensuring that any last-minute problems are solved.

When pampering includes a brand-new hair colour, a manicure and pedicure, look no further than Farah's Salon And Esthetics (905-760-2424). The 20-year-old salon specializes in hair colouring and hair repair as well as all other esthetic services.

Farah's, which has a large and loyal client base, is always up on the latest hair trends as staff members attend seasonal hair shows and are constantly reading up on the newest, hottest styles.

Offering a wonderful bridal service, Farah's allows the bride to try various hairstyles she desires free of charge. On the wedding day, Farah's will open as early as necessary to make sure that the entire party is ready for the event. Farah's friendly and warm atmosphere will ensure ultimate relaxation as you celebrate one of the most special days of your life.

Preparing for the most memorable moments of your life are equally as memorable as the events themselves. If not every day, Farah's Salon And Esthetics and Estee Levine will give you the royal treatment for just one day.

Other esthetics places advertising in this supplement: Hairafter Hairstyling Ltd., 416-221-6658; Pamela Klerer Makeup, 905-763-1455; Salon Simone Inc., 905-764-4772.

Estee Levine has been beautifying brides all over Toronto.

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Decor: from styrofoam sculptures to satin-covered seats

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Artist Caroline Keane operates Caroline Keane Design (905-726-8878) out of the Fred Varley Art Gallery in Unionville. She has had her company for eight years and is versatile both in the kind of commissions she takes and the media she works in.

Keane is an art therapist, but she has also done plenty of work for corporate events, including contracts for companies such as Famous Players. Her clients include community theatre, as well as retail store owners for whom she has done window design.

She also has bar and bat mitzvahs and other private celebrations on her resume, and she has done installations for all kinds of holidays, secular and religious, including Chanukah.

Keane works in all media and produces all kinds of objects. She does both backdrop and set design. She sandblasts, and works in wood, and works in glass, including etching. She loves vibrant colours, ranging from vivid party hues to subtle pastels, depending on the occasion.

Styrofoam can be sculpted, as Keane points out, noting that she has done a lot of work in this material. Hot wire gives a clean cut, while for bigger pieces, she needs saws, but this work is less fine.

Besides making things, Keane enjoys dealing with people. And as the owner-operator of a business, she has to be both her own salesperson and quality control manager. And while she has occasional help from some stay-at-home moms she knows, she does most of the work herself.

Keane is also a participant in Art with Heart, a fundraiser for Casey House, and she donates surplus foam to the Yonge Street Mission and the Fred Varley Gallery.

* * *

Mark Jamieson's company Chair Decor Etc. (905-731-9217, www.chairdecor.com) is a rental company specializing in a wide range of chair coverings. The company has been in business for 15 years, and is the largest company of its kind in Canada.

"We will fit any chair there is," asserts Jamieson.

Chair Decor offers a full linen service, and carries more than 120 table coverings in a variety of fabrics. It also carries some accessories as well, such as charger plates, napkin rings, and frames for table and place numbers.

Decor by Caroline Keane Design.

Jamieson and his team also carry Chiavari chairs, and they do decor work related to their linen specialty, such as backdrops and head table decor. In addition, they set up and take down. However, they don't do cutlery or centrepieces.

"We focus on our core competency, and concentrate on doing it right," Jamieson explains.

He notes that this philosophy is like that of the fine restaurant that, rather than overwhelm patrons with a huge menu, offers a modest selection but prepares and serves each dish to perfection.

Chair Decor does plenty of party work, as well as corporate events such as promotions and sales meetings. One coming single-day event involves 500 table covers, 5,000 chair covers and 5,000 napkins. This time of year, Jamieson and his team get fundraiser work too.

Chair Decor specializes in a range of chair coverings.

"Our business is a fashion business," he says. "Fabrics, colours and trims come and go, and I have to be something of a fashion consultant."

As parties grow more grand, Jamieson says that his work requires increased co-ordination with party planners and other professionals at events. Along with larger quantities of material, there are more variables in colours which work best with different venues, lighting, etc.

Other decor places advertising in this supplement are Artistic Creations, 519- 672-1855, and National Council of Jewish Women, 416-633-5100.

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Ketubah Ketubah delivers online

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Planning a wedding and want the perfect blend of art and tradition in your ketubah, be it Orthodox, Conservative or Reform? Then a virtual visit to ketubah.com is in order.

For more than a decade Michael Shapiro, president of Ketubah Ketubah (www.ketubah.com or 416-963-9191) has brought couples marital joy via his thriving online business as a provider of artful Judaica.

In 1996, Shapiro decided to get off the corporate train and marry his two greatest interests together: Judaism and art.

A year spent studying and networking with artists in Israel made him realize that it was high time the North American Jewish community had an Internet ketubah store catering to its needs. The rest is history.

Initially run out of his Toronto home, Shapiro's business made early use of the concept of "virtual shopping" and became one of the first online ketubah specialty stores.

Word of mouth spread rapidly and the business grew to the point where Shapiro needed to relocate from his virtual space to a real office and gallery venue in downtown Toronto.

He has since hired a staff of six Judaica and ketubah artists, each fluent in spoken and written Hebrew, to better serve his clientele. "I'm always looking for talented [Judaica] artists, but more often than not now they come to me," he said. "Since we've opened we've sold thousands of ketubot internationally."

Always the innovator, Shapiro was proud to unveil the "ketubah personalization wizard" this past summer. The online program makes the process of gathering Hebrew names much easier for couples and rabbis.

Customers can make use of an immense Hebrew and Yiddish name-dictionary, search for Hebrew names phonetically and even use a pop-up Hebrew keyboard.

But Ketubah Ketubah is more than just ketubot.

A visit to the website also offers shoppers a wide array of gift selections on items such as mezuzot, Hamsas, cookbooks and even tambourines.

Recognizing that clients wanted ever more options, Ketubah Ketubah began offering future wedding couples an online wedding gift registry for those who "never want to use a scanning gun again." The registry consists of beautiful items for the home, including plates, glasses, candleholders and picture frames.

The difference is that Shapiro's handpicked artisans design them all.

Though ketubot remain the highest-selling items in his line, the unique Gary Rosenthal collection of broken-glass art is rapidly becoming a favourite among clients.

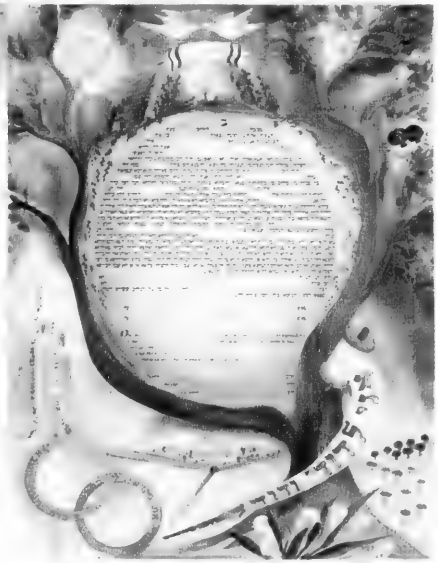
"You can break a coloured glass at your wedding and then insert the shards into a mezuzah or Shabbat candlesticks or a menorah, [which] are pretty popular around Chanukah time," said Shapiro.

Another item shoppers should check out is called the "parents' gift." Designed by Ketubah Ketubah artisans, it is a framed piece of art given by grooms or brides to their parents. "It acknowledges the parents for having brought them to this point where they're ready to embark on married life," said Shapiro.

Because Ketubah Ketubah is primarily a virtual store, its clientele is usually faceless. But Torontonians are at an advantage as the Ketubah Ketubah gallery is located in downtown Toronto.

"Most of our customers never meet us," said Shapiro. "But people in Toronto have the option of calling us, making an appointment and looking at samples."

While rush orders can be accommodated, Shapiro advises brides and grooms-to-be to contact Ketubah Ketubah two to three months in advance of a wedding to give them the most options and selection.



***My Beloved Is Mine* by artist Veronique Jonas is one of Ketubah Ketubah's popular ketubot.**
[Courtesy of Ketubah Ketubah]

PARTY PLANNER

Good videography is about teamwork, providers say

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

A photo captures a memory and makes it stand still, but a video captures a memory in motion.

The choice of a videographer to record your special event for posterity, is as important as choosing a photographer.

Darren Sager of DMS Video Productions (905-470-4040, www.dmsvideo. com), and Brian Korson, president of Video Excellence (905-731-4355, www. videoexcellence.com) are both competent, experienced professionals with different but complementary takes on what to look for when choosing a videographer.

In Sager's 20 years of experience as a videographer, he has stayed at the cutting edge of technology. "But there's owning equipment, and then there's understanding it," he points out. "Better knowledge means a better product."

Looking beyond equipment and technical know-how, Sager considers videography to be an art form. He likes coming up with new ideas, and he sees his company as a team of young, energetic and creative talents.

Also, Sager treats good videography as teamwork.

"This is a principle that goes beyond videography," he elaborates. "Quality cars, architecture, orchestral music: they're all collaborative efforts."

Besides coming up with creative ideas, a team simplifies the logistics.

"With a team, there's always someone to work at your event," Sager says. "There's no risk of a no-show, as with a one-person operation."

Sager adds that he doesn't sub-contract: he only uses people who are part of the company, whom he can trust.

Pictured, from left, are Jason, Darren, Karey and Kirby, part of the team at DMS Video Productions.

Sager's videographers are also editors. At every event, he has a crew of two, a cameraman and an assistant.

His people use high-definition, wide-screen broadcast-news-style cameras, and technical features such as lenses are always of the best professional quality.

A big CNN-style camera, Sager points out, is actually easier to hold steady than smaller ones, once you learn to balance it on your shoulder, and he makes sure his people are trained in this.

These cameras also need less light, Sager continues.

A tiny 10-watt bulb will do, and sometimes even ambient light is good enough. And you don't have to be close with such an apparatus: a long zoom shot is easy.

Korson, as president of a full-service video company, also knows the value of top-level talent, organization and equipment. In advising you how to choose a videographer, though, he places customer service above all.

"This means showing you concretely how your video will look," he says.

It also means advising on the drawbacks as well as benefits of certain techniques, Korson continues – citing the example of reduced lighting, which often imparts a feeling of intimacy, but makes colours less sharp.

While the client is sovereign, it's a videographer's duty to inform you of such things, he adds.

These days, with everything being done digitally, says Korson, videographers don't compete much in hardware and software.

"It boils down to customer service," he emphasizes.

Korson says the work of making a video occurs 50 per cent on the day of an event, and 50 per cent afterward in editing.

Brian Korson

"Months later, when clients remember an event, it's what they see in the video that they recall," he adds.

Korson sends two videographers to every event. "This not only provides backup, but also means that everything is seen through two pairs of eyes, from two perspectives," he explains.

And, he assures you, his people are courteous, unobtrusive and always dressed to fit the occasion.

For an event in peak season, Korson advises booking six months to a year ahead, and three to six months ahead for events in the off season.

Other videographers advertising in this supplement are: Lisa Productions, 905-764-1033; Northern Memory Productions, 905-881-0608/905-881-3734; Rafael Studios, 416-667-9999; Redstone Pictures, 416-256-4666; Photo Montages, 416-785-4651; Twins Photo & Video, 905-707-2385; Video Affairs, 905-889-0909; Video Productions by Josh, 905-709-9277.

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Sweets for my sweet, sugar for my honey

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

Sharon Firestone and Shelly Schwartz have a lot in common. The former caters bar and bat mitzvah's and weddings, while the latter brings in pounds of candy for dessert. Besides providing good eats for party guests, the two are undergoing some major changes in their businesses.

For 51 years, Firestone's Sweet York Desserts (416-783-4293) has been operating out of the Beth Tzedec Synagogue, but her tenure there is coming to an end. Now, she'll set up a kosher kitchen at the Adath Israel. "We're looking forward to a new relationship at a very busy synagogue," says Firestone, who also operates out of the Beth Tikvah.

Schwartz, meanwhile, has been transitioning from motherhood into her new operation, A Candy Affair (905-731-5667). Along with her husband, the mother of five creates personalized candy tables decorated with lights, the bar mitzvah kid's name, and a lot of candy. "Jawbreakers, gum, sour candy, colourful twisted lollipops," says Schwartz.

It's apparent that both Schwartz and Firestone are looking forward to their new endeavours, and you should be, too. Firestone's always been committed to quality and tasty foods, and

changing digs isn't going to alter her goals.

In fact, the move has rejuvenated the caterer. "We're in the midst of getting an offsite bakery, that's going to be retail," she said excitedly. "And then, at some point in time, we want to turn the store in a retail high-end kosher store. Firestone Fine Foods."

She admits that baking in the same location for so many years might have forced her into a rut, but now with the big move, the company can reinvent itself. "It's an opportunity to go into different venues and situations," says Firestone. "We'll be catering a lot of offsite venues as well. We're redoing our website, and coming up with new menus."

But a new menu doesn't mean she won't give the people what they want. Chocolate fountains, a waffle or cupcake station, and decorating cookies are some of the desserts her clients have been requesting lately, as well as "a dessert to go with the season like fresh berries in the spring and summer," she says.

For Schwartz, dessert is her specialty. Although she's just getting her business off the ground – she's only done one bar mitzvah so far – her "unique selection of kosher candy" is starting to raise eyebrows across the city.

The idea for making candy tables came to her when she was deciding what to make her nephew for his bar mitzvah. She wanted to do something unconventional and "unforgettable," and soon decided on creating a candy display. Finding the treats were easy – she had plenty of connections from her previous business, Gourmet Temptations and Personally Yours parties, and designing the tables was even easier – her husband owns the Shelving Outlet. This gift to her nephew was so successful that other parents at the party wanted candy tables for their own functions.

"People have such a love of candy," she says. "You don't just want kids having candy all the time, so when you bring them to a special affair and they see the overwhelming amount of candy, it's so exciting for them."

It's even more exciting for the parents that Schwartz provides kosher candy, because, as Firestone says, kosher is still the way to go. "Having a kosher function is important to people. If you belong to a synagogue, you're going to have a kosher function. A lot of people wouldn't come if you're not offering a kosher meal."

With more non-traditional venues offering kosher options, you could have a life event almost anywhere, but Firestone says having a function at a synagogue can actually save you money. "Everything is there," she says. "When you go to an offsite venue, you're dealing with rentals and that can get costly. Tables, chairs, dishes, all this things are available at the synagogue."

Firestone's new venue can accommodate up to 400 people in one room, or the place can be sectioned off into five rooms for more intimate gatherings. The Adath Israel's new caterer says she already has a lot of weddings booked for 2007. "Our clients are moving with us."

Sweet York is always committed to quality foods.

Schwartz, though, is just starting to take bookings, so her calendar is ready to be filled. "Our first booking is in February," she says, "but we could start tomorrow if they start calling us."

Besides new beginnings, Firestone and Schwartz have another thing in common. They're both in the catering business to make people happy. "I love working with people," says Schwartz. "Seeing the kids' faces when they see the candy, now that's excitement."

Other specialty food places advertising in this supplement are: Chocolate Charm, 416-787-4256; The Chocolate Moose, 416-784-9092; Clover Leaf Seafoods Inc., www.cloverleaf.ca; Metropolitan Ice Cream, 416-245-1335; Dippin' Dots, 905-417-3280.

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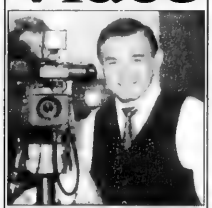

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Florists add the final touch to your party

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Flowers are to special events what frames are to precious works of art.

Acting as the final beautifying agent, flowers complete the beautiful picture of your already beautiful event.

Flowers have the ability to transform your event into a secret garden, a tropical rainforest or even a Zen palace, so their importance should never be underestimated. Similarly, finding the perfect florist should not be underestimated either.

Dizennio Floral Boutique (905-303-6656, 9222 Keele St, www.dizenniofloral.com) specializes in full service floral décor for weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs and corporate events. All well as handling major events, Dizennio creates unique bouquet arrangements and fruit baskets for everyday use.

Designing an event to complement the colours and style of the venue is key to its elegance. [Bliss Photography for Greenleaves and Petals Ltd.]

Designing unique arrangements to match the tone of each event, Dizennio creates floral creations that are known to leave such a lasting impression on guests that the Dizennio's reputation grows exponentially with each event.

"We truly wow people," says owner Rosanne Farano.

Importing only the finest quality flowers from around the world, Dizennio impresses clients with creativity and quality, she says.

Dizennio can also create magic with every budget.

"The amount of flowers has nothing to do with the beauty of the event," Farano says. "Often, less is more".

With its stunning showroom space readily available to you, you can touch and see the flowers you are choosing to work with. Dizennio will then co-ordinate the look of the event with you.

"We pay attention to every tiny detail," Farano says.

Once you have an idea of what you want, Dizennio's staff will set up the showroom to resemble your event, so that you can see for yourself how things will look.

Another fantastic florist in the Toronto area is Greenleaves And Petals (905-709-4080, 7073 Yonge St., www.greenleavesandpetals.com). Operating as a full-service flower shop, Greenleaves also specializes in creating lavish floral arrangements for simchahs and corporate events.

Since 1983, Greenleaves has been known for its full-service attitude. Customizing every aspect of your event from centerpieces to chupahs to backdrops, Greenleaves can truly do anything.

To make holding your event as simple as can be, Greenleaves will even take care of event planning details for you.

"We are so much more than a flower shop," says owner Elaine Birnbaum. "We offer complete co-ordinating as well."

Greenleaves will scout the venue and create a prototype of the designs at the venue for you to preview. Co-ordinating consultations on your behalf, Birnbaum will meet with caterers and venue managers to ensure that the planning is cohesive.

Birnbaum will take away the stress of remembering the nitty-gritty details and worry about them for you. While you sit back and relax, Birnbaum and her associates will get to work, planning the event of your dreams.

And you thought Greenleaves was just a flower shop.

"I love working with so many different people on such a regular basis," says Birnbaum. "It's so gratifying to see the look on my clients faces when they see what we've done".

Other florists advertising in this supplement are An Affair to Remember, 905-881-6686; Designs by Karen Baker, 905-886-8100; Fran Sackler Floral Designs, 905-884-5848.

Dizennio Floral Boutique creates magic with any budget.

Anniversary gift ideas: match milestones with meaningful items

By ELAINE COHEN
Supplements Co-ordinator

In 1922, etiquette guru Emily Post compiled a wedding anniversary gift list that remains popular today. Here is her list with some traditional and some modern gift suggestions.

Although environmentalists and electronics publishers now envision a paperless world, paper is still a prevalent commodity. The first anniversary is the paper anniversary, and it is therefore appropriate to convey your good wishes to couples celebrating that anniversary by giving greeting cards and cheques.

Cotton is as sought after in the new millennium, as it was in the Post era. The fabric is used in manufacturing numerous items of clothing and furnishings. It thus provides a practical base from which to choose a gift for a couple's second wedding anniversary.

Leather-bound books, furniture and equipment add a warm look to a home. So, if it's the third anniversary of a special couple, think leather when you're out shopping for a memento of the occasion.

Fruit and flowers are nature's way of saying all is right with the world. Make the fourth anniversary a festive one by bringing home a fruit basket or a floral centrepiece.

The consumer will find it easy to shop for couples celebrating their fifth wedding anniversary, since so many articles are constructed from wood.

Tin and aluminum are symbolic components in gifts for couples celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary. Whether it's a traditional bicycle built for two or a modern mountain bike, the idea is to encourage the couple to take advantage of quality time together.

Crystal is delicate and deserves proper care. However, by the time the couple celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary, they are accustomed to keeping house and used to entertaining. Present them with a set of stemware and everyone will have an opportunity to clink glasses and wish them a long and happy life.

China is beautiful to behold and stays in style. Besides, by the time a couple reaches their 20th anniversary, their family has grown and they have more simchahs to host. Everything from a tea service to dinnerware and ornaments can embellish a home. Chinaware also creates a classy ambience for recipients and house guests.

Articles made of silver abound in gift stores, and they make dazzling 25th anniversary gifts. The esthetic and functional components of sterling and silver plate are manifold. Flatware, serving pieces and ceremonial objects such as kiddish cups, candlesticks and menorahs serve as significant gifts for the home. Jewelry items for her and him are also wise choices.

Pearls are precious 30th wedding anniversary gifts. Whether the pearls are fashioned as jewelry items or furnishings, the recipients will appreciate the elegant gesture.

By 40 years, the family has multiplied and grandchildren often appear on the scene. If a mate or child can afford the real thing – a ruby ring, bracelet, brooch, neck piece or cufflinks, that is something special. However, ruby red roses and ruby red wine are also meaningful gifts.

For some, gold is synonymous with gelt. Nevertheless, furnishings, dinnerware and jewelry are also decorated with gold. In Emily Post's era, not many couples lived to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Today, many active seniors are happily celebrating that milestone.

Even fewer couples celebrated 60th wedding anniversaries before 1950, but now it's not unusual to come across numerous names in mazel tov columns. By this stage, the couple may have great-grandchildren. Diamond-studded gift items and jewelry come in all shapes, sizes and forms. If the real thing is out of reach, there is always the diamond-themed party or symbolic presentation.

Symbolic gifts to match milestone anniversaries. [Photo: Elaine Cohen]

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By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Looking like an international jetsetter isn't as hard as you may think. We may dream of scouring the world for beautiful pieces, but most of us rarely do. Thankfully, there are people to do it for us now.

At least two retailers in Toronto can help you find clothing and accessories that will make you look as though you just stepped off a plane from Milan.

Fashions from around the world

Trendy Accessories (494 Lawrence Ave. W., 416-783-4909) offers an eclectic mix of Canadian and imported lines from all over Europe. From its early stages as a tiny store 14 years ago, Trendy Accessories has grown into a boutique that sells a variety of accessories, from purses to hats to jewelry.

Co-owned by Aggie Lazlo and Judy Revai, the store has steadily built up a reputation that seems to be growing by the minute. And with prices starting as low as $20, it's no wonder people are discovering the wonderful merchandise available.

Trendy Accessories is about creating a special look to fit every customer. By spending time with everyone who comes into the store, the staff will guide you through the most suitable pieces for your individual style.

This season, Lazlo says, a layered and textured look is the most popular trend. As seen on many Hollywood starlets, including Keira Knightly and Sienna Miller, you can achieve the look of the season by wrapping one or more shawls around chunky necklaces.

One of the most innovative lines in the store is the Dutch line, Sandwich, which offers several beautiful mix and match pieces, Lazlo says. And, since the store carries only a few of each piece, you can be sure that no one will have a look exactly like yours – at least on this side of the Atlantic.

Once you've got all your favourite accessories, you'll need a perfect dress to wear them with! And what better place to go than St. Honoré (808 York Mills Rd., 416-449-2672).

Travelling across the world to hand select the outfits in the store, owners Sam and Zari Benaich carry only the best in European and American designer labels. Lines include such world-renowned names as Victor & Delano, Luisa Cerano and Teenflo, and each outfit is limited in supply to ensure that you have a one-of-a-kind look.

Continued on page B35

St. Honoré carries the best in European and American labels.

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PARTY PLANNER

Trendy Accessories is about creating a special look to fit every customer.

Stylish clothes and accessories

Continued from page B34

The clothing at St. Honoré is for any woman who wants to feel spectacular while partying at a special event. From party dresses to dress suits, the clothing is guaranteed to be of the highest quality while keeping up with the hottest trends. The warm yet stylish interior makes it a pleasure just to peruse the garments in the store. And with a true understanding of fit, style and cut, the staff at St. Honoré will take care of you from head to toe.

On the special occasions that mark your year, it's always important to feel like a star. With the help of style conscious boutiques like St. Honoré and Trendy Accessories, you won't have so much trouble. While keeping their ear to the ground so that they can bring you the latest styles, they also maintain a high quality to ensure your pieces last as long as you need them. No one has to know that you weren't sipping wine in the south of France…

Other women's fashion places advertising in this supplement are: Blyss Boutique, 905-731-1970; Deja Vu, 905-472-9566; La Boutique de Floriane, 416-250-2622; Gabi's Wig Boutique, 416-787-3129; Inspiration Fine Lingerie, 905-886-7361; Lilliput Hats, 416-536-5933; Madeline's, 416-789-4890; Tryst, 416-484-6678; Via De Napoleone, 905-482-1747.

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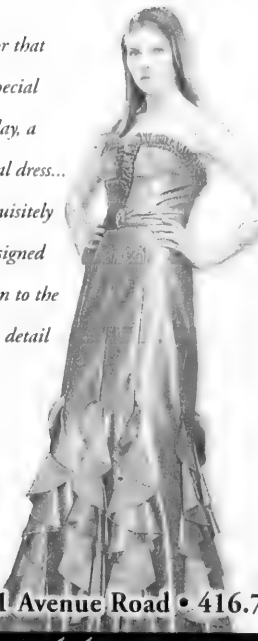

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Value and amazing food at the Pickle Barrel

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to the CJN

Peter Higley, president of the Pickle Barrel, says you don't have to break the bank to have an elegant, stylish party.

He says the company's new banquet hall (416-990-5086) at McCowan Road and Highway 7 (5700 Highway 7) is affordable and well-appointed. "When people see the place, they say, 'Wow! I can't believe this is the Pickle Barrel.'

"It's hard to beat our price. It's one of the best deals around."

He notes that all the bar and bat mitzvah packages include DJ service from the Magen Boys. "All the kids love them. They all want the Magen Boys."

Located in the Markville Shopping Centre, the two-year-old banquet hall was recently named the Harold Soupcoff Room, in memory of the popular late co-founder of the Pickle Barrel, says Higley, "He was a great guy and a real philanthropist in the Jewish community."

Higley stresses that the new hall is large – it's on the former site of a Walmart store – and has its own entrance with a large foyer so "people don't have to parade through the restaurant."

He says that the room holds 150 to 180 people comfortably, with room for a DJ and dance floor, adding that the space can accommodate up to 210 people for corporate events.

Sheryl Ross, banquet manager and events co-ordinator, says she's on site for every party at the Harold Soupcoff Room. "I'm pretty much at every event. We're a very hands-on company."

Ross outlined some of the bar/bat mitzvah and wedding packages offered at the Markville location, which all require a minimum of 75 people. The $4,950 bar/bat mitzvah package is for 75 people, with a cost of $29.99 (plus tax and gratuities) per person for additional people.

"This amount [$4,950] covers all gratuities, the event co-ordinator, DJ and MC services, a custom-designed poster, sign-in board, invitations, linen, balloons, décor centrepieces, an oversized celebration cake, a buffet or three-course à la carte service dinner, sweet table and unlimited pop, coffee and tea."

The second package, which begins at $6,499.99 for 75 people, with each additional guest costing $35.99 (plus tax and gratuities), is the same basic package as the first with the following additions: one dancer, specialty linens, chair covers, 360 novelty giveaway items, an extra dinner course, hot hors d'oeuvres, a premium sweet table with a waffle bar and bottled water.

The Pickle Barrel banquet hall is affordable and well-appointed.

Alcohol is sold separately and alcohol packages are available for $25 per person.

Ross says one of the most popular specialty dishes offered is Chicken Supreme, chicken breast served with a Marsala sauce and roasted-squash soup.

Some of the buffet choices include hand-carved pastrami, brisket and whole salmon, in addition to a selection of several salads and side dishes.

She recommends the hot hors d'oeuvres, noting that one of her favourites is the Asian noodles.

Wedding packages start at $5,700 for 75 guests, with $45.99 (plus tax and gratuities) for each additional guest.

The package is similar to the other with the addition of specialty linen, chair covers, custom-designed fresh floral centrepieces, a custom-designed photo signing board, a specialty celebration cake, bartender and full service staff.

All the packages can be adapted and enhanced with such things as food stations and specialty dessert novelties such as a chocolate fountain, adds Ross.

The Harold Soupcoff Room is an ideal setting for engagement parties and special occasion brunches – they start at $25.99 per person – such as baby namings and milestone birthday parties, for a minimum of 75 people, says Ross. "The brunch is amazing. We have a made-to-order omelette station, which is like an entertainment feature. There's a waffle bar, whole smoked salmon. It's fabulous."

The Rose Room (416-984-5348), at the Leslie Street Pickle Barrel (5941 Leslie St.), offers a well-priced package for kids' parties, she says. "It's ideal for someone budget oriented."

The $2,699 package is geared to a minimum of 50 people, with an additional charge of $21.99 (plus tax and gratuities) for each additional person. "It's a great venue for a kids' party," she says.

The price includes a Magen Boys' DJ package, a special occasion cake, balloon décor invitations, sign-in board, a party co-ordinator and a buffet with such kids' finger foods as fries, chicken fingers, spring rolls and chicken wings. Vegetables and dip, party sandwiches, pasta, garlic bread, caesar salad, a cookie platter or frozen yogurt are also part of the buffet offerings.

This room can hold a maximum of 110 people, says Ross. "It's a nice room. It's the best price for the quality of the food and entertainment.

"For great value and amazing food, you can't beat the Pickle Barrel."

For more information, visit the website www.picklebarrel.ca.

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PARTY PLANNER

Cancer fundraiser adds tzedakah to the celebration

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

You could say that Leore Davidovitz's bat mitzvah was a double mitzvah.

That's because she and her parents, Bill Davidovitz and Sharon Bar David, held a tzedakah-themed kids' party to raise funds for the Princess Margaret Hospital.

On Oct. 10, just two days after she became a bat mitzvah, Leore, 12, a Grade 7 student at the Toronto Heschel School, and 40 friends performed a group mitzvah for her kids' party. They sold raffle tickets and hand-made flower pens, in support of the Princess Margaret Hospital and raised $1,500.

Leore Davidovitz, left, and Fredi Kent in action.

The fundraiser was in memory of Leore's neighbour Carie Elgar, who died last year of leukemia at age 41.

"Leore was very moved by Carie's death," Bar David recalled. "She was very aware of the illness, because she's best friends with Carie's stepdaughter, Fredi Kent.

"They're the same age. They've been friends from birth. They spent half their lives together. So there was almost daily contact throughout the illness.

"Carie's death made strong impression on my daughter. She had previously resolved to do a tzedakah event for her bar mitzvah. Initially, it was to fight AIDS in Africa. She changed her mind and decided to do it for Princess Margaret in Carie's memory."

The money was directed for a private doctor/leukemia-outpatient conference room at the Princess Margaret. On her last visit to the clinic, Elgar had wanted to speak privately with her oncologist, but they couldn't find a space, Bar David recounted.

"Their meeting was postponed until next time. But there was no next time. Two or three days later, she fell into a coma from which she never recovered."

The family chose to do a bat mitzvah party with a tzedakah theme after hearing about a similar kind of fundraising event.

They were in Montreal for a wedding over the summer and another guest described a tzedakah bar mitzvah that she had attended, Bar David said. "We were immediately hooked on the idea of doing something similar for Leore."

One Tuesday after school, Leore and her young guests met at the Bathurst JCC, the headquarters for their fundraising party. The children were split up into groups of four – each accompanied by an adult chaperone – and they were sent to a number of streets in Armour Heights and Bathurst Manor to sell the flower pens and raffle tickets.

Pictured from left are Fredi Kent, Leore Davidovitz and Jordana Goldman, who came up with the idea for this project.

Corporate donations for the event came from the YM Group. The company donated the $350 in prize money for the winning ticket, and a family member gave $180 for the second prize.

"Princess Margaret was involved from the start," Bar David said. "They supported the event with a letter and they gave 'Conquer Cancer' rubber-band bracelets to all the participants."

The event began with a discussion over pizza about cancer and fundraising, Bar David said. "I started by asking if anyone in the room knew someone touched by cancer."

Thirty-eight out of 40 children raised their hands.

"When asked if anyone in the room wanted to make a teensy tiny difference to fight the disease, everyone raised their other hand."

All the children were aware they were going out to raise money, as their parents had all been notified, she said. "They knew that the bat mitzvah was going to be different, but they didn't know exactly what it was going to be."

Before being sent out to canvass, each group had a discussion led by their respective chaperones to plan their canvassing strategies.

"They talked about how the children would establish credibility going door to door – how they would explain the cause, Bar David said. "They had to strategize. They had to create conditions for success and a plan do deal with rejection."

They went out for an hour, and the experiences varied from street to street, she said.

"One area had donated to the Princess Margaret the week before. In Armour Heights, a lot of people had donated money for the recent marathon for breast cancer, so the group went to another area. The groups had to think on their feet and to change their plans, because their reality on ground had shifted. They said, 'This street is used up, let's move to another street.'"

She described the mood of the children as very upbeat. "Overall, the children were very enthusiastic."

And there were prizes for enthusiasm, she added.

The children returned to the JCC, after an hour for dessert and to tally their results, as well as to draw for the prizes and contact the winners.

"That was amazing," Bar David said. "It was exciting to see it all coming to a climax, with the children hearing the winners' responses.

"Several of the children came up to me and said they would have liked to have had the chance to canvass longer. Several thanked me on that day and afterward for a great experience.

"Leore was so proud. not only that she had honoured Carie's memory, but also that her bat mitzvah was a real mitzvah event."

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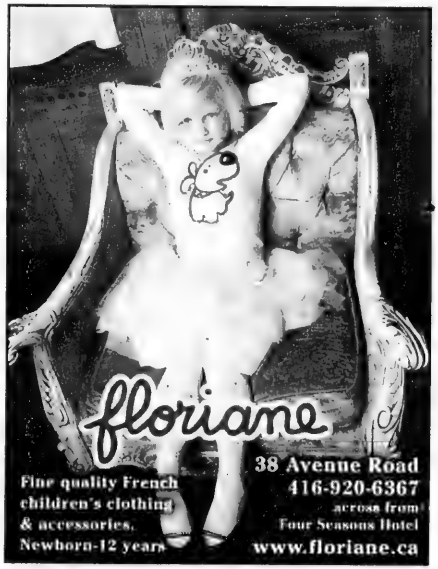

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Kids' party activities: painting ceramics and dancing

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

The Clay Room (416-466-8474), a popular venue for children's birthday parties, has been a fixture on the trendy Danforth strip since 1995.

Located at 279 Danforth Ave., The Clay Room, a paint-your-own ceramic studio, offers a range of children's party activities, summer and holiday creative art camps, and drop-in ceramic painting for all ages, says owner Desiree Maklin.

It's an ideal setting for school groups, adult parties like bridal showers and corporate team building, she notes.

Maklin bought the business a year and a half ago, and she's currently in the process of renovating the party room, she says.

The studio boasts two kilns and a wide selection of pre-formed ceramic bisque pieces, including Judaica items like menorahs, kiddush cups and seder and matzah plates.

Beth Torah and Adath Israel's congregations' religious schools booked menorah painting, and they're returning in the spring to do seder plates, says Maklin, adding that there are special rates for school groups.

She says The Clay Room offers two types of birthday parties. The creative clay party lets children make their own clay pieces, or they have the option of painting pre-formed pieces. "Every thing gets fired and clear-glazed, and the party items are cellophane wrapped."

The paint-your-own birthday parties – they start at $14 per child. – usually last about two hours. Typically, the painting and instruction are an hour, with the second hour allocated for pizza, cake and present opening, says Maklin.

The creative clay session runs an additional 30 minutes, because it takes more time to learn how do the pinch pots and pressed forms or to do freehand structures.

The party items are usually ready for pick up within a week and a half. With walk-in customers, the turnover is one week, she says. "During the summer and holidays, there's lots of walk-in traffic. I see a lot children and adults."

The Clay Room offers creative ideas for children's, and adults', parties.

While Maklin had three months of intensive training when she took over the business, she also hired students from the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD) who are majoring in ceramics to teach the classes and run the parties.

She requires a minimum of 12 children for kids' parties and eight people for adult paint-your-own parties.

"The Clay Room is a great setting for corporate team building," Maklin says. "It gives you the ability to be with your co-workers in a relaxed setting. You get to be creative and you have time to talk."

She says some of her clients do takeout or home parties, which can be done with or without her instructors. "We supply equipment – brushes, paint, palettes and colour samplers, which can be picked up and brought or delivered to the party for the children to paint."

These pieces come back to The Clay Room for firing, she says. "The paints are non-toxic and washable, so these parties lend themselves to home parties."

The ceramic painting offers customers a wide choice in bisque, and Maklin also tries to fill people's requests for unusual pieces. "We call Ontario suppliers of greenware [clay that has not been fired]. There are moulds of everything you can imagine."

The Clay Room can also do custom orders because the OCAD students can produce their own moulds, she says.

Ceramic items include picture frames, pitchers and all kinds of home and garden décor, says Maklin. "We even have garden gnomes."

During March and the summer holidays, there are half-day, week-long programs that offer a variety of creative crafts that include T-shirt painting, papier-mâché, beading and jewelry making in addition to clay and ceramic work.

The children have a terrific time here and so do the adults, says Maklin. "The Clay Room is a really happy place.

"Everybody who comes in is coming to do something artistic or creative. They're all coming in to enjoy themselves."

Keri Saltzman of Keri's Dancin' Kids (905-731-5146; e-mail kdancekids@rogers.com) offers a totally different kind of children's party.

Saltzman – she specializes in dance and communications – has been running dance and interactive parties for children for eight years.

"The primary focus is on dance," she says. "For the tween set what we do is interactive. Hip-hop is very popular. We also do simchah dancing. We do creative-based and more imaginative dancing for younger children.

"We offer different packages, which can also include arts and crafts, creative movement and co-operative games for both boys and girls."

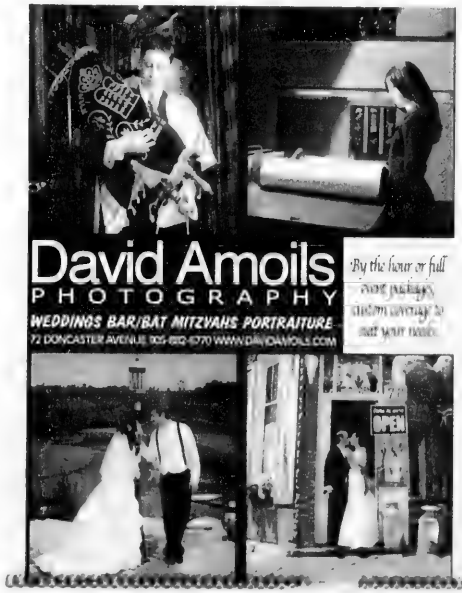
The parties, which are customized for each child, generally take place at people's homes, as well as in outside venues, she says

"The most important element of our service is that we actually cater to the individual child. Every child is different. Therefore every group is unique and every party is unique.

"I have had families where I've done four or five birthdays. People call me back. They know the new party will be different. I am constantly updating the music and dances and different components of the parties."

The High School Musical party is one of her most frequent requests, she says. "Theme parties are for all age groups. It's amazing how popular these parties are."

Continued on page B39



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Physical and creative activities for the kids

Continued from page B38

Saltzman's own background is perfectly suited to her interactive parties. She did competitive dancing, performing hip-hop, tap and jazz for 17 years, and she has recently taken up flamenco dancing. "I had a lot of opportunities to perform in professional shows and do interactive entertainment. I also did competitive dancing all over Canada and the U.S."

A graduate of York University, Saltzman has an honours degree in communication studies. "It allowed me to learn and grow in many ways," she says.

She incorporated her interactive dance program when she taught English as a second language in Spain in 2005. She is now certified to teach English as a second language and uses the interactive dancing as a teaching tool. "I speak Spanish fluently and so I can also do Spanish-themed parties."

She has had extensive experience running children's programs as a dance specialist and co-ordinator of arts at various local camps.

She says all her staff are at least 18 years old and have the maturity to work with the children. "The staff come from the places I teach or they are people I dance with. I look for high-energy, interactive people who are mature and outgoing.

"They need to know how to have fun with kids and to be responsible. They're there to find out who these kids are and how to make the party most memorable. We brainstorm to come up with customized parties."

These days Keri's Dancin' Kids includes two other members of the Saltzman family, as sisters Jackie and Stacy, also interactive entertainers, now play a role in the business.

Saltzman also offers after-school and lunch programs.

A typical party lasts two hours, 15 minutes, but one-hour packages are also available.

The longer packages start with a 45-minute to one-hour interactive dance time. There is a break in the middle for refreshments before the second activity starts. In the second half of the party, the children participate in a different activity such as karaoke, nail art, arts and craft, face-painting or a co-operative game.

Saltzman now does many parties for boys. "Dance has become gender neutral," she says. "Whether it's hip-hop or break-dancing, I'm finding more boys are interested in dance classes."

She also runs an adult and corporate division called Energized Entertainment for corporate and private parties. She has done events for camps, community centres and Jewish communal groups.

Keri's Dancin' Kids' birthday parties are generally geared to children aged two to 12, says Saltzman. "Our motto is 'energize the party.' We cater to the kids and that pleases the parents."

Other kids party places advertising in this supplement are: Active Kids Zone, 905-307-0707; Artistic Way, 416-760-9027; Beadology, 416-898-1347; Rainbow Cinemas, 905-886-7464.

Keri Saltzman, founder and creative director of Keri's Dancin' Kids, right, with her sister Jackie Saltzman.

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Finding the perfect gifts need not be hard

Left, Mark Lash's elegant Children's Wish Foundation wishbone necklaces
Above, diamond-encrusted yellow gold hoop earrings are all the rage this year at Mark Lash Fine Jewelry.
[Mark Lash Fine Jewelry photos]

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

With the holidays just around the corner one thing is certain: you'll be needing plenty of gifts.

And if you want to give someone you love a memorable token of affection, then find your way to Mark Lash Fine Jewelry (9033 Leslie Street. No. 8, Richmond Hill or 938 Eglinton Ave. W. in Toronto).

Whether it's diamonds, precious stones or gold you're looking for, they have it all in a variety of styles and designs, and you can always count on their impeccable workmanship and customer-friendly staff.

According to director Dalia Lash, the hot new trend this year is yellow gold.

"It's making a comeback," said Lash. "For a while we weren't selling much of it, but people have been demanding it and are starting to wear it mixed with white gold and [precious] stones. It's a great look."

Lash advises customers who want to pre-order custom-made jewelry to do so three to eight weeks in advance.

"But we've been known to turn around [jewelry] in a day or two for rush orders," she said.

They can also upgrade existing jewelry for those looking to spruce up their old baubles.

"If someone's been married for 20 years and decide they want a new ring or new stones to create an updated look, we can do that," said Lash.

Mark Lash is also doing something special this year.

From Nov. 15 to Dec. 24, both store locations are selling specially crafted wishbone necklaces with 100 per cent of the proceeds benefiting the Children's Wish Foundation.

The necklaces, available in sterling silver, yellow or pink gold, are diamond encrusted and range from $125 to $950.

"It's a great Chanukah gift and will allow children's wishes to come true," said Lash.

For more information visit: www.marklash.com or call 1-866-881-5229.

And if your gift tastes run more towards the funky and eclectic, then a visit to colourful Heart To Find Designs in Thornhill is recommended.

Owned and run by artisan-cum-businesswoman Riette Newman, the store houses an array of gifts for the home and beyond.

You can find everything from costume jewelry to menorahs, decorative seder plates to mosaic mirrors, as well as a plethora of artisanal glassware and much more.

"My niche is being different than every other [gift] store," said Newman. "I try to have as many artists' works as possible."

Heart To Find also has a heavy Israeli flavour.

"I love to bring in products from Israel, and I [actively] source out Israeli art for my store. Half of my Judaica comes from Israel," she said.

Newman is also a trained interior designer. Though she doesn't do house calls, she's happy to consult with customers in-store and help them pick out items that fit perfectly with their home decor.

"I'm very focused on customer service... and very [handson] for my customers," she said.

This year Heart To Find Designs is also offering a new service: on-site engraving of leather dog-tags and bracelets for special events.

"We go around on the bar/bat-mitzvah circuit and sit there engraving names for the kids. It's a really cool concept and huge in the States," said Newman.

Heart To Find Designs also offers a bridal registry and corporate gift services.

For more information on Heart To Find Designs, visit the store at 7355 Bayview Avenue, Suite 211, or call 905-731-1092.

Other gift stores advertising in this supplement are: Barak Judaica Gift Shop, 416-633-6311; Eileen's Pearls, 416-630-1463; Gold Step Jewellers Ltd., 905-881-1606; Lillianne's Fine Jewellery, 416-920-7676; The Israeli Source, 905-482-2025.

Riette Newman stands in front of Heart To Find's new wall-length display case.
[Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf photo]

PARTY PLANNER

Fairmont Royal York Hotel's elegant concert hall

Make your simchah even more special at the Royal York

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

If you want to host an event to remember in Toronto, you need look no further than the historic Fairmont Royal York hotel.

At the epicentre of the theatre, financial and entertainment districts, this grand venue has earned a reputation for excellence in service and accommodations, and event staff at the hotel want it known that it's also a prime spot to throw a simchah.

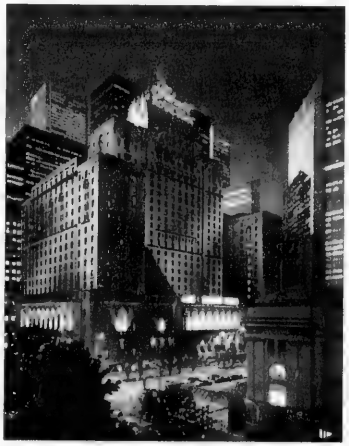
In addition to having some of the finest cuisine in the city, the Fairmont Royal York has seen fit to accommodate kosher needs as well.

Fernando Teixeira, the hotel's director of conference services and catering, explains how the hotel provides for its esteemed kosher clientele.

"We work exclusively with GMB Culinary Productions," he says. "They work with us in advising what steps we need to take in terms of cleanliness preparation for the mashgiach they bring in." It's a process Teixeira has become accustomed to and relishes after seven years working at the hotel.

"In our experience in trying to cater and market to the kosher client, we find that the majority of the events have been weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs and some fundraising events," he says. "So they are looking at our bigger rooms and convention floor, for the most part."

According to Teixeira, no venue has more cachet than the Fairmont for an event. In fact, certain rooms in the hotel are so in demand that would-be clients are well advised to book them at least one year in advance.



The Fairmont shines bright at night in the heart of Toronto.

"We've got some great venues that speak for themselves. The concert hall and the ballroom, with its 20-foot ceilings and chandeliers, take you back to an old-world feel that you can't duplicate anywhere else in the city," he says with pride. "We're a part of the Toronto landscape, so it's a great place to have an event."

Teixeira says there is also plenty of room for parking at the hotel and it is accessible by car from the Gardiner Expressway, the Don Valley Parkway and all points around the downtown core.

He adds that the hotel typically does not keep a waiting list for reservations beyond one year. But if a client really wants a reservation more than a year away, the staff advises them to call back about a year in advance with assurances that something can be worked out at that time.

The Royal York typically does anywhere from five to 10 kosher events per year, as well as numerous non-kosher events that do not, however, include shellfish, meat and dairy together, or pork, Teixeira says.

No matter what the event, he has heard nothing but praise for the work the hotel does on its clients' behalf.

"The success of our venue is based on word-of-mouth and we've received great feedback," he says. "Our physical backdrop is fantastic and the quality of food GMB caterers provides is, in my opinion, second to none. You put all that together and you end up having a very wonderful event."

For more information about booking your event at the Fairmont Royal York, visit www.fairmont.com/royalyork/ or call their reservation line at 1-800-257-7544.

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Mint Lifestyle Events takes a personal approach

By JORGE KRANE
Special to the CJN

In the summer of 2005, longtime friends and colleagues Jared Florence, Jordan Fogle and Noah Cappe joined forces to shift their approach to traditional event-planning and execution by creating Mint Lifestyle Events.

"It was a great formula years ago," says veteran entertainer Florence. "Clients could easily be slotted into a number of pre-determined event packages and receive a spotless, methodical performance that more than fulfilled their expectations."

While the formula has been, and is currently, successful for some companies, the Mint team says they chose a fresh new philosophy.

Rather than mass market a full-service events company that claims to be all things to all people, Mint has adopted a boutique approach.

"The typical Mint client is willing to explore the limits of imagination and energy, and, overall, demands a calibre of service and experience not easily found in today's special-event marketplace," Fogle says.

So beyond its individualized approach, what is Mint?

"I can remember our first creative meeting. At first I thought the name sounded a bit too trendy, but there was still something there to be explored," says creative director Jeff Kahane.

"Being 'mint' is not about wearing lime green polo shirts at the country club," Kahane says. "Rather, it's a state of mind where celebrating the magic of life has no limits."

Mint Events offers a wide range of client services, from its highly successful birthday party division, Movemint, to its recently launched social club, Soiree, which offers private thematic dinner parties with entertainment such as lounge singers, belly dancers, salsa lessons and casino nights.

"Our clients occasionally comment about the lack of regular social events targeted specifically for their age group," says Cappe. "Creating Soiree was an initiative to connect groups of people who find themselves seeking an innovative and fun way to meet new couples and singles, young and old."

Mint's thriving corporate division is in the midst of preparing for some of its most elaborate holiday parties and international corporate retreats to date, and Mint continues to branch into new areas, with events in New York, Los Angeles and even Houston.

In 2007, Mint is planning its most challenging event so far, creating an invitation with actual working video game and transforming a unique event space into a living circuit board complete with specialized set design, animated characters, concert production and celebrity appearances.

For more information about Mint, call 416-923-MINT (6468), or visit www.mintevents.ca.

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PARTY PLANNER

Beyond the dessert table: handwriting analysis

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
Special to the CJN

There is an alternative to the dessert table for entertainment at your next family or business gathering: one-on-one handwriting analysis.

Elaine Charal (416-446-2903, www.interlog.com/~hwriting) is a certified graphologist and graphoanalyst – basically, she analyzes handwriting full-time, all the time. Give her a sample of your scrawl – even just a signature – and she'll discover some of your innermost personality secrets.

That may sound heavy, but she's an entertainer foremost. "I always emphasize the positive," she says, unearthing good characteristics such as determination, initiative and confidence.

Her client list, from private individuals to corporations such as Bank of Montreal, Reuters and Astra Pharma, proves that handwriting is a terrific ice-breaker for any crowd.

"It's a great way to generate new conversation, especially for those who come to a corporate event and don't feel totally comfortable with socializing, not just talking shop," she says.

Charal loves family events, where she'll do handwriting analysis for couples together, or children and parents. She'll build up a parent in the child's eyes, pointing out "your mother is so fantastic, analytical… she knows what she wants."

For Charal, the fun of handwriting analysis is not at all incompatible with self-improvement, and while fun, may also sometimes suggest areas of potential change.

Elaine Charal

Actually, that's what got her into handwriting: a graphologist examined her writing and identified hidden character traits.

"I thought, 'Wow, there has to be something to this.'"

She's changed her writing, incorporating straighter downstrokes on her Y's, for example, to boost determination, and eliminating "soft-topped" S's to become more steadfast.

Charal says changing her writing has made a difference, and she offers an upbeat, interactive keynote talk, "The Power of the Pen," that helps people understand the strokes of their writing and communicate better with friends, family or business associates.

Everybody who sits down with Charal receives a written copy of her analysis as a memento – and perhaps as a source of self-awareness.

Charal's rates for handwriting analysis are between $100 and $150 per hour, but "I always try to work within people's budgets… a little party for 10 women is different than quoting for big corporate affair."

What about doctors' famously illegible handwriting? "There are very few handwritings that I've seen that are totally illegible. At a recent bar mitzvah, one boy's writing was totally illegible."

But especially with a child, she says, "I'd emphasize the originality of the script" rather than seem insensitive.

Other entertainers advertising in this supplement are Magic By Jordan, 905-764-8835; Mark Ciale, 416-929-6678; Mint Lifestyle Events, 416-923-6468; Swaye Entertainment, 416-545-0741.

Centrepiece program adds tzedakah to simchahs

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

The National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section (416-633-5100), has given new meaning to bar/bat mitzvah centrepieces.

Linda Steinberg, service chair, and Debbie Wasserman, president, are urging people to put together "simchah baskets" for their next celebration.

The baskets include items that the organization will use for its Just for Me project, in which volunteers fill knapsacks with school supplies and small items of clothing; and for its Drive for Dreidel campaign, a program in partnership with Jewish Family & Child Service and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, for which NCJW collects Chanukah gifts for youth in need.

Steinberg says the idea for the baskets originated with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, but about four years ago, federation approached NCJW about taking over the program.

"It is a great fit for us, because many of our programs focus on poverty in the city. Since we began, we have received about 500 baskets."

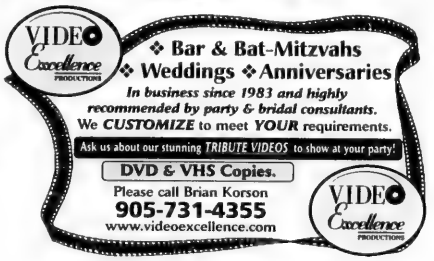
Those interested in the project, she says, should contact NCJW, "and we will tell them what we need. The knapsacks are usually filled with items such as books, toys, puzzles, knitted goods, crayons, pens and pencils.

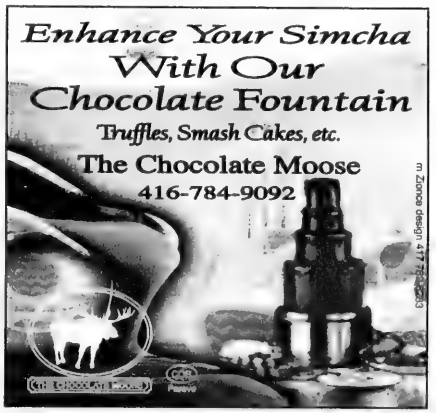
"Hosts then buy all the items and have the baskets made up. After the simchah, the baskets come to us, and we distribute everything."

NCJW provides a card to go with each centrepiece so guests know where the baskets are going, she says, and NCJW sends a thank-you note to the bar/bat mitzvah child.

"These children are usually quite pleased with what they're doing, because it fits in with the tzedakah part of their bar/bat mitzvah program. It's a 'children for children' program."

She added that tax receipts are issued for the contents of the basket.





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The Canadian Jewish news

Simplifying the search for the perfect shoe

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Finding a pair of shoes for your wedding that are as beautiful as they are comfortable can be a daunting task. Thankfully, we've found some shops that may have just the shoes for you!

Celebration Shoes (106 Yorkville Ave., www.celebrationshoes.com, 416-703-2789) has been specializing in customized bridal shoes for 14 years. If you want the shoes dyed, if you want beads added, if you want laces, Celebration can do it!

With a full stock of satin and silk shoes in store, Carma Saunderson creates a unique look for each customer. Once you have chosen a pair, any embellishment you choose can be added. Saunderson can even add sentimental trinkets to make the shoe more meaningful. And with prices starting at $120, anyone can afford such a one-of-a-kind service.

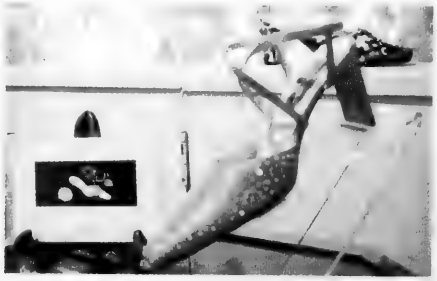
With a background in design, Saunderson opened the store after moving here from England.

"I was always designing outfits for my friends, but there were never any shoes to go with the outfits," she says.

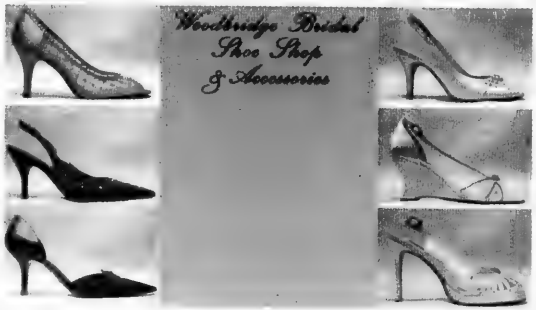
To make it even easier for you to get the look you want, Celebration also carries accessories, offering everything from purses to jewelry to quirky hats. While on a recent trip in Spain, Saunderson noticed a new trend – women were donning small, quirky hairpieces instead of large hats. In addition to solving the problematic issue of hat-head, these hairpieces liven up any outfit with their bright colours and decorative touch.

Although Celebration's shoes are meant primarily for bridal purposes, many customers come back to re-dye their shoes for other special occasions. And since the dye is chosen to perfectly match your dress, Saunderson recommends bringing a swatch to the store.

With such a quirky and colourful approach to design, Celebration Shoes can put the finishing touch to any special occasion outfit.



Celebration shoes puts the finishing touch to any outfit.



Woodbridge's selection can outfit the entire bridal party.

Woodbridge Bridal Shoe Shop (136 Winges Rd. 2nd floor, Unit 10, www.woodbridgebridalshoeshop.com, 905-265-2300) is another place to look for unique and quality bridal footwear. Offering a large variety of sandals, platforms and children's shoes, Woodbridge can outfit the entire bridal party.

Owners Lori and Mariella Sansone – who also run Canada's Bridal Show – know their customers. When the sisters noticed that the general selection of beautiful bridal shoes was very slim, they decided to open their own shop so that they could provide the shoes themselves.

For six years, Woodbridge Bridal Shoe Shop has built a reputation as the best one-stop-shop in town. But the expert staff will also help ensure that your overall look is cohesive, since the store is filled with gorgeous accessories and jewelry as well. And with such a friendly, warm staff on hand, you will love showing off your gown while matching it with everything in sight!

Any shoe in the shop can be customized to fit your specific needs. As well as being able to order wide and narrow fitting shoes, you can have them embellished with Swarovski crystals or any other decoration you choose.

And to help you feel lighter than air while dancing the night away after the service, Woodbridge Bridal Shoe Shop also sells jewelled ballet flats and flip-flops!

Whether your look is sophisticated, sexy or spunky, both Woodbridge Bridal Shoe Shop and Celebration Shoes have all the best styles to choose from. So be sure to head to one (or both!) to find the shoe that's perfect for you.

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PARTY PLANNER

All kinds of possibilities to make your invitations unique

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

When Gail Shapiro decided to start a business, she opted for a creative venture. "I come from a fashion background. I decided to apply the fashion to paper."

Paper Expressions (905-764-9812), located at 50 Doncaster Ave., Unit 7, has gone through several growth spurts since Shapiro founded it five years ago.

Initially a home-based business, Paper Expressions outgrew the premises within a year and Shapiro moved to Doncaster Avenue. The business continued to expand and she relocated to a larger space in May.

About 1,000 square feet of the store is devoted to invitations, says Shapiro, explaining that Paper Expressions offers three options: people can order invitation packages from catalogues, they can choose imprintables – blank stock cards and invitations – and do the printing themselves, or they can opt for custom invitations. She adds that Paper Expressions can also do the printing on the imprintables.

She says she sells a lot of beautiful papers for people who want to make their own custom invitations.

Shapiro notes that there is a range of papers available for custom work, including shimmer paper, card stock that shimmers or shines; handmade papers from Canada, Japan and India; and Japanese and patterned papers.

The company does a lot of wedding invitations, she says, noting that the classic single card with some embossing or simple design continues to be popular, but many young couples are also selecting less traditional designs. "We're doing a lot of wraps and a lot more of them for weddings."

The wraps, which are customized, are encasements surrounding the invitations. Other custom invitation features include layered papers and pockets.

Place cards, another popular paper item, are usually co-ordinated with the decor, she says.

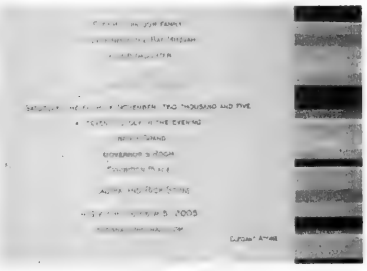
All the custom work is done in-house except for the thermography or raised printing, Shapiro says. "We do all the cutting, folding and assembly. We also address envelopes.

"Bar mitzvahs and bat mitzvahs are 99 per cent custom. Everyone wants to be different. Doing custom work allows you the flexibility to use your imagination to come up with something totally different."

Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay started her company, Invitations by Design (416-789-7367, www.invitebydesign.com), seven years ago on the advice of her clients.

She had been running a copy shop for six years when she branched out into invitations, she says. "A lot of my clients led me in this direction. It was a natural evolution."

She has completely switched over her shop at 831 Glencairn Ave. at the corner of Marlee Avenue, and she is focusing exclusively on invitations and other printed items such as place cards and handmade envelopes. "We try to specialize so that we can give our utmost attention to invitations. Today, we do mostly bar and bat mitzvahs and weddings."



Invitations by Design

In fact, she says, while she and her staff are not Jewish, they have all learned to typeset in Hebrew. "We all recognize the letters."

Moskaluk-Rutkay says Invitations by Design is known for its unusual place cards. "We do all types of place cards. We do very unique ones. A normal place card is a folded card. We do tickets, triangular shaped cards. Anything that can be done with paper, we will do it."

In the last five years, Invitations by Design has been making its own envelopes because in Canada, finding coloured envelopes that match the colours of the invitations is very difficult, Moskaluk-Rutkay says. "It's pricier, but people want matching envelopes for their announcements."

She says she relies on a few suppliers for affordable coloured paper imported from various countries around the world. "The ones from India have lovely textures, and colours are very rich looking. European paper from Italy is very beautiful, but not readily available.

"Hemp papers and the more natural papers are also popular."

People can also choose invitation packages from catalogues, she says. "I try to keep it Canadian. The American invitations are very pricey, especially with the brokerage fees to get them across the border. The brokerage and transportation fees drive up the cost, which appears to be lower at the onset."

She says folded cards are not as popular as they once were because the invitees tend to rip the top off the card so that they can see the announcement and put it on the refrigerator. "My clients want something that looks nice on the fridge."

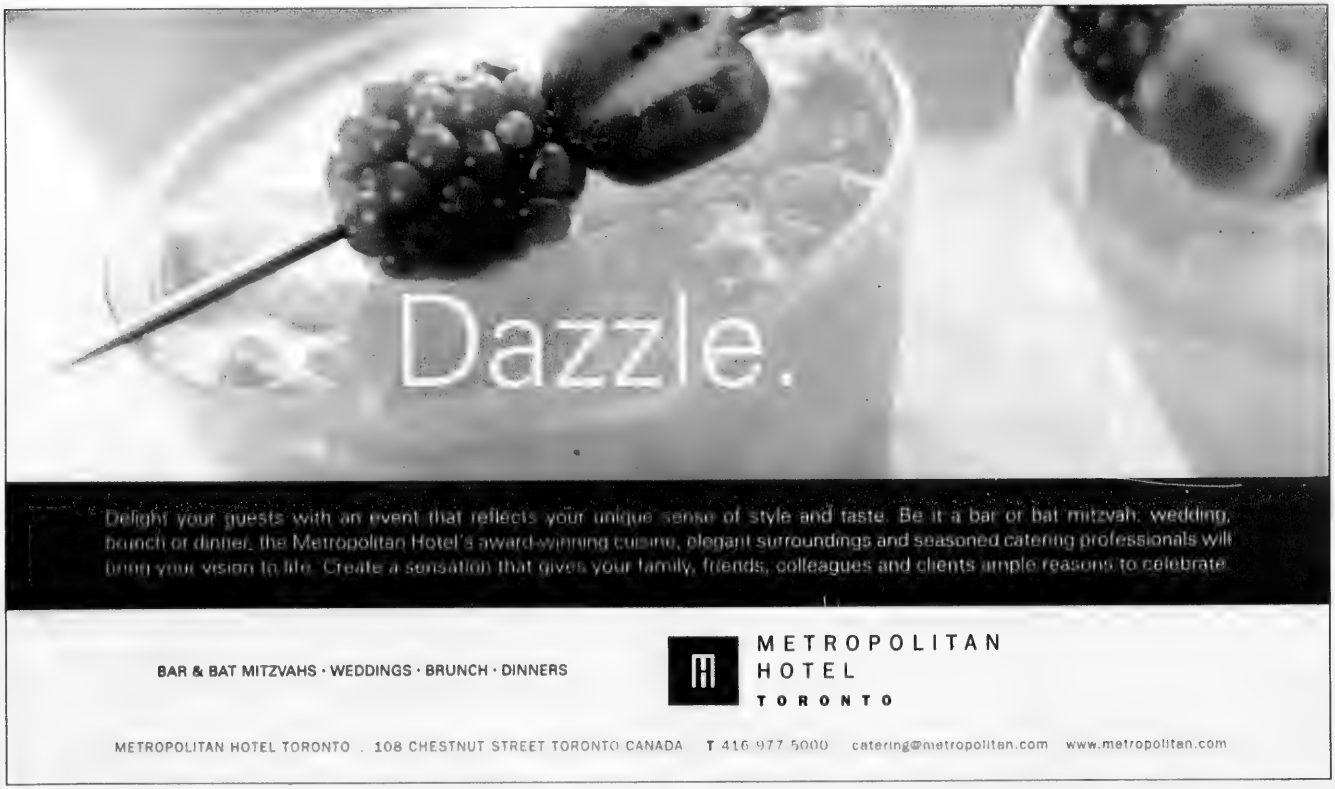
The single card is also popular for weddings. "We do a lot of Jewish weddings and many people want a thick card."

Monograms are in style, Moskaluk-Rutkay says, as are wrapped cards. "We often use bands, strips of paper in an encasement outside of the invitation. The cards can be encased in tissue with a band of contrasting paper that holds every thing together.

"Invitations with pockets on the back of the card or the fold-outs, for the reply card, maps, out-of-towners' information packets are huge," she says. "We make the pockets in different styles."

The length of time for getting the invitations can be a week or two for those ordered from the books, but the customized in-house creations take about three to six weeks, she says.

Moskaluk-Rutkay advises people to book appointments with her staff because she often leaves the office to see suppliers for the custom orders.



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Party with the reptiles at Reptilia

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
Special to the CJN

Usually, a 14-foot, 1,000-pound crocodile is bad news at a party – unless the party is at Reptilia's all-new 25,000-square-foot facility at Rutherford Road and Keele Street, where Induna, Canada's largest crocodile, is just one of many species guests can visit, enjoy and even hold.

Though party organizers wisely leave the jumbo croc in his enclosure for the festivities, all Reptilia parties include a hands-on visit with five friendly reptiles – a turtle, a small snake, a cayman (a small, alligator-like reptile), a lizard and, yes, a large snake, often one of several in-house boa constrictors.

While many "party places" are staffed by part-time high-school students, organizer Jason Orendorff (905-761-6223) says for most employees, Reptilia is a full-time vocation. All presenters have at least a university education and a genuine interest in and love of reptiles.

"This isn't a teenager coming to talk about his pet gecko," Orendorff says.

That's probably a good thing, because the kind of kid who wants a reptile party has usually done his or her homework.

"They're intelligent kids," says Orendorff, who's worked at Reptilia for four years. He says he often finds himself talking to seven-year-olds as if they were university students.

He credits the surge of interest, in part, to the late Australian crocodile hunter Steve Irwin. "He demystified reptiles," Orendorff says.

Both boys and girls love Reptilia parties, but the girls tend to be slightly older. Boys go through a "dinosaur" phase at around age seven that often includes reptiles. For girls, whether at parties, visiting the zoo or through trips in groups such as Girl Guides, getting to know reptiles is spurred by intellectual curiosity and the thrill of overcoming traditional perceptions that the creatures may be disgusting or slimy.

Reptilia has been in operation for 10 years, until recently in a converted commercial location one-sixth the size of its present home. While the old facility included one party room, the new location offers six and can host up to 24 parties each day.

Even the washrooms are reptile-themed.

Reptilia's zoo, open seven days a week, was previously a free, informal exhibit of aquariums on shelves. In the new, fully accessible location, with its diorama-style displays and feeding tours and special events, the zoo is rapidly becoming one of the GTA's most popular attractions for families, camps and school or social groups.

Most of the animals are new as well – the old location didn't have space for very large, exotic or venomous creatures.

Safety is paramount at Reptilia, at parties but also in the zoo and retail shop, where the company sells a limited selection of captive-bred, not wild-caught, animals.

All presenters carefully explain the importance of animal safety, and rules such as don't touch animals on the head, don't tug the presenter's arm if he or she is holding an animal, and don't tap aquarium glass because it hurts turtles' ears.

When Orendorff brings out a cayman at a party, its powerful jaws are taped shut not, he explains, because one has ever tried to bite anyone, but because kids – and even adults – sometimes forget and try to touch the mouth.

Kids and parents can choose from four basic party themes, offering five animals from different areas of the world. The party boy or girl gets to hold each animal, while every guest has a chance to touch it – but they don't have to.

The back seats in the party room are the "cringe row," for kids who aren't sure how they feel about reptiles, but most overcome their trepidation very quickly when everyone else is getting hands-on.

When the big boa constrictor comes out at the end of the presentation, everybody has a chance to hold it, and Orendorff says even those who were initially nervous take a turn.

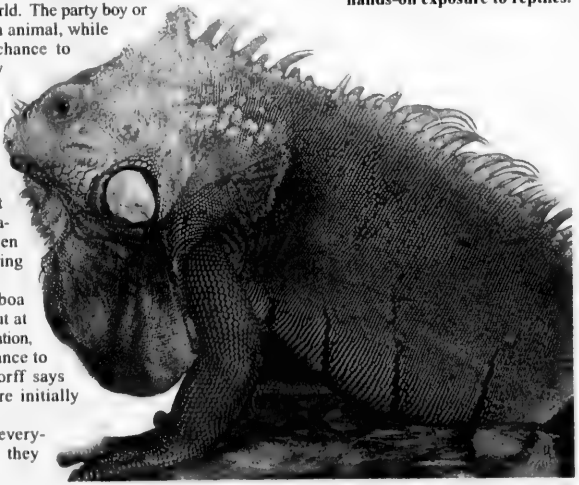
"When they see everybody else doing it, they want to join in."

Once the presentation is over, food is served, and the presenter stays with the group to supervise and answer questions. Reptilia can provide food for all parties, except kosher parties or for kids with severe allergies.

After the party's over, guests and their hosts can linger as long as they like in the long corridors of Reptilia's 15,000-square-foot zoo, visiting reptiles that aren't used for parties, such as the exotic albino monocled cobra and the venomous reptiles that make up approximately 60 per cent of the centre's new collection.

Parties at Reptilia start at $259 for 13 people (it's $15 per person above that). Loot bags are also available, stuffed with items from the reptile-themed gift shop, from $4.99 each. Larger parties can be hosted in Reptilia's theatre or Tortoise Room and feature seven animals instead of five.

And if the thought of driving a minivan full of kids to Vaughan is daunting, Reptilia offers in-home parties, also featuring five reptiles, at $185 for a one-hour presentation. While there's no limit on the number of guests at a home party, Orendorff suggests a "manageable" number so that every child has a chance to touch and view the animals.



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Gladstone's sets new standard in fine kosher dining

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Gladstone's Wine Bar and Grill (416-487-9500) represents the new face of glatt kosher fine dining in Toronto.

For many people, kosher restaurants are establishments offering simple, traditional fare geared to families.

Ambiance is usually not a strong point.

Gladstone's is the antithesis of this kind of restaurant. This elegant eatery in the upscale Eglinton Avenue and Avenue Road area (398 Eglinton Ave. W.) is known as much for its stylish decor as its innovative kosher menu.

It also boasts live music, with pianist Steve Schulman at the grand piano keyboards nightly.

This elegance and sophistication has made Gladstone's a popular venue for simchahs, parties and corporate events. The restaurant, which is under COR supervision, can accommodate as many as 300 people for cocktails or 225 for a sit-down dinner, with room for a DJ and a dance floor.

The design of this stylish two storey 6,000-square-foot restaurant is striking, with its granite and glass facade, earth-tone palette, open mezzanine, 30-foot sushi bar and cozy lounge area with leather club chairs and fireplace.

Beside the "wow factor when people see this beautiful restaurant, we're known for great food – great steaks and fish, chicken and lamb," says Gino Falcitelli, Gladstone's general manager.

The menu offers such gourmet fare as duck tortellini, Moroccan cigars and Thai cornish hen, he adds.

Falcitelli has been with the restaurant since it opened in January 2005. Raphy Amar is the owner.

Falcitelli, who previously owned and operated a restaurant on the site of Gladstone's, helped Amar oversee the renovation, the training of the staff and menu development.

"Kosher food is almost exclusively what I eat now. In the beginning, working with kosher ingredients was a learning curve," Falcitelli says.

"Once we learned what ingredients we could and could not use, there was no reason why we couldn't be one of the best restaurants in the city, regardless of the kosher designation," he adds.

"The menu has evolved. We're always offering new and exciting items."

And the food has wide appeal, he says, even to people who don't keep kosher, but it's also become a destination for out-of towners who are kosher, Falcitelli says.

"We have people coming from New York for the weekend to dine at Gladstone's. They compare us to some of the best restaurants in the world. It's a very nice compliment."

Falcitelli says Gladstone's menu now includes sushi pizza and spicy salmon tartar.

"Sushi pizza is a crispy rice biscuit topped with spicy salmon, apple wine and onions. Spicy salmon tartar – it's very new– is fresh salmon sashimi served with crisp Asian pears. With sushi, anything goes."

The chefs are always trying new dishes, he says.

"We have all those items that are typical, like steak, lamb, fish and poultry, and then some innovative dishes."

As an example, he cites the Mediterranean Duo, consisting of a Moroccan cigar, a crispy pastry shell filled with seasoned beef, paired with merguez, a 100 per cent beef mini sausage, and served with a tahini dipping sauce.

Falcitelli stresses that all of Gladstone's pasta is fresh, made in-house from scratch.

He says one of the most popular pasta dishes is duck tortellini in a tomato-based sauce made with caramelized onions and coconut cream.

In addition to simchahs, Gladstone's is a popular place for business meetings and corporate events, Falcitelli says.

"We have a private dining room for corporate use that's wired for a plasma television. It holds up to 35 people comfortably."

He says that people can book the whole restaurant or the mezzanine, depending on the size of their party. "The menu is tailor-made for each affair. We go over preferences, tastes and price range."

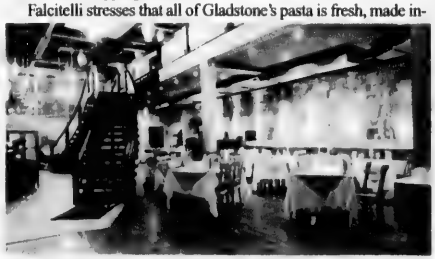
He says no matter how many diners there are at a gathering, patrons can count on great service and high quality.

"Even if you're one of 200 people, we try to make you feel as if you were there having an intimate dinner for two," Falcitelli says.

"It's the same excellent food and service that you would expect on a regular visit to the restaurant."

For a virtual tour of Gladstone's or to book online reservations, visit www.gladstones.ca.

- [x] Fully Kosher Facility
- [ ] Separate Kosher Kitchen Available
- [x] Kosher Event Catering Available
- [x] Capacity up to 100 People
- [x] 100-300 Person Capacity
- [ ] Over 300 Person Capacity
- [x] Wheelchair Accessible



Gladstone's: Stylish decor and innovative menu.

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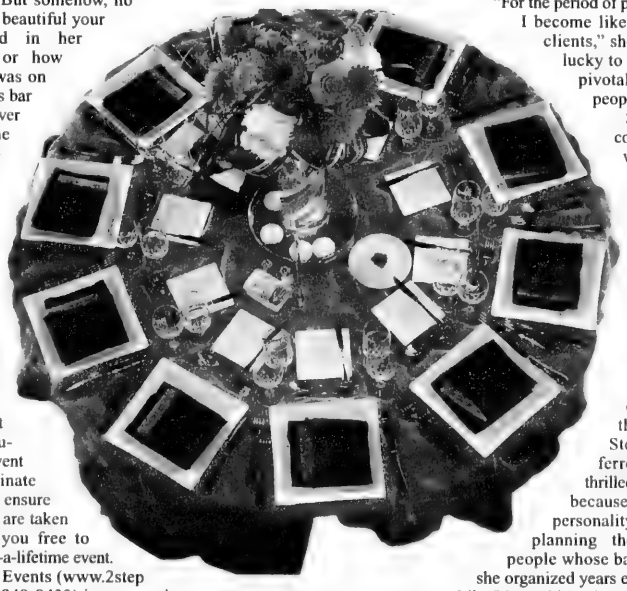
PARTY PLANNER

Get event planning help from an experienced professional

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Simchahs conjure up so many fond memories. But somehow, no matter how beautiful your daughter looked in her wedding dress or how proud your son was on the morning of his bar mitzvah, you'll never forget the time when your great-aunt had no table to sit at or the caterers served your vegan niece a chicken breast.



With all the stress that goes with planning a special occasion, the night of your dreams can quickly turn into your biggest nightmare. Fortunately, hiring an event planner to co-ordinate your simchah will ensure that all the details are taken care of, leaving you free to enjoy your once-in-a-lifetime event.

2 Steps Ahead Events (www.2stepsahead.ca or 416-949-9433) is one service that will help you plan every aspect of your gathering, making sure that the night is as perfect as it ought to be.

Vivian Ringwald-Levine, who spearheads 2 Steps Ahead, is bubbly and energetic and has years of experience in co-ordinating a variety of events. She is also organized and detail-oriented.

Working with three dedicated associate planners, Ringwald-Levine specializes in all simchahs, including weddings and bar/bat mitzvahs. She has become a maven in helping families co-ordinate the celebration when a son and daughter are having their bar and bat mizvah at the same time.

Offering a flexible and affordable service, 2 Steps Ahead can be booked to co-ordinate your event from the beginning or just to run the show on the big day. Ringwald-Levine can be involved in every aspect of planning – she will book the venue, make the invitations, and even mediate between family members, if necessary. Working within your budget, she recommends the best possible services, and will negotiate with the company to make sure that you get the most bang for your buck.

At 30, Ringwald-Levine has the insider's scoop on the newest hottest trends in simchahs. Whether it's giving your daughter advice on the perfect entrance song at her bat mitzvah or suggesting the most beautiful centrepiece arrangements, Ringwald-Levine understands how to adapt her knowledge to her clients' needs.

On the day of the event, 2 Steps Ahead is at the venue early to make sure that everything goes according to plan. "When I plan a wedding," she says, "I'm the last person the bride sees before she walks down the aisle. That's pretty powerful."

And Ringwald-Levine loves her work.

"For the period of planning the event, I become like family with my clients," she says. "I feel so lucky to be a part of such pivotal moments in people's lives."

She explains her company motto this way: "All eyes are on you, let our eyes be 2 steps ahead of every detail."

Another expert event-planning service is Judy Stein Consulting (905-764-2728). In co-ordinating simchahs for more than 28 years, Stein has been referred from one thrilled client to another because of her sparkling personality, and she is now planning the weddings of people whose bar or bat mitzvah she organized years earlier.

Like Ringwald-Levine, Stein will become involved in every step of planning your occasion. She will recommend, but never directly choose, the various services. She will also work within your budget and direct you to the services you'll appreciate most.

"It's just like matchmaking!" she says with a laugh.

And she offers personalized service. "I become your best friend for the next year."

Planners ensure your party goes off without any hitches. Pictures supplied by Judy Stein (top) and 2 Steps Ahead.

Two months prior to your event, Stein supervises a complete run-through to eliminate any possible glitches. She then prepares a detailed schedule and, along with three of her associates, supervises the day from start to finish.

And while paying close attention to your wants and needs, Stein will share her years of experience with you to ensure that you'll never have a "what was I thinking?" regret.

Stein loves her job. "Every weekend is another event!"

She gets her satisfaction from the joy her service brings. "I love seeing my clients so fulfilled and happy after making their dreams come to fruition," she says.

Stein donates a portion of her income from each event to the Starlight Children's Foundation, which helps make wishes come true for seriously ill children.

Other planners/consultants advertising in this supplement are: Lynn Cohen, 905-889-1007; Sharon Goodman Wedding & Party, 905-731-7786; Heidi Gruenspan, 905-738-5030; Gayle Kertzman, 416-484-4467; Risa Gold, 905-882-4343; Cherry & Baker & Associates, 905-771-1121; Tamara Temes, Bridal and Party Consultant, 905-770-7977; Up & Coming Events, 416-665-6100.

Enjoy Copper Creek all year round

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

You've probably heard of Copper Greek Golf Club in Kleinburg (905-893-3370, www.coppercreek.ca). You probably also associate the club with golf and the course designed by well-known architect Doug Carrick.

Copper Creek's director of food and beverages Doug Collier would like you to know the club better. He admits that it's best known among golf enthusiasts, but what is less known is that Copper Creek offers fine dining and drinking in an ambience that you can enjoy during any season of the year.

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- ☑ Separate Kosher Kitchen Available
- ☐ Kosher Event Catering Available
- ☑ Capacity up to 100 People
- ☑ 100-300 Person Capacity
- ☐ Over 300 Person Capacity
- ☑ Wheelchair Accessible

Copper Creek is open all year round to all kinds of events, big or small, from corporate promotions to simchahs. It offers lunch and dinner every day of the week, and from October to May, there's Sunday brunch in the Bistro.

Spring, summer, fall or winter, the view of Cooper Creek's gardens and natural landscape is beautiful. Every room has ample windows, offering a panoramic view of the surroundings.

The club is set among the gently rolling hills and forests of the Humber Valley. Nearby, 40 acres of land have been donated to the conservation authority to protect this sensitive environment so it can continue to support the wild plant and animal species that are unique to this area.

Copper Creek can accommodate any kind of celebration, be it a family milestone or corporate event, intimate dinner or gala affair. Services include audiovisual facilities, sound and lighting, and disc jockey entertainment.

Both fine and casual dining are available. The decor is welcoming, with the quality of the food matched by attractive presentation. And Copper Creek staff are knowledgeable and ready to assist you.

The cuisine is superb, and you can custom create your own menu, including a kosher one, since a kosher kitchen is also available. Usually, large kosher dining parties are in the Valley View Ballroom, with smaller events often held in the Kleinburg Room.

Copper Creek is creative with non-traditional styles of kosher food, including vegetarian. For example, it offers risotto, pasta dishes and antipastos as appetizers.

One sample dinner menu features mandarin orange and raspberry spring mix salad; roasted two pepper soup; pan-seared salmon with ginger shitake sauce and root vegetables; brandied chocolate and banana crepes; and coffee and tea.

And here's a sample vegetarian menu: crespelle with tomato basil sauce; grilled vegetables tian on a bed of Mediterranean couscous; bread and butter pudding with raspberry and mango; coffee and tea. Menus include bread basket and relish tray.

The presentation is often non-traditional as well. Kosher food can also be served in a buffet, an informal style that encourages people to mix and mingle. Kosher catering is available for business and corporate events.

The Valley View Ballroom, for dinners with dancing, holds 120 to 130 guests. The Bistro, for casual dining, has a capacity of about 100, while the Kleinburg Room, for elegant dining, can accommodate about 60. All rooms have wheelchair access.

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Unusual venues with unique menus

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Formerly known as SkyDome, the Rogers Centre was renamed in February 2005. It's the home of the Toronto Blue Jays and the Toronto Argonauts, and recognized as one of the premier event venues year-round.

The Rogers Centre is in the heart of downtown Toronto's entertainment district, near the CN Tower. Parking is available at Rogers Centre and in the vicinity. Public transit is within walking distance.

Levy Restaurants is the Rogers Centre's exclusive catering company. Kelli Steele is the manager of catering sales and special events for Levy Restaurants at Rogers Centre. She invites you to call for details, at 416-341-2364, or visit www.rogerscentre.com and www.levyrestaurants.com.

The Rogers Centre hosts private parties and events for groups from 50 to 40,000, in party rooms overlooking the stadium. You could watch a Blue Jays or Argonauts game. If there's no game, you can arrange entertainment such as a band or DJ.

Levy Restaurants offers great food and full catering options. And you'll enjoy the views from your seats. Windows banquet hall is on the north side, while the 400 Summit suite is on the southwest side. Both rooms overlook the stadium. Rogers Centre has other venues as well. The newly renovated meeting areas can host corporate meetings up to 300 people.

With a capacity of up to 1,000, Windows banquet room offers the best views of the field. It features Levy's trademark Chef's Table with specialties such as the All American BBQ, the Seafood Festival and the Taste of Tuscany.

Continued on page B54

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King Solomon's Table: premier upscale kosher restaurant

Fully Kosher Facility
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Capacity up to 100 People
100-300 Person Capacity
Over 300 Person Capacity
Wheelchair Accessible

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
Special to the CJN

Whether you're planning a sheva brachot dinner of 25 people or a wedding reception for 350, the wisdom of King Solomon's Table lies in its versatility.

Long recognized as one of the city's premier upscale kosher restaurants, King Solomon's Table, located at 3705 Chesswood Dr., has quickly made a name for itself since its 2005 reopening for its varied menu assortment and ability to accommodate different party sizes.

That flexibility lies in the fact that it's a restaurant, not just an event venue. During the week, sections of the spacious dining area can be closed off with portable partitions to create just the right sized private space – whether it's an intimate anniversary dinner, a larger family reunion or a milestone birthday party.

The restaurant can accommodate three to four parties simultaneously while still serving walk-in customers.

But owner Joe Elmaleh makes sure nobody gets lost in the crowd.

"Each individual group has a designated headwaiter who gives them undivided attention from the time they book the party to the time that they leave," he says.

For larger parties, exclusive use of the entire space is available on Saturday evenings and for Sunday lunch.

"Those times are reserved strictly for private parties," Elmaleh says. The entire dining area can hold up to 350 guests.

Because the space is so flexible, often not much notice is needed for smaller parties.

"It depends on the size of the event," says Elmaleh. "With the exception of Sunday nights, a week or two notice is more than ample. For Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons, book it as soon as you have an idea that you're making it."

Once the event is booked, the kitchen will tailor the menu to your needs.

"Some might want the buffet, others prefer something more formal."

The fully licensed restaurant is renowned for its all-you-can-eat, 22-item Chinese buffet, but it also offers a range of Asian and other specialties, including meat, pasta, fish and vegetable dishes.

"You get whatever you want," says Elmaleh, adding that that goes for both the restaurant and several other halls around the GTA where King Solomon's Table operates its catering division, including the dazzling new Terrace Banquet Centre on Creditstone Road in Mississauga.

Many selections are also available to take out for smaller home or office functions.

"If somebody wants us to design a different type of dish, not one of our staple dishes they've come and sampled," King Solomon's creative chefs step in to fill the bill, Elmaleh says.

But usually, the menu itself is versatile enough to accommodate most needs, he adds.

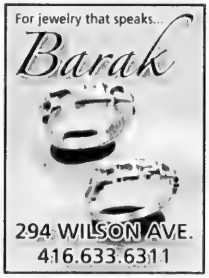
Asian selections are usually a hit, including a gingery Thai beef salad. Middle Eastern favourites include Moroccan cigars, and the European menu is well-represented by beef tournedos, rib-eye medallions sautéed with wild mushrooms, fresh herbs and beef jus.

"We're not your traditional Jewish food," Elmaleh says. "We have a wide variety of salads and soups, vegetarian and fish dishes and main courses that will fit anybody's budget and eating lifestyle."

This non-traditional approach attracts a wide range of clientele, including observant Jews looking for a good kosher experience for a variety of guests.

Other clients don't normally keep kosher, but especially for Jewish occasions such as weddings and bar or bat mitzvahs, "they certainly want to entertain in a kosher venue," Elmaleh says.

For more information, visit www.kingsolomonstable.com or call 416-630-1666.



Party Planner

Internet, high-tech changing gift registries

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

Bridal registries are the best and easiest way to shop for your good friend who's getting married. Not sure what to buy the bride and groom? Find out what they want and get it for them. This simple concept has been the norm for years, but now, with the advent of the Internet, shopping for a wedding gift is even easier.

"The Internet is so important to registries now," says Jackie Chiesa, manager of William Ashley China (416-964-9111), a popular Toronto-based housewares store. "Couples are able to log on to the registry and add and delete items at 3 a.m. You used to phone in purchases, but now everything is at a couple's fingertips."

Stella Farrace, National Give Registry manager for the Hudson's Bay Company (416-861-6714), says she's seen a huge growth in online sales because of their registry's web access. "It's great because people can purchase things anywhere in Canada or internationally."

But while the method through which guests and couples access registries is changing, the way the registry works has stayed the same. At the Bay, or Home Outfitters, which is part of the HBC registry, couples can look around the store and put anything they see on their list.

Farrace says that in the past couples would haphazardly roam around the store choosing things at their leisure. Now, the process is more focused. "We start in the dining room and finish in another room. Before there was no mapped-out process. People were scanning stuff and, because people usually make about three appointments to pick things out, they would forget what they scanned. Now you start in a room. At the end of the room you're done with it, and you can move on to the kitchen, or the bedroom."

At Ashley's, the system works in a similar way. The couple comes in and meets with a registry consultant who can show them what glasses look good with certain plates, and then they look around the store choosing what they'd like. As simple as that sounds, Ashley's has made the process even easier. Since September, couples who come to the store to set up a registry have been given a hand-held computer – a Nokia tablet – that tells them what department they're in (the store has 17 departments), gives details of what they're looking at, and gives the option of adding items to their list. If the customer needs assistance, they can press a button on the tablet that'll call for a consultant, who can track them down using a GPS system. "We wanted to launch a device that was fast and fun and easy to work with for couples," says Chiesa. "The tablet just takes the registry experience to a whole new level."

At the Bay, or Home Outfitters, which is part of the HBC registry, couples can look around the store and put anything they see on their list.

Introducing the tablet wasn't just for convenience: more guys are involved in the gift selection process, and a lot of them like using this device. "Years ago it used to be the bride and mother picking out presents," says Chiesa. "Now it's the bride and her fiancé. They both have something to say about what they would like to use in the kitchen and dining room. Men want to choose knives, corkscrews, things like that. They're playing a much larger role in the kitchen than they used to."

Farrace sees more electronics being added to a registry. "Today, people register for LCD screens, big-screen TV's. We had a groom come in ecstatic because he registered for his LCD screen TV, and the guys at work got together and bought him a gift, a guy gift."

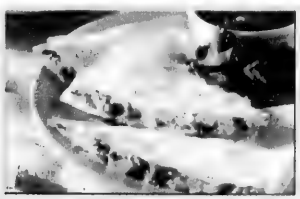
Still though, it's the housewares, like dishes, that people use the registry for most. Because these are items people will use for years, Farrace says it's important not to select things that'll only suit your needs now – think big picture. "Think about the entire home," she says. "And not just what you're living in today. Where do you see yourself in the next five years? Even if a couple doesn't have a dining room right now, we encourage them to register for a more entertaining style of dinnerware because in a year from now they may have a dining room. Now's the opportunity to get dishes."

But what if a couple moves into a new home before they get married and decides they want a different set of dishes? At the Bay and Ashley's, couples can easily exchange gifts that people buy them. "I think most people like the idea of creating a wish list where they're not bound to it," says Chiesa. "There's that security that after the wedding they can sit down and prioritize what they need most."

In order to make life easier for you and your guests, Farrace recommends setting up a registry 12 months before the wedding. "The trend has been six months, but that's moving to eight," she says.

"I say give yourself 12 months for two reasons. One, there's so much other stuff that you'll be doing, so complete it now so it's off your plate. There's also going to be gifting opportunities you might not know about [like a surprise shower], so why not get the stuff you want from the first opportunity."

As buying trends change, one thing that will remain constant is the need for good, and useful, gifts. "People have their own personal tastes and style," says Chiesa, "and guests are looking for some sort of direction. The bride and groom are happy because they get what they want, and guests feel good because they know they're buying something chosen by the couple."



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TUNA QUESADILLA WEDGES

Preparation Time: 15 min. or less • Cook time: 10 min.

1 can (170 g)	**Clover Leaf® Flaked White Tuna,** drained	2 tbsp (30 ml)	chopped cilantro or parsley
1/2 cup (125 ml)	shredded Cheddar cheese	6	small (6-7"/15-17.5 cm) flour tortillas
1/3 cup (75 ml)	mild salsa		

Combine tuna, cheese, salsa and cilantro. Place 3 tortillas on large baking sheet sprayed with nonstick cooking spray. Divide tuna mixture evenly between tortillas and spread over surface. Top with remaining tortillas. Spray top of tortillas with nonstick cooking spray. Bake at 425°F (220°C) about 10 min. or until lightly browned and crisp. Cut into wedges and serve with additional salsa, if desired. Makes 24 appetizers.

FIESTA TUNA POTATO CASSEROLE

Preparation Time: 10 min. • Baking Time: 25 min.

2 cans (170 g ea.)	**Clover Leaf® Chunk White Tuna,** drained	1/2 cup (125 ml)	ea. chopped green onion & corn kernels
2	cooked baking potatoes	1 cup (250 ml)	shredded Cheddar
2 cups (500 ml)	mild salsa	Sour Cream (optional)	

Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Cut potatoes into 1/2-in (1 cm) cubes, leaving skin on. Stir gently w/tuna, green onion, corn & salsa. Scrape into 7" x 11" (2 L) casserole. Sprinkle evenly w/cheese & transfer to oven. Bake 25 min. or until casserole is bubbly and cheese is melted. Serve with sour cream, if using. Makes 4 servings.

CREAMY TUNA ANTIPASTO DIP

Preparation Time: 10 min. • Microwave Time: 5 min. • Baking time: 15 min.

2 cans (170 g ea.)	**Clover Leaf® Flaked White Tuna,** drained	1/2 tsp (2 mL)	hot pepper sauce
8 oz (250 g)	light cream cheese, softened	2	green onions, finely chopped
1/4 cup (50 mL)	sour cream	1	large round pumpernickel loaf (about 12 oz/375 g)
2 cups (500 mL)	prepared vegetable antipasto	Assorted veggies and crackers	

Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Blend cream cheese with sour cream until smooth in a microwaveable safe bowl. Stir in tuna and antipasto until well combined. Heat on HIGH in the microwave for 5 min. or until mixture is hot throughout. Stir half way through cooking. Stir in the hot sauce and green onions.

Meanwhile, hollow out the loaf of bread to make a bread bowl. Tear the bread from the interior into bite-size pieces. Reserve for dipping. Fill the bread bowl with hot dip and place on a baking sheet. Bake in oven for 15 min. until molten.

Serve with the reserved bread, assorted veggies and crackers for dipping. Makes 20 servings. Also tastes great as a cold spread!

ITALIAN SALMON PANINI

Preparation Time: 15 min. • Cook time: 4-6 min.

1 can (213 g)	**Clover Leaf® Pink Salmon,** Wild Pacific, drained	1/2 cup (125 ml)	lightly packed fresh basil or arugula leaves
3 tbsp (45 ml)	each mayonnaise and chopped sun-dried tomatoes	4	thin slices provolone or mozzarella cheese
1 tbsp (15 ml)	chopped capers	2 tbsp (30 ml)	Italian-style dressing or olive oil
1/4 tsp (1 ml)	pepper		
4	flatbreads or pocket-less pitas		

Preheat a grill or grill-pan to medium. Remove the skin and bones from the salmon if desired. Blend the salmon with the mayonnaise, sun-dried tomatoes, capers and pepper until well combined.

Divide the mixture equally and spread evenly over two of the flatbreads. Layer the fresh basil and cheese over each salmon-topped flatbread and top with remaining flatbread. Brush the dressing evenly over the outside. Grill the sandwiches and occasionally press lightly with a spatula for 2 to 3 min. per side or until well-marked and cheese is melted. Cut each sandwich into 4 wedges. Makes 4 servings.

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Versatility is key when choosing a band

By MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

At any party, people's tastes in music are likely to run quite a gamut, from oldies to hip hop, to ethnic beats and grooves. This makes it crucial to find a band with a broad repertoire.

"Versatility is very important," says Morris Kast, leader of The Sky's Band. "When you're playing at a wedding, you have to cater to everybody and make sure you have a wide variety of music."

Kast notes that The Sky's Band is a 10-piece group with four singers, each of whom has a specialty, which enables the band to play a wide range of tunes.

Find a band with a broad repertoire

In addition to versatility, when seeking out the best band for your affair, it's advisable to find musicians who connect well with crowds.

Party hosts need to work closely with the band in order to iron out a music plan, so it's necessary to find a band leader whom you get along with.

"I'm a strong believer that the band leader must be very approachable," Kast says. "They must be open to the questions of the bride, groom and their families."

When it comes to selecting music, keep in mind that bands have extensive experience with many audiences and tend to know what kind of music works with specific crowds.

So while you may ask to have certain songs played, the band has the expertise to know when is the best time to play it.

Most bands are open to playing requests from the crowd, and if that's something you think is important, be sure to let the band leader know.

Watching a band play at other parties is a good way to get a sense of whether they're what you're looking for. But if you don't have a chance to see a band live, many bands have CDs and DVDs.

Word-of-mouth referrals can also be invaluable.

Bands book up quickly, so it's a good idea to schedule one year in advance for summer affairs and not less than six months in advance for other times of the year.

The Sky's Band can be contacted by phone at 416-565-1620 or online at www.skysband.com.

Other bands advertising in this supplement are The 42nd Street Band, 416-441-1555; Ambience Flute & Guitar Duo, 416-693-8778; Good Vibrations Band, 905-881-6400; Fern Lindzon Musical Entertainment, 416-225-6977; Flying Bulgar Productions, 416-603-7237; Joe Star Band, 905-881-1378; Klapman's Klezmer Band, 416-588-0854; Nice 'n Easy, 905-508-0907.

About Life

Dear Ella,

My grandson, Ryan, is going to be bar mitzvahed in 2007, and that's all I've heard about for the last two years.

But my daughter and son-in-law talk about everything except the things that I feel are important. They discuss the DJ, the theme, the caterer, the venue, etc, but I have yet to hear anything about the spiritual meaning of becoming a bar mitzvah.

I have always prided myself on being a grandparent who doesn't mix in. I feel it saves on bad feelings in the long run. I would, however, like to contribute something to this bar mitzvah that will add some spiritual value to balance out the "show." I don't want my input or participation to be misconstrued as meddling. I just want to do my small part.

More Meaning

Dear More Meaning

First, let me commend you on being able to sit back and watch quietly from the sidelines. That's very impressive.

Obviously, if you had your way, things would be handled differently, but that doesn't mean you can't do your part. How about incorporating the mitzvot of tzedakah and tikkun olam into the bar mitzvah. They can be included very tastefully, and I think everyone will approve.

Here are a few suggestions, but if you do a little research, the list is endless.

I came across a book called *Mitzvah Chic* by Gail Anthony Greenberg that has many interesting ideas to add relevance to becoming a bar mitzvah. There are programs that will help Ryan understand what it's like to be raised in a country where things as basic as food and education are a luxury. There are ways to integrate helping Israel, as well.

Almost any part of the affair can be incorporated into a meaningful and charitable function. The invitations, centrepieces, kippot and party favours can all be included. There are also interesting twinning programs that let Ryan twin with a less-fortunate child, or even a child that perished in the Holocaust before having an opportunity to become a bar mitzvah. It's just a matter of finding the right fit.

Mazal tov on Ryan's bar mitzvah. He's lucky to have you as a grandparent.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN, *e-mail: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional*

PARTY PLANNER

Remember to say thank you – and don't procrastinate

By ELAINE COHEN
Supplements Co-ordinator

Happy events are worth celebrating and half the fun is entertaining the celebrant with parties and gifts. Certain events call for more than one function. For example, a girl gets engaged. Her female relatives and close friends may be invited to any one or several of the following: teas, luncheons, bridal showers, engagement parties and the wedding.

Some time after the newlyweds settle down, they usually welcome another blessed event – the birth of their first child. It's not unusual for close friends and relatives to fete the expectant mother by holding a baby shower. Soon after the baby's birth, the same folks are invited to a brit milah or baby naming.

These are special events to be enjoyed by all. People are pleased to buy gifts for these occasions and they often put a lot of thought into them. In their turn, the recipients are supposed to show their gratitude by writing thank-you cards. The good news is most people do. Not everyone expects the celebrants to answer promptly, but it is appropriate to acknowledge gifts within a month or so of the event.

"I can't go to every simchah, but I always send a gift," says Laura Levy, a 40-year-old teacher with three children under age eight. "I don't like to keep badgering people to find out whether they received the gift, but I am eager to know if it arrived. The worst thing is when people don't cash the cheques."

According to the Emily Post school of etiquette, people should wait until the date of their event before depositing or cashing the cheque. However, not everyone agrees with this philosophy.

Marilyn Ostrof is a 26-year-old travelling sales representative. "I'm single and always on the road, but most of my friends are married and starting their families. I'm always invited to showers, brits and baby namings. Whether I can go or not, I send gifts."

Ostrof says she often chips in with friends, who pick out the gift. "Last spring, I was invited to a baby shower and though I couldn't go, I chipped in for a present," she relates. "After my friend gave birth, I was invited to the baby naming. By then she had everything she needed, so I sent a cheque. When I didn't receive an acknowledgement, I phoned to see if she or her husband had received it. They had lost it and were too embarrassed to tell me. I wish they had, because we all wasted a lot of time worrying for nothing."

Kayla Grosweiner, who grew up in New York City, says she frequently receives wedding acknowledgements three or four months after the wedding. "Maybe, it's a sign of old age, but when they finally do arrive, I have to jog my memory. Unless it's a relative, I have trouble recalling whose wedding it was and I don't recognize the names. Perhaps that's because we get invited to many functions through my husband's work. I may be acquainted with the parents, but I usually don't know their children."

Styles have changed since the days of Jane Austen's novels, when a woman's sole focus was to find a suitable mate and behave in a ladylike manner, but expressing gratitude never goes out of style. Here is a quick, organized way to get the job done.

Create a folder on your computer or take a notebook and make columns noting the gift-giver's name, address and telephone number. Describe the gift and, if relevant, the store it came from. Make a note of the date you send out your thank you card.

If the address isn't on the card or envelope, use the phone book or go to Google on the Internet for a comprehensive listing that will provide postal codes as well as phone numbers and addresses.

As for your message, follow the KISS rule: "Keep it short and simple." For starters, write the big idea first. For example: 'Thank you for the kind wishes and generous gift on the occasion of our wedding.' If it's a gift other than money, be precise. Name and describe it. If possible, indicate how you will use or enjoy it. Thank the gift-giver for helping you celebrate the occasion. Then close off with "Best regards," or "Fondly," or "Love," and your first name. However, make sure your full name is on the card or envelope.

It's never too early to learn to say thank you, and bar or bat mitzvahs are terrific occasions to teach children the importance of conveying appreciation. Some parents say their children are too busy with school, homework and extracurricular activities. It's not worth all the nagging to get them to sit down and write the cards, the parents will say.

"It all depends on the child," says Marisa Schwartz, an elementary school teacher and mother of two teenagers. "My daughter was so intrigued with the idea of choosing notepaper and graphics that she regarded the exercise as a personal project. She even composed different messages on each card. But then so did her friends."

However, Schwartz admits it was a struggle getting her son to follow suit. "I will say, he studied for his bar mitzvah and did a fine job, but when it came time to write the thank you cards, he wasn't so diligent. Let's just say, I ended up writing a batch of them."

Check airline security rules when going out of town

When out-of-towners receive a wedding invitation in the mail, many will arrange for airline tickets to attend the event and extend the trip to enjoy a vacation. At the same time, the bridal couple will also be booking their honeymoon.

But airline travel has changed. To make the most of these special trips, Canadian passengers should check current security regulations.

Before you go to the airport, make pre-board screening more efficient by checking with the airline or travel agent to determine how early you have to arrive at the airport. Verify how many pieces of carry-on and checked baggage you are permitted to bring. Bring airline ticket, passport or valid government-issued photo identification. Tag baggage, including carry-on bags and portable computers. For security reasons, use your business address.

Dressing for travel hints is more important now than it was before Sept. 11, 2001. Wear shoes that can be easily removed, as passengers are often required to take them off for screening. Metal items may also trigger alarms. Pack your jacket in carry-on luggage to have it handy.

Carry-on luggage rules are also stricter than they used to be. Place personal items, for example, a toothbrush in a clear plastic bag. Electronic devices such as laptops must be removed from their bags for special screening. Preparing for this procedure increases the speed of processing. Sharp items such as pointed scissors and ice skates are not permitted in carry-on bags.

According to the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority, as of Sept. 26 this year, until further notice, the following measures will be in place. Passengers will be permitted to bring liquids, gels and aerosols through security screening at airports if the items are packaged in containers with a capacity of 90 ml or less and the containers fit comfortably in one clear, closed and resealable plastic bag of no more than 1 litre. One bag per passenger will be permitted.

Passengers may continue to bring aboard baby formula, baby food or milk if a child age two or under is travelling.

Liquid prescription medicine with a name that matches the passenger's ticket or boarding pass is acceptable.

Permitted and non-permitted items are regulated by Transport Canada. To be sure, contact Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (1-888-294-2202) or consult the Foreign Affairs Canada website for international travel tips at www.voyage.gc.ca.

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FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish News

Happy 50th wedding anniversary to Beverley & Barney Giblon. With love from your children and grandchildren. We wish you continued health and happiness.

Happy 70th birthday to our mom and bubbie, Barbara Federman. WE LOVE YOU! Michael, Lauren, Allan, Jesse, Ian and Sheri

Bailey Steinberg received her master's in science education. Parents are Debbie & Wayne Steinberg, and grandparents Bernyce & Marvin Kalifer and Goldie & Irving Steinberg.

Happy 18th birthday to our creative and talented daughter, Vanessa Bower. From your family with all our love.

Beth & Alan and sister Brooke Randi welcome Andi Mara. Grandparents Bea Strasberg and Freda Bokser, great-grandfather Leo Frohlich and aunts, uncles and cousins are thrilled.

Marc Rose & Sharon Naymark welcomed Ethan Alexander on July 17. Delighted grandparents are Elaine & Arnie Rose, Sima & Len Naymark.

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Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
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Unique party places

Continued from page B49

Rodney Meynert joined the Rogers Centre 18 years ago, and became the executive chef in 2004. Meynert's passion for the art of cuisine shows through in his signature menus and chef's tables. He has the overall responsibility for the Rogers Centre catering areas.

During baseball season, Meynert inspires a team of 45 chefs and supervises the preparation of food for up to 1,500 people nightly. Rogers Centre prides itself on attention to detail with food and offers the finest dining for every occasion.

The Astoria Shish Kebob House.

Astoria Shish Kebob House has two locations: 390 Danforth Ave., 416-463-2838; and 1970 Dundas St. E. in Mississauga, at Highway 427 and Dundas, 905-615-1444.

The Danforth location can host 190 guests, with room for another 100 on the patio. The Mississauga restaurant's capacity is 170, with room for another 30 guests on the patio.

Astoria Shish Kebob

- ☐ Fully Kosher Facility
- ☐ Separate Kosher Kitchen Available
- ☐ Kosher Event Catering Available
- ☑ Capacity up to 100 People
- ☑ 100-300 Person Capacity
- ☐ Over 300 Person Capacity
- ☑ Wheelchair Accessible

For dining, at both locations, reservations should be made for groups larger than five. No reservations are required at the Danforth location on Saturdays.

While business is prospering at Astoria, franchises are not in the offing, says Peter Kerasiotis. The philosophy, as expressed by directing partner Kerasiotis, is to keep the business small enough that he can stay in personal touch with details and maintain the high quality he and his partners take pride in.

Levy Restaurant

- ☐ Fully Kosher Facility
- ☐ Separate Kosher Kitchen Available
- ☐ Kosher Event Catering Available
- ☑ Capacity up to 100 People
- ☑ 100-300 Person Capacity
- ☑ Over 300 Person Capacity
- ☑ Wheelchair Accessible

Astoria offers full-service, family-oriented casual dining. "Diners are guests," says Kerasiotis, who is enthusiastic about both food and people. "Guests are treated as well as if they were at home. This is our standard for food and service."

Kerasiotis has been in the restaurant business for more than 30 years. "We work hard," he says, smiling, "but we also work smart. And we love what we do."

Kerasiotis describes Astoria's cuisine as Mediterranean with a strong Greek accent. "It's an ancient tradition," he says; "but modern nutritionists hail this style." Nutritionally, it's rich, with varied and inviting tastes, and not heavy on spices.

"The ingredients are not wholly unfamiliar to North Americans. But along with well-known favourites like souvlaki, grilled seafood, hummus and Greek salad, there are many delicious surprises, including vegetarian dishes."

Among vegetarian selections Astoria offers are spanakopita, a spinach pie with a light, multi-layered phyllo crust; tzatziki, a blend of yogurt, garlic and olive oil; taramosalata (Greek caviar); and moussaka, a hearty dish that has been compared to lasagna.

The best dishes require the best ingredients. So Astoria uses only the best, including imported feta cheese and extra virgin oil, the purest olive oil.

Other non-kosher places to party are: Acrobat Lounge, 416-489-1105; Atlantis Pavilions, 416-260-8000; Captain John's Harbour Boat Restaurant, 416-363-6062; Casa Loma, 416-923-1171; Lotus Pond Vegetarian Restaurant, 416-412-3140; Eddy's Dining Lounge, 905-886-6566; The Estates of Sunnybrook, 416-487-3841; Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 416-368-2511 ext. 2657; Grand Prix Kartways, 416-922-5058; The Hard Rock Cafe/Club 279, 416-362-3636; The Honest Lawyer, 905-886-5879; Liberty Grand, 416-542-3789; Loots Lounge, 416-787-5668; Pickle Barrel, 416-990-5086; Richmond Hill Country Club, 905-731-2800; Scaramouche Restaurant/Pasta Bar, 416-961-8011; St. Andrew's Club & Conference Centre, 416-366-4228; Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, 416-597-9200; Metropolitan Hotels, 416-977-5000.

Levy Restaurants at Rogers Centre.

Claramount Spa stresses wellness and pampering

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Claramount Inn & Spa in Picton, Ont., is on six acres in the heart of Prince Edward County's wine country.

The inn's brochure states, "Wellness begins here" referring to the three-year-old, cosy spa, located in the basement of an addition built onto the main house of a colonial revival mansion overlooking Picton Harbour.

The Claramount Inn & Spa

"Our theory at the spa is really based on wellness, as opposed to pampering, although you always get a sense of pampering when you are at a spa," says Tiffany Childerhose, the spa's director and hydrotherapist.

"Our philosophy is based on Sebastian Kneipp's therapeutic model – he was a Bavarian monk. He found he could heal people through what he called the five pillars of health – water therapy, plant therapy, exercise therapy, nutrition and the balance between rest and relaxation. We take from each of those pillars, and we put them into our treatments."

The spa's décor is in keeping with the rest of the inn. There are five treatment rooms, including the wet room, which is devoted to hydrotherapies and has a six-head Vichy shower. In the spa is a rest and relaxation area where herbal tea is served, and a small retail space.

All the rooms with windows are painted a soft blue. Walls in areas without natural light are a soft yellow. Floral fabrics on wicker chairs and window treatments and Canadiana prints of wildflowers and such add to the soothing ambience. Other amenities include a steam room, sauna, infrared sauna and heated, covered all-year-round salt-water pool used for individual and group aquatic exercise and for aqua-massage therapy aministered by a registered massage therapist.

In addition to hydrotherapist Childerhose, the spa's staff includes two registered massage therapists, three estheticians and a personal fitness instructor.

Claramount carries many product lines.

"With all our product lines, we try to find the most organic and pure forms," says Childerhose. "Our main product line for face and body is Éminence. It is a handmade organic skin-care line from Hungary. Our secondary line, used in our aromatherapy facials, is Source Vital. It is based on essential oils from Texas. We have a mineral makeup line from California called La Bella Donna – we are one of the first to carry it in Ontario. The founders of our nail line, Zoya, are originally from Hungary. It doesn't have tar or formaldehyde that you find in other nail products."

Spa director and hydrotherapist Tiffany Childerhose giving the Pear and Green Apple Body Polish - under the Vichy shower. [Kathryn Kates photos]

The Claramount has just launched a new spa menu. Treatments include three Éminence facials with optional extraction of blackheads, an aromatherapy facial, facial massage, manicures and pedicures, makeup applications and lessons and massages. Body care includes the Éminence Back Bliss and Vichy Massage Treatment and body wraps and polishes. Wraps and polishes include the Thalassotherapy Body Experience, the Moor Mud Body Masque, a Canadian product, and the Pear and Green Apple Body Polish. In the Pear and Green Apple Body treatment, the body is exfoliated with a pear and green-apple mask mixed with spices, followed by the Vichy shower with adjustable temperature and pressure. A hydro-massage through a hose follows. The treatment ends with Éminence Pear and Green Apple Soufflé, a moisturizer that is massaged into the skin.

The Kneipp Water Treatments include Vichy Therapy; Affusions, a treatment without using water pressure that helps stimulate the circulatory system; and the Wet Socks treatment, in which wet and dry socks are used to stimulate the metabolism.

In addition to the à la carte spa services, there are a number of packages on offer, including the Decadent Day, in which guests receive a Moor Mud Body Wrap, 60-minute Massage Therapy, an Éminence Vitality Facial, manicure, pedicure, hair and scalp treatment and makeup application.

Spa packages are based on double occupancy and include two-night accommodation in a spacious suite. The Glorious Spa Getaway includes a $150 spa credit, two breakfasts for two, one five-course dinner for two at Clara's, including wine, and one three-course dinner for two in Ameilia's Garden Dining Room, across town at the spa's sister property, The Waring House. The Soothe Your Senses Package offers one Éminence Facial and one Aromatherapy Massage in place of the credit and a $25 gift certificate for dinner at The Waring House.

To book your Claramount Inn & Spa Getaway, call 800-679-7765 or 613-476-2709 or visit www.claramountinn.com.

For more information on Ontario spas, visit Ontario's Finest Spas at www.ontariosfinest.ca.

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This Week

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Dion has walked a fine Mideast line

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — New Liberal leader Stéphane Dion, whose riding of St. Laurent-Cartierville has large Jewish and Arab communities, both traditionally supportive of the party, has endeavoured to walk a fine line on the Middle East.

In his speech at the party's recent leadership convention, Dion ridiculed "the very right-wing" government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper for modelling Canadian foreign policy on that of U.S. President George W. Bush's administration. "Today we have… a prime minister who is mirroring the style of his hero to the point that President Bush should be getting royalties from Mr. Harper's speeches."

Dion was critical of Harper's support of Israel during last summer's conflict with Hezbollah, calling for a more even-handed approach, because of Canada's friendship with Lebanon as well as with Israel, and urging an immediate ceasefire.

In an Aug. 6 *Globe and Mail* article, he wrote: "When one believes a friend to be mistaken, one should say so," and suggested that the Lebanese civilian casualties and "breadth of destruction" may increase support for Hezbollah and weaken the Lebanese state, without boosting Israel's security.

New Liberal leader criticized Harper's support of Israel in last summer's conflict with Hezbollah

In October, in a conference call with the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC), Dion said he would not "change a comma" of what he wrote in August. He did call both Hezbollah and Hamas terrorist groups, and said Canada should not send aid to a Hamas-led government, but should aid the Palestinians through "third parties." He also agreed that Israel is being targeted unfairly at the United Nations.

When asked by *The CJN* whether he agreed that the "root cause" of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the refusal by Israel's enemies to accept a non-Muslim state in the Arab world, Dion responded in the Nov. 9 issue, "I think there are people of good faith on both sides who want what Canada wants: two states living in security and peace, with a contiguous border. Canada must work with these people of good faith to achieve this aim. And all our gestures and declarations must support this very important objective."

Dion had two prominent Jewish community backers in his leadership bid – businessman Stephen Bronfman and former MP and ambassador to Israel David Berger – but few Jews among his grassroots delegates.

Stéphane Dion

One was Montrealer Stanley Baker, a party activist for 30 years, who supported Dion from the outset because he felt he was the best qualified.

Continued on page 57

Let my people go

Supporters of Israel recently demonstrated in front of the European Commission headquarters in Brussels calling for the release of the Israeli soldiers being held by Hamas and Hezbollah.

[RNS/Reuters photo]

Vayishlach
Candlelighting: 4:22
Havdalah: 5:27

Greater Toronto Area

Hezbollah is getting long-range missiles from Syria — see page 61

The News in Brief

CANADA

Gift Funds Program

TORONTO — Onex Corp. chairman and CEO Gerald Schwartz and his wife, Indigo head Heather Reisman, gave $2 million last week to Hospital for Sick Children to fund a pediatric training exchange between Israel and SickKids, the Toronto hospital said. Up to 10 Israeli pediatricians annually over five years will be named Schwartz-Reisman Fellows, with the gift paying 50 per cent of their salaries. The gift will also fund trips by 10 senior SickKids doctors or scientists to teach at Israeli hospitals or research institutes.

McGill Gets Donation

MONTREAL — Irving Ludmer, a 1957 McGill University graduate, a former Steinberg grocery chain executive and current president of holding firm Cleman Ludmer Steinberg, has given $3 million toward renovations to McGill's psychiatry building, the school said. "We're in a 43-year-old building that has hardly been touched on the inside," said department chair Dr. Joel Paris. "This will make it a more attractive building for recruits and produce a better climate for research." The gift will pay for half the $6-million project, which will take two years.

WORLD

Jews Honour Queen

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth was honoured Nov. 28 at a Jewish community event that was part of year-long celebrations of the 350th anniversary of the readmission of Jews into Britain. The Queen and Prince Philip attended a reception at St. James' Palace with more than 700 members of the Jewish community. Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks gave the Queen a menorah, and Rabbi Tony Bayfield, of the British Reform movement, gave the prince a ceremonial cup.

Anti-Semitic Acts Rise

SYDNEY — Anti-Semitic incidents are up in Australia, a report says. A study by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry that cited 442 anti-Semitic incidents from October 2005 to September 2006, an increase of 110 incidents over the same period a year earlier. Incidents spiked in July, after Israel's war with Hezbollah began, but they had already been rising before that.

School Vandalized

VIENNA — A man claiming to be Adolf Hitler is suspected of vandalizing a Vienna Jewish school. Police are holding the man, a 30-year-old Croat national, who allegedly broke into the Lauder Chabad School on Sunday, Nov. 26, and smashed windows and glass throughout the three-storey building. The president of Vienna's Jewish community called it the worst attack on a Jewish site in Austria in more than 20 years.

Get Refusers Targeted

BRUSSELS — Husbands who refuse to give their wives Jewish divorces may soon be unable to evade the rabbinate in Europe. At a meeting in Brussels this month, the Rabbinical Center of Europe is to discuss creating an organization to track such men, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. It would work with local Jewish courts to disperse information about them and find those who flee to avoid repercussions.

Hero Gives Birth

SEATTLE — Dayna Klein, whose defiance helped end a July 28 shooting spree at the Jewish Federation in Seattle, had a baby boy Nov 28. Klein was at work when a gunman attacked, killing a woman. Shot in the arm and five months pregnant, she crawled to her desk and dialed 911, despite the gunman's warning that he'd kill anyone who did so. She convinced him to speak to the operator and is credited with the safe release of other staff. She named her boy Charley Paz, meaning peace in Spanish, in tribute to Pam Waechter, who died in the attack.

Byelection Flyers Rattle London Jews

LONDON, Ont. — A leafletting campaign during the recent federal byelection in London-North-Centre left some of the community's Jewish residents unnerved.

Flyers left in a Jewish area were described as anti-Semitic because of a cartoon depicting Prime Minister Stephen Harper, with an oversized nose, wrapped in a flag of Israel. The flyer reproduces a message from the Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC), taken from its website, that urges local Muslims to vote Liberal and send a "message to the Harper government."

The CIC, headed by Mohamed Elmasry, said the flyer was a forgery, adding that it had nothing to do with the cartoons and that it had been the target of a smear campaign.

Alain Goldschlager, co-chair of B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights, said his house and those of several Jewish neighbours, each with a mezuzah on the door, were targeted.

Faisal Joseph, head of the Association of London Muslims, said his community was "shocked that someone would link a Muslim organization to this hurtful racist commentary." He said he and other Muslim leaders condemned the incident.

Police were investigating.

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Canada's inconsistent votes at UN questioned

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Canada's voting pattern at the United Nations on resolutions condemning Israel has some observers criticizing Ottawa for its apparent inconsistency.

Canada voted against two resolutions introduced by Islamic countries at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva in the middle of last week. The motions slammed Israel's policies on settlements and the Golan Heights.

At the same time in New York, Canada voted in favour of seven resolutions that were highly critical of the Jewish state while voting against two others.

Then on Friday, it split its vote on six Mideast resolutions. It opposed two bureaucratic resolutions and abstained on another, and on resolutions condemning Israeli practices, it voted with the majority – criticizing Israel on one (regarding Jerusalem), voting against another (concerning the Golan Heights) and abstaining on the last (peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine).

The inconsistency in Canada's votes was questioned by B'nai Brith Canada, the Canadian Coalition for Democracy (CCD) and UN Watch, though the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), the Jewish community's primary lobbying arm on Israel, attributed the disparity to "rookie" mistakes in dealing with an overwhelming volume of anti-Israel initiatives.

In Ottawa, Foreign Affairs spokesperson Rodney Moore read a prepared statement acknowledging that Israel, as a democracy, "is deserving of our support, particularly during times of danger such as we saw last summer.

"However, we strongly support the peace process and the rule of law, and we expect both Israel and other parties in the region to do the same.

"These principles will be reflected on our votes on relevant UN resolutions, whether they take place in New York or Geneva."

Supports resolutions highly critical of Israel

In New York, Canada's UN ambassador, John McNee, called on Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) to bring peace, security and stability to their people. In an address to the General Assembly, he called for a negotiated two-state solution to the conflict. He also urged the PA to "take measures to address Israel's security concerns by controlling and preventing violence," and he said Israeli defensive steps must be exercised with restraint with an eye to avoiding civilian casualties.

However, McNee also took aim at the UN directly, saying, "Canada does not believe that all the work that is done within the UN is contributing to resolving this conflict. Resolutions on the Middle East that come before this assembly… are rarely helpful in achieving the goal we all seek – peace in the Middle East.

"Canada has criticized inflammatory and divisive language in resolutions and will not support resolutions that use emotive and provocative language in place of the plain facts."

B'nai Brith Canada responded to Canada's apparent inconsistent approach by arguing that Ottawa's votes at the General Assembly's Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) "serve[d] to bolster a UN system riddled with inherent biases against the Jewish state.

"It is contradictory on the one hand to vote in support of resolutions, which through their sheer weight and volume offer moral justification for groups like Hamas and Hezbollah to carry out their terrorist agenda, and on the other hand to stand on the world stage to oppose these same groups and expect other countries to follow Canada's lead."

Continued on page 22

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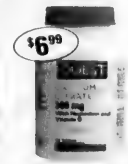
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Greater Toronto Area

Abjure all loss of hope

From the editor's desk

The diminishing light of each day that characterizes this time of year, at least for those of us in the northern hemisphere, is an eerie mirror reflecting back to the Jews of the world a darkening sense of our Jewish future.

Two items in this week's *CJN* depict a particularly grim portrait of the malevolent forces that have arisen against the Jewish state.

The noted Israeli commentator and scholar Ehud Ya'ari was in Toronto last week to deliver the final Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman lecture of the season at Holy Blossom Temple.

As reported by our veteran staff writer Sheldon Kirshner in "Israel commentator delivers grim news on Mideast," Ya'ari told the large assembly that "Israel's existence is on the table once again."

According to Ya'ari, Israel's enemies are convinced that they have found an answer to western and Israeli technological and military superiority: constant and persistent warfare.

He pointed out that "Muslims who subscribe to this doctrine [of constant and persistent warfare] are neither interested in fighting over territory nor in conquering it but rather in shedding blood and prolonging the battle, even if it requires generations. The doctrine is underpinned by a 'culture of death' in which suicide bombers are praised."

Ya'ari stated categorically that Israel's most dangerous and greatest adversary today is Iran.

Echoing Ya'ari's conclusions with an an even bleaker sense of alarm is Ross Culiner in "Parting thoughts on Israel's vulnerability." It is his last column as a regular contributor since his busy schedule no longer affords him the time to write for us. But readers seeking any signs of brighter light on the immediate Jewish horizon will not necessarily find it in Culiner's column.

"Then [in 1938] as now – though the realization is painful – we may really be quite defenceless should Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad act with the same unbridled decisiveness and defiance that has marked his behaviour thus far.

"There are limits to Jewish power, even with a state of our own.

"We can only wonder whether our defence establishment, in patent disarray at the highest levels, embroiled in internal disputes, is up to the task of protecting us against the mortal threats of a scientifically sophisticated society in a vast and near land that openly declares its intent to destroy us."

Culiner concludes with the hope that the leadership needed to "inspire and galvanize" the Jewish state will quickly emerge.

Culiner is more pessimistic than fellow commentator Yossi Klein Halevi, a senior fellow at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem, who was also in Toronto recently addressing a large assembly at Holy Blossom Temple.

Although not sugar-coating Israel's dire strategic predicament in any way, he noted that many of the Sunni Arab states in the region, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, especially, had awakened to the realization that the Shiite bloc — with Iran at the vanguard — was a greater threat to them than was Israel (as reported by Kirshner in "Israeli leaders not up to Iranian threat: analyst," Toronto issue, Nov. 23). Klein Halevi concluded by sharing the belief that just as Nazism and communism were defeated, so too will be the forces of Islamic radicalism.

Ya'ari, Culiner, and Klein Halevi are astute observers and chroniclers of life in the Middle East. There is no denying the hard truths they have described. Though what they say is alarming, they are not being alarmists. They are, in the purest sense of the word, sounding an alarm, warning of impending danger. In ancient times, it would have been akin to ascending the nearby hilltops to sound the shofar summoning the people to collective response.

Each one of us who believes in the shared destiny of the Jewish people has a duty to join in that response. In point of irrefutable fact, that duty falls on each one of us who believes in the sanctity of life and in the abiding humanity of western values.

But how to respond? What is the counter-strategy?

"Despair," to quote Rabbi David Hartman of Jerusalem, "is not an option." For the sake of our children who seek their example and sometimes perhaps even their inspiration from their parents and teachers, it is absolutely imperative that we abjure all behaviours connected to loss of hope.

But it is also imperative for our own sakes. For we are the ones fighting, wherever we live, on behalf of Jewish destiny. And our commitment to that destiny must never abate.

We must try to ignite within us a spirit of activism. We can no longer afford to be bystanders in the unfolding of Jewish history.

In very broad terms, the strategy is twofold. First, despite the frustration, we must constantly try to influence events on the macro level by directly lobbying and/or supporting groups that lobby governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Second, at the micro level, the level of our personal lives, we must no longer hug the shoreline of our Jewish identities but rather, we must swim in its open seas. To follow the dictum of Martin Lockshin, a professor at York University, we must "do more Jewish things."

Jewish history has taught us ways of coping with days of diminishing light. The essence of the essence, however, is not to lose hope. I will elaborate on this next week.

MBD

SeeJN

ISRAEL CONNECTION: Students from Associated Hebrew School's Danilack Middle School stand at the Kotel in Jerusalem during a recent community leadership mission to Israel. In honour of their bar and bat mitzvahs, they were among 60 people on the trip, which was organized by State of Israel Bonds, the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem and the Association for the Soldiers of Israel. Trip highlights included meeting the family of kidnapped soldier Ehud Goldwasser and visits to sites in northern Israel. From left are Oren Saskin, Michael Saskin, Jonah Stern, Aliza Saskin, Joshua Jesin, Carly Goldberg, Ilana Wurman, Sarah Shiff, Hayley Pollak, Michal Lipsitz, Michael Zagdanski, Russell Handelman, and David Singer.

Greater Toronto Area

Ceasefire could revive peace talks: Peace Now

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel should use the recently proclaimed ceasefire in the Gaza Strip to restart the peace process with the Palestinians, says Yariv Oppenheimer, general director of Peace Now.

Although he fears the truce will not endure, Oppenheimer nevertheless regards it as an opportunity for both sides to move away from the present cycle of violence.

"My bet is that this ceasefire won't last for more than a month or two, and that we'll be back to square one," he said in an interview last week.

Previous ceasefires have come and gone, he noted somberly. "But I hope I'm wrong about this one. You never know in the Middle East. Yet I have to say that this is a very fragile truce."

Here at the invitation of Hillel and Canadian Friends of Peace Now, Oppenheimer was in Canada on his first-ever visit. Apart from Toronto, he was scheduled to stop in Montreal and Ottawa before proceeding to the United States.

Oppenheimer, 30, drew encouragement from Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's recent statement in which he voiced a willingness to give up large swaths of the West Bank and ease the system of checkpoints there in exchange for what he described as "real peace" with the Palestinians.

"It's a positive statement, but it's not a policy yet," he said. "It's too early to say whether it's a significant step or just public relations."

Until the ceasefire was announced, Oppenheimer was "disappointed " by Olmert's performance. He rejected a peace plan jointly presented by Spain, France and Italy, and he rebuffed overtures by Syria.

But now that he wants to engage the Palestinians in negotiations, Olmert should open a direct channel to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, agree to free Palestinian prisoners so that captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit can be released and end the siege of the Gaza Strip, Oppenheimer said.

A peace process that brings economic benefits to Palestinians at large could well induce militants in the Gaza Strip to stop firing Qassam rockets into Israel, he said, adding that a resolution of the Palestinian problem will prevent Iran from exploiting it for its own ends throughout the Arab world.

Israel's policy of targeting Palestinian militants for assassination may save Jewish lives in the short run, he said. But over the longer term, this policy will be counterproductive and produce still more radical Palestinians.

Taking issue with the conventional wisdom in Israel that Abbas is too weak and ineffective to be a reliable partner, Oppenheimer argued that he is is, in fact, a suitable interlocutor. "Abbas is the most moderate Palestinian leader we can imagine," he said, urging Israel to strengthen him by offering the Palestinians tangible concessions.

"You have to give the Palestinians a feeling that political progress is possible," he said, citing as an example the creation of a Palestinian state with provisional borders.

'The Palestinians aren't prepared to compromise on the refugee problem, and Israel is not ready for a division of Jerusalem'
—Yariv Oppenheimer

Beyond this, neither Israel nor the Palestinians have reached the point where final status talks can begin, observed Oppenheimer, who has been Peace Now's general director for the past four years.

"The Palestinians aren't prepared to compromise on the refugee problem, and Israel is not ready for a division of Jerusalem."

Oppenheimer is not partial to any particular peace plan. "We're not in love with any single plan, but we'll support any two-state initiative."

In the face of the continuing radicalization of the Muslim world, he is convinced that Israel must forge lasting and effective relationships with moderate Arab states and Palestinian figures and then pursue peace with them.

As he puts it in an essay: "Only with such policies can we sideline radical Islam and ensure a secure future for Israel. The continuation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict only plays into the hands of the radicals and weakens the Israeli army and Israel's legitimacy in the eyes of the world."

In his view, Israel should negotiate with Hamas if it accepts a two-state solution and drops two major demands: a prior Israeli withdrawal from the territories and the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their former homes in what is now Israel.

Oppenheimer said that no Palestinian leader, even Abbas, would countenance Olmert's plan to retain 10 per cent of the West Bank, with its major settlement blocs, unless Israel is willing to make an equitable land swap.

"We'll have to go back, more or less, to the pre-1967 lines. Israel created this precedent in the peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan and in the unilateral disengagement from the Gaza Strip."

As for the Palestinian refugees, they should be resettled in a future Palestinian state, he noted.

"We support the idea of a security fence if it is built along Israel's [current] border, but we have problems with its route through the West Bank. Israel is trying to use the fence to steal land from the Palestinians."

Oppenheimer said that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are a clear obstacle to peace. "Without them, we could have had a two-state solution decades ago."

The settlements will destroy the "Zionist dream," declared Oppenheimer, whose organization recently released information to the media claiming that almost 40 per cent of the settlements in the West Bank are situated on land privately owned by Palestinians.

Alluding to demographic concerns, he said that Israel will be doomed to a twilight existence if it keeps the settlements. "We won't be a Jewish state or a democratic state. We'll lose our ability to protect ourselves. We'll have to keep fighting the Muslim world. We'll be internationally isolated. Altogether, the settlements don't make much sense."

He assumes that Olmert will dismantle unauthorized outposts in the West Bank should there be a peace agreement with the Palestinians. He expressed surprise that Olmert's predecessor, Ariel Sharon, didn't take down these outposts when he abandoned the Gaza settlements in 2005.

Asked whether Israel should accept Syria's offer for a resumption of bilateral peace negotiations, Oppenheimer replied, "Let's talk. Maybe Syria is serious. Let's embrace this opportunity."

Oppenheimer cautioned Israel not to unilaterally attack Iran's nuclear facilities. Israel should quietly push the international community to take action against Iran, whether through sanctions or military force.

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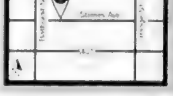

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UJA Federation reaches out to Israelis in Toronto

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Galya Sarner says her own marriage is a good example of how Israelis and Canadian-born Jews can enrich each other's lives.

Israeli Forum to fight prejudice

please see page 18

The 44-year-old Jerusalem native, whose husband, Robert, was born and raised in Toronto, has been working for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto since September 2005, doing outreach to the local Israeli community.

As strategic community planner for the federation's Israeli community project, Sarner – whose master's thesis focused on how Russian olim adjust to life in Israel – has worked on developing "a strategy to bring the Israeli community closer to the [greater] Jewish community."

There's "obviously a gap" between the Israeli community in Toronto and the rest of the Jewish community here, Sarner admits. "Otherwise, I wouldn't be here."

She doesn't feel the gap is "that deep, but maybe I'm an optimistic person." Progress has been made, she said, but "there is still a lot of work to do."

David Gidron – former director of the Israeli House, part of the Israeli Consulate in Toronto, before he returned to Israel this summer – told *The CJN* before he left that the federation initiative is "a big step. For the first time, there's a sense of dialogue and openness.

"I think you would say there's definitely an improvement. But there's still a large part of the community that's skeptical.

"I think the federation has these boxes it's used to working with. If you fit in, everything is wonderful – existing youth movements, denominations, schools. The Israeli community is a bit different because it's [largely] secular. Only part is in the Jewish schools."

Gidron said what unites Israelis "is the great pride of being Israeli, and a very deep relationship with Israel that is very different than that of any Canadian Jew, no matter how much he loves Israel."

But based on interviews last year with "hundreds" of Toronto Israelis, Sarner said they do want to be part of the "Canadian" community. However, they feel "very much excluded."

Reflecting what may be a recent change in Israelis' attitude toward the federation, the "Israeli" campaign – part of the federation's Israel emergency campaign this summer – raised $160,000 in one day, more than quadrupling her expectations, Sarner said.

Also, the Israeli Forum (see accompanying article), a group of 10 high-profile businessmen headed by Gil Blutrich, officially became part of UJA Federation in late October. Sarner was instrumental in bringing the mostly Israeli group together late last year, in part to address the apparent lack of a "solid leader that would bring together the Israeli community [in Toronto]."

While much of Sarner's role focuses on bringing Israelis into the federation fold and "meeting their cultural needs" with programs in Hebrew, the idea behind the Israeli Forum, she said, was also to bring the Israeli community closer to the "Canadian" community. "Its vision is to serve the Israeli Canadian community, but to be part of UJA."

Galya Sarner

How much of her job has to do with fundraising? She *is* a fundraiser, she said, and she is becoming "more and more proud of it.

"I understand that without money, nothing would happen here," she said, referring to cultural events and issues like the building and running of schools and synagogues.

Sarner said the time has also come for the Israeli Canadian community to stand behind the idea that money makes things happen.

Cultural events such as a recent movie screening, and the opening of a new Hebrew-language Sunday school are also part of the federation's outreach.

The screening of *Avi Avi* – a Hebrew-language film directed by Israeli Canadian Avi Lev that tells the story of two Israeli immigrants here – together with an art exhibit of paintings done for the film and an English-language panel discussion after the screening provided "a beautiful integration of the Israeli and non-Israeli communities," Sarner said, adding that more than 300 people attended.

Kachol-Lavan, the new Hebrew-language Sunday school, teaches about Israeli tradition and would welcome non-Israeli students, Sarner said. In terms of integration with non-Israelis, she said it's "only the beginning. Every day we try to add another layer.

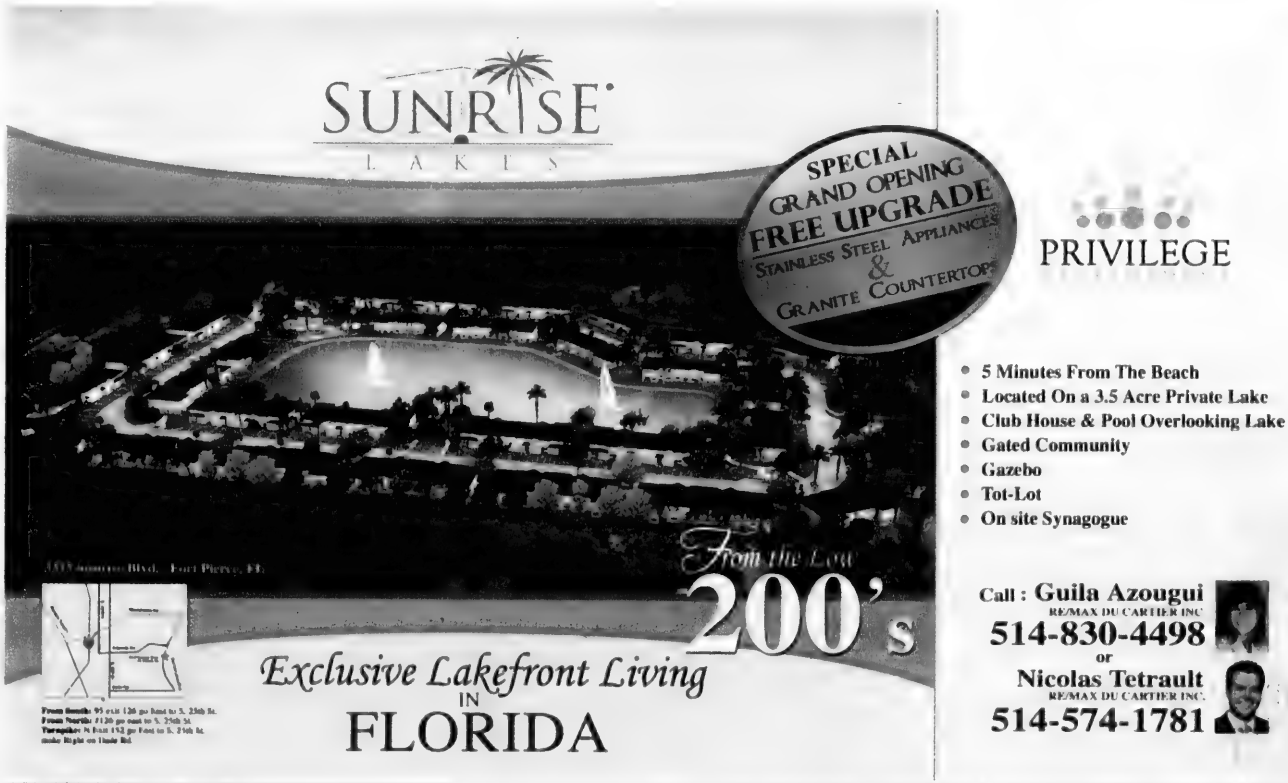
"The second part of [our] vision is that we would like to be a strong [integrated] community."

Toronto has one of the largest Israeli Diaspora communities in the world, according to federation spokesperson Howard English.

There are more than 32,000 Israelis in Toronto, not including younger community members who were born here but consider themselves Israeli, Sarner added.

"We felt there [would be] an enormous amount of benefit both to the Israeli Canadian community, the rest of the [Jewish] community and the federation, by helping make sure the Israeli Canadian community was more integrated," English said.

Continued on page 18



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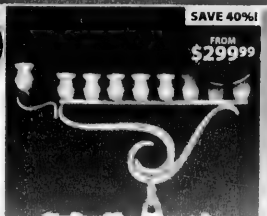
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Sow the wind, reap the whirlwind

Iran is now more brazenly trying to bring about a change in Lebanon's governing regime. Its well-armed, fanatic Shia surrogate in south Lebanon, Hezbollah, has demanded that Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora and his government resign. To bring this about, the group staged a massive anti-government rally last week in the very courtyard of the Beirut parliament, vowing not to surrender the town square until the government falls. Indeed, at this writing, more than two days after the rally, hundreds of Hezbollah-led, anti-government demonstrators are still encamped on the streets calling for Siniora's ouster.

Syria, Iran's ally in the campaign of fomenting terror against Israel and instability against broader western interests in the region, also supports Hezbollah's call for Siniora's overthrow. No wonder. The Assad rulers in Damascus are widely believed to have been responsible for the killing of staunchly pro-Lebanese sovereigntists Rafik Hariri earlier this year and Pierre Gemayel just last month. They are trying to prevent the Lebanese government from finding the culprits in those murders. Indeed, six Hezbollah cabinet ministers quit the government some weeks ago to try to undermine the creation of a special tribunal to investigate the Hariri killing.

The fall of Siniora's government would permanently derail the investigation into the Hariri and Gemayel murders, and the resulting anarchy would certainly forestall, if not prevent, the delivery of hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign aid that European countries have promised for the rebuilding of Lebanon. The withholding of reconstruction funds would further serve the interests of Hezbollah and Iran.

Siniora immediately accused Hezbollah last week of trying to instigate a coup. In response, he deployed the army in a security cordon around government buildings.

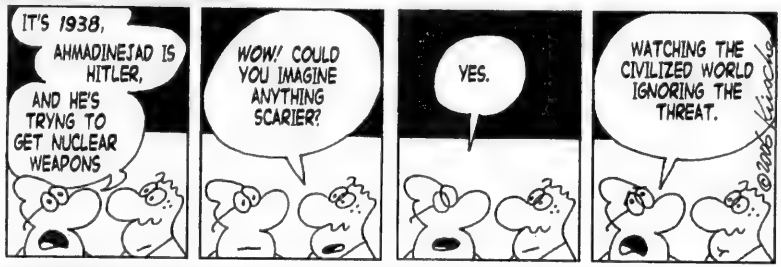
We doubt however, that he was surprised. He knew very well the true, thuggish nature of his Hezbollah co-legislators. They held the entire country hostage last summer when they launched their war against Israel. Siniora is paying the price now for having some months ago surrendered Lebanon's sovereignty to Hezbollah.

Having sown Hezbollah's hot eastern wind of fanaticism and gangsterism, he is now reaping its dire and dangerous whirlwind.

The situation is extremely tense. Jerusalem, Washington and Europe are carefully monitoring developments. But so, too, are Cairo, Amman and Riyadh. King Abdullah of Jordan, the Saudi monarch Abdullah and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak have all expressed support for the Siniora government and warned of the chaos that would ensue if the putative Iranian and Syrian-sponsored putschers were to prevail. They fear the encroachment of triumphalist, Shiite Iran. So should we all.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

The first-ever national conference on Jews with disabilities was held in Toronto, and it heard proposals about making the full range of Jewish religious, educational, recreational and social services available to disabled people in Jewish communities across Canada. Shul and educational representatives promised to make infrastructural and program changes a priority in the future.



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Election date conflicts with holiday (1)

Before the provincial election next fall, there will be at least two weeks during which citizens can vote at a riding election office ("Ont. election date conflicts with Shemini Atzeret," *CJN*, Nov. 30). There will also be four or five days before the election when they can go to a community centre closer to home to vote as well. While it is true that observant Jews will not be able to work on election day, there is no reason not to support candidates, campaign or even vote, if we look at the election the way it truly is, several days of voting and not a single eight-hour event.

Michael Feldbloom
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Election date conflicts with holiday (2)

It is outrageous that the Ontario government has set a date for the 2007 provincial election that coincides with a major Jewish holiday. Advance polls won't fix the problem, since they are less convenient, and less well known, so inevitably many, if not most, affected people will end up not voting. And voting is not the only issue. In a democracy, the ability to work on election day to "get the vote out" is a crucial right.

Michael Orr
Toronto

* * *

Applauds Harper, MacKay on Israel

As a Canadian Jew living in Israel, I applaud both Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Foreign Minister Peter MacKay for their consistent position in support of Israel's self-defence in the face of the many external threats it faces ("Harper's pro-Israel position sparks a debate," Kirshner File, *CJN*, Nov. 16). That they have not wavered in light of domestic and international pressure to change their approach is a testimony to principle over expediency in political life.

While I can appreciate the view of one of your correspondents ("Vote Conservative?" Toronto letters, *CJN*, Nov. 16) that Canadian Jews as voters must take into account many issues, committed Jews confront a real dilemma in elections when the stakes for Israel are as high as they are today. That prominent Canadian Jewish politicians and business leaders who are Liberals have stepped forward to support a Conservative prime minister for his position on Israel indicates their recognition that Israel today faces threats to its very existence of an unprecedented nature.

Martin S. Kalson
Ginot Shomron, Israel

* * *

Missing Yemenite babies

Although Rabbi Yehiel Ben Ayon does not accept the explanation offered by the State of Israel as to the missing Yemenite babies –"But the claim that hundreds died is impossible," he writes – he allows Israel to shirk its responsibility in correcting this terrible injustice ("The lost children of Yemen – Pt. 2," *CJN*, Nov. 23). He also writes: "The whole truth of this episode will remain a mystery."

With today's technology and scientific know-how, it should be quite simple for all willing and interested Yemenite people who suspect they were victimized more than 50 years ago to enter their DNA information into a central data bank that would cross-reference for familial match. Parents and children and siblings could, and would, be reunited.

Dr. Sam Spodek
Toronto

* * *

Same-sex marriages

The recent 6-1 decision of the Israeli High Court of Justice to recognize same-sex marriages performed is truly cause for celebration ("High court orders ministry to register gay marriages," *CJN*, Nov. 30). How wonderful that the same-sex couples, married at Toronto's City Hall, have publicly celebrated Israeli democracy.

Joanne Cohen
Toronto

* * *

Crucial details missing

The anti-Israel rallies at York University and the University of Toronto are becoming all too frequent and very alarming. What is more alarming, however, is the lack of crucial details that were missing in your article ("Anti-Israel activists rally at York, U of T", *CJN*, Nov. 23).

I wish to point out that York's newest group, Network, headed by Mike Khardas, did all of the leg work to get students to stand up to the anti-Israel propaganda.

Hardworking organizations such as Hagshama and Aish Campus are making incredible contributions to campus and very often get overlooked.

Ben Feferman
Canadian campus co-ordinator
Hasbara Fellowships

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Israel: a brand we can be proud of

By LARRY WEINBERG

In the summer of 2003, former prime minister Ariel Sharon told *Newsweek* magazine: "Because of the conflict, we [Israelis] often have a gun in our hand, and the world cannot see the fields in which we lead and the good things we do."

This observation begs two questions: if Israel holds a gun in one hand, what does she do with her other hand, and why doesn't the world see that hand as well? This creates a useful metaphor to use in exploring whether or not Israel should "brand" itself.

Sad and true is the fact that Israelis must be vigilant about security – it is necessary for many to bear arms every day. Yet, it is also true that each day, many more Israelis do other things, things that add value to life around the world. They conduct research into diseases and create medicines and devices to better treat those diseases. They create art, films, literature and music that make the world more beautiful. They invent technologies that make the world safer, businesses more efficient and life a bit easier. They raise families that love and celebrate life. Every day, Israelis use one hand for defence and the other to make the world a better place.

And yet, as Sharon noted, this goes unseen by the world.

The *Jerusalem Post* reported that the Foreign Ministry recently convened a group of marketing professionals – largely volunteers – to brainstorm and discuss Israel's brand in the world.

Israel, like every entity, company, product or nation, has a brand. The question considered was what Israelis should do to better manage theirs. Some critics and some media have used the term "makeover" to describe the branding process, but it is neither correct nor fair.

"A brand is a promise; a good brand is a promise kept," noted one expert who spoke. What then are the promises Israel and her people make to the world, and are they kept? Well, Israel promises that it will defend its people, its sovereignty and its existence as a democratic Jewish state, no matter what. The history of the past 58 years shows how well this promise has been kept at the cost of many brave lives, and research on Israel's brand shows how completely this reality has shaped Israel's current brand in the world.

But is security the only thing about Israelis the world should see or know? The question for the branding group, myself among them, became, "What else can Israelis promise – and deliver on – to show the world who they are?"

The answer is found in the essence of who Israelis are and what kind of society they create, and that is what the essence of Israel's brand must be. It must include the reality of the security issues of course, the hand already seen. But the reality of what Israel is in the 21st century can only be shown through the work of the other hand, the one it uses to be a valuable member of the world community each day, and through the lives led by Israelis each day.

So the branding work group started a process that can be completed by ordinary Israelis only when they embrace a vision and make the promises that will complete Israel's brand. Claims in the press that the brand will show Israel to be a fun, libertine paradise blissfully unaware or unaffected by the rigours of the conflict are at best oversimplifications and at worst determined misinformation.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni's admirable desire to close the gap between world perceptions of Israel and the reality of Israel is as legitimate a purpose as defence of the nation's security measures or the pursuit of political justice. The branding process doesn't pre-empt or replace these efforts, it augments them. It asks the world to know Israelis by the full scope of their society.

Some believe Israel is best served by focusing attention on the evils of her enemies. Elections are sometimes won by negative campaigns, but in the long term, respect and affinity – what marketers refer to as brand equity – can only be earned by focusing on the positive. With Israelis creating so much value for so many, there is much that is positive to focus on and great potential for success.

Ariel Sharon was only partly right: the world sees the gun because that's the only Israeli hand that is seen. It's time for Israelis to hold that other hand up high – the one that makes the world a better place, the one that creates a vibrant society and celebrates life, the one that embraces all colours and creeds. And while they're at it, Israelis ought to hold their heads high, too. They have a lot to be proud of. It's time to tell the world.

Larry Weinberg is executive vice-president of ISRAEL21c, a media organization focusing on 21st-century Israel.

Research will lead to early diagnosis of cancer

By DAVID BRINN

As a child growing up in the mixed Jewish-Arab Israeli city of Nazareth, Hossam Haick loved to do puzzles.

"One puzzle leads to a solution, but often the solution leads to another puzzle," says the 31-year-old faculty member of the Technion school of chemical engineering.

"In science, as in childhood, there are a lot of puzzles. Studying for my bachelor's degree at Ben-Gurion University, I began to think more about puzzles in science and found that it attracted me," he says, explaining why he chose a career in science.

Now, his research could one day result in a novel cancer treatment breakthrough. The European Union recently awarded Haick the Marie Curie Action excellence grant totalling $2.2 million (US), for the development of an artificial olfactory system (an electronic nose) that can sniff out cancer.

Israeli scientist Hossam Haick is seen in his laboratory.

"I'm really pleased to have received the grant – it's very prestigious. We submitted a proposal back in January, and only a couple of weeks ago, received a message about winning the grant," Haick says.

"There's a great deal of satisfaction, but there's also the challenge ahead of continuing in the right direction and developing our ideas for the project in the most effective manner."

Haick's proposal was for a program to develop an electronic device based on nanometer-sized sensors that will become an artificial olfactory system that can detect cancer from the breath of the patient.

"You simply exhale on the instrument, and it will tell if the person is healthy or has cancer. It can also distinguish between types of cancer, and most importantly, at which stage the cancer has developed," says Haick, adding that in its initial stage, the electronic nose is intended to sniff out and diagnose lung cancer which afflicts millions of Americans.

"In our research, we already showed that, using nanosensors, it is possible to differentiate between a healthy human being and one with cancer. The challenge for us and for the project is to differentiate between the different stages of the disease."

The diagnosis can be carried out at a very early stage even before a tumour has formed, Haick says. Treatment will then be immediate and will destroy the disease at its inception.

"Most imaging techniques are limited in their detection ability by the size of the tumour. If it's less than a specific size, then it won't be detected. In our technology, we can detect cancer from the breath at the very early stages before the tumour has even formed. This can increase the survival rate by four or five times. It's very significant," he says.

> 'Israeli science is very developed and well known'

No stranger to the technology surrounding electronic noses, Haick, who completed his PhD at the Technion, recently spent two years as a senior lecturer at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). His area of research there was in electronic instruments based on nanomaterials and electronic noses.

"The group that I worked with developed electronic noses and devices for the NASA space shuttle, so I received some good training," says Haick. The fact that he came from Israel was considered a plus by his colleagues at Caltech.

"Israeli science is very developed and well known… we're respected within the science community throughout the world."

Haick will be using that respect to recruit a dozen researchers from abroad and Israel to join his team. With the grant and additional funds he received from the Technion through the Russell Berrie Nanotechnology Institute, he is setting up a laboratory that will include equipment valued at more than $1 million.

"Before I received the grant, I had already set up my own lab on campus through the Russell Berrie Foundations and supported by the Technion. But now with the grant, I can develop the lab more and get more essential equipment, and it will enable me to hire researchers, both from Israel and from outside the country. One of the clauses in the grant is to form an 'excellence team' consisting of researchers not only from Israel but also from the European Commission," he explains.

At the end of the four-year project, Haick hopes his team will reach their goal of developing a cancer-sniffing device that can be commercialized.

Haick lives in Haifa near the Technion with his wife, a chemist with a degree in food and biotechnological engineering who works with the Israeli Ministry of Health. During last summer's war in the north, the couple decided to stay in their apartment.

"During the war it wasn't easy. And although the political situation wasn't promising, I continued to go to the Technion every day and work on science. We didn't leave the city, or our home."

Haick looks back at his puzzle-filled childhood with a mixture of wonder and fulfilment that it has led to such recognition in the science world.

"I gradually entered that loop of puzzle-solution, puzzle-solution and I've never gotten out. So, I'm still practising my hobby and I'm also making science which is benefiting the world."

David Brinn is editorial director of ISRAEL21c.

Opinions

Inhuman shields

The deployment of civilians to protect combatants is not a new phenomenon. Seen during hostilities in such places as Algeria, Serbia, and Iraq, and evident as well during the Palestinian intifadah and the war in Lebanon, this abominable tactic has more recently been used to thwart Israel's fight against terrorism in Gaza.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

We'll recall that in early November, following an appeal broadcast on Hamas radio, scores of women rushed to a mosque in the town of Beit Hanoun, where Palestinian gunmen were in the midst of a standoff with the Israel Defence Forces. As a result of their interference, all the terrorists were able to escape, many disguised in robes provided by their "rescuers."

Then, later in November, Mohammed Baroud, who heads a group called the Popular Resistance Committee and who is known to co-ordinate rocket attacks on Israel, was able to attract hundreds of local Palestinian supporters to his home in northern Gaza, just before the structure was to be demolished by the IDF. To avoid civilian casualties, the planned airstrike was cancelled.

Gathering on rooftops and balconies and in the streets below, protesters chanting "Death to Israel, death to America," trumpeted their "victory" and vowed to repeat their collective expression of defiance against Israel. Palestinian Prime Minister, Ismail Haniyeh, in a personal appearance at Baroud's residence, praised the action and those who participated in it.

A few hours later, a second shield preempted a similarly planned strike on the home of Hamas operative Mohammed Nawajeh.

But in what has been considered by some as an uncharacteristically blunt rebuke, the New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) declared that the Palestinians' endorsement of human shields is a clear violation of international humanitarian law.

"There is no excuse for calling civilians to the scene of a planned attack", said Sarah Whitson, HRW's Middle East director. "Whether or not the home is a legitimate military target, knowingly asking civilians to stand in harm's way is unlawful".

Not surprisingly, there are differing opinions regarding civilians who become embedded in theatres of armed conflict, either voluntarily or forcibly. Some believe that no matter what the circumstance, such interveners are to be regarded as non-combatants and are thereby immune from attack. Others argue that there must be a clear distinction between those who are coerced versus those who willingly assume their role. It could be contended that the latter, acting as no less than terrorist helpers, do not deserve to be protected.

Regardless of whether or not the latest ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinians holds, the moral issues that face the IDF on how to deal with human shields warrant serious re-examination – and sooner rather than later.

Parting thoughts on Israel's vulnerability

As I write this, my final monthly *CJN* column, 2½ years after penning my first, I look back and realize, to my great sorrow, that what I began in the nightmare days of suicide bombings, I am rounding off as the nightmare scenario of an even greater threat to Israel and Israelis, a nuclear one, looms on the horizon.

Ross Culiner in Jerusalem

Back in 2004, I was convinced that I had experienced the worst of days in this country, extremes of barbarity that I was unlikely to encounter again in this lifetime.

I was, it now seems, naïve. I'd forgotten that in the Middle East, there are no limits to how far people will descend into savagery. And as the instruments of murder and destruction increase in ferocity, in this instance taking on a doomsday dimension, there is scarce little that will inhibit certain ideological fanatics in our neighbourhood from seriously contemplating how best to employ them in realizing demonic objectives – obliterating other countries not excepted.

No longer does one hear vague and cautious scholarly assessments about a potential future threat from Iran some years down the line. Rather, the talk is of a few months down the line, and the tone is marked by stridency and urgency. For when a soon-to-be nuclear dictatorship openly vows genocide of the Jewish people, that Jewish people had better take care. But how, exactly?

Oh yes, it's nice to know, as was recently made clear, that the American president would be most understanding if our country was to launch a pre-emptive attack against Iran. But when someone is perfectly understanding of others doing something, it generally means they have no intention of doing it themselves. In light of the troubles in Iraq these days, that makes complete sense. But if George W. Bush won't help us, who in heaven will? Israel is a midget confronting a sprawling giant, and Iran's nuclear program is no Osirak reactor, which was a one-shot affair.

Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, in a speech to the recent UJC General Assembly in Los Angeles, drew analogies to Munich in 1938 while describing the present paralysis and short-sightedness of the western nations in dealing with this crisis. Indeed, then as now, the Jews, it appears, are in the sights of a malevolent and tyrannical power while the world stands by and watches. Then, as now – though the realization is painful – we may really be quite defenceless should Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad act with the same unbridled decisiveness and defiance that has marked his behaviour thus far.

Yes, defenceless. There are limits to Jewish power, even with a state of our own. A tiny, compact nation in which most people live crowded together offers easy pickings. Need we be reminded that a short four months ago, quite aware of Israel's inherent vulnerability, an organized collection of thugs in southern Lebanon armed with giant firecrackers stashed in underground holes held our country hostage for weeks while our vaunted military hemmed and hawed ineffectively? In light of that "awakening," we can only wonder whether our defence establishment, in patent disarray at the highest levels, embroiled in internal disputes, is up to the task of protecting us against the mortal threats of a scientifically sophisticated society in a vast and near land that openly declares its intent to destroy us.

Don't kid yourselves. This is no Entebbe, or even a Six Day War. The glory days of little David ingeniously battling the dark forces of evil with deftness and cunning are a thing of the romantic past. The powers of evil have taken on a combination of unlikely qualities: at once cataclysmic in their proportions, yet as evasive as phantoms. They are highly motivated, technologically astute and much emboldened as America founders in Iraq and "mighty" Israel wallows in internal weakness, scandal, corruption and loss of heart after a bungled operation in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the Qassams rain down on us, the Gaza disengagement has proven a disaster and Palestinian society is on the brink of implosion and explosion.

Sadly, my period with *The CJN* began and ends with existential threats – some from within, some from without.

In desperate need of leadership – leadership that can inspire and galvanize us for mortal combat – we look about in vain.

Culiner@netvision.net.il

Preparing for the post-Bush era

The sweeping Democratic victory in the recent U.S. congressional elections signals a major shift in American policy, particularly with respect to Iraq. After six years of uncontested neo-conservative leadership, in both the White House and Congress, U.S. voters expressed dissatisfaction with the results, in no uncertain terms. And President George W. Bush acknowledged that the effort to bring democracy to the Middle East, beginning with Baghdad, is not going well.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

As a result, Israeli policymakers must also prepare for the coming changes in U.S. policy. In 2001, Israelis were concerned that Bush would resume his father's close cooperation with Arab oil producers and squeeze Israel in the search for an unrealistic peace agreement with the Palestinians and Syria.

But this administration recognized that the failure of peace efforts was due to Palestinian rejectionism and weakness in the face of terror, and in 2002, Bush broke off all ties with then-Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat. Similarly, the invasion of Iraq and the toppling of Saddam Hussein signalled a new level of U.S. involvement in the opposition to extremist Arab dictators. For Israelis, it appeared that the Americans finally understood regional realities.

However, the faith in democracy was overdone, and the United States failed to come up with a workable post-invasion strategy. As the violence and chaos in Iraq increased, Iran's power as a regional superpower also grew. In the process, the United States lost the leverage that might have forced Tehran to give up, or at least postpone, its nuclear weapons efforts, and Israeli deterrence was also weakened. The need for a different approach was clear.

Ironically, the political defeat for the Bush administration may revive America's will and force the development of a more successful strategy for Iraq. The Democratic critics of the previous policies may realize that they can't simply withdraw and pretend that Islamist violence and terror will disappear – precisely the opposite can be expected from a precipitous exit of U.S. forces. A new consensus-based American policy, based on containment of the radical forces in both Iraq and Iran, rather than efforts to impose stability through a large military presence, could lead to a revived deterrent capability, particularly vis-à-vis the Iranian leadership.

At the same time, the Americans – Congress and the White House together – will also need to devise and implement a realistic approach to Syria and Lebanon.

Bush and his advisers isolated and denounced the Syrian leadership under Bashar Assad for involvement in assassinations in Lebanon and in promoting Iraqi terror. However, a new commission appointed by Bush and led by James Baker (secretary of state under the previous Bush administration and a well-known Arabist) appears to be ready to do business again with the Syrians.

Damascus has taken advantage of its newfound influence in Washington, renewing assassinations in Beirut. The confused signals from Washington have already done considerable damage and must be replaced with a consistent approach.

The six years of the Bush administration have also demonstrated the limits of the unilateral application of American power and principle. With numerous threats around the world – from North Korea to Iran – U.S. policymakers now realize that they depend on co-operation from the other major powers, including Europe, China and Russia. As in the past, Israel will probably be forced to pay a price in this process, particularly when Europe becomes involved.

In facing these challenges, the return of the policies that were dominant during the Clinton era, based on empty rhetoric not backed by force, would further encourage radical Islamist triumphalism. If the Democratic leadership in Congress promotes the type of toothless internationalism based on the illusion of a serious role for the United Nations, the results for the United States, Israel and the West will be disastrous.

The most important test is not in Iraq, but rather the Iranian effort to achieve nuclear weapons. Unless the Americans – Republicans and Democrats together – can develop a realistic policy and enlist the cooperation of the other major powers, Israel will have to be prepared to confront Iran on its own.

The Kirshner File

The unintended consequences of democracy

Shortly after 19 Arab hijackers affiliated with Al Qaeda launched co-ordinated attacks in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, the Bush administration declared war on the forces of international terrorism.

In short order, the United States invaded Afghanistan to crush the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban regime that had aided and abetted Al Qaeda. Washington, however, quickly realized that terrorism could not be combated by military means alone. It was understood that the underlying causes of terrorism in the Arab world, from poverty to residual rage over the legacy of western colonialism, had to be addressed.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Seizing on democratization as a panacea for the various ills and discontents that plague the region, and mindful of the fact that totalitarian Japan and Germany had been led out of the darkness by a systematic program of democratic reforms, Washington concluded that Jeffersonian democracy could be applied to the Middle East. Although it is a region awash in autocracy, the United States saw no reason why the trappings of liberal democracy – free elections, an independent judiciary, an unfettered press, transparent institutions designed to serve the public good – could not be transferred to the Middle East.

To officials in the Bush administration who devised this doctrine, democracy – the highest form of universal governance – was suitable for all societies, regardless of their political, cultural, religious or historical backgrounds, and could be used to combat Islamic terrorism, a new strategic threat to the United States and its allies in the Middle East.

Convinced that the infusion of democracy into the Middle East would be of benefit to all, U.S. President George W. Bush announced an old, new doctrine that has come to define his administration.

In a speech he delivered in London on Nov. 19, 2003, only eight months after the allied invasion of Iraq, Bush said: "Democracy, and the hope and progress it brings, are the alternatives to instability and to hatred and terror. We cannot rely exclusively on military power to assure our long-term security. Lasting peace is gained as justice and democracy advance… And democratic governments do not shelter terrorist camps."

Acknowledging that Washington's approach to the region was outdated, Bush declared, "We must shake off decades of failed policy in the Middle East. We have been willing to make a bargain to tolerate oppression for the sake of stability. Longstanding ties often led us to overlook the faults of local elites. Yet this bargain did not bring stability or make us safe. It merely bought time while problems festered and ideologies of violence took hold."

Building on this theme, Bush promised to allocate considerable funds to promote democracy. He had reason to assume that Arabs might be receptive to his upbeat message. With the demise of communism in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, a minority of Arab intellectuals, academics and journalists in such countries as Egypt and Syria had been emboldened to sing the praises of democracy.

Since then, Bush's secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, has constantly harped on the theme. Last year, in a blunt challenge to U.S. Arab allies, she called on Egypt and Saudi Arabia to embrace democracy, release political prisoners and allow free expression and rights for women.

Like Bush, she admitted that American Mideast policy had been self-serving and short-sighted. As he put it at the American University in Cairo, "For 60 years, [we] pursued stability at the expense of democracy in this region. Now we are taking a different course. We are supporting the democratic aspirations of all people."

Although Bush remains committed to the idea of bringing democracy to the Middle East, particularly in Iraq, where the United States is mired in what seems like an unwinnable insurgency, he now probably realizes that it could be inimical to the interests of the United States and its regional allies.

But in promoting the flowering of democracy, Bush supported fair and clean elections in the Palestinian autonomous areas, Lebanon, Egypt and Iraq. Ironically, though, the primary effect of these elections was to empower Islamic parties that oppose the American presence in the Middle East, virtually all forms of Western influence and Israel's existence.

In the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Hamas – the Islamic Resistance Movement – swept Fatah out of office by a wide margin and thereby set back the chances of a negotiated settlement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Hamas, whose charter clearly calls for Israel's destruction, refuses to accede to widespread demands to recognize the Jewish state, renounce terrorism and accept previous agreements signed by the Palestinian Authority and Israel. As a result, Israel has severed links with the Palestinian Authority, international donors have cut off the flow of much-needed aid to the Palestinians and Hamas has been unable to pay the salaries of 160,000 government employees.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

These turns of events have produced a humanitarian crisis and further unrest and chaos and possibly set the stage for an armed showdown between Hamas and Fatah, which could yet touch off a civil war. Given the absence of any real authority in Gaza, Palestinian radicals fired Qassam rockets into Israel. In the face of these brazen attacks, and in light of last summer's war in Lebanon, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert shelved plans for a unilateral withdrawal from parts of the West Bank. This is not what Bush had in mind when he talked about the virtues of Arab-style democracy. But thanks to a new though brittle truce in Gaza, the situation may improve.

In Lebanon, elections have benefited Hezbollah, which is backed by two anti-American powers, Iran and Syria. Buoyed by its electoral gains and by arms shipments from Tehran and Damascus, Hezbollah foolhardily provoked Israel into launching a war in Lebanon. The war has strengthened Hezbollah, shaken the pro-western government in Beirut and enhanced Iran's status in Lebanon. On the heels of these developments and the assassination of Christian Maronite cabinet minister Pierre Gemayel two weeks ago, Hezbollah is jockeying for yet more power.

In Egypt, what passes for elections brought the Muslim Brotherhood additional gains. President Hosni Mubarak's National Democratic party won in a landslide yet again, but observers speculated that the Muslim Brotherhood would have emerged triumphant had the elections not been rigged.

Egyptians are tired of Mubarak's authoritarian rule, his lip service to democracy and his intolerance of serious political opponents such as Ayman Nour, who was imprisoned for five years for supposedly falsifying petitions to get himself on the ballot. They are also fed up with glaring economic imbalances, which condemn many to penury and uplift a few to wealth.

But if Mubarak were to be deposed in an Islamic coup, Egypt might repudiate its peace treaty with Israel, distance itself from the West, draw close to Iran and transform Egypt into a society governed by sharia law.

Mubarak, a former air force general who succeeded Anwar Sadat in 1981, believes that the Bush administration's vision of a New Middle East through democracy is naive at best and dangerous at worst.

Several months ago, in a stinging critique, he advised Bush to focus instead on the festering Arab-Israeli conflict. "The failure and stopping of the peace process is the essence of the problem in the Middle East," he said. "The time has come for international powers to recognize this fact and to deal with it…"

The advent of democracy in Iraq would be a wonderful thing after years of brutal Baathist misrule. But in the last Iraqi election a year ago, the fruits of democracy yielded a bitter taste. It solidified savage sectarian divisions and led to the formation of a Shiite-dominated government, whose leaders have been weaned on rigid Islamic principles and may yet fall under the tantalizing sway of Iran.

The dissemination of democratic values among the Arabs should theoretically be good for Israel, as former Israeli cabinet minister and Refusenik Natan Sharansky states in *The Case for Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny and Terror* and as Bush's national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, said recently.

But the sad truth is that democracy may elevate and legitimize politicians who will try to sweep away secular institutions, demonize Israel and the West and destabilize the region.

The unintended consequences of democracy in the Arab world may be too awful to even contemplate, much less live with.

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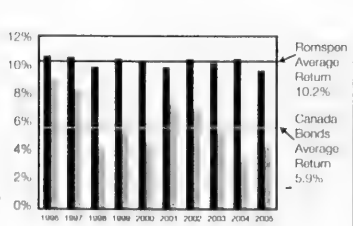

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Israel commentator delivers grim news on Mideast

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The strategic environment in the Middle East for Israel has changed to its disadvantage, says Ehud Ya'ari, one of Israel's leading pundits and lecturers.

In a grim survey of contemporary developments, he said that Israel's legitimacy is increasingly being questioned by Arabs, and he warned that Israel faces a new enemy in Lebanon due to Hezbollah's growing influence and that Iran, a former ally, has become "our worst adversary."

"The road will be bumpy and we better brace ourselves," he declared.

Ya'ari, Channel 2 TV's Mideast commentator and the *Jerusalem Report*'s associate editor, spoke at Holy Blossom Temple last week, delivering the final Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman lecture of the season.

Ya'ari, who has also written eight books on Israeli and Arab affairs, explained that advocacy of Israel's destruction was absent from Arab mainstream thinking since at least the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

"It wasn't on the agenda."

The general view in the Arab world was that Israel's "wings could be clipped" and that it could be contained and reduced to its "natural size" through a peace process.

But today, he observed, Israel's existence is on the table once again.

Ya'ari suggested that Muslim extremists, or "Islamofascists," are stoking the embers of this discourse.

In a review of their ideology, he said that they can't tolerate Israel, whatever its borders. As well, they believe that Jews are the bearers of corruption and that there are no historical or religious links between Judaism and Jerusalem, and they regard jihad as a primary Islamic obligation.

He added that a trinity of organizations and powers – Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran – belong to this school of Islam.

Ya'ari said that these Arabs are convinced that they have found an "answer" to western – and Israeli – technological and military superiority in the form of "constant and persistent warfare."

Last summer's war in Lebanon, which pitted Israel against Hezbollah, was perceived as an acid test of this doctrine.

"We've never fought such an enemy," he said.

Muslims who subscribe to this doctrine are neither interested in fighting over territory nor in conquering it, but rather in shedding blood and prolonging the battle, even if it requires generations.

The doctrine is underpinned by a "culture of death" in which suicide bombers are praised, he said.

These jihadists have nothing but contempt for moderate Arab regimes.

"This is what we're facing."

Since the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Arab regimes have generally not deployed their conventional armies against Israel, though Israel attacked Syria during its 1982 invasion of Lebanon and Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles at Israel in the 1991 Gulf War.

But now Israel finds itself up against non-conventional Arab armies: Hezbollah in Lebanon and Palestinian militias in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Both present "a complex challenge" to Israel, Ya'ari said.

"Israel was unable, we have to admit, to devise a proper response to this challenge," he said in reference to the recent war in Lebanon and the firing of Palestinian Qassam rockets into Israel.

Describing the second war in Lebanon as "a strategic tragedy" rather than "a strategic disaster," Ya'ari said Israel didn't exploit opportunities to deliver a knockout punch to Hezbollah.

Israel conducted the war in a half-hearted, improvisational fashion, he charged.

Meanwhile, the battlefront has shifted to Beirut, where Hezbollah is trying to seize control of Lebanon's government, he said.

Ya'ari added that if Israel allows Hamas to "militarize" the West Bank in the wake of the ceasefire in Gaza, Hamas will soon be able to manufacture Qassam rockets and thus threaten Israel's heartland.

According to Ya'ari, Hamas desperately wanted a truce to consolidate its power and arm itself.

In a dire warning, he said that if Israel doesn't move fast enough, the opportunity for a two-state solution will vanish into thin air.

A comprehensive agreement in which permanent-status issues are settled is currently beyond reach, he said.

What is now realistically attainable is an armistice accord in which the provisional boundaries of a Palestinian state are established and Israel withdraws from parts of the West Bank.

"This, it seems to be, is the only formula that can work."

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Qur'an contains no claim on Jerusalem: lecturer

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In the early years of Islam, Jerusalem served as the "axis of orientation" for Muhammad and his followers. Islam was "a primordial faith" that looked approvingly on the Old and New Testaments and accepted the Jewish and Christian prophets as its own.

Later, however, Muhammad turned to Mecca to pray and the Arabian city became the focal point of the emerging religion.

"That meant any future claims of Muslims on Jerusalem were taken away by an omniscient and merciful God."

That unexpected exegesis – that the Qur'an does not give Muslims a claim to the city of Jerusalem – was part of a thought-provoking lecture delivered by Salim Mansur at the inaugural Begin-Sadat Lecture last week.

The lecture coincided with the 25th anniversary of the murder of Anwar Sadat, the former president of Egypt. It was sponsored by the Canadian Coalition for Democracies (CCD), a non-partisan, multi-religious organization dedicated to the promotion of democracy.

Mansur, a professor of political science at the University of Western Ontario and senior fellow with the CCD, said Jerusalem remains holy in Islam and Muslims retain a spiritual connection to the city. "But it is not the centre of Islam."

Furthermore, Jerusalem has never served as a capital of any Islamic dynasty, unlike Damascus, Baghdad and Istanbul, which all have.

Exploring the place of Jews in the Qur'an, Mansur said the Islamic holy book paints a positive picture. They are described as remaining faithful to the one true God, Jewish prophets are respected and the promise by God that Jews would live free and secure in Palestine is accepted.

The right of the Jews to Palestine is part of the faith tradition contained in the Qur'an, Mansur asserted.

Sadat experienced a spiritual journey that took him from European-inspired secular Arab nationalism to the desire to reconcile with Jews and accept Israel. In the period leading up to World War II, Sadat was immersed in the rise of Arab nationalism, which was fuelled by resentment of the British and feelings of betrayal over Palestine. At the same time, "Islamism, the bending of a faith tradition for political purposes," was gaining strength.

Sadat admired Hitler's rise to power and his stated desire to restore German rights. He was part of the officers' movement in Egypt that seized power in 1952, but as Arab nationalism failed in its conflict with Israel, Islamism grew stronger as did its hatred of Jews.

Following the 1973 war with Israel, Sadat came to believe that "a psychological barrier imprisoned Arabs and Israel" and that his trip to Jerusalem could overcome it. His Knesset speech described his inner journey and he spoke of their people's common humanity, of God and peace. Sadat built his overture on the shared religious views of Jews and Muslims, Arabs and Israelis, Mansur said.

Sadat died in 1981 at the hands of Islamic radicals while attempting to repair "the broken triangle of Jews, Muslims and Christians."

In a spirited question period that followed his presentation, Mansur was asked about the Palestinian claim to the land. He repeated his contention that the Qur'an gave the land to the Jews. "If you use a secular/nationalist argument, then it's contested on the field of battle," he said.

Mansur delivered a second lecture on the Arab and Muslim world a day later to the Canadian Jewish Civil Rights Association at the law offices of Heenan Blaikie.

SCIENCE OF THE SENSES: Grade 1 students at United Synagogue Day School's Bathurst campus campus explored the five senses recently with "Scientists in School," a Canadian organization that inspires excitement for science and technology using in-class, hands-on workshops. Students learned how to use one sense to compensate for another that is not working effectively. Pictured, clockwise from left, are Ethan Azouri, Sarah Rimer, instructor Sharon Laing, Jake Mintz, Aaron Greenspan, Jacob Seiler and Jaimie Levett.

Kids take part in doughnut project for Israeli soldiers

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

This month, tzedakah money collected from the 122 students at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School on Friday mornings is being designated for a project that provides freshly baked, hot doughnuts – *sufganiyot* – to Israeli soldiers.

Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School senior kindergarten students, from left, Lytal Ben Avraham, Emma Charney, Tali Pukier and Ethan Wilder show off their cards for Israeli soldiers.

"It's a nice opportunity to say thank you in a sweet way," said Grade 2 teacher Danya Lantz, who is co-ordinating the project at the school. Students have already started making cards and pictures to accompany their donations.

The project was created as a morale-booster by the Israel-based organization Standing Together, along with the Friends of the IDF in Israel.

Friends of the IDF is a sponsor of the project and is helping with the logistics, David Landau, founder and director of Standing Together, told *The CJN* in a phone interview from Israel.

Although the doughnut project will be ongoing, it kicks off on Chanukah, when sufganiyot are traditionally eaten in Israel.

Earlier this year, Standing Together received a doughnut machine capable of churning out 2,000 hot, fresh doughnuts per hour, thanks to an American donation, Landau said.

The New York native, who has lived in Efrat for 30 years, founded the organization three years ago as a way of saying thanks to Israeli soldiers, particularly those stationed at roadblocks and border sites. It grew out of his spontaneous decision to bring pizza and drinks to soldiers he saw at a roadblock to show them his appreciation.

IDF soldiers who patrol roads and borders "are the unsung heroes of today," said Landau. "They have prevented over 1,000 terrorist attacks in the last year." Some have lost their lives in the process, he added.

Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School senior kindergarten students Ariel Tozman, left, and Aviva Penn show off the cards they made to accompany funds gathered to provide sufganiyot for Israeli soldiers.

"We go wherever the *chayalim* [soldiers] are," said Landau, who has a chicken and meat business with customers throughout Israel.

Previous Standing Together projects have included distribution of clothing, toiletries and food directly to fighting units on the front, as well as the construction of a mobile cellphone charging unit, and providing personalized bathrobes, gifts and food to wounded soldiers in hospitals, according to the organization's website (www.stogether.org).

For the doughnut project, the organization sent "a couple of thousand" letters asking schools, synagogues and organizations to help out by raising money during the two weeks starting Dec. 10.

This year, Standing Together plans to deliver more than 700,000 doughnuts to Israeli soldiers.

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Jewish Life

The axis of resistance

By GIDI GRINSTEIN
Jerusalem Post

Guest Voice

Israel has been strategically compromised by an axis of actors that reject its right to exist. For more than a decade, this axis has been successfully denying Israel decisive military victories or political breakthroughs toward securing its existence. It has been able to elevate the impact of terrorism into an existential challenge for Israel. Our national security doctrine has been rendered irrelevant and requires an immediate overhaul.

Israel's challenge is to design a new and relevant counter-strategy based on the political, diplomatic, military and economic tools available to us.

The recent Lebanon war was a painful wake-up call. Israel realized that it has been subject to a consistent strategic disadvantage in spite of its military superiority. With all our might, we are unable to achieve our national security objectives. Much of what we had come to take for granted was revealed as irrelevant.

Building the most powerful and effective fighting force in the region came to dominate our national security. Alas, however, the logic of the axis of resistance is political. In most cases, they will seek to avoid direct military confrontation with Israel that would lead to their defeat. Instead, their objective is to undermine any political progress toward securing Israel's existence and to prevent any decisive military victory by Israel.

We used to think the Palestinian side wanted to end "occupation" and establish a state. But the axis of resistance does not object to a renewal of Israeli "occupation" in Gaza and considers the establishment of a Palestinian state as a setback to its cause.

We built our military doctrine on the assumption that there will be an address, a government, on the other side. The axis of resistance effectively seeks to undermine such governments.

These fundamental issues are compounded by the prospect of a severe American setback in the region. The failure in Iraq, the inability to stop the Iranian nuclear program, the weakness of Mahmoud Abbas, the failure of Israel to win and the muddling in Afghanistan are a very poor record for the world's only superpower and Israel's only ally.

Unless the United States throws many more resources into the problem or establishes clear priorities, it may experience a domino effect from Afghanistan to Cairo. This may compromise Israel in ways that resemble the impact of the decline of the Soviet empire on its Arab proteges.

In the present strategic makeup, Israel's paths toward securing its existence in the region have been effectively blocked while the vision of an Islamic, Arab or Palestinian state in its place is advanced.

In Lebanon, our achievements may be compromised if a pro-Syria and pro-Iranian coalition seizes power. In Gaza, a military victory that will require ongoing presence in Gaza and on the Philadelphi Corridor may reinstitute Israel's status as "occupier" and enhance the existential threat to our future as a Jewish and democratic state. At the same time, Israel is stuck in the West Bank unable to leave unilaterally or through negotiations.

Our challenge is at the level of our national security. It requires a new makeup of politics, diplomacy, economics and military action. Israel is going through an episode of national security confusion, which cannot be allowed to last long.

Israel has to question some working assumptions that have been taken for granted for too long. For example, what is better for Israel: a functioning Hamas government in the Palestinian Authority that may serve as an "address" or the imminent total breakdown of Palestinian governance? Which is more important: preserving Israel's freedom of action or creating closer alliance with moderate Arab countries that are also compromised by radical Shiite Islam?

It is time for Israel to be relevant again and to shape our national security. The ceasefire, if it holds, and the temporary calm in the north, create a good moment to go back to our strategic drawing boards. In the next round, our challenge is to begin to turn the tables.

Gidi Grinstein is founder and president of the Reut Institute, a non-partisan, not-for-profit policy team based in Tel Aviv · www.reut-institute.org.

The two kinds of Jewish feminists

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

The question of "women's role" in Judaism is one of the most crucial issues in the Jewish world today. The debate has been heating up since the early 1970s, when articles and books began appearing that challenged the traditional status of women in halachah and Jewish communal life.

A considerable body of literature has emerged, including works that examine and criticize the role of women and call for reform in Jewish law regarding such issues as marriage and divorce, the participation of women in the synagogue, the ordination of women rabbis and so on. Some of these books and articles have been written by men, but the overwhelming majority have been produced by women, many of whom also hold academic positions in the Diaspora and Israel.

As defined by one of the leading feminists in North America, Susannah Heschel, Jewish feminism focuses on attaining complete religious involvement for Jewish women and highlighting the parts within Jewish tradition that already centre around the feminine and women.

By her own admission, such a project involves "changing or eliminating aspects of Jewish law, custom and teachings that prevent or discourage women from developing positions of equality to men within Judaism, as well as bringing new interpretations to bear on the tradition."

The implications of such a radical re-evaluation are clear, as she acknowledges: "If the Torah holds women in positions of subservience or contempt, contradicting women's self-understanding, then feminism concludes that either the God who has revealed the Torah is malevolent or the Torah is not God's revelation, but merely the projection of a patriarchal society intent on preserving its status quo."

Clearly this kind of language is incendiary for those in traditional communities, with its unattractive options of Judaism not grounded in divinity or divinity not grounded in goodness.

Heschel's discourse, containing words such as "patriarchal" (i.e., a male-controlled society bent on preserving male interests) and "women's self-understanding" (i.e., a generalized conception of how women perceive themselves that is "more accurate" than how others see them) are representative of much feminist work. But Heschel's remarks about God and Torah also point to an important distinction within Jewish feminism that must be properly understood: the difference between relatively traditional Jewish feminists, who still maintain an ostensible alliance to halachah and the claims of revelation at Sinai, and those feminists who quite frankly reject classical Jewish claims to the divine nature of Torah and the authentic transmission of the oral law.

In the first category, one might find someone such as Blu Greenberg, who would like to see changes in the halachic system but still feels that such a system is important. Her thesis in her 1981 book *On Women and Judaism* is that feminism and traditional Judaism have much to offer one another, although she is uncertain whether they can be totally reconciled.

In contrast, Judith Plaskow, in her work *Standing Again at Sinai* argues that Jewish feminism's attempt to create equal access to a tradition she believes is inherently discriminatory to women is ultimately self-defeating.

To thus speak of Jewish feminism in a monolithic way is inaccurate, and the place that all of these various feminisms will play in the future of Judaism remains an open question.

Jewish Life

Emma Lazarus
by Esther Schor, Random House.

Lazarus remembered for one poem

Books
Bernard Baskin

What do you know about Emma Lazarus, the American poet, who died in 1887 at the age of 38? She is best remembered for her sonnet *The New Colossus*, which was mounted on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in 1903.

Born into a wealthy, New York assimilated Sephardi family, she was, unaccountably, a feminist, Zionist, fierce defender of her people and a denouncer of anti-Semitism. More Americans encountered Judaism – its history, its culture, its predicaments and its destiny – through Emma Lazarus' writing than through that of any of her contemporaries.

She began writing in her teens, taking up a variety of genres – lyric poetry, blank verse narrative, drama, translation, novel, short story, essay, polemic, even muckraking exposé – and writing the first prose poem to appear in English.

Her interest in Judaism was awakened by George Eliot's novel *Daniel Deronda*, with its call for a Jewish national revival, and was reinforced by the Russian pogroms of 1881-82. Inspired with a new and sacred cause, she began publishing translations of the great medieval Spanish-Jewish poets such as Judah Halevi and Solomon ibn Gabirol.

She was impressed by the Russian-Jewish refugees whom she encountered when she joined immigrant relief workers on Ward's Island, and energetically defended these "foreigners" against their detractors, who included some assimilated American Jews.

In her poem *The Crowing of the Red Cock* (the title is taken from the expression used by Russian peasants to describe the burning of Jewish villages during a pogrom), she daringly blames the pogroms on the teachings of Christianity. "Once more the sword of Christ is drawn a million burning rooftrees light/ The world-wide path of Israel's flight./… "When the long roll of Christian guilt/ Against his sires and kin is known/ the flood of tears, the life-blood spilt/ the agony of ages shown/ What oceans can the stain remove/ From Christian law and Christian love?"

In her biography of Lazarus, Esther Schor writes: "Coruscating and uncompromising, the poem stands in judgment on two millennia of Christian anti-Semitism. Emma Lazarus charges Christians with betraying not only the Jews – here 'the folk of Christ' – but also Jesus himself."

In her day, to be removed from traditional Jewish practice was to set oneself apart. Schor explains: "To us, more than a century later, Emma Lazarus' Jewish identity in the late 1870s is not such a riddle; she was a secular Jew, a cultural Jew, an emerging Jewish writer. But in her own eyes and those of her contemporaries, she was simply a conundrum."

One of the pleasures of this intelligent and informative biography is that it brings to life, not only a remarkable personality but also the many-sided era in which she lived. Alert, witty and erudite, she enjoyed the heady delights of the Gilded Age: music, theatre, art, literature and politics. She could count among her acquaintances such luminaries as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry James, Robert Browning and William Morris.

Here are the 14 lines of *The New Colossus*. They still have power to stir both mind and heart. "Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,/ With conquering limbs astride from land to land;/ Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand/ A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame/ Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name/ Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand/ Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command/ The air-bridged harbour that twin cities frame./ Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!: cries she/ With silent lips, "Give me your tired, your poor/ Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,/ The wretched refuse of your teeming shore./ Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,/ I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Chanukah gelt traditions

It's one of the most popular traditions of one of the most well-known holidays of the year. But the authentic reasons behind the giving of Chanukah gelt can leave most people scratching their heads. Today some Chanukah gelt traditions.

In Who Invented Chanukah Gelt? Tina Wasserman writes that "one theory focuses on the name of the holiday. Although Chanukah means dedication, it is linguistically related to "*chinukh*," which means education. Perhaps for this reason, some Jewish communities chose Chanukah as the time to celebrate the freedom to be educated Jewishly. Maimonides made the education-gelt connection when he described Chanukah gelt as 'an incentive for you [children] to study Torah properly.'" **[http://tinyurl.com/y4jrps]**

Eliezer Siegel explains that in 18th-century eastern Europe, rabbis toured outlying villages during Chanukah to strengthen the townsfolk's Jewish education. Initially, these rabbis would decline payment. But eventually they would accept tokens of appreciation for lost time. In time, these gifts or gelt became almost obligatory to the rabbis, to other pillars of the community, and then in the 19th century, to children. Other traditions of giving coins or small gifts to kids have also been found in Persia, Yemen and pre-State of Israel Palestine. Siegel adds, "Needless to say, an immense gulf separates the customs described here from the shopping frenzy that is associated with the North American Chanukah." **[http://tinyurl.com/yaz335]**

According to the Jewish Outreach Institute, there is another direct connection between gelt and the story of Chanukah. After the Temple was recaptured, the Jewish population was able to mint coins as an expression of their newly won independence. After the Temple was destroyed in 70 CE, Jewish coinage ended except for a brief period during the Bar Kochva Revolution. But all that changed when the State of Israel revived the tradition. "In a brilliantly conceived move to link the modern world with the ancient history of our people, the first Chanukah coin portrayed exactly the same menorah that had appeared on the last Maccabean coins of Antigonus Matityahu, 1,998 years earlier." **[http://tinyurl.com/vj25f]**

There are some original coins on the American Israel Numismatic Association website **[http://tinyurl.com/yezttd]** and the lovely, modern variations minted by the State of Israel. **[www.commem.com/prod04.htm]**

Nowadays, most gelt exchanged at Chanukah isn't made of genuine gold or silver but of chocolate. Many of our fond memories for those mesh bags of coins can be traced to Israel's Elite chocolate company. **[www.hanukkahgelt.com/]** For the homemade touch, why not mint your own chocolate coins – with a hint of mint? **[http://tinyurl.com/yzgcm3]**

But for some real authenticity, how about a batch of Chanukah Gelt Cookies? But be careful because these treats have *real* gelt inside. **[http://tinyurl.com/ucun9]** If you prefer edible coins as an ingredient, check out recipes for Gelt Fudge and White Cheesecake Decorated With Chanukah Gelt. **[http://tinyurl.com/ ygcyy9]** Sounds good but just not decadent enough? Then whip up a Chanukah Gelt Double Fudge Chocolate Layer Cake. **[http://tinyurl.com/yzau49]**

Speaking of decadence, in Reframing Chanukah Gelt, Rabbi Goldie Milgram puts a new slant on holiday giving and receiving. She suggests that you gather up all the tzedakah boxes bursting with coins in your home, and pull out a cheque book, too. On one of the nights of the holiday, invite a few friends over and let each suggest worthy charities for all that gelt. Be generous. And meet again next year (or even sooner). **[www.rebgoldie.com/gelt.htm]**

Speaking of charity, lovers of Sholom Aleichem who can read Hebrew will enjoy his short story *Gelt*, about two nephews who get Chanukah gelt and a lesson in tzedakah at the same time. **[http://tinyurl.com/yg5ldg]**

For kids, there's a Hide The Gelt game. **[http://tinyurl.com/ye3nn8]** And you can search for the gelt right on your computer screen. **[http://tinyurl.com/yjl2n6]**

You can be sure that gelt has claimed its own niche in popular culture when Martha Stewart offers tips for creating Chanukah Gelt Bags. **[http://tinyurl.com/ygmw3u]**.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based website producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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Further details to follow

Israeli Forum to help fight prejudice

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Gil Blutrich is trying to help heal the rift he feels exists between the Canadian Jewish establishment and Israeli immigrants.

The 41-year-old Israeli entrepreneur and founder of Skyline International Development Inc. first came to Toronto in 1998 and quickly established himself as a gifted real-estate guru.

Though he was too busy setting up his business at the time to notice, he eventually realized there was a serious problem confronting Israeli newcomers.

Israelis settling in Toronto did not feel welcome in their new community, he said.

"I heard a lot of prejudice against Israelis," Blutrich said. "People here tell them things like, 'Why are you here? Why aren't you home defending Israel?'"

Until last year, he always felt like an outsider.

But in November 2005, Galya Sarner, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's strategic community planner, invited him to hear about plans for the fledgling Israeli Forum in Canada (IFC), an independent leadership body representing the cultural and business interests of Toronto's expanding Israeli community.

The idea was to bridge the gap between the Canadian Israeli community and the Canadian Jewish community.

"I co-ordinated a breakfast meeting, and Blutrich took part," Sarner said. "When I asked people for their feedback, Gil wrote a beautiful, touching e-mail, saying how this was the first time he ever felt welcomed by the Canadian Jewish community."

Sarner met with Blutrich again afterward and asked him to chair the IFC.

He accepted with enthusiasm, and for the last year, has worked diligently to ensure its success.

First, Blutrich wanted a cross-section of talents on the IFC's board and proudly states that it is populated by academics, artists and businesspeople.

Names on the board include Walter Arbib, CEO of Skylink Aviation; Yael Soglowek-Ender, part-owner of Soglowek Foods; and Rina Cohen, a professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto.

Next, Blutrich wants people to know that the time for Israel to be considered a "needy" country is over.

He believes that helping Israelis integrate into the greater Toronto community will ultimately benefit Israel.

"The real support for Israel will come from overseas investment," he said. "This will improve the standard of living in Israel."

One of the long-term goals for the IFC will therefore be to foster a sense of entrepreneurship among Israeli immigrants, so that money can flow back to their homeland from their successes.

On Oct. 26, to cement their community profile, the IFC officially joined with the federation.

The two groups agreed on a historic declaration creating "a fusion model relationship" for "flexibility and creativity in community building efforts in the Israeli Canadian community while connecting the broadest spectrum of the Jewish community through the UJA Federation organization."

Blutrich hopes it will be both a symbolic and a concrete partnership.

"We are trying to break through old paradigms," he said.

Blutrich admits it took about eight months of negotiations between the two bodies to finally hammer out an agreement enshrining the IFC.

Still, both bodies hailed the agreement as a "bold experiment in creating a new mechanism of Jewish community building."

There are still challenges in terms of working out budgets and procedures, Blutrich said.

But with the absorption of the IFC, the federation's leadership is "seriously changing," he said. "Members of the Israeli Forum are now actively participating in the federation."

Blutrich himself is now on the federation's strategic committee.

He is proud of his heritage and considers himself and all Israeli immigrants, as ambassadors for their country.

"Israelis are a different breed," he said with a laugh. "[Canadians] can sometimes misinterpret their strong spirit and warmth."

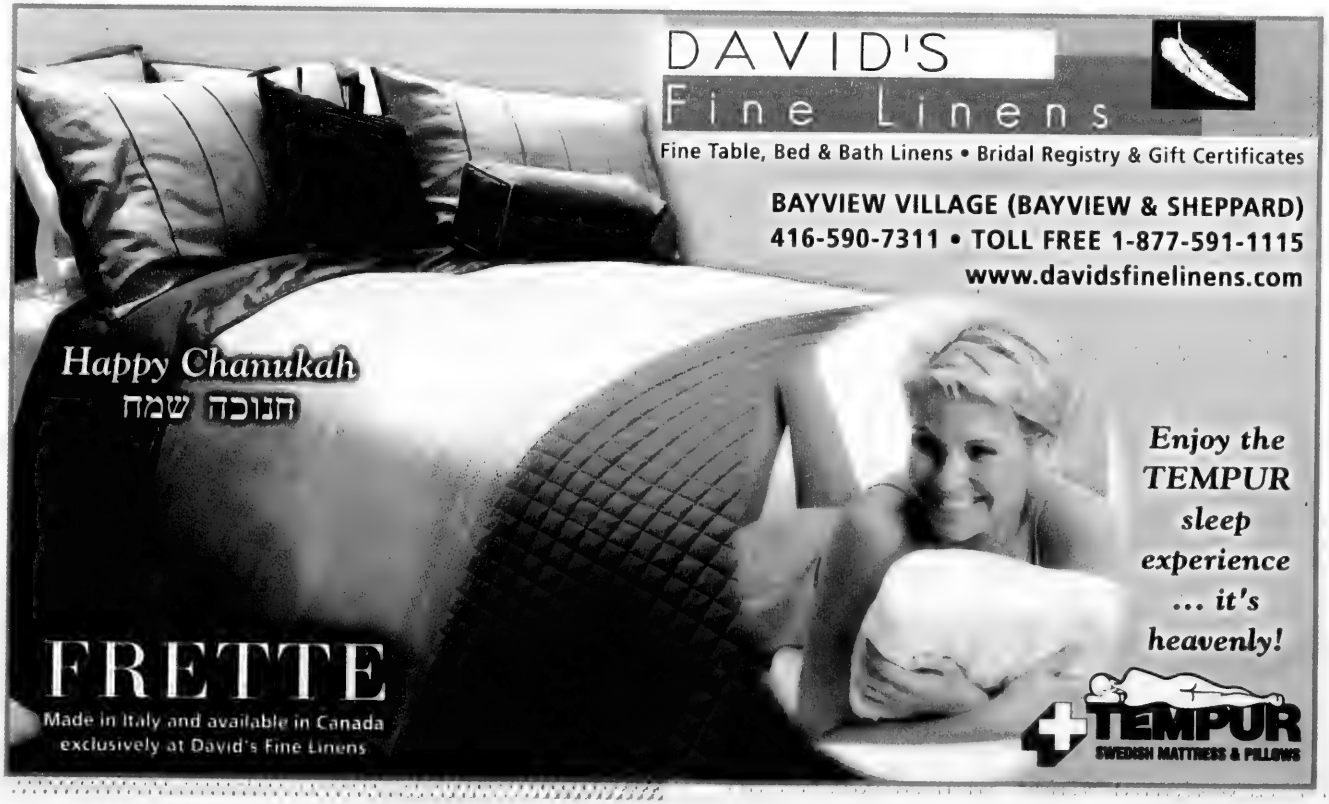
'Different ways of communicating'

Continued from page 6

He noted that the federation has been involved for at least 10 years in working with the Israeli community and at one point had an Israeli division in its annual campaign. In addition, "dozens" of Israelis are currently active in the campaign. "Now we want to increase and enhance that involvement."

Part of the federation's effort includes stepping up the production of promotional materials produced in Hebrew, as well as advertising in publications that reach the Israeli Canadian community, English said. They have also looked at adding Hebrew to the federation's website, but the site cannot accommodate Hebrew at this time.

Possible barriers to Israeli-Canadian integration in the past have included differences in ways of communicating that go beyond the actual language spoken. "We are passionate people and we express our feelings [and] have strong body language," Sarner said of her fellow Israelis. Because Canadians are typically more reserved, Israelis may think they don't care, she added. But she said she has "thousands" of examples that that is just not true.



Greater Toronto Area

Canadians help revise *Encyclopedia Judaica*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The Canadian co-editors of the revised and updated edition of the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, due to be published on Dec. 8, are Harold (Hesh) Troper and Richard Menkis, two of Canada's most distinguished academics.

Harold Troper

Richard Menkis

Troper, a Toronto historian based at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, was the co-author, with Irving Abella, of the classic, *None Is Too Many*, an award-winning account of Canada's immigration policy in the 1930s and '40s as it related to European Jewish refugees.

He has also written *The Ransomed of God: The Secret Rescue of the Jews of Syria* and *Old Wounds: Jews, Ukrainians and the Hunt for Nazi War Criminals in Canada*.

Menkis, a professor of history and religious studies at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, was the founding editor of the journal *Canadian Jewish Studies*.

His publications include *Canadian Jewish Studies Reader, Jews and Judaism in Canada: A Bibliography of Published Works Since 1965* and *New Perspectives on Canada, the Holocaust and Survivors*.

He and Troper also contributed an essay on Toronto's Jewish community to *College Street: Toronto's Renaissance Strip*, published earlier this year.

Michael Berenbaum, the executive editor of the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, recruited Troper and Menkis.

"I got a call from Berenbaum in the spring of 2004 asking if I would take on responsibility for all Canadian content," said Troper. "I knew this would be a massive job and agreed on condition that I could select a co-editor.

"I was lucky that Richard Menkis was willing to partner with me," he added. "Richard is an intellectual powerhouse when it comes to Canadian Jewish studies, and we work well together."

For the most part, they worked directly with the editor in Jerusalem, Fred Skolnik.

Troper said that the assignment was more difficult than he had imagined.

"The work was harder, more complicated and took far longer. That meant that things I'd been working on – a book about Canadian Jews in the 1960s – and getting ready for a sabbatical would have to be juggled with the encyclopedia."

Menkis agrees.

"It was harder and more time consuming than I had thought. We took it seriously, but didn't take ourselves too seriously and tried to laugh our way through the rough patches the articles that came in much too long, or much too short, or needed a great deal of editing. Thankfully, our phone companies had flat rates, because we spent hours on the phone editing together. And, of course, we used e-mail. The *Encyclopedia Judaica* folder in my e-mail package contains 1,739 e-mails."

The old edition, published in 1972 and containing 130 articles on Canada, had to be reworked.

"We read them all, but decided that the majority had to be completely redone," said Menkis. "The previous edition appeared over 30 years ago, which means it was based on research of 35 years ago. Since then, Canadian Jewry has moved into being one of the largest Diaspora communities. It needed much better coverage to bring it into the 21st century."

Having decided that Canada deserved more articles than the previous edition allowed for, Troper and Menkis commissioned about 240 pieces.

Topics ran the gamut from Canada's Jewish communities and surveys of Canadian Jewish literature (in English, French and Yiddish) to major figures and Jewish institutions.

The major article, however, was written by historian Gerald Tulchinsky and sociologist Morton Weinfeld.

Authors were given guidelines pertaining to style, length and deadlines. "Most kept to the format," said Troper, "but a few didn't."

Troper acknowledged that finding authors for the entries, especially in areas in which he and Menkis were not very familiar, could be daunting.

As a result, they had to write some of the articles themselves.

"Richard and I became the authors of last resort for subjects where we could not find an author," said Troper. "I can't remember the number of entries I ended up writing, but it was a lot."

Menkis personally contributed or co-wrote 19 articles.

Despite the difficulties, Troper and Menkis enjoyed their task of assembling the Canadian material.

"There were rewards," Troper observed. "Getting to work with Richard was one of them. And meeting so many scholars with knowledge of Canadian Jewish subjects was also a reward. Ensuring that the experience of Jewish women and Jews in the arts not high profile in the previous edition was given their due was a reward, too."

They finished their assignment last February.

"We were at it for almost two years," said Troper. "Now that it's done, I have no regrets. Had you asked that question when things were not going well, when it looked like we'd never find writers for key entries or when we were swamped with work, I might have given you a different answer."

Troper believes that the new *Encyclopedia Judaica*, which will be available in CD format and online some time in the future, will be of immense value. "I think it will be the gold standard for reference books on Jewish life and experience."

Menkis is even more emphatic. As he put it, "The *Encyclopedia Judaica* is the most important reference tool in Judaica today."

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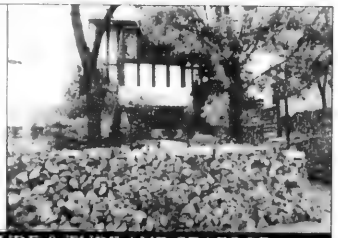

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Workman's Circle gears up for 100th anniversary

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

As the 100th anniversary of the local region of the Workmen's Circle approaches in 2008, regional director Mel Cederbaum is trying to document the organization's rich history.

Working out of the Workmen's Circle's Lawrence Avenue West building, which the group has had for 50 years, Cederbaum says that through pictures and documents, he hopes to provide a historical testament of Jewish Toronto since almost the turn of last century.

Originally from Montreal, Cederbaum, 54, who also works as a computer consultant, says he joined the fraternal organization about six years ago because his roots are with the Workmen's Circle, and he feels a strong bond with it.

His job includes managing the Lawrence Avenue building, assisting various committees in promoting cultural activities, and co-ordinating administrative work.

The organization, he says, started out of a New York City Lower East Side tenement around 1903 by immigrants who wanted health benefits and a setting in which to promote their culture and language.

It was founded on three principles, including rendering aid in moments of stress or emergency, preserving and strengthening cultural Jewishness among its members and the Jewish community, and serving the community by working for social justice.

In its declaration of principles, it states that it devotes itself to the liberation of all people; participates in democratic, progressive, cultural and social endeavours; and is joined with the labour movement in "striving for a higher standard of living and genuine economic security, and in lighting the pathway to further progress and a fuller democracy."

The organization, it says, urges its members to "to work for cultural continuity and Jewish community development, and to serve all causes designed to advance the spirit of true fraternalism among all mankind."

Once the New York organization started, says Cederbaum, "and news spread of its existence, like-minded people in other cities and regions wanted to offer the same benefits to new immigrants.

"Representatives were sent from New York to these regions to install local branches with the same principals and fraternal benefits. The first Toronto branch, Branch 220, was established in 1908."

Established Jewish supplementary school

Among its institutions, the local organization established, in 1911, a Jewish supplementary school that taught Yiddish and Yiddishkeit – it eventually had five branches – and a residential camp, Camp Yungvelt, which is no longer in operation, in Pickering, Ont., in 1925.

Camp Yungvelt was known until the 1950s for accepting poor immigrants' children for little money.

Cederbaum, who is also a vice-president of Mount Sinai Cemetery, says that membership, which now sits at about 230 spread out over seven branches, has declined over the years.

"About 50 per cent of our members are over 80 years old, and 25 per cent have belonged for 50 years," he notes.

Marvin Schiff, a member of the city committee, the governing body of the local Workmen's Circle, joined about 10 years ago, partly because members of his wife's family were longtime members in Montreal, he says.

Mostly, though, he joined for the organization's social and cultural orientation. "It's a secular Jewish organization that is unaffiliated with any congregational secular movement. It's important to have that voice expressed," Schiff says.

"Maintaining the Yiddish language and culture is necessary for historic reasons. It's a very rich one, and we would like to see it flourish."

As well, Schiff says, the Workmen's Circle provides a place for intellectual Jews "of that stripe to come together and discuss political and cultural matters that are not in the orbit of a religious organization.

"There are too few of these centres, and I'd like more people to join us."

Member Dale Langbord, whose grandparents Morris and Becky were founding members and parents Sadie and Karl were longtime members, says the organization "is in my blood. It was part of every facet of my life since I was a child. I was brought up with the philosophy and the Yiddish language."

Cederbaum is looking to attract members "who may not know the rich cultural history of the organization."

As part of its upcoming anniversary, Cederbaum says, he is seeking a grant that will assist them in putting together some cultural events and exhibitions.

Also, Jack Jacobs, a professor of political science at the City University of New York, will speak at a 100th anniversary lecture on Dec. 10 at 10:30 a.m. on the "Young guard of the proletariat: Bundist youth in inter-war Poland."

Following the lecture, Peter Pepper, international president of Workmen's Circle, and vice-president Robert Kaplan will speak on the past present and future of Workmen's Circle.

"The [organization] is an important part of Toronto history, and people should be aware of it," says Cederbaum.

For information, call 416-787-2081.

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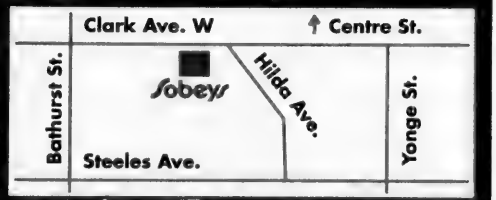

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CIC calls UNHRC 'dramatic, colossal failure'

Continued from page 3

The Canadian Coalition for Democracy (CCD), a conservative advocacy organization, said, "Canada has again legitimized the use of UN resolutions to demonize one nation, while ignoring the truly serious human rights violations of other member states. Until resolutions are applied evenhandedly to all UN members, Canada must express its condemnation by voting 'no' on all such resolutions."

In Geneva, Hillel Neuer of UN Watch suggested the 20 UN resolutions in New York on the Middle East and the ones at the UNHRC have their own dynamic, with multilateral negotiations affecting each vote.

"In truth, each of these 20 resolutions in New York is one-sided and it is not realistic for Canada to change its vote on each one."

He noted that for the past few years, Canada has changed its vote on one or two. "It's piecemeal and it does not necessarily follow an objective or rational approach, but rather reflects the reality that politics and diplomacy often develops in a piecemeal or muddle-through fashion."

In Geneva, the Human Rights Council passed motions slamming Israel's Golan and settlements policies. Canada was the only country to vote against the resolutions. Last year, Canada abstained on the settlements resolution.

The one-sided nature of the UNHRC resolutions prompted Canadian and American Jewish organizations to level their own criticism of the council, saying the organization was continuing the mistakes of its discredited predecessor, the UN Human Rights Commission, which focused almost exclusively on Israel while ignoring rights violations elsewhere.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan weighed in on the issue, saying that he hoped the council would address the Mideast conflict in an impartial way "and would not allow it to monopolize attention at the expense of others where there were equally grave or even graver violations," such as in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Meanwhile, the UNHRC announced that South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu would be dispatched to Beit Hanoun in Gaza on a fact-finding mission to prepare a report on an incident last month in which Israeli artillery fire killed 19 Palestinians. Tutu's mandate is limited to assessing the situation of Palestinians and recommending "ways and means to protect Palestinian civilians against further Israeli assaults."

Neuer called Tutu's fact-finding mission "a fraud."

The UNHRC has already pronounced Israel guilty, he said. Although Tutu "is respected for a lot of legitimate reasons, he is well known as an ardent advocate for the Palestinians… He is clearly not impartial, and choosing him reflects the bad faith of the president of the UNHRC."

Hillel Neuer

Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Canada-Israel Committee said, "I think Desmond Tutu long ago forfeited any ability to claim objectivity in assessing human rights or in any other dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The very idea there would be an investigation of Beit Hanoun while ignoring what led to Beit Hanoun testifies to the cockeyed orientation of the UNHRC," he added.

Fogel, however, applauded Canada's votes at the UNHRC, but added the council's focus on Israel was a disappointing development. "I think we could have predicted it, because the UN as a corporate culture does not take the imperatives of reform seriously."

The UNHRC, he added, was "a dramatic and colossal failure… It has chosen to repeat and accelerate everything wrong about its predecessor. Israel is the only issue that has occupied the attention of this new council. It's quite astounding if you consider 600 kids are being killed every day in the Congo and if you consider Darfur."

Fogel said Islamic members of the council are dominating its agenda as they try to delegitimize Israel.

Turning to Canada's votes in New York, Fogel suggested they "are not really reflective of where the government stands on these resolutions."

He said the government appeared unprepared to address the sheer number of anti-Israel resolutions. "I think they are fairly inexperienced with this and didn't have a fully co-ordinated plan as to how they will approach them."

He suggested Canada is considering proposing an "omnibus resolution" on the Middle East that would replace the large number of individual motions that annually bash Israel. That would require support in Parliament from other parties, as well as backing from a critical mass of Western governments, he said.

Board chair describes an activist Federation

Corporate reorganization and record revenue highlight annual meeting

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA Federation

Citing the Tomorrow Campaign, record fundraising revenue and Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, UJA Federation chair David Engel painted a picture of a proactive, forward-looking, 21st century federation at the organization's annual general meeting last week. The meeting also approved the realignment of UJA Federation into an umbrella corporation and four additional corporate entities (see story on this page) and revealed $161 million in total revenue for fiscal year 2006 - an organization record.

"The courage and the capacity to act quickly, forcefully and boldly are the hallmarks of today's UJA Federation – as is the passion powering our achievements," Engel told 160 annual meeting participants.

It is not enough to simply respond to community needs and challenges, Engel said. Instead, the Federation's role is to "shape the community," an approach that lies behind many current and recent accomplishments. For example, Engel cited the Tomorrow Campaign, which is building three campuses for Jewish life downtown; Central Square in the Bathurst-Sheppard area, where zoning approval has already been received; and in Vaughan, where the 50-acre Lebovic Jewish Community Campus is now being built.

UJA Federation Board chair, David Engel (L), shares a smile with board vice chair David Koschitzky at the recent UJA Federation Annual General Meeting held at Toronto's Adath Israel Congregation.

As well, the Task Force on Jewish Day School Education "symbolizes our determination to lead the way," said Engel. An implementation committee is now examining 23 sweeping task force recommendations. Among them are aggressive efforts, now underway, to achieve fair provincial funding for faith-based schools based on a new approach to the issue.

Engel also discussed the Federation's transformation from a fundraising organization to a philanthropic centre. "Today's Federation is more than what the game of Monopoly calls the Community Chest," he said. The priority is not simply collecting funds and distributing them, but cultivating philanthropy by offering an expanded range of giving opportunities, more personal involvement by philanthropists in the projects they fund and expert advice for donors about philanthropic choices.

On a global level, too, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is taking a leadership role. "Faced with ominous threats to Israel's survival from terrorist militias like Hezbollah and terrorist nations like Iran, we considered it our obligation to shape a global response rather than follow the rest of the world," Engel said. "UJA Federation led the world in establishing an Israel Emergency Campaign from the very beginning of this summer's war with Hezbollah."

Ted Sokolsky, president and CEO of UJA Federation, echoed the Federation's commitment to proactive initiatives telling those assembled that "UJA Federation's leadership not only exemplifies the will to survive but the will to excel." Noting that "great things will only happen if we continue to think of ourselves as vital Jews at a vital time," Sokolsky emphasized communal responsibility as the key to achievement: "We accomplished so much over the past year because people worked together; they believed in the community, they believed in each other."

Janice Gross Stein

Janice Gross Stein, a recognized expert on the Middle East and a political science professor at the University of Toronto, and Rabbi Steven Saltzman, religious leader of Adath Israel Congregation, which hosted the annual meeting, also addressed participants.

Jewish Federation revenue reaches record high

Total annual income tops $161 million

For the first time ever, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's total revenue has exceeded $160 million. Revenue from all sources at the federation topped $161 million in 2005/06 – a 71 per cent increase over the previous fiscal year and a 209 per cent increase over 2001/02.

The 2005/06 revenue figure includes gifts to UJA's annual campaign; the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, UJA's endowment arm; and to the Tomorrow Campaign, an unprecedented project to build ambitious new facilities and create new services for Jewish community members throughout the GTA.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto ranks third among the world's largest Jewish federations – behind only New York and Chicago. It is also one of the largest not-for-profit corporations in Canada.

Board chair David Engel notes that in just over a decade, UJA has moved from being in the fundraising business to being in the philanthropy business. "We do more than collect funds and then allocate them from a finite pool," he noted. "We identify new philanthropists. We place before them a larger than ever selection of giving vehicles. We provide expert, objective advice about philanthropic choices, and offer increasingly personal involvement in preferred projects…The possibilities are no longer limited. They are infinite."

Today, UJA holds $200 million in endowment, bequest and planned giving assets, a more than 800 per cent increase over the past decade. This year's annual campaign is expected to raise $81 million.

Elizabeth Wolfe, chair, Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's endowment arm. Wolfe announced last week that the Foundation's assets have surpassed the $200 million mark.

UJA Federation's current Tomorrow Campaign is aiming to raise $250 million to create three campuses for Jewish life in the GTA. The Downtown District, serving Toronto's growing Jewish population in the city core, is anchored by the new Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre at Bloor and Spadina, with 3,500 members, and the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at Harbord and Huron.

Central Square on Bathurst, north of Sheppard, will include, among other facilities, the new Prosserman Jewish Community Centre, a new Koffler Centre of the Arts and the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge & Heritage.

The 50-acre Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus, in York Region at Bathurst and Weldrick, north of Rutherford, is designed to provide a wealth of programs and services for York Region's Jewish community of 60,000 - the fastest growing in Canada. "Through the Tomorrow Campaign and our philanthropic success, UJA Federation is demonstrating global leadership, which is powered by a collective vision in which one of the world's most significant and unique Jewish communities casts a powerful social, educational, architectural and technological influence on our city's future generations," says UJA president and CEO Ted Sokolsky.

Financial growth leads to corporate reorganization

Unprecedented financial growth has led to a UJA Federation corporate reorganization, intended to better align operations with activities and protect assets by creating separate corporations.

Under the new structure, highlighted at UJA Federation's annual general meeting on November 27, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto will serve as an umbrella corporation, under which four subsidiary corporations will exist reflecting four distinct areas of holdings and initiatives.

Neil Nisker, chair, UJA Federation corporate reorganization steering committee.

- A properties corporation that will hold, through separate corporate entities UJA Federation real estate;
- A services corporation to operate the various programs;
- United Jewish Appeal of Greater Toronto for the UJA Federation Annual Campaign
- The Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto will hold endowment funds.

The parent corporation, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, has already been approved and implemented, and in the coming months, the other corporations will be established and assets will be transferred. However, notes UJA Federation general counsel Mark Anshan, the legal changes will not affect existing operations.

Stephen Cole, a member of the corporate reorganization steering committee, announced plans at UJA Federation's recent annual general meeting

(Photos by Jen Arron)

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

BOOK FAIR WINNERS: Judge Hannah Young, left, poses with the winners of the Jewish Book Fair's 30th anniversary "Design a Book Cover Contest." Almost 500 entries were received from 18 schools, and all entries were displayed at the fair. With Young, from left, are winners Kohava Mendelsohn, 5, of the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish School; Adina Saban, 9, of Netivot HaTorah Day School; Austin Tobe, 12, of United Synagogue Day School and Judith Peranson, a judge and the winner of the book fair's 10th anniversary contest.

Jewish Family and Child Service thanks the members of

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These dentists and specialists have provided free services to children and adults
who cannot afford regular dental care.

On behalf of the many people who benefit from this wonderful program,
we say thank you very much to the following members of Alpha Omega,
as well as those who wish to remain anonymous.

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שיעור ביניים

גידי קורן וחברים

עלי מוהר

כשלמדתי בתיכון חדש בתל אביב, היה שם ילד מקסים ורגיש בכיתה שמתחתי. ידעתי שעלי הוא בנו של הפזמונאי יחיאל מוהר, שכתב מאות משירי ארץ ישראל. אחר כך הלך עלי בעקבות אביו והפך לפזמונאי, אך בעיקר גם עיתונאי. בין שיריו הידועים "הזמן את השנים יגיד", "שיר השיירה", "שש עשרה מלאו לנער", וכמובן "שעור מולדת" שאותו אני מביא כאן. עלי מוהר נשאר בתל אביב, כתב על תא אביב, היה אוהד שרוף של הפועל תל אביב, ושמר באדיקות על הערכים של ארץ ישראל הישנה: חיים צנועים, חברות שקטה, כתיבה נקיה. לאחרונה סיים עלי לכתוב את הביוגראפיה של אריק איינשטיין, גם הוא נער תל אביבי שמעולם לא עזב את עירו. השבוע נפטר עלי ממחלת הסרטן. שימו לב למילים של "שעור מולדת", ותמצאו שם את הילדות שלכם:

את בארץ הנסיר
על הקיר תאוגה
ומהכיכר תורם הפח
את הצופאה
שהרקע הפרחים
שאי שרה תורים
מהכיכר יצאית עם שחם
שנים שלוש

ומאורע שמורת:
איך אתם כאן סתם
שאור אולית
מיכל ארשאב תגב...

וכך הצאיטם
פתרהו שלוות
הפשטים נשם
אחרשות רעת
ים כוראים וים שצים
ארץ של רוחים-
כך לפ הפנטיר ביאחטם
שניעם יפה

כך לפ היה , משפחת רכפ
לפ הפנטיר ביאחטם
שניעם יפה

היה שלום, עלי, ותודה לך על השירים הנפלאים , אתה תמשיך לחיות איתנו דרכם.

סרטי חובה

הינה שני סרטי חובה למי שרוצה להתרגש:

Volver הוא סרטו החדש של הבמאי הספרדי אלמודובר, ללא ספק היוצר החשוב בעולם כיום. זהו סרט על אם, אחיותיה, בתה ואמה ועל ההתמודדות שלהן בגילוי עריות קשה במשפחה. את הדמות הראשית עושה פנלופה קרוז, ללא ספק סופיה לרן של הדור הנוכחי, ואיתה קבוצה מדהימה של שחקניות ספרדיות. ממש שווה לחכות שנניים לסרט חדש של אלמודובר. עשר בסולם קרן

Shut Up and Sing הוא סיפורן של בנות להקת צמרת הקאונטרי האמריקנית דיקסי צ'יקס, לאחר שהעז בהופעה בלונדון להגיד שהן מתביישות להיות מהסטייט של הנשיא בוש. למתר לציין שרוב אוהדיהן וכל תחנות הרדיו שמשדרות קאונטרי החרימו אותן. הסרט מלווה את שלושת השנים הקשות שעברו עליהן, את הפוליטיקה בארצות הברית, ואת היצחן המתוק שלהן בסופ. סרט מרגש עם מוסיקה נפלאה. רוצו רוצו. תשע בסולם קורן, אבל שישאר ביניע.

Bar mitzvah boy donates $22,000 to SickKids

By MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

If you were 13-years-old and had $22,000 in gift money from your bar mitzvah, what would you do with it?

For Cole Rodness, the answer was simple: give it to an important cause.

"Donating money makes me feel good," said the Grade 8 student at Metropolitan Preparatory Academy in Toronto. "And I think [this feeling] will stay with me the rest of my life."

Cole Rodness

Rodness is sending all of his bar mitzvah proceeds to the SickKids Foundation Autism Research Endowment Fund, a cause that is especially dear to him and his family.

"My cousin Benji is autistic and he's very close to me," related Cole. "When I think of him, I'm inspired and… I really hope this [donation] will make my cousin and other kids [like him] better."

For his efforts, Cole was recently presented with a Kids Believe in SickKids Award. The award noted that his gift was the top tribute donation to the foundation this year.

The idea for the donation originates with Cole's older brother, Jared.

"Jared spent the first three years of his life with a virus that eventually got better," said Cole and Jared's mother, Suzy.

"My brother had set up a research endowment fund in Jared's honour and when Jared's bar mitzvah came along, it was a perfect fit for [gifts] to go toward the research."

Admiring the example that his brother provided, Cole followed in Jared's footsteps, only for a different cause.

"[Philanthropy] has been a huge part of our family," said Suzy Rodness.

"My grandparents and parents taught me about it, and now my husband and I are trying to make the kids understand that you need to give back."

The message appears to resonate with other parents. A recent survey indicates that nearly 90 per cent of parents in Canada believe it's very or somewhat important that their children learn to donate. The study also found that parents are the primary philanthropic role models for their kids.

"Even though you may not realize it, kids really do watch what their parents do," Suzy said.

"Whether it's handing a toonie to a man on the street or giving to a charity, they watch and listen. And they do believe that anything they do will really make a difference."

For more information about contributing to the Autism Research Endowment Fund, call 416-813-6166. or visit www.sickkids foundation.com.

HEALTHY KIDS: Kindergartners at the Toronto Heschel School received a visit recently from Dr. Dan Turner, a Heschel parent and a pediatrician at the Hospital for Sick Children, as part of a unit on health and hospitals. The kids learned about about what to expect during a hospital visit and how to take care of their bodies. Pictured with Tuner are, from left, Leah Bogati, Renny Goldshmidt, Amit Turner, Annika Zworth, Sarah Klein and Sarah Swartz.

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CHANUKAH GIFT IDEAS

A chag full of music

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

With Chanukah just around the corner, it's once again time to think about gifts for friends and family.

And what better way to celebrate the Festival of Lights than with new music by Jewish artists.

So sit back, relax and twirl your dreidels in time to some grooves, tunes and compositions.

Pashtes (Simplicity), is the recently released collection of 10 poem-songs by Czech-born Yiddish singer Lenka Lichtenberg and guitarist/pianist Brian Katz.

The album is based on the work of Simcha Simchovitch, acclaimed Yiddish poet and Holocaust survivor.

Using Simchovitch's words, Lichtenberg and Katz have created an evocative assortment of music, spanning genres such as klezmer, jazz, world and classical.

Lichtenberg's passionate vocals, accompanied by Katz's smooth playing and arrangements, makes this an eminently listenable recording.

Pashtes is available from Lichtenberg's website, www.lenkalichtenberg.com

* * *

Another fine addition to anyone's CD carousel is *The Rough Guide To The Music of Israel.*

Out on the Cumbancha record label, the album is an eclectic and uplifting compilation of 14 songs from both popular and emerging Israeli artists.

Compiled by Dan Rosenberg, this "rough guide" captures a snapshot of the diverse musical influences in Israel today.

From Yemeni rhythms to Yiddish lamentations, Arab folk music to Bouzouki-dance, Rosenberg has caught it all and will leave you wanting more.

For purchase information visit www.worldmusic.net.

* * *

Those seeking to add even more music to their Israeli collection should seriously consider purchasing *The Idan Raichel Project.*

Popular Israeli composer-producer Idan Raichel spearheaded an effort to enlist more than 70 musicians on an album dedicated to exploring Israel's burgeoning Ethiopian culture.

The result is a brilliant fusion of world, Arab and Israeli musical flavours.

The Idan Raichel Project is available at www.cumbancha.com and www.idanraichelproject.com

* * *

British Columbia singer-songwriter Sarah Noni Metzner released her sophomore album, *Daybreak Mourning,* back in July.

In case you missed it, Chanukah is a good excuse to pick it up.

The album is equal parts rollicking, nouveau-folk-country romp and introspective, soulful grooviness.

Metzner evokes musical shades of the Indigo Girls and the Cowboy Junkies with a voice reminiscent of Sarah McLachlin.

It's a solid effort and will almost certainly gain a spot on your most-played CD list.

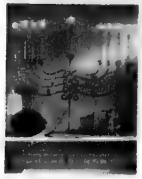
Daybreak Mourning is available from Metzner's website, www.sarahmetzner.ca

* * *

If your tastes run to the more classical and experimental, then the latest release from the Toronto Royal Conservatory of Music's ARC ensemble (Artists of the Royal Conservatory) might be for you.

Their album, *On The Threshold Of Hope: Chamber Music of Mieczyslaw Weinberg,* is an intriguing aural offering.

Continued on page 27



Chanukah Gift Ideas

A chag full of music

Continued from page 26

Weinberg, a Polish Jew who fled Warsaw in 1939, was the protege of renowned Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich.

Though his works are revered in Europe, it's only now that Weinberg's compositions are gaining recognition in the West.

Recorded last April at Toronto's George Weston Recital Hall, the album offers 14 tracks of discordant but fascinating pieces from the unique mind of Weinberg.

It is the first time these works are available on CD.

Ably played by ARC and produced by Grammy Award-winner David Frost, *On The Threshold Of Hope* can be purchased via the internet on Amazon.com

* * *

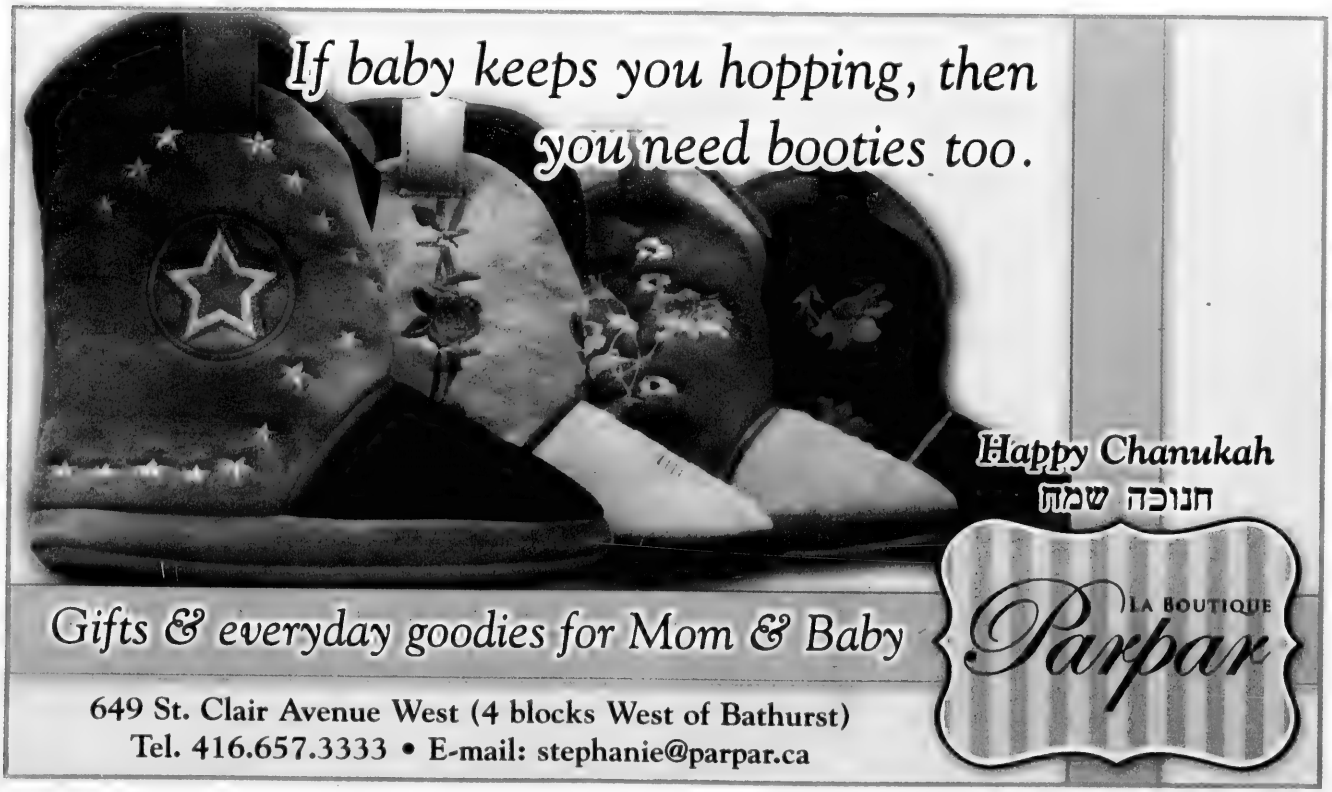
Lastly, for the jazz-o-philes, Toronto bassist Shelly Berger offers up his latest CD, *Look Up*.

From Bela Fleck-esque opening track, *Mosque Morocco*, Berger takes listeners on a whirlwind tour of his jazz world.

On this, his fourth release, Berger alternates agilely between shuffled grooves and down-tempo reflective pieces.

All in all, *Look Up* is a relaxed and velvety musical ride from one of Toronto's eminent jazzmen.

The CD can be purchased from Berger's website, www.shellyberger.com.



CHANUKAH GIFT IDEAS

Film spoofs excesses of today's bar mitzvahs

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

Appearances can be deceiving. When I saw the first trailers for *Keeping Up With the Steins*, I thought this was going to be a typical Hollywood film spoofing the excesses of many of today's bar and bat mitzvahs.

I was pleasantly surprised when I finally did see the film. And now that *Keeping Up With the Steins* has been released on DVD, I think this is a film everyone can enjoy.

The beginning of the film does follow some of the horrors depicted in the trailer. We have the *Titanic*-themed bar mitzvah that Adam Fielder is determined to outdo no matter what the cost, especially as it was put on by his arch business rival.

But Adam is brought back down to earth by the return of Irwin, his gray-haired hippie father and his father's girlfriend.

Irwin quickly strikes up a warm, loving relationship with his grandson, Benjamin, and the two of them join forces to teach Adam that love and family are more important than one upping the last outrageous party.

Although the film is very funny, it never loses the true meaning of taking on the responsibilities and challenges of growing up.

The result is a meaningful, warm-hearted film that will delight most viewers and features an outstanding cast that includes Jeremy Piven, Jami Gertz, Garry Marshall and Daryl Hannah.

Another recent DVD release tells the little-known story of a group of young German students who worked against the Nazi regime during World War II.

The film, *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days*, tells the story of this group, which carried out its operations in Munich and printed and distributed leaflets, painted anti-war slogans on walls and was a continuing nuisance to the Nazi leadership.

Famed Dutch director Michael Verhoeven made a film about the group in 1983, called *The White Rose*, which describes how the group came about and developed and ends with the arrest of its members.

This new film picks up the story where *The White Rose* ends and focuses on Sophie, her arrest, her five days of interrogation, and then her subsequent execution.

The new film is a powerful drama that is based on recently discovered minutes of Sophie's interrogation and descriptions of her ordeal. The result is a deeper and better understanding of Sophie's beliefs and convictions and features a terrific performance by Julia Jentsch as the title character.

***Sophie Scholl* is a powerful, moving film that ends with hope for the future.**

The film is very successful in capturing the hypocrisy of the trial Sophie and her comrades had to endure – a trial in which defence attorneys were intimidated into going along with the circus-like atmosphere in the court and in which the judge, Roland Freisler, steam-rolled over all concepts of true justice.

Sophie Scholl: The Final Days is a powerful, moving film that ends with hope for the future. Not even a decade of Nazi rule was able to extinguish all sparks of justice and humanity from the German people. Even in the depths of depravity, a few good people stood up for their beliefs and were willing to die in order to show that there were still some decent people left in Germany.

It is definitely worth watching.

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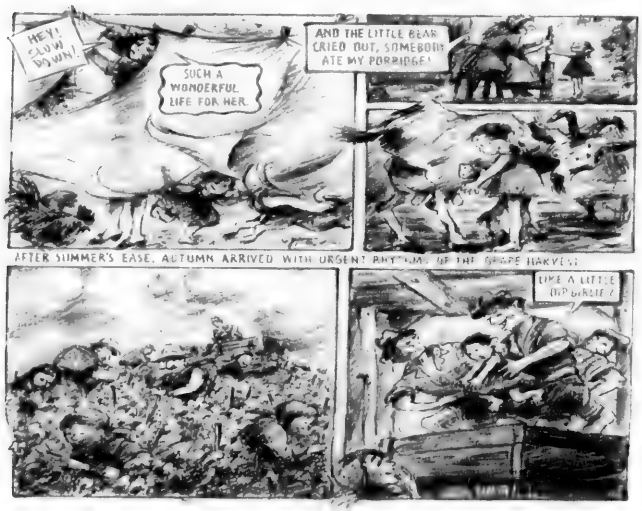
Graphic novel offers a unique wartime memoir

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

We Are On Our Own is Miriam Katin's memoir of her and her mother's struggle to survive toward the end of World War II in Hungary.

What makes it different than other wartime or Holocaust memoirs is Katin's decision to write this as a graphic novel.

The effort succeeds because you can read the entire book in under an hour and still get the whole story, and it's somewhat fitting, since this memoir is told through the eyes of a child.



Not that this is a children's book. Far from it. It is, like most Holocaust memoirs, a dark and stark story, one that includes a graphic depiction of a drunken Russian rape orgy.

Katin, now in her 60s, was a small child during the dark years of the mid-1940s. Her story is about her mother, depicted in the book as Esther Levy. She is cosmopolitan, and fairly well off. With her husband in the Hungarian army, she is left to fend for herself and take care of her young child, the author (Lisa in the book).

With the Nazi occupation of Hungary about to unfold in the summer of 1944, Esther finds a way to escape to the countryside, faking her death and taking on a new identity as a household servant.

To survive, she is forced to seduce a German commander, but eventually, after the German retreat, she is on the run once more, this time from Russian soldiers who accuse her of killing the soldier who tried to rape her.

All the while, Esther bravely tries to protect her daughter's innocence in the mad chaos that surrounds her.

Yet in the midst of this evil, Esther is ultimately forced to depend on the kindness of strangers to survive. This story has a happy ending, which in my opinion contrasts with the subtle subplot about the loss of faith in God.

Published by Montreal's Drawn & Quarterly, *We Are On Our Own* is a unique take on the memoir genre.

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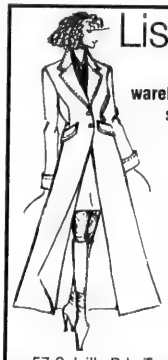

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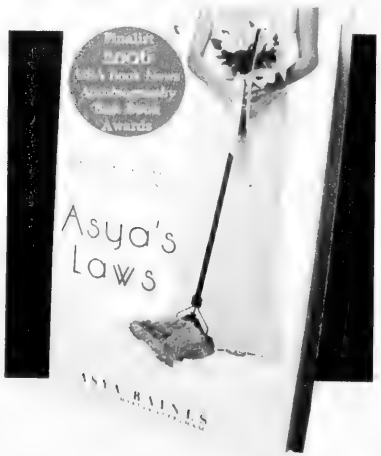

A fascinating first-hand account of an extraordinary young Latvian Jewish woman before, during and after the fall of the USSR. Through relationships, children and relocation, Asya shares her rules for living life to its fullest despite setbacks. Her experience as a new American shows a unique perspective of the immigrant life

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Los Angeles through the medium of photos and words

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Sun-splashed, palm-fringed, celebrity-addled Los Angeles is a work in progress, a city whose avid belief in newness and addiction to fads is surely a template of the American dream.

Synonymous with movie making, L.A. is probably the world's most photographed metropolis after New York, Paris and London. And in *Picturing Los Angeles*, by Jon and Nancy Wilkman, America's second largest city is revealed in all its permutations through the medium of more than 500 black and white photographs. Published by Gibbs Smith and distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books, this is an alluring photographic album supplemented by a lucid text.

Given its brashness and affinity for the next new thing, it may come as a surprise that L.A. is older than some might imagine. Formally established in 1781 by Mexicans, L.A. was originally known as El Pueblo de la Reyna de los Angeles, or Queen of the Angels.

But the first photograph of L.A. was not taken until the late 1850s or early 1860s, the authors believe, and it is reproduced in this coffee-table book. The photograph, snapped after California joined the United States, is of a pastoral scene. By then, L.A. was a centre of the American wine and citrus industries and had about 4,000 inhabitants, of whom eight were Jews.

Harris Newmark, one of Los Angeles' first Jewish settlers, and his wife, Sarah

One of the first Jewish settlers, Harris Newmark, emigrated from Prussia in 1853. He helped form the Hebrew Benevolent Society, the city's first charitable organization. Presumably, he also had a hand in the founding of Congregation B'nai B'rith – L.A.'s first synagogue – in 1873. Since then, the Jewish community has grown by leaps and bounds, and is now a major component of American Jewry.

It took an act of will and courage to settle in California when L.A.was still a remote and provincial backwater. The trek across the continent could be hazardous and exhausting, while the voyage through the malaria-infested Isthmus of Panama could be life threatening.

Yet immigrants were not deterred by these obstacles, nor by occasional earthquakes, and California grew and prospered. By turn of the 19th century, L.A.'s economy was based on tourism, agriculture and light industry.

But L.A. did not impress everyone. The anarchist Emma Goldman wrote that it was "a health resort for parasites and cranks, a city… without any personality of its own…"

Her scathing observation notwithstanding, L.A. soon supplanted New Jersey as America's motion-picture mecca. Producers were impressed by its year-round pleasant climate and its geographic charms.

During the first decade of the 20th century, a remarkable generation of "cultural entrepreneurs" arrived in L.A. to set up shop in the budding movie industry, and virtually all of them were Jewish. The first, Carl Laemmle, built Universal Studios in the up-and-coming San Fernando Valley. He was followed by, among others, Samuel Goldwyn, Jack L. Warner and Louis B. Mayer. These immigrants, as commentators have noted, moulded and shaped American culture. Much later, Hollywood was dominated by Lew Wasserman, who rose to be the president of the Music Company of America (MCA).

The Wilkmans claim that 1939 was Hollywood's best year, yielding a bumper crop of films from *Gone with the Wind* and *The Wizard of Oz* to *Wuthering Heights* and *Stagecoach*. L.A. is still inextricably associated with movies. But by the 1980s, film production accounted for only 1.4 per cent of local jobs.

World War II brought an astonishing array of European refugees to L.A., notably Albert Einstein, Thomas Mann, Bertolt Brecht and Max Reinhardt. Yet L.A. had a darker side. A racist mob murdered 19 Chinese men and boys in an 1871 pogrom, and in 1942, the first batch of thousands of Japanese Americans were declared enemy aliens and deported to isolated camps in California and other Western states.

Nonetheless, California drew nearly nine million newcomers, many from Asia, between 1940 and 1960. As a result, L.A. now has the biggest Mexican, Japanese, Korean, Filipino and Vietnamese communities outside their respective countries. And one might add that L.A. is home to a huge colony of Israelis. This enormous influx prompted L.A. – which seems dedicated to the glories of car ownership – to build its first freeway in 1939.

In an attempt to divine its future, the Wilkmans conclude that L.A. must resolve a constellation of problems, from disparities between rich and poor to the degradation of the environment, if it is to prosper in the years ahead. It remains to be seen whether L.A. is up to that daunting challenge.

CHANUKAH GIFT IDEAS

Learning Yiddish through folksongs

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Children with little or no knowledge of Yiddish can start learning the language through folksongs in *Sing and Learn Yiddish*, a songbook and CD produced by Muni and Carol Basman.

The user-friendly book includes the words, in transliteration and in English, to 18 favourite folksongs including *Oyfn Pripertshik, Dona Dona, Reyzele* and *Tayere Malke*.

Children can listen to the CD, with vocals by Claire Klein Osipov and piano accompaniment by Wendy Brot Stuart, follow the Yiddish words in the book, and read the translations in English.

The book was conceived when the Basmans decided they wanted to teach some Yiddish to their three grandchildren, who live in Mexico.

It is dedicated, Muni says, to his parents, Leybl and Basha. "As a teacher, principal and camp director of the Yiddish schools and camps of the United Jewish People's Order (UJPO), Leybl instilled his love for Yiddish in thousands of students and campers."

Many of those who helped compile the book, including Klein Osipov, were his students and campers, Muni says.

Gift shops in hospitals, synagogues, cultural centres offer diverse items

The Jewish community is again preparing to celebrate Chanukah, the Festival of Lights that is observed every December as Jewish people commemorate the victory of the Maccabees and the miracle of the small crucible of oil that lasted eight days.

Among the customs and ceremonies that relate to the holiday are lighting the chanukiyah, savouring latkes and spinning dreidels. In addition, children often receive Chanukah gelt.

Some families present their young children with a token gift every day of the festival, whereas others provide a present at the beginning of the holiday or on the last night. Relatives and friends are often invited to Chanukah parties and want to buy gifts for the host and the children.

But people don't have to be invited to a party to give Chanukah gifts. On the contrary, this is the perfect opportunity to express appreciation to individuals who have been kind and helpful during the year. The recipient may be a neighbour who took in the mail and watered the plants or a Hebrew teacher who voluntarily coached a hospitalized child.

In addition to all the splendid commercial establishments, there are many hospital, synagogue and senior centre gift shops that sell creative and interesting gifts. These nonprofit boutiques are run by auxiliaries, sisterhoods and volunteer committees. The gifts are carefully chosen and some are crafted in-house by talented artisans. There is usually a wide range of prices and proceeds benefit the respective organizations. The items are beautifully showcased and gift-wrapping is often included in the price.

Many items are oriented to the Jewish community – cookbooks, novels of Jewish interest and diverse Judaica, but others offer items of a more secular nature – jewelry, gadgets, games, stationery, sundries, edibles, as well as articles for the home, for the office and for personal use.

So, if you are looking for gifts – now or at any other time think about supporting a worthy cause when you make your choice.

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CHANUKAH FOOD IDEAS

Latke lesson online

Just in time for Chanukah, *CJN* reader Joyce Leitman shares an e-mail exchange she had with her niece, Lauren Corber, who was in Amsterdam last year for a semester of law school.

Lauren requested her aunt's potato latke recipe, and Leitman sent it to her and then sent a copy to her son, Steven, who added to the recipe.

The exchange goes as follows:

Hi Auntie Joyce: I am making potato latkes [for a school party] and the only problem is that I don't have a recipe! I knew that you would have a delicious one! Can you send it to me please?

From Auntie Joyce: Potato latkes is a recipe that is better discussed, but I will try to write it. Read the whole thing before you start doing anything. This step is very important.

Take some potatoes. Lots is best. Even if you think you have enough, add some more. When you are finished peeling, look at them and think very seriously – Do I have enough? Then go and get one or two more potatoes and peel them too.

You should be peeling them into a large bowl, or pot if you don't have a large bowl. Fill it up with enough water to cover the potatoes. Add some salt, even 1 tbsp.

Then you have to start grating. If you don't have a processor and you have to grate these potatoes by hand, put back at least half the potatoes that you took out in the first place.

Then you can start with the onions. They could be chopped to smithereens in the processor or grated by hand.

Potato Latkes as seen in *kosher by design* by Susie Fishbein, Mesorah Publications Ltd.

How many onions, you may be wondering. There actually is no definitive answer. Steven likes to use lots. I probably use 1 medium onion to 4 or 5 medium potatoes.

The potatoes give off water. Drain them by squeezing them in a colander or sort of picking up the extra water with a large serving spoon.

Now you can mix the onions and the potatoes. Then it is time to add the eggs, salt, pepper, flour or matzah meal.

You are wondering what the quantities should be.

Eggs – beat them a little before you add them. I am guessing when I say to use 1 egg for every four, five or six potatoes.

Just add a little flour or matzah meal. I would say not even 1 tbsp. per potato – maybe a tsp. per potato makes more sense.

Add some salt and some pepper. More salt than pepper. Then mix it all up.

The batter should be "battery" – not too thick or loose, but the egg sort of makes it hold together. Try picking up some batter with a large serving spoon. The middle should be able to hold itself a little higher than the outside. Add an extra egg or two if you think you need it. It really does not need a lot of flour, but as you go along frying the latkes, you could add a little extra flour if you think you need it.

If you want the latkes to taste good, use lots of oil. Make sure the oil is hot before you put any latkes in the pan.

Use a large spoon to pick up the batter. Lower it gently and I am not joking when I say to be careful. Oil splatters and you really have to protect your eyes.

Make sure the heat is high enough but not too high. You don't want the potatoes to burn. The heat should let the latke cook through to the middle and have the outside brown. Then turn it over and do the same on the other side. It is better to turn the latkes over only once.

Make sure they are nice and brown and crispy. Place them on paper towels to drain. Don't eat them too quickly or you will burn your mouth.

Love, Auntie J

From Steven to Lauren: I will add some comments, most of them from lessons learned in the last several years of latke cooking.

Use lots of onion – more is better. A lot of the flavour is from onion, and at your age, it shouldn't cause you too much grief.

I would probably go with 1 onion for every 2 or 3 potatoes (estimate is hard to do since sizes of both vary).

Continued on page 34

Of course, you could spend all day in the kitchen ...
but some seasons are just too short.

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Supplements can't replace nutrients from fruit, vegetables: expert

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Nutrition can be a confusing business, acknowledges Dr. Joe Schwarcz, a professor of chemistry, and director of the McGill University Office for Chemistry and Science.

"Food is a complex collage of chemicals, and [it goes] into the human body, a very complex machine," he said at a recent lecture sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section.

"People want easy answers to [this] problem, but a simple solution is not [always] possible," he said.

Every day consumers receive different advice about specific foods, Schwarcz told the capacity audience at Council House.

"One day we're told to eat fish because of omega 3, and then we find out some fish contain PCBs. Corn was good for us, until we found out that it may be genetically modified, and dark green vegetables were healthy until we discovered spinach was taken off the shelves.

"Organic carrot juice was also removed because some people got botulism, and we worry about drinking tap water because it contains contaminants. We are also afraid, though, of the [chemicals] present in plastic water bottles."

There are risks out there, he said, "but these stories make the news because they are rare."

The bottom line, he said, is that we have to ask what amount of chemicals we can safely take in. "Our water supply is carefully measured, and there are levels at which there is no risk. The benefits of omega 3 in fish outweigh the detriment of traces of mercury. Only the dose makes the poison, and we have to put things in proper context."

Science is not only qualitative, he said. "It is quantitative, and we are always measuring things. Dosage is extremely important."

At the Office for Chemistry and Science, he said, they deal with such issues. "Our mandate is to demystify science. The public needs a place where their questions can be addressed. If we separate sense from nonsense, we can keep people out of the clutch of charlatans."

Science needs to be interpreted in the correct way, he said. "We're always hearing about new miracle foods, but we need to look at our whole diet. Vilifying a certain food is not the way to go, and no food should be put on a pedestal."

Eggs are an example of a food that have a "checkered" past, Schwarcz said."Right now, omega 3 eggs are basking in the limelight, but people are afraid of egg yolks because of the cholesterol. Blood cholesterol, however, does not respond to dietary cholesterol, it responds to fat in the diet.

"If we eat five to seven eggs a week, it should have no affect on blood levels."

It is easy to lead people down "the garden path" by referring to certain studies, he said, "but while they are on the path, they should make sure they stop and pick the fruits and vegetables. Those who consume more fruits and vegetables are definitely better off, and they should be featured in our diet.

"Plates should be filled with a mix of raw and cooked vegetables. The more variety, the better we are."

There is no evidence, he said, that dietary supplements can replace the nutrients we get from fruits and vegetables. "These foods are high in antioxidants, which are not present in supplements."

If he had to address the "biggest single myth" he said, "it would be that natural things are better than man-made. The only way to know if something is dangerous is to test it. We can't tell by its ancestry. It doesn't matter if it's made in the lab or in the bush."

'Quantity is a guessing game'

Continued from page 32

I'd be wary about grating them, and if you can chop them up pretty small with a knife you'll probably be OK (especially if you use lots of onion, but it's hard to do unless you have a good knife).

The quantity of eggs and flour is a serious guessing game – every time I make latkes I play around with it and see. There's no easy answer and no science.

The biggest key is the consistency of the batter and also the latkes as you are cooking them. Go with your instinct.

If they're falling apart in the pan, you may need more egg; but they can fall apart a bit in the pan at the start when you first put them in and you can push it all back together in the pan.

But if they fall apart when flipping, then more egg and maybe flour (if too wet) are likely needed (though thickness and size will impact the fall-apart issue too).

Bottom line – put in a bunch of egg and flour and see what it looks like. If it looks like your batter is just a lot of potatoes with a bit of stuff in it, you probably need more of the stuff, but it should not look like soup.

Once you get to the point where you're cooking them, evaluate the situation as you go. You are certainly justified in tasting a latke (or two or three) early on for scientific purposes to see if they're OK, and you should consider randomly testing quality at various intervals (they almost certainly will be good, but you want to make sure don't you?) and adjust if needed.

As you will no doubt realize from these e-mails, this recipe really is best written as as the follows:

a bunch of potatoes
a bunch of onions
some eggs
some flour
some salt and pepper
a generous quantity of oil (I use olive oil)

Quantities are flexible. Trust your instincts.

I think that covers it.

P.S. Bubbie says to add ½ tsp.of baking powder for 4 or 5 potatoes.

Steven

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A traditional Chanukah table setting as seen in *Entertaining on the Jewish Holidays* by Ella Banin, Modan Publishing House

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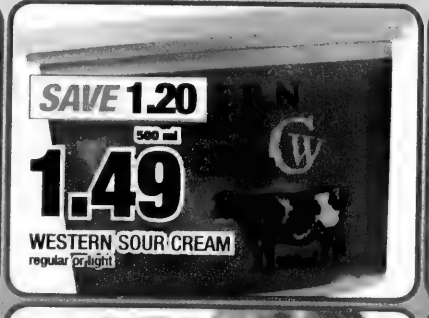


PRICES EFFECTIVE FROM SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH TO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2006.

Going 'south' for the holidays

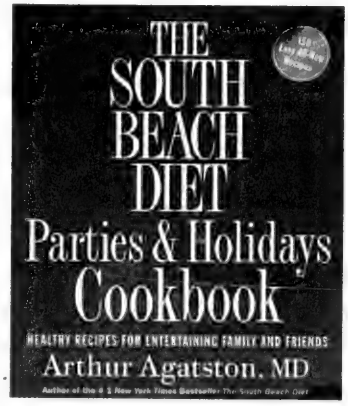
By NORENE GILLETZ
Special to The CJN

If you're thinking about getting into a bathing suit for your winter vacation, let South Beach be your destination! Entertaining doesn't mean giving up the foods you love. Cardiologist Dr. Arthur Agatston has added yet another book to his popular South Beach Diet cookbook series. In the *South Beach Diet Parties and Holidays Cookbook* (Holtzbrinck Publishers), there are more than 20 menus and 150 healthy and delicious recipes for entertaining family and friends.

Every recipe meets the South Beach Diet guidelines for healthy eating and great taste. For each menu, there are helpful make-ahead tips for stress-free entertaining. Agatston provides practical advice on maintaining your South Beach Diet lifestyle for celebrations throughout the year and making the best food choices possible, whatever the occasion. Full colour photos offer beautiful table settings, centrepieces and tempting food presentations.

You'll find recipes for Tahini Dip with Veggies, Matzo Ball Soup, Three Grain Tabouli, Roast Turkey with Fresh Herbs, Grilled Ginger Salmon, Paprika Roast Chicken, Mocha-Hazelnut Brownies and Sponge Cake with Chocolate Sour Cream Frosting. Each recipe includes a nutritional analysis and a designation of Phase 1, 2 or 3 of the South Beach Diet program.

Although this book includes some non-kosher recipes, Agatston is sensitive to the needs of his Jewish audience and offers helpful menus and delicious recipes for Passover and Chanukah. Now you can enjoy those latkes without guilt!



From the book: "Chanukah celebrates the triumph of Judah Maccabee and his soldiers in their victory over the tyrant Antiochus more than 2,000 years ago. After a long, hard-fought battle, the Maccabees returned to Jerusalem to find their temple stripped by looters. They cleaned house, made repairs and – having found just enough oil to light the menorah for one day – were surprised and blessed with the miracle of eight days of light.

"Today the holiday is celebrated with the lighting of a candle on the menorah for each of the eight days, in memory of the miraculous oil. Naturally, part of the tradition is cooking foods in oil, including latkes – the potato pancakes that are loved by young and old. Crisp and delicious, they are made here with nutritious sweet potato and zucchini in place of white potato and cooked in healthy canola oil."

SWEET POTATO AND ZUCCHINI LATKES
(Phase 2)

This twist on a Chanukah favourite yields a delightfully crispy and slightly sweet pancake. Prepare the batter right before cooking to prevent excess liquid and soggy pancakes; pour off any excess liquid while cooking, if necessary. These lacy latkes are delicate, so don't press down too hard on them once they are in the pan.

1 medium zucchini (½ lb.), ends trimmed
1 large sweet potato (¾ lb.), peeled
¼ cup minced onion
1 large egg, lightly beaten
¼ tsp. salt
⅛ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
3 tbsp. canola oil
unsweetened apple sauce (optional)

Slice zucchini lengthwise and remove seeds. Coarsely grate zucchini and potato in a food processor or with a hand grater; transfer to a medium bowl. Add onion, egg, salt and pepper; stir to combine.

Heat 1½ tbsp. of the oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Working in two batches, add zucchini mixture by heaping tablespoons to skillet, gently flattening with the back of the spoon as you go. Cook until the edges are golden, 1 to 2 minutes, then flip and cook until bottom is golden, about 1 minute more (adjust heat if necessary to prevent burning). Drain on paper towels. Repeat with remaining 1½ tbsp. oil and remaining zucchini mixture. Serve latkes hot with applesauce on the side, if desired. Makes 24 (2-in.) latkes.

Per 2 latkes: 100 calories, 1 g fat, 0 g saturated fat, 4 g protein, 20 g carbohydrate, 4 g fibre, 220 mg sodium.

Make-Ahead: Latkes can be made up to 6 hours in advance and kept covered at room temperature. Reheat on a baking sheet (preferably dark bottomed) at 375 until warmed through, about 5 minutes.

BRAISED MINI MEATBALLS
(Phase 1)

If this is your first time making meatballs without breadcrumbs, be prepared for a terrific surprise. They hold together beautifully and are just as delicious as those made with bread.

1½ lbs. extra-lean ground beef
2 large eggs
1 medium onion, finely chopped
½ cup chopped fresh parsley, plus more for garnish
1 tsp. dried basil
¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
¼ tsp. salt
2 tsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1 cup dry red wine
¼ cup unsalted tomato paste
2 cups lower-sodium beef broth
2 tsp. granular sugar substitute

Combine beef, eggs, onion, parsley, basil, pepper and salt in a large bowl. Mix well with wet hands or a wooden spoon. Form into 36 (1¼-in.) meatballs.

Heat oil over medium-high heat in a large nonstick skillet. Carefully add meatballs to the skillet (this can be done in batches, if necessary) and cook until browned on all sides, 5 to 7 minutes per batch. Pour off any excess fat from the skillet. Return all meatballs to the skillet and reduce heat to low.

Whisk together wine and tomato paste in a small bowl; pour over meatballs. Simmer over low heat, stirring occasionally, until tomato mixture has thickened, about 10 minutes. Add broth and simmer until sauce is slightly thickened, about 30 minutes. Stir in sugar substitute. Sprinkle with additional parsley just before serving. Serve warm or at room temperature. Makes 12 (3-piece) servings.

Per serving: 120 calories, 4.5 g fat, 1.5 g saturated fat, 15 g protein, 3 g carbohydrate, 0 g fibre and 132 mg sodium.

Make-Ahead: Meatballs can be cooked, cooled and frozen for up to 2 weeks. Defrost in the refrigerator before gently heating on the stove top over low heat.

CINNAMON-CHOCOLATE MANDELBROIT
(Phase 3)

These twice-baked cookies, a Chanukah favourite, are similar to Italian biscotti.

½ cup whole almonds
½ cup trans-fat-free margarine, melted
¼ cup plus 2 tbsp. granular sugar substitute
¼ cup undiluted orange juice concentrate, thawed
2 large eggs
1 tbsp. grated orange zest
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 cup whole-grain pastry flour
1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
4 tsp. ground cinnamon
¼ tsp. salt
¼ cup chopped bittersweet chocolate or chocolate chips

Continued on page 37

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Latkes: crispy and brown are like gold

By SUE EPSTEIN
Special to The CJN

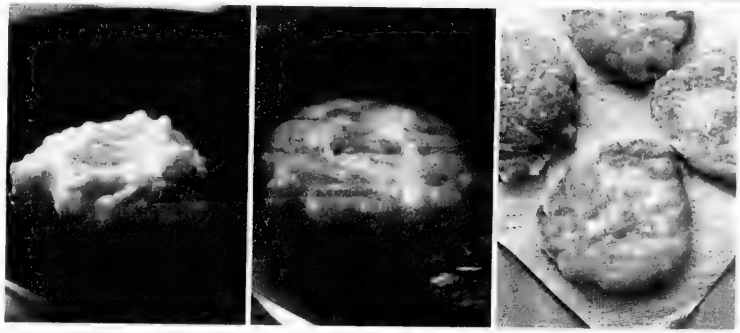
Each family has its own tradition for Chanukah gift-giving, but whatever the tradition, there are always plenty of special foods.

We eat foods cooked in oil in commemoration of the small vial of oil in the Temple that lasted for eight nights rather than one. We eat dairy foods in commemoration of Judith, who fed the Greek general Holofernes salty cheese and then wine to quench his thirst. He fell asleep and she slew him, enabling the Maccabees to win a victory over the Greeks.

Food is an important part of almost every culture's celebrations, and with Jews, it's often the main attraction.

This year on Chanukah, I will be celebrating the bar mitzvah of my grandson Eli, who was born on Shabbat Chanukah, so it will be a double reason to celebrate. My children and grandchildren, who are normally spread across two continents, will be gathering. We have been consulting for weeks in advance, via phone and e-mail, about meals and what to serve during the holiday.

In anticipation of this I have been trying out new recipes and the following are ones that will definitely be on our menu.



Traditional potato latkes as seen in *The Jewish Kitchen* by Clarissa Hyman, Interlink Books

LATKES

From 15-year-old Nick Schulman, a self-taught cook who won the People's Choice Award from the prestigious James Beard Foundation with this recipe.

3 potatoes, peeled
1 large onion
2 large eggs
1 tsp. cayenne pepper, or to taste
1 tsp. garlic powder, or more to taste
1 tbsp. coarse salt
1 heaping tbsp. flour, more if necessary
vegetable oil for frying

Use the medium shredding disk of the food processor and grate the potatoes. Place the grated potatoes on a clean dish towel. Wrap the potatoes in the towel and wring out all the excess water you can, then place the potatoes in a bowl.

Using the metal food processor blade, puree the onion until it's mushy, but not liquid. Drain any water that has accumulated on the bottom of the bowl holding the potatoes, then add the onions, eggs, cayenne pepper, garlic powder, salt, and enough flour to absorb the excess moisture in the batter, but no more.

Place a medium sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add about 1/4 in. of oil and heat until very hot. Using a soup spoon, place four dollops of batter in the pan. Let the latkes sauté for about 8-10 minutes, without touching them more than necessary so they don't stick, then flip and let cook for about 8 minutes more. The latkes should be golden to medium brown and very crisp. Serve with applesauce and sour cream. Makes 12 silver-dollar size latkes.

SAUCY APPLES AND PEARS

3 Granny Smith or other apples
3 ripe pears
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
1/2 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
2 cinnamon sticks
1/4 cup raisins
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1/2 cup maple syrup
1 tbsp. cornstarch
2 tbsp. water

Core and slice apples and pears; place in a 5-qt. slow cooker. Sprinkle with lemon juice, tossing to coat well. Combine butter and brown sugar; spoon over fruit. Add cinnamon sticks, raisins and pecans; drizzle with maple syrup and stir gently. Cook, covered, on low, 3 hours.

Combine cornstarch and water, stirring well; stir into fruit mixture. Cook, covered, on low, 3 hours or until fruit is tender. Remove and discard cinnamon sticks; serve with latkes or as a topping over ice cream or pound cake. Makes 8 servings.

OLIE BOLLEN

Olie bollen or oil balls are small round Dutch doughnuts that are sold from steaming vats on the streets of Holland during the holiday season. Perfect for Chanukah.

1 envelope dry yeast
3 tbsp. sugar
1 cup warm water, divided
2 eggs, room temperature
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. salt
4 cups all purpose flour
3 cups fruit (diced fresh apples, raisins and/or dried currants)
oil for frying
confectioner's sugar for dusting

Pour 1/2 cup warm water, about 85 to 115 degrees, into the bowl of a large food processor. Sprinkle the yeast and sugar over the water and mix at low speed. Let stand for five minutes. Slowly mix in remaining water, eggs, vanilla and salt. Slowly add flour one cup at a time. Mix on high for about a minute or two. The dough should turn into a ball and roll around the processor. If the dough does not ball up because it's too dry, add water one tbsp. at a time until it does. If your mixture is more like a batter, add flour one tbsp. at a time. Mix in fruit. Remove from food processor. Place in an oiled bowl, cover with a clean kitchen towel and let rise until doubled, about 1 1/2 hours.

Heat about 2 inches of oil in a large skillet. Punch down dough. Roll the dough into small balls, about 1 1/2 to 2 in. in diameter. Drop dough balls into hot oil, frying until golden brown, turning as needed. Drain on paper towels and dust with confectioner's sugar. Serve hot.

Make mandelbroit in advance

Continued from page 36

Heat oven to 350. Place almonds on a baking sheet and bake until fragrant and lightly toasted, about 8 minutes. Cool and coarsely chop.

Combine margarine, 1/4 cup of the sugar substitute, orange juice concentrate, eggs, zest and vanilla in a medium bowl.

In a large bowl, sift together whole-grain and all-purpose flours, baking powder, 2 tsp. of the cinnamon and salt. Stir in chopped almonds and chocolate. Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients, add the wet ingredients and stir just to combine. Using your hands, knead the dough gently until it sticks together and forms a ball. Divide dough in half and shape each half into an 8-in.-long log. Place logs on a baking sheet and press each gently to flatten to 1-inch thickness.

Bake logs for 20 minutes, remove from oven and cool on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, combine remaining 2 tbsp. sugar substitute and 2 tsp. cinnamon in a small bowl.

When logs are cool, use a serrated knife to cut each log crosswise into 12 pieces. Lay cookies flat on the baking sheet and sprinkle the tops evenly with the cinnamon mixture. Bake until cookies are lightly golden, about 12 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool and serve. Makes 2 dozen cookies.

Per cookie: 100 calories, 6 g fat, 1.5 g saturated fat, 3 g protein, 11 g carbohydrate, 1 g fibre, 60 mg sodium.

Make-Ahead: Mandelbroit can be made up to 3 days in advance. Store in a covered container.

Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For information, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at http://www.gourmania.com

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PREPARATION TIME: 15 min. or less • COOK TIME: 10 min.

1 can (170 g)	**Clover Leaf® Flaked White Tuna,** drained	2 tbsp (30 ml)	chopped cilantro or parsley
1/2 cup (125 ml)	shredded Cheddar cheese	6	small (6-7"/15-17.5 cm) flour tortillas
1/3 cup (75 ml)	mild salsa		

Combine tuna, cheese, salsa and cilantro. Place 3 tortillas on large baking sheet sprayed with nonstick cooking spray. Divide tuna mixture evenly between tortillas and spread over surface. Top with remaining tortillas.

Spray top of tortillas with nonstick cooking spray. Bake at 425°F (220°C) about 10 min. or until lightly browned and crisp. Cut into wedges and serve with additional salsa, if desired. Makes 24 appetizers.

Visit us at cloverleaf.ca for many more exciting recipes!

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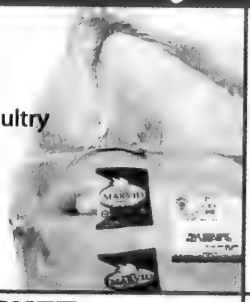

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CHANUKAH FOOD IDEAS

Israeli vintner says to choose wines you like

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Israeli vintner Golan Tishbi had a mischievous glint in his eye as he unscrewed the cap on a bottle of dry white Chardonnay. "There goes the romance!" he proclaimed to a small group of North American journalists visiting Tishbi Estate Winery.

If it were up to Tishbi, he would use screwcaps in place of corks on all his bottles, but "my customers [would] shoot me, probably."

Currently all Tishbi white wines, and some reds, have screwcaps, a change instituted about two years ago.

Tishbi, 35, who studied wine-making in New Zealand, said that screwcaps preserve the wine the way he made it.

"Cork is natural, it's good… but one out of every 10 bottles is spoiled by cork. With screwcaps you have 100 per cent success."

While traditionalists might view screwcaps as "not kosher" – as Tishbi put it – the wine he produces at the family-run winery that his father Jonathan opened 22 years ago is certified under the supervision of the Zichron Yaakov rabbinate, as is the onsite dairy restaurant.

Tishbi advises customers to choose wines they like rather than following "pre-set notions" about pairing certain wines with certain foods or choosing wines produced only in particular climates.

His best seller, he said, is a Cabernet Petite Sirah, "the simplest, casual, day-to-day easy drinking wine."

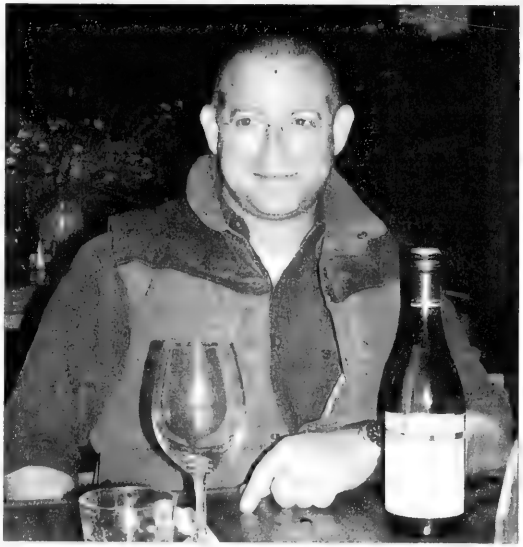
And what does Tishbi prefer? "I drink beer," he laughed. "Goldstar."

He turned serious, however, when discussing wine production, citing Tishbi's lower levels of sulphites than some of its competitors, and its use of clay as a fining agent – the industry term for additives used to clarify the wine – to remove proteins from white wine.

He eschews the use of an equivalent to fish gelatin – sometimes used as a fining agent in non-kosher wines – to absorb phenols and tannins which can give wine an unpleasant taste. If the grapes are not pressed too hard, Tishbi said, the additive is not necessary.

The winery, which now produces 1.2 million bottles a year – up from 700,000 five years ago – also sells its own tchinah, fruit jams and preserves, all made without additives. In January, it will also offer Muscat and Cabernet jellies.

Tishbi's family has a long history in the wine business, dating back to the 1880s. Golan's great-grandparents Michael and Malka Tishbi were among the first grape growers in Zichron Yaacov, now a charming but lesser-known tourist destination. The family name, Tishbi, dates back to a 1925 visit by poet Chaim Nachman Bialik, who gave the couple their new name, an acronym for "Toshavei Shefeya" – residents of Shefeya (a village near Zichron Yaacov), said Golan.



Golan Tishbi, of the family-run Tishbi Estate Winery, says that screwcaps preserve the wine as he made it. [Frances Kraft photo]

The winery is located a short drive from Zichron Yaacov's main street, which is lined for several blocks with 19th-century houses converted to cafés, galleries and shops.

The buildings date back to the days of Tishbi's great-grandparents. "[We] Jewish people are connected to the land," said Tishbi. "This is a hard country… but it's the nicest on the planet."

For more information on the winery, go to www.tishbi.com. Group tours should be booked ahead of time.

Tishbi's Baron Cabernet Petite Sirah and Tishbi Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, a silver medal winner at the 2001 International Wine and Spirit Competition, are available in Quebec liquor stores.

DECKS' DUCK BREAST WITH RED WINE AND HONEY SAUCE

Decks, a well-known kosher grill restaurant overlooking the Sea of Galilee in Tiberias, uses Cabernet Sauvignon as an ingredient in this succulent grilled duck breast. Read the entire recipe to learn the restaurant's "secrets" of success.

Sauce for 6 duck breasts:

1 750-litre bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon
2 cups honey
4 cloves fresh garlic, finely chopped
4 tsp. ginger, finely chopped

Mix all ingredients in large pot on low heat for 1½ hours. Watch closely and stir frequently in order not to burn the bottom.

Grill 6 duck breasts lightly on both sides until browned, but still rare. After grilling, cut into slices. For rare duck, cut thick slices; for well done, slice thinly. Once sliced, continue grilling on hot coals to taste. When done, pour sauce over the duck, and serve.

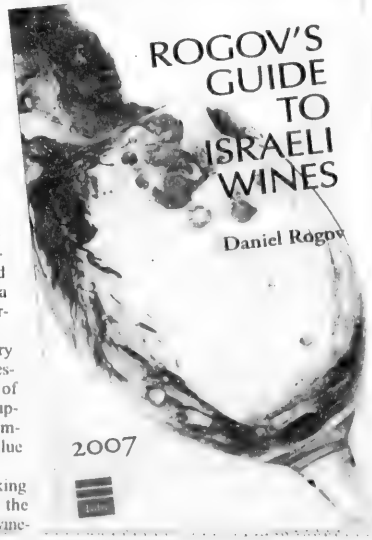
Three musts for success:
1. The duck must be very fresh
2. The honey must be 100 per cent pure
3. The wine must be Cabernet Savignon (they use Golan)

Also, added a representative of the restaurant in an e-mail, Decks only uses the finest drinking wine in recipes. The duck must be grilled on hardwood, such as olive or walnut, not on coals.

Frances Kraft was in Israel last month as a guest of Israel's Ministry of Tourism.

Ha'aretz critic knows what makes a great wine

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

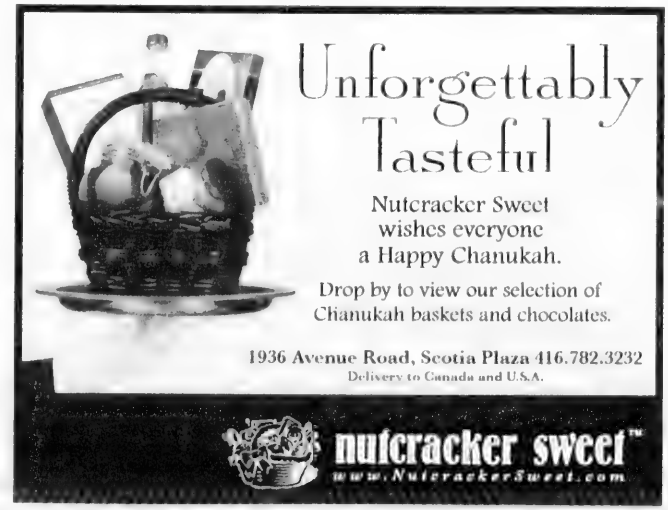


The third annual edition of *The Rogov Guide to Israeli Wines* (Toby Press), the definitive book about wine produced in the Jewish state, has been released.

Written by Daniel Rogov, wine and restaurant critic for *Ha'aretz* daily newspaper and a regular contributor to several European newspapers and magazines on wine and food, the guide includes a list and a ranking of all vineyards and wineries in Israel.

As well, Rogov provides a history of wine in Israel; addresses the question of kashrut; and provides lists of the top 10 wine producers, new up-and-coming producers, most improved producers, and the best-value producers.

He also gives talks about drinking habits in Israel and throughout the world, and gives tips on hosting a wine-tasting party



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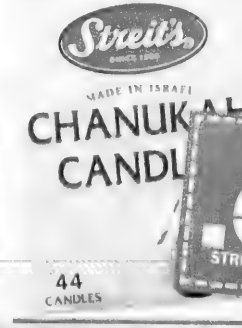

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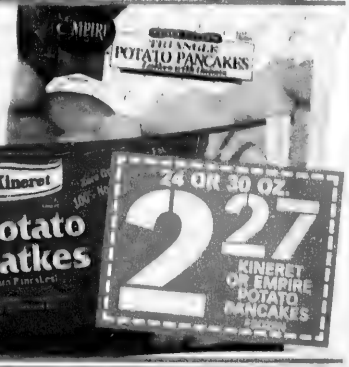

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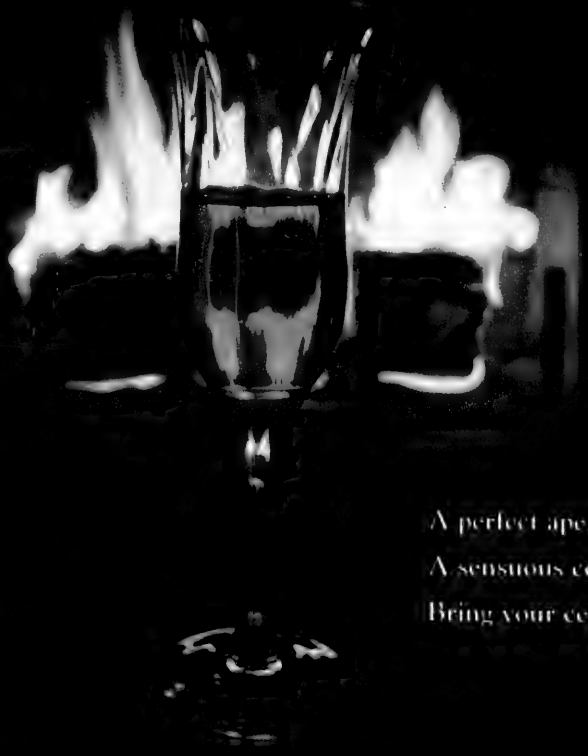

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Kedem Manischewitz Mogen David

Many delicious ways to make sufganiyot

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

There is no right way of making sufganiyot, the fried in oil jelly doughnuts without the hole served as a Chanukah treat.

One type are created from sweet yeast dough. Lumps of the dough are dropped into hot oil and come out in odd, funny shapes, which are then covered in powdered sugar and/or cinnamon.

The following recipes are two that I've collected over the years. Some recipes are easier and others take a little more work but all are fabulous for Chanukah.

SUFGANIYOT

Recipe from my Presto Deep Fryer

¼ cup orange juice
½ cup margarine
¼ cup sugar
2 packages dry yeast
3½ cups flour
2 eggs, beaten
dash of salt
vegetable oil for frying
1 cup sugar
1 tbsp. cinnamon

In small saucepan, combine juice, margarine and ¼ cup sugar. Heat until margarine melts and ingredients are blended. Cool the mixture until it is lukewarm. Add yeast to mixture in saucepan and stir until dissolved. In large bowl, combine flour, eggs and salt. Add to juice-yeast mixture. Mix well.

Turn dough onto lightly floured surface and knead until dough is smooth and elastic. Place dough in greased bowl, cover with a cloth and let rise in a warm place for 1 to 1½ hours.

Punch down. On lightly floured surface, roll dough to ½-in. thickness and cut doughnuts using a 2-in. cutter. Place doughnuts on waxed paper about 1 in. apart and let rise for another 30 to 45 minutes. Preheat oil in electric deep fryer. Fry in hot oil, a few at a time, until golden. Drain well on paper towels. Combine 1 cup sugar and 1 tbsp. cinnamon in a plastic bag and shake well. Then add fried doughnuts, a few at a time, and shake until each is coated with the mixture.

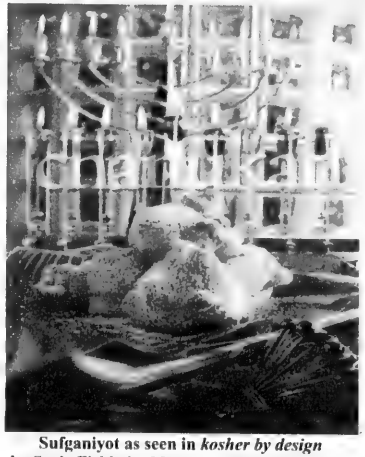
OVEN FRIED SUFGANIYOT

From *Light Jewish Holiday Desserts* by Penny Wantuck Eisenberg

1 cup skim milk
2 tbsp. unsalted butter
¼ cup sugar
1 tsp. salt
1 large egg
3½ cups (all-purpose flour, lightly sprinkled into measuring cup)
2 tbsp. instant yeast

Syrup:
2 cups sugar
¼ cup water

Sugar coating and filling:
¼ cup sugar



Sufganiyot as seen in *kosher by design* by Susie Fishbein, Mesorah Publications Ltd.

1 jar seedless raspberry or grape jam

In a medium pot over medium heat, heat the milk and butter until the butter melts. Stir in the sugar and salt. Let cool to 120 (very warm, but not enough to sting your finger). In a large mixer bowl, whisk the egg. Gradually whisk in the milk mixture.

In a separate bowl, mix 2 cups of the flour with the yeast. Add the flour to the egg mixture, and beat it for 2 minutes on a medium speed. Stir in the remaining flour to form a soft batter. Cover and let rise for 30 minutes or until doubled in volume.

Grease 24 mini-muffin cups (2 pans). Flour your hands, and turn the dough out onto a floured worktable. Roll the dough lightly into a log. Cut off small pieces and form the dough into balls, about one inch in diameter. Place 1 ball in each muffin cup.

Spray 2 pieces of plastic wrap with cooking spray. Place over the muffin pans and let the dough rise for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 375 with the rack in the middle of the oven. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until the doughnuts are lightly browned. Turn the doughnuts out onto a cooling rack.

While the dough is baking, prepare the syrup. Combine the sugar and water in a medium pot. Stir and heat over medium heat until the sugar has dissolved. Increase the heat and boil the syrup for 5 minutes to thicken it. Turn heat to low, and keep the syrup warm.

Toss the warm donuts in the sugar syrup. Remove the donuts with a slotted spoon, and roll them in the sugar. Fit a pastry bag with a ¼-in. plain (round) tube. Fill the bag with the jam. Poke a hole in the side of each donut with the pastry tip. Squeeze the bag, and fill each donut with jam. Serve as soon as possible.

If you want to make them more than 2 hours ahead, delay dipping them in syrup and rolling in sugar until almost ready to serve. Unsugared, they can be frozen for up to 3 months. Reheat them, covered with foil, in a 350-degree oven for 15 minutes, then dip in sugar syrup and roll in sugar. Makes 20 to 24 small sufganiyot.

A lesson in baking delights

By MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

With a thick blade in his hand and a circular sheet of puff pastry in front of him, renowned chef Anthony Walsh delicately dabs the dough in several spots.

He's creating a goat cheese tarte with sunchokes (Jerusalem artichokes), pomegranate and radish and this simple technique, referred to as "docking," gives some air to the dough so that it doesn't puff up inside. The 18 people on hand appreciate the tip.

We are gathered for a cooking demonstration at the Westin Trillium House resort in Blue Mountain.

The participants are a diverse group, ranging from connoisseurs of haute cuisine to perennial microwave oven meal-makers.

Throughout the demo, Walsh and colleague Todd Clarmo, both of whom are corporate executive chefs for Oliver Bonacini Restaurants, share culinary tips and recipe alternatives.

The experience makes you feel as though you're learning the culinary arts in you're own kitchen.

"The most important thing I've learned is that you can be flexible with food – you don't have to follow the recipe line by line," says participant Shandi Gillespie, 29, from Toronto.

"And it was nice to see that they didn't judge us. They realized that the people here don't know as much about cooking as they do and they tailored the presentation to suit everyone."

Indeed, Walsh and Clarmo's down-to-earth style is calming and welcoming. They alter ingredients, even at the last second, to accommodate dietary restrictions and allergies.

More importantly, their food is exquisite.

The Jerusalem artichoke lying on a bed of cheese atop the tarte melts in your mouth.

And the second creation of the demo, black cod marinated in maple syrup, rum and white miso, is splendid.

Following the food is an informative session on cheese hosted by Scott McKenzie, maitre fromager at Auberge du Pommier.

GOAT CHEESE TARTE WITH SUNCHOKES, POMEGRANATE AND RADISH

1 puff pastry sheet
1½ cups goat cheese at room temperature
2 egg yolks – 1 for cheese, 1 for wash
2 oz. 35 per cent cream
rosemary and thyme
1 tbsp. maple syrup
4 pieces Jerusalem artichoke scrubbed and chopped into 1xl-in. chunks
salt and pepper to taste
1 red beet and 1 golden beet washed and peeled
2 tbsp. pomegranate molasses, juice or grenadine
arugula, rocket or watercress
assorted radish: daikon, red, breakfast washed
10 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil, divided
1 tbsp. red wine vinegar

Cut four 3½-in. rounds out of puff pastry approx. ¼ in. thick, rub on egg wash, prick surface with a fork, dust with some rosemary and thyme, and bake at 375 for 7 to 10 minutes. Reserve for finishing.

Toss sunchokes in 2 tbsp. olive oil, salt and pepper and 1 tbsp. maple syrup. Place on tray and roast at 350 to 375 until golden and soft. Reserve for finishing.

Combine 1 yolk, the goat cheese and the cream. Add desired herbs, salt and pepper. Place in a piping bag. Pipe goat cheese onto the tartes.

To make dressing, combine 1 tbsp. of red wine vinegar, 2 tbsp. of pomegranate molasses, 8 tbsp. oil, salt and pepper. Whisk well and reserve.

For the beets and radish, slice very thin on a mandolin or with a vegetable peeler; toss in a bowl with the roasted sunchokes. Add dressing and reserve. Before serving, add leaves and gently toss, check seasoning and dress plates with salad.

Place tartes in oven for 3 minutes at 400, finish under broiler, place on top of dressed salad. Garnish with fried vegetable chips or fine herbs and pomegranate seeds.

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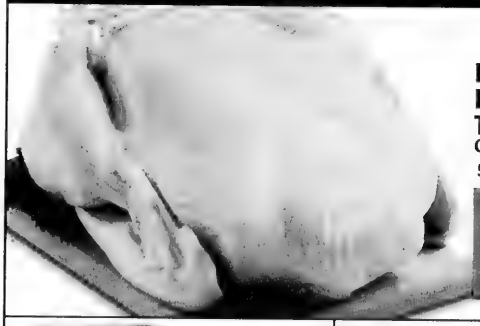

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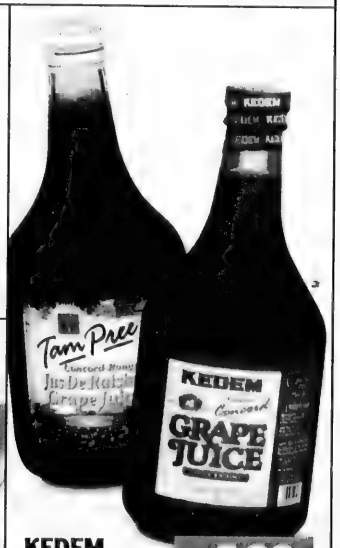

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Food that evokes memories in our readers

Two *CJN* readers have answered our call for submissions about some of their favourite food memories.

Rochelle Mass, who lives in Gan Ner, Israel, sent the following: My mother would tell me how her mother made lockshen (noodles) each summer – how she rolled the long threads up into balls, placed the tight fists into cotton sacks in the attic ready for kugel and chicken soup all winter long.

What was the recipe? I asked when I got married, and, quite suddenly, many things changed, including how I felt about family history.

The exact recipe – that's what I wanted. But all my mother could tell me was that Baba would drag a sack of flour into the kitchen and place on the table two dozen eggs, a pitcher of water and a cup of salt.

And? I asked.

Well, she'd beat the eggs, add the flour – How much? – and salt.

What else?

She poured in water slowly till the dough turned stiff.

For how long?

About 10 minutes, maybe more, she worked the dough in a huge *shissel* (pot). Then she'd grab off a large ball, sprinkle flour on the table and roll it out, then cut lockshen-sized strips.

How wide?

Lockshen wide, mother would answer spreading her fingers to about a half inch. Some she sliced thin, others broader.

Baba would drape the strips over towels on every chair and cupboard door, and every other possible surface – the ironing board, clothes hangers – till they were dry. Baba would run her fingers along the dough as though it was new silk, pulling at the strips, stretching them ever so gently. She'd wait, then pile them in heaps and wait again till the summer heat did its work. Then Zaide took the cotton sacks up to the attic.

My grandmother, in a stained striped housedress, her hair pulled into a braid wound and re-wound on her damp head, bending over the kitchen table, the sack of flour and the strips of lockshen binding the entire house in early summer – those memories fell into new patterns when I got married. I didn't consider making my own pasta, but I was determined to make everything else connected with this grandmother – kreplach, knishes, mandelbroit, even pickled tongue, which I never ate.

I could barely cook a piece of chicken and hardly knew how to make a plain white cake. I had one recipe for bran muffins that were never moist. And here I was planning knishes with the kind of dough you pulled with the back of your hand till it slipped over the sides of the table, till you could see through it, till you could roll it over filling of potatoes and fried onions, slice it with the side of your hand as though it was a knife, then pinch in the ends. Such a dream for a girl who had never made sweet and sour meatballs, who couldn't make chopped liver!

I knew I was doing more than collecting recipes. I knew I was searching for connections, looking for what my grandmother knew and what seemed so foreign in my world. I was digging for deposits of family memory.

I asked my mother again and again for details. I felt it was important, although it seemed unnecessary for me to be so busy in the kitchen. Somehow these recipes were points of access into my life.

Baba served coleslaw on Shavuot and poppyseed cookies that were so hard you had to dunk them in the tea. Both were high on the scale of what mattered – also buckwheat latkes with yeast and potatoes. I was busy retrieving, preserving information, like how she packed cucumbers and dill into sealers with her steady hand. The very idea of these delicacies filled my kitchen with power. They restored my grandmother's face, brought her back. I was opening the door to Baba's life, and surprisingly, making my own.

Send us your food memories

I could barely grill a veal chop without burning the edges, probably because knishes, kreplach and mandelbroit blurred my vision. That vision was my touchstone, my talisman. It complicated the early years of my marriage. While desperately trying to make fluffy pancakes for brunch, I was thinking of transparent knish dough.

I know that I was living one life and dreaming of another. I tugged stubbornly at private meanings, trying to find the contour of my memories and hoping to make them into a grid of signals. The past was transformed, and the memories have transformed me. Bringing family history into my kitchen is an account of shared ground.

Forty years later, I can roll knish dough over potatoes and onions, make many variations of mandelbroit and fill a large pot of boiling water with kreplach that hit the bottom then rise to the top when ready. I stuff cabbage leaves the way Baba did. I roll the filling into the centre of the leaf and fold it upon itself, place it gently into simmering beets and tomatoes the way she did. And I did learn to make pickled tongue, which I still don't eat.

***

Dorothy Lipovenko, from Westmount, Que., sent us the following: Ever notice that certain foods, no matter how easily the recipe can be replicated at home, just taste yummier in someone else's house? This brings to mind two things in particular from my single days in Toronto more than 30 years ago.

The first we affectionately knew as "shmatta cake"; it was anything but. The creation of Faye Grafstein, for whom a Sunbeam mixmaster was a third appendage and whose home in the 1970s was a way station for friends of the Grafstein kids, "shmatta (or angel) cake" was truly within striking distance of the heavens. It was ethereal, feather-light and all-purpose. It was the best thing on which to break a Yom Kippur fast (with tea), cry over a bad breakup (with coffee), or two years and many slices later, make a l'chaim (with a shot of whiskey) announcing one's engagement to the perpetrator of the bad breakup.

Being single did have its perks for me, namely Shabbat meals at the homes of friends whose parents warmly and generously made a place for me at their table. And this brings me to the second item that holds a special place in my memory.

When I was newly married, one of my first Friday night dinners was my attempt to replicate Ruth Laker's wonderfully exotic chicken I'd enjoyed so often.

Mrs. Laker basted chicken pieces with orange juice and dry onion soup mix, and while it sounds deceptively simple, mine has never tasted as delicious. Her daughter, my friend Naomi Laker-Nahmias, informs me by e-mail from Israel that there's half a glass of red or white wine in it too.

But after all these years, I finally figured out what's missing from my version of these two classics: atmosphere. That's the magic ingredient that gave the cake and the chicken their special something. It was the atmosphere around those tables – unique to that time and place – that made some things taste so much better at someone else's house.

TRADITIONAL SETTING as seen in *Entertaining on Jewish Holidays* by Ella Banin, Modan publishers

CHANUKAH Food Ideas

Pancakes make a festive but simple Chanukah breakfast

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

The key to keeping chaos to a minimum on mornings during winter break from school is to serve a meal that is simple, easy, and quick.

Breakfast shouldn't be formal but it should probably be more festive because it's Chanukah.

DOUBLE BANANA PANCAKES

1 cup flour
1 1/4 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. sugar
2 large ripe bananas
1/4 cup milk
2 large eggs
2 tsp. oil

Topping:
1 tbsp. butter
2 large ripe bananas, sliced
nutmeg
1/4 cup maple syrup, warmed

In a large mixing bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Mix to blend. Set aside. Puree bananas in a food processor, fitted with a metal blade to a smooth, liquid consistency. Transfer purée to a mixing bowl. Add milk, eggs and oil. Whisk to blend well. Add the dry ingredients – whisking to incorporate.

Preheat oven to 250. Heat a griddle. Add butter to bottom of pan. When butter is hot, ladle 2 tbsp. of batter onto griddle, cooking until the tops of the pancake bubble and the underside is brown. (2-3 minutes) Turn and cook other side until golden brown - about 2 minutes more. Transfer to a baking sheet. Continue until all the batter has been used.

To prepare topping: Heat butter in a large skillet. When hot, add sliced bananas – sauté, stirring constantly until bananas are warm, about 1 minute.

To serve: Arrange four pancakes on each of four dinner plates. Top with sautéed bananas, grated nutmeg and warm maple syrup. Makes 12 to 14 pancakes.

PUFFY APPLE CINNAMON PANCAKES

1/4 cup butter
1/2 cup flour
1/4 cup milk
2 eggs
1/2 tsp. salt

Apple Filling
2 tbsp. butter
2 tsp. cornstarch
1 tbsp. cold water
1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
dash clove powder (optional)
dash of allspice (optional)
2 medium cooking apples, cored and sliced thin
1/2 cup pecan halves
1/4 cup raisins or currants

Heat oven to 400. In a 9 in. pie plate melt 1/4 lb. butter in oven 2-4 minutes. In a large bowl mix together the flour, milk, eggs and salt. Beat 2-3 minutes. Pour the batter into the buttered pie pan. Bake 25 minutes until brown. In a 10-in. skillet melt 2 tbsp. butter. In a small bowl mix together the cornstarch, water, sugar and cinnamon and add to melted butter in skillet. Cook over medium heat stirring constantly until sugar dissolves and mixture thickens. Stir in apples, pecans and raisins or currants. Continue stirring constantly until apples are evenly coated and crisply tender. Spoon filling on to the hot pancake. Cut into wedges and serve immediately. Serves 4 to 6.

PAN SEARED PEACH PANCAKES

4 medium peaches or nectarines (fresh or frozen)
2 cups flour
1/4 cup of sugar
2 tsp. baking soda
3 eggs
1 1/4 cups milk
2 tbsp. butter, melted
1 tbsp. malt vinegar
butter
maple syrup

Slice the fruit crosswise about 1/4 in. thick, cutting around pit to form rings if you are using fresh peaches.

In a bowl combine flour, sugar and baking soda. Make well in centre of flour mixture; set aside. In another bowl whisk together eggs, milk, melted butter and vinegar. Add the egg mixture to flour mixture. Stir until moistened.

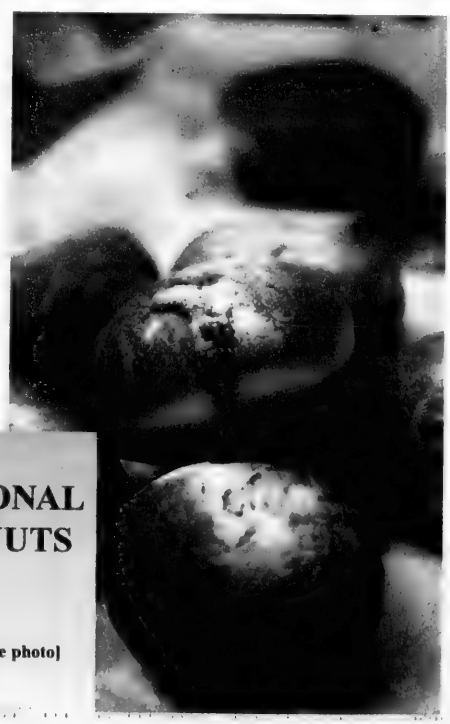
Add about 1 tsp. butter to a hot, large non stick skillet or griddle. Place a peach slice on hot skillet (or use 2 sections of frozen peaches or canned peaches to make a ring). Pour or spread a scant 1/4 cup batter over peach slice. Cook over medium heat about 2 minutes on each side until pancakes are golden brown, turning when pancakes have bubbly surfaces and edges are slightly dry. Repeat with remaining batter. Serve with maples syrup. Makes 8 servings.

STRAWBERRY LEMON PANCAKES

4 cups strawberries (fresh or frozen)
1/2 cup honey
1 cup orange juice
2 cups flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
3 tbsp. maple syrup
2 cups milk
3 tbsp. butter, melted
2 large egg yolks
3 tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. grated lemon peel
1 tsp. grated orange peel
2 large egg whites, beaten

Clean and slice strawberries. Crush 1/4 of the strawberries. In a medium bowl combine the crushed berries with honey and orange juice. Gently stir in the remaining berries; set aside.

In a medium bowl sift together flour and baking powder; set aside. In a large bowl, blend together maple syrup, milk, melted butter, and egg yolks. Add lemon juice, grated lemon peel, and grated orange peel. Slowly add in flour mixture until just moistened. Carefully fold in stiffly beaten egg whites. Pour about 1/4 cup batter onto a hot, lightly greased griddle or heavy skillet. Cook over medium heat about 2 minutes each side or until golden brown. Serve with the strawberry topping. Makes 4-in. size pancakes. This recipe can be doubled or tripled.



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Student group celebrated for promoting tolerance

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The Montreal chapter of Students Helping Others Understand Tolerance (SHOUT) was awarded the Montreal YMCA's 2006 Peace Medallion late last month for its peace work on campus and in the community.

The Peace Medallion is awarded to local groups and individuals who are committed to promoting tolerance, understanding and respect.

"It is very exciting to be recognized for the work that we are doing, to know that it is not in vain and it is not just the nuclear group of SHOUT members who believe in us, but it is something that is needed and respected and appreciated in the greater campus community, in the community of Montreal, and therefore the community of Canada," said Ryla Braemer, the Toronto-based director of special projects for National Jewish Campus Life (NJCL) and a SHOUT staffer.

SHOUT, a national organization with chapters in 11 Canadian cities from coast to coast, as well as chapters in Kentucky, was founded last year by March of the Living alumni and is mostly funded by NJCL.

According to the SHOUT website, in early May 2005, 120 students from across Canada, both Jewish and non-Jewish, participated in the March of the Living program in Poland to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

"We had a reunion in August and… we talked about taking the lessons of the Holocaust and what we learned about genocide in general and how we can move forward once we are back in Canada," Braemer said.

SHOUT was subsequently created to bring together campus groups to work toward the same goal, which is what separates SHOUT from other student organizations, Braemer said.

"There are a lot of human rights and tolerance groups out there, but I think we are unique in our efforts to join all those together on certain projects."

She said SHOUT has a mission that is twofold.

"One is to educate about genocides in the past and present, and we use the Holocaust as the backdrop to understand genocide. We also aim to bring tolerance and respect to campus, so we see ourselves as a link between other campus groups," Braemer said, adding that more than half of the organization's staffers are not Jewish.

She noted that programs SHOUT has coordinated include tours by Paul Rusesabagina, the real-life hero of the film *Hotel Rwanda*, and by Nobel Peace Prize winner, author and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, both of whom came to Montreal.

"We have just started working on a tour with Stephen Lewis [the UN envoy to Africa] that is going to take place in January. We have also developed a program called Witness to History, where we bring together survivors of the Holocaust, the genocide in Rwanda and anyone who made it out of Sudan," Braemer said, referring to the ongoing genocide in that country's Darfur region.

"We've also had leaders' dinners, where we would bring representatives from the main students groups on campus to sit around one table and discuss how we can work together and create a campus culture that is comfortable and tolerant."

Ottawa prof teaches Yiddish 'as a living language'

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — If Prof. Rebecca Margolis has her way, not only will the teaching of Yiddish become more widespread, but Yiddish will once again be a modern, vibrant spoken language.

And she's part of an ambitious program at the University of Ottawa that's trying to accomplish these goals.

Speaking Nov. 19 to an invited audience at U of O, Margolis, an assistant professor at the school's Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program, reviewed the history of Yiddish as a spoken language in a lecture delivered in both English and French.

"To understand this thousand-year-old culture of European Jewry, you have to know Yiddish this is my personal opinion," began Margolis.

Explaining that Yiddish is a Jewish Diaspora language with origins in 10th-century Germany, Margolis described early Yiddish as being connected to the study of Torah and observance of Jewish law.

Beginning with the Jewish Enlightenment of the 19th century, "it was no longer assumed that your goal in life was to do God's will. The Enlightenment meant that a number of ideological cultures appeared and modern Yiddish came into being, as a language itself."

Canada had Yiddish schools in the early 1900s, and some taught only Yiddish while some also taught Hebrew. As well, some taught Yiddish language, some Yiddish literature and history.

However, "history has not been kind to Yiddish. The Holocaust destroyed the culture. Five out of six million Jews who perished were Yiddish speakers," Margolis said.

"In the 1920s, you could get a PhD in Yiddish and about Yiddish in the Soviet Union."

But those days are, unfortunately, gone, she said.

"Because Yiddish has no homeland, and the best way to learn a language is intensely, the only way to learn now is at one of the intensive university programs that exist," she said.

"My vision is to establish Yiddish education at the University of Ottawa on two levels: as a subject of interest, and as a learning tool."

Margolis plans to offer variety of courses and use modern technology

She added that "Yiddish will be taught as a living language, which seems obvious when speaking of any other language. My approach is to make the Yiddish experience a living experience."

In order to do this, Margolis plans to offer a variety of courses and to use modern technological teaching tools.

"Yiddish still uses a textbook from 1947," she said. "The Yiddish teacher today has to work very hard to make it interesting."

She is planning to use an interactive Yiddish teaching program on the Internet to enhance her students' learning experience.

The program at the University of Ottawa is a first in Canada. "Our Canadian Jewish history is so rich in Yiddish… writers, poets, etc.," said Margolis, but as of now, "there is no such thing as Canadian Yiddish studies outside of the University of Ottawa."

York U Foundation head wins fundraising award

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

York University Foundation president and CEO Paul Marcus was given the Community Counselling Service Award for Outstanding Fundraising Professional last month.

Marcus, who was recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) – the world's largest fundraising organization – is only the second Canadian to win the award.

Marcus was also named the 2006 Outstanding Fundraising Professional by the AFP's Greater Toronto chapter.

Paul Marcus

"It is a great honour, particularly at this point in my career. To be recognized by your peers is really so meaningful. It is very special to win an award for something you love to do," said Marcus, 44, who founded the York University Foundation almost five years ago.

In the past four years, York's fundraising revenue has doubled and the number of donors has increased by more than 60 per cent. In the span of about two years, York has received 13 new gifts of $1 million or more.

In anticipation of York's 50th anniversary in 2009, the foundation recently launched the largest fundraising campaign in the school's history called "York to the Power of 50."

"I think the most important thing is… our $200-million campaign," Marcus said.

"We are already more than halfway to our goal," he said, adding that about $110 million has been raised so far.

He said the money will be used to help students who need financial aid, as well as to attract and retain the best faculty, to keep research a priority at the school, and to ensure that York has the best infrastructure.

"When we receive money, we allocate it right away. We're here to serve the university, and we also need to be responsible and accountable to the donors because they deserve it, and they have a lot of choices and they want to do good."

Although Marcus has been working in the not-for-profit sector for much of his professional life, he earned a law degree from Queen's University and briefly articled and practised at the Toronto law firm Goodman and Carr.

"I learned a lot from professional law, particularly at a great firm like Goodman and Carr, but I knew at a very early stage that I wanted to do something different. The thought of being able to work for a not-for-profit sector and to give back to the community was alluring," he said.

Among Marcus' many accomplishments in the fundraising field, he was the senior vice-president at the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation, where he was part of the Best Medicine Campaign that raised more than $150 million, which at the time was the largest hospital campaign in history, Marcus said.

Marcus has also worked as the director of development at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and with B'nai Brith Canada.

He said the success he has had at York can be attributed to a maturing alumni base that wants to give back to the university, and to his experience working with organizations that have a "strong culture of philanthropy."

"This is a reflection of the outstanding charities that I have had the honour to serve, and the great volunteers and donors and colleagues who I've worked with who I have learned a lot from," Marcus said.

"I feel very proud to be part of a fundraising profession that is really coming into its own and developing such depth and expertise," he said.

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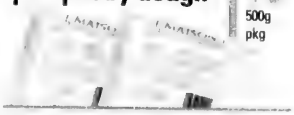

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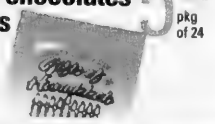

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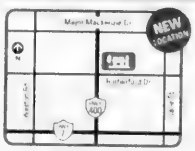

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On Campus

McGill students hold a benefit for Darfur

By EZRA GLINTER
Special to The CJN

McGill University students recently held a benefit to raise money and increase awareness of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

The Amazing Benefit Concert for Darfur was held on Nov. 27 at Gert's Bar, an on-campus watering hole.

Organized by Evan Malach, an emerging songwriter and musician, the benefit was a joint presentation of student grassroots initiatives Channel for Change and Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND).

Malach, who was joined onstage by musicians Brandon Luft and Zack Tolsky, performed a mixture of original compositions and cover tunes by such artists as U2 and Neil Young.

In addition to musical entertainment, pamphlets outlining the details of the Darfur conflict were distributed and a presentation was made by Channel for Change leader Ricki Gurwitz. "As students we have a social responsibility to make ourselves aware and to do something about this," she said.

Malach, who likens himself to Live 8 organizer Bob Geldof, emphasized the educational nature of the event. "It's about fundraising because all of the proceeds will go to help Darfur," he said. "But it's also about teaching people here about what's going on there."

From left, Zack Tolsky and Evan Malach jam at the Amazing Benefit Concert for Darfur. [Ezra Glinter photo]

Currently finishing a program at McGill in humanistic studies, history, and theatre, Malach said his education has inspired him to help others. "A major thing I took out of the program is recognizing other human beings, not just people in your immediate vicinity, but people everywhere, and to help them with their suffering."

It is estimated that in the three years of the Darfur conflict, 450,000 men, women and children have been killed and two million more made homeless in a genocide led by a government-supported militia called the janjaweed. The conflict has become a hot topic on university campuses across the country, thanks to groups such as Channel for Change and STAND.

"We try to direct attention to the crisis in Darfur by raising awareness through student participation," said Emily Bennett, co-president of STAND's McGill chapter. "Our main three goals are education, advocacy and fundraising."

Currently, STAND activities include financial support of humanitarian organizations working in Darfur, such as Oxfam and Médecins Sans Frontières. The group is also engaged in a letter-writing campaign, urging Prime Minister Stephen Harper to support United Nations intervention in Sudan.

"We put pressure on the government to at least take a strong rhetorical stance, and we'd like to see troop commitments as well," Bennett said.

STAND is also pressuring Canadian universities to divest from corporations operating in Sudan, a move that has already been made by many American universities.

Malach, a graduate of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, believes that it is important for the Jewish community to take a stand on humanitarian issues such as the Darfur conflict.

"As Jews, it's important to recognize that it's not just about standing up against persecution and anti-Semitism strictly in a Jewish context," he said. "It's also about recognizing other groups of people and other civilizations who are being persecuted and helping them as well."

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Gertrude Marks sits beside two of her prized paintings on display at the entrance of Forest Hill Place. [Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf photo]

86-year-old beats stroke with art

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Ever since she was a little girl, Gertrude Marks has been painting beautiful, vibrant pictures of flowers and still lifes.

Now 86-years-old, she is a prolific artist, churning out dozens of pictures a year at her Forest Hill Place retirement residence in Toronto.

While her works brighten up the décor at Forest Hill Place, it's her perseverance in the face of adversity that earns her the respect and acclaim of staff and residents alike.

In 2002, Marks suffered a debilitating stroke that left her wheelchair bound and without the use of her right hand, her painting hand.

It was a cruel blow and for a time, robbed her of her will to continue painting.

Before the stroke, Marks was an avid, lifelong painter and art enthusiast, producing numerous acrylic pieces over the years.

But Marks was determined to overcome it by learning how to paint again.

"I was afraid to start painting with my left hand [after the stroke], but once I started, I became more at ease and I wasn't scared anymore," she said.

On Nov. 19, Marks' work was showcased at the annual Forest Hill Place Art Show.

Marks credits Martha Johnson, who teaches a two-hour, biweekly seniors' art class at the residence, with helping keep her doldrums at bay and providing her the support she needed to get past her disability.

"Martha is very encouraging," Marks said. "It keeps you going as an artist."

Because of her limited mobility, she has also learned to paint economically.

"I can finish one painting per class," Marks said. "It's effortless now. When I used to paint, I used to be apprehensive after the stroke. But now I just do it and whatever happens, happens."

She admits that many of her fellow residents claim to enjoy her work, but she doesn't let their compliments go to her head.

"My work is lousy," she quipped. "Look, if I believed what everyone tells me, I'd get a swelled head. But I enjoy doing it. I feel very relaxed and... don't think of anything else when I paint. I'm always sorry when my two hours [of art class] are up."

She said she would paint more outside of class, except she doesn't have the wherewithal to drag painting supplies up to her room.

Still, her painting sessions offer her a respite from painful memories.

Marks was born and raised in Rutherglen, a small town just outside of North Bay, where her father owned a general store.

"My mother used to call it 'Rotten Glen,'" Marks said with a laugh. "There were only six houses in the whole town. But it was no place to raise a Jewish family. So we moved to North Bay, where they had a synagogue and my brother could have a bar mitzvah."

In 1938, once she was old enough, Marks travelled to Ottawa to work for her uncle. There she met her husband. "I married him just three months after meeting him," she said.

She raised two sons, Steven and Johnny, and in the course of her years held shows in Ottawa, often attracting crowds of more than 200 people who would eagerly purchase her art.

But that time is gone and Marks doesn't like to talk about the past.

Her husband passed away "many years ago" and Steven died of cancer two years ago.

Her surviving son, Johnny, himself a stroke victim, still lives in Ottawa.

"Steven was the one who brought me to Toronto after my stroke," Marks said. "If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be here now. Most of my friends and family have passed away. [But] I'm better off here than I would have been if I stayed in Ottawa."

Marks keeps mostly to herself these days, but according to Danielle Woolf, marketing representative of Forest Hill Place, "It's evident that her painting is the light of her life right now."

Marks plans to continue participating in art exhibits and shows at Forest Hill Place and hopes people will come to view and buy her works.

Her paintings usually sell for around $100.

For more information or to view her paintings visit, Forest Hill Place, 645 Castlefield Avenue or e-mail daniellewoolf@lrc.ca

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

Only paid Family Moments announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come - first served basis as space allows.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words, maximum. Send your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., #205 North York, ON. M3B 3K4

or email them to: cblackman@cjnews.com

Happy 60th anniversary Al & Liz Berkowitz! Love, Becky, Gerry, Craig, Deidre, Avi, Nisa, Oren, Elana, Dan, Elyse, Yedidya, Tzipora, Elisheva, Shai, Kobi, Kira and Adir.

Mazel tov Daddy & Beth on your wedding. Wishing you many years of joy and happiness. Love, your children, Michael and Allison.

Leora Glick & Steven Goldenberg are engaged. Mazel tov! Love, your delighted parents, grandparents and siblings.

Happy 15th Birthday Jordana! Love, Mom & Dad.

Congratulations to parents, Taly & David, sister Noa and grandparents, from your loving relatives in Canada on the arrival of Shay.

Sharon Shore was recently called to the bar as a lawyer. Love to this wonderful, special lady. From your family.

Sophie & Neil Frenkel of Ottawa are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Sharon to Mark, son of Carole & Mayer Diamond of Montreal.

Mazel tov Allan & Michelle Kates and brother Ethan on the birth of Zachary. Grandparents, Lorriane Rosenberg, Steve & Carol Kates. Missed is Zaidie Phil Rosenberg.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, Dec. 11, is the deadline for the Dec. 21 issue; Monday, Dec. 18, is the deadline for the Jan. 4 issue; and Wednesday, Dec. 20, is the deadline for the Jan. 11 issue. NOTE: There is no issue Dec. 28; the Dec. 21 issue covers Dec. 21 to Jan. 3. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Dec. 7

CHANUKAH DINNER & DANCE

Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada holds its Chanukah dinner and dance. 7 p.m. at the Venetian Banquet Hall, with entertainment by Ledgend and Magen Boys. Purchase tickets in advance at 905-695-0611.

TKUMA: THE IN-GATHERING

A screening of *Tkuma: The In-Gathering* with an introduction and commentary by **David Goldberg** takes place at 7:30 p.m. at Beth David Synagogue.

Saturday, Dec. 9

MARTYRDOM & CHANUKAH

Zichron Yisrael Congregation of Associated Kamin Branch invite the community to its 5th annual Chanukah lunch. **Martin Lockshin**, of York University, lectures on "Is Martyrdom a Jewish Value: The Lesson of Chanukah." Adults, $20, youth,$12.50, children $7.50, non-member adults $25, youth $15, children $10, under 3 free. Reserve in advance only, 905-889-3998, ext. 333.

WELLNESS CONFERENCE

Chabad of Markham hosts a Wellness Conference with doctors, psychologists and holistic medical practitioners followed by a kiddush. 11 a.m. at 83 Green Lane. 905-886-0420

SHINING CHANUKAH ON US

Rabbi Avraham Greenbaum, founder and director of Azamra, speaks on "Shining Chanukah Into Our Hearts." 8 p.m. at the Lodzer Centre. $10. To register, call the Jewish Health Alliance, 416-208-0610, or visit www.jewishhealthalliance.

TEEN COMEDY NIGHT

Don't miss Come Laugh Your Tuchas Off, a comedy night for Jewish teens, 8-10 p.m. at the Al Green Theatre, 750 Spadina Ave. $15. For tickets, call BBYO, 416-398-2004.

Sunday, Dec. 10

BUNDIST YOUTH IN POLAND

Toronto Workmen's Circle presents **Jack Jacobs**, of City University of New York, speaking on "The Young Guard of the Proletariat: Bundist Youth in Inter-war Poland," followed by a discussion. 10:30 a.m. at 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Non-members $5. 416-787-2081

THE MUSIC MAN

JACS hosts a fundraiser to support its work assisting individuals with substance dependence. Join them for the play *The Music Man* at the Vaughan City Playhouse. 11:30 a.m. $65. Call 416-638-0350 or visit www.jacstoronto.org for tickets.

TEA AND GERSHWIN

Club Masada of Na'amat Canada hosts The Life and Music of **George Gershwin**, an afternoon of musical nostalgia presented and performed by **Jordan Klapman**. 2 p.m. at the Borochov Centre. Admission by donation to Dollars for David.

Monday, Dec. 11

MANAGING CHRONIC PAIN

The Wellness Library at Baycrest Hospital holds a free information session on managing chronic pain. 2-3:30 p.m. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 3374, to register.

CHANUKAH DINNER

The Dr. Filderman Lodge of Romanian speakers holds a Chanukah dinner and party. 6:30 p.m. at 15 Hove. St. $18. Call **Felicia Lowy**, 416-631-0634, or **Neti Badulescu**, 416-733-1214, to make reservations.

Continued on page 53

Mentoring program pairs high school, elementary kids

By MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

When 15-year-old Daniel Rosenberg started to tutor a Grade 3 student a month ago, sounding out words was a challenge for the boy.

Now, Rosenberg is beaming because the student isn't merely sounding out words he's reading well.

"This is a big improvement for him," says Rosenberg, a Grade 10 student in Toronto.

"I'm helping this kid and it's really rewarding."

Rosenberg's tutoring is part of a burgeoning after-school program held at the Chabad@ Flamingo synagogue called the Thornhill Student Exchange or TSX.

TSX is a mentoring and community enrichment initiative that pairs high school students with elementary students, who get together once a week for a mix of tutoring, sports and social activities.

Now in its second year, the program boasts 35 kids and an equal number of teens.

"This is more than just community service – it's a form of giving back," says TSX program co-ordinator Rabbi Shmuli Nachlas.

"It's fun and enjoyable and the kids love coming. That changes everything from a schoolwork point of view."

The program is overseen by an advisery board made up of rabbis, social workers, psychologists and teachers.

Before the mentoring starts, the teens are trained for six to eight weeks to learn leadership and mentoring skills.

They are then matched with a student who they work with for 1½ hours each week.

The kids in the program range from being in grades 2 to 7, and the mentors are primarily high school aged.

"They're matched up based on the academic needs of the kids and the strength and the abilities of the teens," notes Rabbi Nachlas.

Half the time is spent studying and the other half is more socially based.

In addition to enriching the academic and social lives of the participants, Rabbi Nachlas points out that the program also fosters community ties.

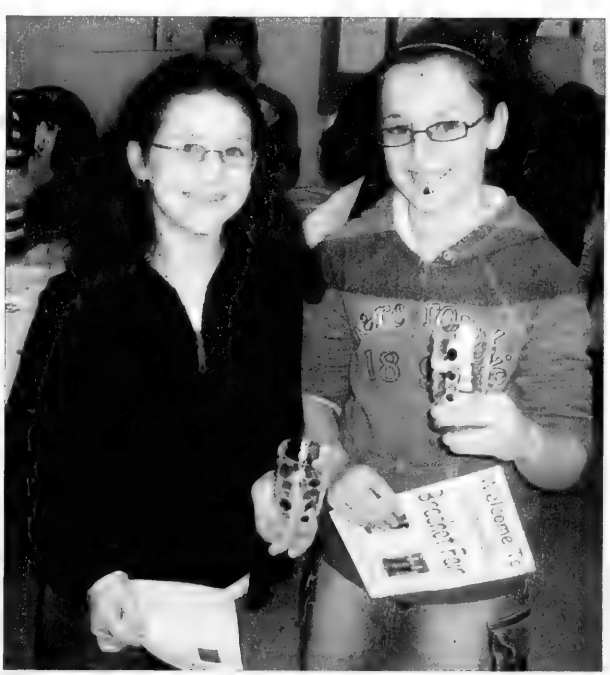
"There is very little programming out that there combines kids and teens," he says.

"This program brings the community together… and it has the added unique element of being in a Jewish atmosphere."

To that end, Rabbi Nachlas notes some of the social activities are frequently linked with themes from Jewish holidays.

The program is looking to expand, so parents and teens who are interested are encouraged to sign up.

For more information, call 905-763-4040 or log onto www.chabadflamingo.com.



BRACHOT FAIR: Emma Kaplan, left, and Zoe Rubin, were two of the many students of Chabad of Markham's Hebrew school who enjoyed the crafts and activities at the school's Brachot Fair on Nov. 26.

Continued from page 52

Tuesday, Dec. 12

CHARITY AUCTION

Beth David Sisterhood will have a charity auction. Bring a wrapped gift with a value of $10 and bid on other surprises. Proceeds to charity. 7:30 p.m. Non-members $5. 416-633-5500

SAR-EL INFO MEETING

Find out about the Sar-El program, civilian volunteers working on Israeli army supply/maintenance bases. 7:30 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-781-6089 or www.sarelcanada.org

BOOK REVIEW SERIES

Adath Israel Sisterhood Book and Film Review series with **Heather Cassel** discuss *The Girls* by **Lori Lansens**. 8 p.m. 416-635-5340

Wednesday, Dec. 13

SACRED AGING WORKSHOP

Temple Sinai Congregation holds a workshop on sacred aging called Birth Is a Beginning: Seeing Life as a Sacred Journey, with **Rabbi Richard Address**. 7 p.m. Free, registration required, 416-487-4161.

Other News

CHANUKAH TOY DRIVE

Make a child's Chanukah a happy one – join the Drive for Dreidels. Drop off new, unwrapped toys at National Council for Jewish Women of Canada, 4700 Bathurst St. Monday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Last day for drop-off is Sunday, Dec.10. For information, call 416-638-7800 or 416-633-5100.

LECTURE: MODERN POETS

The Canadian Institute For Mediterranean Studies presents **Elias Polizoes**, of University of Western Ontario, on "Selected Modern Poets and the Mediterranean," 5:30-6:30 p.m. St. Michael's College, 100 St. Joseph St., Room 403. Free.

FILM: *NEVER AGAIN*

Beit Rayim screens *Never Again*, an examination of the resurgence of anti-Semitism and terrorism. Thursday, Dec. 14, 7-9 p.m. at Rosemount Community Centre, 1000 New Westminster Dr. $10, students $5. Reserve at 905-770-7639, ext. 31, or admin@beitrayim.org.

CHANUKAH: FIRE ON ICE

Chabad Lubavitch of Markham presents Chanukah: Fire on Ice, at the Clatworthy Arena. Includes skating for the whole family, Yehuda Macabee on ice, Chanukah ice capades, menorah lighting ceremony and refreshments. Saturday, Dec. 16, 6-8 p.m. $5 per person, $20 per family. 905-886-0420, ext. 221

BEACH CHANUKAH PARTY

The Beach Synagogue annual Chanukah celebration takes place Saturday, Dec. 16, beginning with candlelighting of a large menorah in Kew Beach Park at 6:30 p.m., followed by families lighting their menorahs at the synagogue at 7 p.m. and a Latke Fest at 7:30 p.m. 109 Kenilworth Ave. 416-694-7942

CHANUKAH-PALOOZA

Winchevsky Centre sponsors Chanukah-Palooza, an all-ages talent fest. This cabaret-style evening includes a holiday singalong led by **Peter Kastner** and features **Isaac Bashevis Singer**'s Chanukah stories. Saturday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m. $15 at the door, includes latkes and doughnuts. 416-789-5502, or visit www.winchevsky centre.org.

DINNER OF MIRACLES

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem hosts "Dinner of Miracles," an evening for young adults and Holocaust survivors, Monday, Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m. at Beth Emeth Synagogue. $30. To reserve, call **Laura**, 416-785-1333 or laurad@yad vashem.ca.

BOWLERS WANTED

Join a weekly bowling group for men and women. Meets Tuesdays at Playtime Bowl. Call **Milty**, 416-495-1999.

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

National Council of Jewish Women hosts a women's support group that meets every second Tuesday to network, share, address concerns and have fun, in an informal and friendly environment. 10-11:30 a.m. at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. For information, call **Rachel** at 416-633-5100. This program is free and is open to all women in the community.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jias toronto.org. To register, volunteer, or for more information on these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafés: Newcomers to Canada practise speaking English in a casual, friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Interested participants or volunteers should call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

Youth Groups: Programs for newcomer children and teens. Both Canadians and newcomers get community service hours for participation in our teen group. For more information, call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

JUMPStart: If you have a networking or job opportunity in the skilled labour market for a newcomer, connect to our JUMPStart program by calling **Elisa**, ext. 28.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna**, ext. 215, for info and registration.

When You're About to Separate – What to Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation on how and when to tell the children and strategies to best meet children's needs. Tuesday, Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

FOR SENIORS

Darchei Noam Congregation Lunch and Learn present **Fredelle Brief** on "Is Peace Possible in the Middle East?" Wednesday, Dec. 13, 12-2 p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch; beverages and cookies provided. 15 Hove St. 416-638-4783 or www.darcheinoam.on.ca

The Association of Jewish Seniors hosts it annual Chanukah Party Luncheon with **Yitzchak Argaman**, Thursday, Dec. 21, 11:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $15, non-members $20. Reserve by Dec. 14. Call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Wednesday, Dec. 13; Saturday Dance, Dec. 30: Intermediate Conversational Hebrew Class, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; Mah-jong, Mondays 12:30-3:30 p.m. and Tuesdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Bridge, Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem**, 905-731-7748.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Lunch and Learn, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Enjoy **George Hen** and songs from the 1930s, '40s and '50s. Dairy lunch. $5, guests $7. Reserve at ext. 2267.

Chanukah celebration, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 3:45-4:45 p.m. $5, guests $8.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Bingo Bonanza, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 1 p.m. $1 for 2 cards.

Join students from Leo Baeck for a Chanukah program, Thursday, Dec.14, 12:45-2:30 p.m. Free.

"Staying Healthy During the Winter" with **Marilyn Freedman**. Thursday, Dec. 14, 1-2 p.m. Free.

BATHURST JCC

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Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Good Age Club presents Mitzvah of the Month on Thursday, Dec. 7, 1-3 p.m. Stuff brown bag lunches for those less fortunate as a way of spreading goodness and deliver them to the Scott Mission and work as volunteers for the afternoon. $3, annual membership $50.

Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Whisky*, a Latin American comedy, Sunday, Dec. 10, 4 and 7 p.m. at the Al Green Theatre.

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SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 58

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Charles Newman	Nov 17/06	8111 Yonge St
Kelly Silverstein	Nov 20/06	180 Humewood Dr
Cecile Zaretsky	Nov 20/06	25 Brunswick Ave
Sam Slavin	Nov 20/06	3580 Sideline 34
Rose Hacker	Nov 22/06	3560 Bathurst St
Sydney Blackman	Nov 22/06	3560 Bathurst St
Max Shpiro	Nov 23/06	21 Carriage Lane
Morris Friedman	Nov 25/06	17 Lilywood Rd
Rita Tobias	Nov 24/06	3705 Bathurst St
Wolfe Goodman	Nov 24/06	111 Avenue Rd

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Moses, Frank	Nov. 23/06	435 Old Orchard Grove
Kamenir, Minnie	Nov. 23/06	400 Walmer Rd
Golant, Anna	Nov. 24/06	Private
Rosman, Lola	Nov. 24/06	4455 Bathurst St
Goldrich, Saul	Nov. 24/06	46 Meadowbrook Rd
Gelber, Leon	Nov. 25/06	Private
Rosenblit, Elihua	Nov. 25/06	2 Mary Gapper Cres
Pichosky, Sandra	Nov. 25/06	20 Ridelle Ave
Berger, William	Nov. 26/06	3636 Bathurst St
Novokolskaja, Ioudif	Nov. 28/06	3600 Bathurst St
Rosen, Fay	Nov. 29/06	175 Forum Dr
Shub, Matvei	Nov. 29/06	109 Frank Endian Rd
Weisbeker, Dena Marlane	Nov. 29/06	43 Pilkington Cres
Nadel, Ruth	Nov. 29/06	Private

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Lawyer, philanthropist recalled for 'boundless generosity'

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Wolfe Goodman, 81, a founding partner of the law firm Goodman and Carr, who died on Nov. 24, is being remembered for both his contribution to the legal profession and his philanthropy.

Known as one of Canada's leading estate planning and tax lawyers, he is the author of numerous articles published in various journals.

Called to the Ontario Bar in 1949, some of his professional activities included being chair of the federal sales tax review committee; a governor of the Canadian Tax Foundation; a member of the Ontario Committee on Succession Duty and Gift Tax; and chair of a committee of the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, where he worked with the officials of the Department of Finance on tax proposals affecting charities.

Donald Carr, Goodman's partner since they founded the firm in 1965, said in a eulogy that as a lawyer, Goodman's learning was "unparalleled. [He had] a prodigious memory, supplemented by a unique ability to weave imaginative solutions for his client's complex problems.

"[This was] combined with a burning abstract interest in the law as a tool for civilized society. [He was also a teacher] both in the formal sense at university, and constantly in his office. [He] was a guide to the young and the not-so-young.

"How many of us benefited over the years, as we figuratively sat at his feet to try and understand and appreciate what he understood and appreciated, and what he clung to in his principled approach to his calling?"

Wolfe Goodman

Carr said that his "mentor, partner and friend" was also known for his benevolence.

"Wolfe was committed to the Jewish injunction of being responsible for others. [He worked] for Canadian Jewish Congress, Jewish Immigrant Aid Society, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, [Ben Gurion University in Israel], and many other organizations that care for those less fortunate," Carr said.

"His generosity was boundless, but he carefully chose to distribute his largesse where he considered it appropriate, and not just because it was the politically or socially correct thing to do," Carr said.

Goodman's "whole being was devoted to the welfare of the State of Israel, to its people, and to our people, as he saw it."

He and his late wife Millie – she died in June – owned a home an a hill in the ancient city of Safed, Carr said, but when it became too difficult for Millie to visit, Goodman donated that home to a school for the blind and bought another one in Jerusalem.

In another eulogy, Nomi Goodman, Wolfe's daughter, said that when her father was talked into helping fundraise for a chair in archeology at Ben-Gurion University, it was on condition that the chair not be named in his honour, "nor in the name of my mother and father [together], but rather be called the Canada Chair in Near-eastern Archeology.

"He was generous in other ways, too. He helped support many of his elderly relatives, and when another relative called to ask for advice when there was a problem with the purchase of a home, he immediately arranged for a line of credit."

Family dinners were fairly formal affairs, Goodman said, "until the birth of the first grandchild. I remember my father [sitting at the head of the seder table] with a baby on his shoulder and a grin from ear to ear."

Goodman, who said her father died because he could not live without his wife, said she never heard him complain.

"Even as his health was declining, he would say 'I have lots to be grateful for,' when asked how he was. That sums up his life nicely. We have lots to be grateful for."

As well as his daughter, Nomi, Goodman leaves another daughter Joy, and three granddaughters, Lisa, Dana and Tali Mailhot.

Monty Berger was 'a phenomenal person'

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — When Monty Berger became president of Allied Jewish Community Services – now FEDERATION CJA – in 1971, it was in its own way an unusual event.

The federation's presidency was the usual provenance of accountants, businessmen and philanthropists. Berger, although he came from a prominent Jewish community family, didn't fit the mould. He was an honoured World War II veteran, journalist and nationally known PR man, in addition to being active in Jewish community and Montreal life.

Berger, who died last week at age 88, was remembered as a kind, guileless man of abiding integrity who had a universalist's fascination with the world around him and was devoted to his craft, community and family.

"He was just a phenomenal person," Joe King, a friend and colleague for more than 35 years, told *The CJN*. "He was a brilliant publicist.

"I saw him only a few days before he died. He was throwing out ideas for what to do for the 250th anniversary of the Jewish community in Quebec."

Berger, King recalled, was the first president of the federation when it opened its new headquarters on Cote Ste. Catherine Road.

During Berger's term, King noted, the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal was launched, Jewish poverty became a community priority for the first time, and Berger had to contend with the controversial restructuring of Jewish Family Services when social services fell under the purview of the provincial government.

Still, perhaps most notably, Berger was from a generation of Jewish community "doers." He helped found a synagogue, loved meetings, continued to serve on a large array of federation committees, and did just about everything with discerning judgment. He loved tennis and swimming, and could not be easily categorized.

With Milton Stober, now of Toronto, he co-founded and was first president of Congregation Beth El, initially launched in Stober's TMR home on Lazard Avenue. The Beth El name was coined by Berger's father, who also led the new congregation's first service.

Among his many other activities, Berger became the first Jewish president of the Canadian Club in 1975, served on the board of directors of Royal Victoria Hospital and was a senior advisor to the Montreal Jewish Publication Society. Especially close to his heart was the Ami-Quebec Alliance for the Mentally Ill, which he helped build and where he served as president from 1990 to 1993.

Berger also had a keen interest in politics and the federalist cause. In 1990, he played a leadership role on the Task Force on Federalism, and in 1995, wrote a provocative book ruing the decline of Quebec in the wake of the sovereigntist movement, *Lament for a Province: the Tragic Costs of Quebec's Flirtation with Separatism*.

Berger is survived by his second wife, Jean Soloway, children Joy and Eric, and three grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Sonia Mindel, daughter Ann and sister Mitzi.

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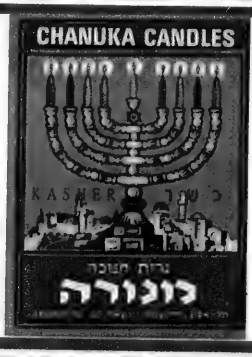

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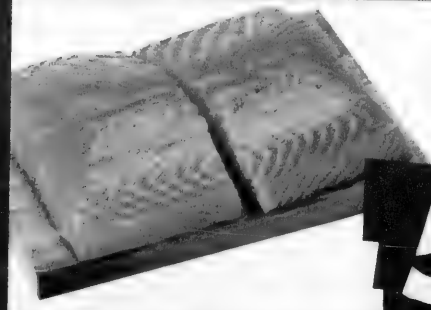

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Feature

Education report identifies crisis, but not solution

By JERROLD LANDAU and GILA MARTOW

As reported in *The CJN* on Oct. 5, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto recently released a task force report on Jewish day school education that contains many conclusions and recommendations .

The report is timely, as meaningful action is sorely needed to address a deepening crisis faced by day schools and families that wish to use them. As the report states, there has been a 9.2 per cent drop in elementary enrolment in federation-funded schools since 2001, and the day school system is "no longer thriving as it was in the early 1990s."

Affordability is a key issue, the report acknowledges, with elementary tuitions, for example, up more than 30 per cent since 2001, compared to a 12 per cent increase in the cost of living. Schools that were consulted, and many of the poorest schools were not, reported that tuition fees are now at the upper limit of affordability, if not beyond.

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The report also recognizes that disaffection from Jewish causes and institutions, particularly among less-affluent new immigrant communities, are significant trends that are both a cause and result of declining Jewish day school enrolment. Fittingly, as a response, a major recommendation of the report is to increase the portion of our community's children that are enrolled in day schools.

The key flaw in the report, however, is that it gives no real comfort that the problems identified – and especially affordability – will be meaningfully addressed.

In 1990, the federation funded 98 per cent of the costs of family subsidies for funded schools. Currently, federation funds up to 50 per cent, leaving each school responsible to make up the difference. This marks a fundamental retreat from what the report describes as "the community's commitment," made when the subsidy system was implemented, "that no child would be forced to forego a day school education due to family financial constraints." The task force did not recommend that federation should provide sufficient funding to make this commitment a reality.

The report makes no commitment or recommendation to increase subsidy levels even to the rate of inflation, let alone to make the subsidy increases proportionate to tuition increases.

> ***'No real comfort that the problems – and especially affordability – will be meaningfully addressed'***

The report recommends an ambitious $100-million education endowment fund, but it doesn't recommend that these funds be used to reduce tuition. Indeed, federation spokesperson Howard English told *The CJN* that "tuitions cannot be lowered without some kind of support from the government," which leads one to wonder what the $100-million fund will accomplish. English's statement is also contradicted by the experience in Cleveland, where the downward trend in day school attendance four years ago was sharply reversed in schools that reduced tuition fees from $9,000 to $6,000 (US), without any government funding. The task force gives no reason for deciding that such a turn-around could not occur in Toronto.

Current federation/Board of Jewish Education (BJE) subsidy guidelines don't reflect the real costs of raising a Jewish family in the Toronto area, and federation-funded schools are prevented by federation policy from providing any greater subsidy than permitted by those guidelines, even if the school pays for it independently by private fundraising. Rather than addressing this barrier to enrolment caused by federation policy, the report's recommendation to centralize administration of the subsidization program will make it even more difficult for schools to exercise discretion to mitigate the impact of the unrealistic federation subsidy guidelines.

The report recommends a loan program to help parents pay for tuition, but this fails to recognize that the typical family's problem is not primarily cash flow but the crushing lifetime cost of tuition. It will not attract people to Jewish education if we ask them to mortgage their future to get there. Rather, it may be another way to drive families away from Jewish day schools.

The report notes correctly that "no action will have a greater impact on the affordability of the day school system than a change in the funding mechanism provincially to assure equity with the Catholic school system." In Quebec where there is partial public funding, more than 50 per cent of Jewish children attend Jewish day schools. In Ontario, with no funding, enrolment is well under 30 per cent.

The report recommends that federation "aggressively support the pursuit of government funding," which is good, but it does not recognize the inherent limitations of federation's activity on this front and the need to work with other organizations.

Federation and Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) have been advocating for provincial government funding of non-Catholic faith-based schools for decades, mostly through backroom meetings with government officials. However, such communal bodies deal with the government on a wide variety of issues, and as a result, they are inherently limited as to how aggressive they can be with a government as recalcitrant as the one that's now in place.

Strong action, including well-disciplined but forceful protest activities, is needed to persuade the government to extend fair funding. To effectively advance the cause, our communal organizations must work in tandem with, and depend upon, organizations that don't have such a conflicted, multi-issue relationship with government.

For protest actions, this would fall under the domain of an organization called Parents for Equal Education Funding (PEEF), a parents-based grass-roots organization with the sole mandate of obtaining government funding. Talking to officials is important, but unless backed up by public displays of discontent from our community, such talks will not yield the desired result. PEEF would like to see the entire Jewish community more vigorously back our grassroots initiatives to address the inequality in funding of faith-based schools in this province.

Similarly, any negotiations with the government should be led by an organization that represents all or virtually all of Ontario's Jewish day schools and has the sole focus of obtaining government funding for denominational schools, without the temptation to trade off progress on one issue against stagnation on another. This organization is the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools (OAJDS), a school-based organization that represents almost all of Ontario's Jewish day schools (unlike federation). Federation and CJC should recognize their limitations and play an actively supportive and collaborative role that enables the organizations dedicated solely to the funding issue to lead the effort.

Indeed, this is the only approach that has actually succeeded over the past 30 years of effort, when, in fact, these same organizations collaborated to obtain the tax credit (EETC) from the previous Conservative government. No one organization would have been successful alone.

OAJDS is also well positioned to make progress on this issue, as it's a leading member of a multi-faith fair funding coalition of non-funded faith-based schools that includes Armenian, Coptic Orthodox, Evangelical Christian, Greek Orthodox, Muslim, Sikh and Seventh Day Adventist schools. There is strength when religious groups act together.

We were disappointed that organizations and individuals involved in addressing the problems faced by Jewish day schools in Ontario were not consulted by the task force. Apart from people outside Canada, the list of those consulted consists almost entirely of federation insiders. The task force failed to consult schools affiliated with the BJE but not funded by the BJE, and schools as yet unaffiliated with the BJE. Similarly, OAJDS and PEEF weren't consulted, despite the fact they are the main community groups dedicated solely to advocacy on the fair funding issue.

This lack of consultation, unfortunately, led to a report that seems to grasp the crisis, but ultimately does not clearly show a way to successfully address it. Rather than focusing on bureaucratic reorganization, federation needs to focus on effective concrete and inclusive action to dramatically address the barriers to access to Jewish education – especially affordability – that seriously threaten the future vitality of Ontario's Jewish community.

Jerrold Landau and Gila Martow are activists involved in Parents for Equality in Education Funding. The group can be reached at equalfunding@yahoo.ca.

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Pro-Israel groups' reception popular at convention

Continued from page 1

"I find him honest and straightforward. He did well as a minister. I think he has a fairly sympathetic attitude to Israel… He certainly hasn't done anything to antagonize Jews."

Dion has not had a particularly close relationship with the Jewish community, although it appreciates his strong defence of national unity. After the April 2004 St. Laurent United Talmud Torahs firebombing, Dion was among the politicians who came to the school the next morning to condemn the act.

However, he had to backpedal after saying it was regrettable that this happened when not all Jews supported the policies of then-prime minister Ariel Sharon. He was referring to a note left at the scene claiming the firebombing was to avenge the Sharon government's assassination of Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Dion explained in a *Globe* article afterward that he meant violence is never acceptable, "no matter what one's opinion of the Sharon government's actions," and applauded the pluralism of Jewish opinion.

Dion dropped in on a reception hosted by pro-Israel Jewish groups during the convention, as did all the other candidates except Martha Hall Findlay, and he was greeted respectfully.

Bob Rae, who quoted Rabbi Hillel in his convention speech, was the first to arrive and was swarmed by well-wishers. Michael Ignatieff was the last to come by at 10 minutes to midnight, when the crowd had thinned out considerably. He allowed a pin twinning the Israeli and Canadian flags to be affixed to his lapel.

The reception was sponsored by the Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel, the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) and CJPAC, which was formed over a year ago with the goal of getting Jews involved in the political process and bringing community concerns to all parties.

Executive director Josh Cooper said CJPAC has about 3,000 members, and he believed almost all of the Jewish delegates at the convention were members. He emphasized that CJPAC did not endorse any candidate.

The reception was held at the Intercontinental Hotel across from the Palais des congrès after the Thursday night tribute to former prime minister Paul Martin. Guests were treated to a lavish kosher sweet table and liquid refreshments, including the Red Canuck and the Blue Sabra martinis. The coasters bore the slogans "The Liberal Party and the Canadian Jewish community: a Deep Friendship" and "Liberals and Israel: A Record to be Proud of."

On the table were copies of the text of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's latest peace initiative. The CIC added that "Canadians, who strongly support the search for peace in the Middle East, should likewise support Mr. Olmert's offer and call upon the Palestinians to accept it."

Montrealer Jason Caron, a CJPAC activist and a Scott Brison delegate, told Ignatieff he hoped that he would be able to take a postponed trip to Israel, whether he won the leadership or not. According to Caron, Ignatieff said he is eager to go, and especially to visit the north.

Caron was glad to have a few words with Ignatieff because he had declined CJPAC's invitation to discuss community concerns during the leadership campaign.

Ignatieff accepted the CIC's invitation to visit Israel after his remark in October that Israel's bombing of Qana was a war crime. It was later decided that it would not be best to go during the campaign.

One of the few Jewish Ignatieff supporters in the room was Steve Pinkus of Montreal, who wore the candidate's signature red scarf around his neck. Pinkus, a party vice-president, said, "I had the choice of being a positive influence inside or a negative influence outside."

He joined Ignatieff's camp early, having been impressed with his intellect and his earlier views on the Middle East, and decided to remain loyal even though he was shocked by his war-crime accusation.

He said he expressed his disagreement to Ignatieff afterward and feels had an impact on moderating his views by providing him with other information about what happened at Qana.

"I could have taken the easy way out and bolted his campaign or the party, but I thought it was better to have [pro-Israel] voices near him, and there aren't that many," Pinkus said.

Former cabinet minister Elinor Caplan also remained loyal, appearing in Ignatieff's video presentation.

The candidate that generated the most excitement was former Montreal Canadiens goalie Ken Dryden, who was besieged with people wanting photos or autographs.

Present but definitely not in the Ignatieff or Liberal camp was Ariela Cotler. The wife of Mount Royal MP and former justice minister Irwin Cotler publicly renounced her party membership in a letter in the *National Post*, after Ignatieff's war-crimes comment.

Ariela Cotler said she had come to join in the tribute to Martin whom she admires and "to be by the side of the man I love," Irwin, who supported Rae from the start. She said she quit the party because she feels Ignatieff's remarks were a betrayal of "Liberal values," not because it is a Jewish or Israeli issue. She said she has not joined another party.

Liberal Senator Jerry Grafstein was angry because the Jewish leadership has not spoken out against the Harper government motion recognizing the Québécois people as a nation, and because all Jewish MPs voted for it. He believes that the term "Québécois" includes only those of French origin, and that type of ethnic nationalism should be anathema to Jews.

Other prominent Liberals who showed up at the Jewish community reception included foreign affairs critic Keith Martin, former Ontario premier David Peterson, and former federal cabinet ministers Art Eggleton, Hedy Fry, Pierre Pettigrew and Robert Kaplan.

No proposed resolutions at the convention dealt with the Middle East conflict.

On the opening day of the convention, interim leader Bill Graham issued a statement that the "escalating tension" in the Gaza Strip may lead to a "humanitarian catastrophe in the region.

"While we are heartened to see that the truce that Israeli and Palestinian leaders agreed to on the [preceding] weekend appears to be holding, there are still steps that must be taken to address the human cost of the ongoing instability. Failure to do this may well result in greater insecurity for the entire Middle East. We also hope that the ceasefire agreement will be extended to the West Bank as well."

He urged Canada and the rest of the international community to call on all parties to "adhere to international law and international humanitarian law and place the protection of all civilians as the highest priority."

Richard Diamond of Toronto was elected to the party's national executive as chair of the standing committee on communications and publicity.

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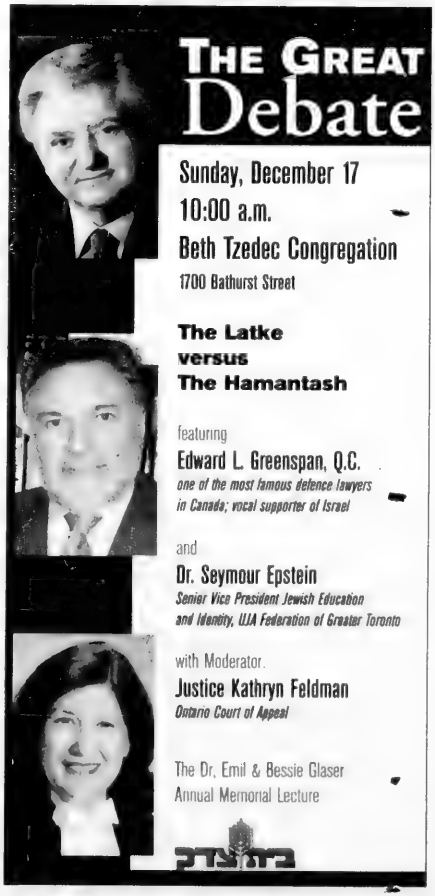

Coast to Coast

Atlantic Jewry reaches out to volunteers, young people

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — The newly elected president of the Atlantic Jewish Council, Kathy Zilbert, says that when she started preparing her acceptance speech, her first thought was "survival."

"But after thinking long and hard, I realized that, though small in numbers, we in Atlantic Canada have a lot to offer," said the Halifax woman, who succeeded Halifax's Mark Rosen after he completed a four-year term.

As the 15th annual biennial AJC convention in Halifax concluded, Zilbert stressed the need for more volunteer participation, urged doing small things that will grow into big ones, and making donations to United Israel Appeal (UIA), no matter how small, because they will add up to a large number.

"We have to work harder to be Jewish," she said. "Each Atlantic Jewish community is unique. Can we fix everyone's problems? No. Can we be a resource for them? Yes."

She also reiterated the theme of the weekend gathering of more than 150 Jews from Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia: getting younger members of the community involved actively as leaders and convincing some of the 700 Jewish university students in the region, who mostly come from outside Atlantic Canada, to remain here and establish careers and families after graduation.

"We must mentor those students so they see our area as a viable place to live," said Rosen in his final president's report. "I don't see a lot of young leadership in this room. We need the continued vibrancy of Jewishness in this region."

A Sunday morning session on Israel and the media in Atlantic Canada drew an overflow crowd to hear representatives of CTV, the *Halifax Chronicle Herald* (Nova Scotia's major daily newspaper) and Rogers talk radio.

When challenged on the manipulation of media by various factions in the Middle East, reporter Marc Patrone of CTV Halifax said people in his newsroom know "when we're being suckered or played. Those who do that must realize it will blow up in their faces."

Chronicle Herald director of news content, Dan Leger, who worked 15 years on-air and as a producer for CBC Newsworld, added, "I always think 'consider the source.' You try to get a broad input of reports and decide what is right."

Patrone said the news media by nature report on things that are sensational. "We reflect that our news consumers want to know about the big events."

Radio talk show host Andrew Krystal, formerly with Toronto's Talk 640 and CFRB, has a daily three-hour program that airs in Halifax, Moncton and Saint John.

"I don't think the people believe the media any more. We have a lot less impact on public opinion than people think," he said.

Leger agreed. "People will choose what they want to believe. We just struggle to keep up."

With financial assistance from several national Jewish agencies and local corporate help, the convention offered sessions on maintaining Jewish life in the region, led by rabbis from Halifax and Fredericton, as well as on challenges for Jewish students, and on the "Dorbyan Diaspora," the global migration of one shtetl's Jews, which was led by Eric Goldstein, a professor of Jewish history at Emory University in Atlanta.

Honours were bestowed on Kathy Zilbert, who received the Lion of Judah pin for a woman making a significant contribution to UIA, and to 90-year-old Ina Kohler of Halifax, who received a Chai award for longtime service to UIA. Kohler came to Halifax from a displaced persons camp in 1948 with her husband and two daughters.

Saturday night's gala featured Israeli singer Liora Simon with three backup musicians. Simon has won awards for songwriting and performs in several languages.

Former lieutenant governor honoured at gala

HALIFAX — When she was a young girl in Saint John, N.B., recently retired Nova Scotia lieutenant governor Myra Freeman carried a little red lunch box to school.

"It had a picture of Queen Elizabeth II on it. I think it was an omen," laughed Mark Rosen, president of the Atlantic Jewish Council, as he recalled the woman he has known since childhood.

The membership of the regional organization honoured Freeman and her husband Larry at a Nov. 25 gala that was tied in with the 15th biennial AJC convention.

Myra Freeman

Men and women from several community groups, all touched by Freeman during her more than six years in office (May 2000 to September 2006), as well as family and hundreds of friends of all faiths, offered several standing ovations. Several speakers praised the first woman in 400 years of Nova Scotian history and the first Jewish person in Canada to hold the vice-regal office.

Attending were federal, provincial and municipal government representatives, senators, top-ranking officials of the military and RCMP in Nova Scotia, as well as foreign consuls.

"You brought pride, dedication, energy, dignity and unfailing grace to the office," said Mark Parent, provincial minister of environment and labour and MLA for Kings North, who represented Premier Rodney MacDonald.

Lynda Haverstock, the former lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan, said, "Myra has earned the title 'honourable' in every sense of the word. You have demonstrated what is right about our government, because you believe in it, your province, the people and Canada."

Freeman made more than 2,000 appearances at events across the province and in her former home at Government House in Halifax, welcoming groups and individuals in a way no lieutenant governor had done before her.

She was honorary patron to more than 100 organizations. She initiated women's leadership programs, set a standard for recognizing the arts, education (she is a former teacher) and motivated thousands of youths in programs as diversified as scouts and guides to music.

She praised her Jewish heritage.

"The Jewish community heritage is our strength," she said. "We are responsible for our own actions, but also to the wider community, since our country, Canada, gave us the opportunity for success.

"I knew I would be representing Her Majesty and the people of our province, but equally and importantly, the Jewish people in our country, and even those who travelled from Europe seeking freedom."

Freeman retained her strong Jewish kashrut traditions in Government House, and she reflected on hosting a member of the Royal Family for a Shabbat dinner.

"It was his first Sabbath dinner and he was so pleased to be part of it with us, as Larry said Kiddush, we lit the candles and celebrated. It was reminder to Larry and I of our pride in our rich heritage and how important it is to maintain our traditions."

When she took office in 2000, Freeman said, her goal was to "plant a seed that would take root and instil a pride and place of confidence in our citizens, to motivate our youth to be the best they could be. I've seen those seeds take root. I feel our country has been strengthened."

In concluding his remarks, Rosen said, "Myra has raised the standards of this office to a level that will be extremely difficult to follow."

—J.J.

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Coast to Coast

'For shalom bayit, everything goes' says Dr. Ruth

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — One would be hard pressed to find a person of any age who is less inhibited about discussing sex in public, yet Dr. Ruth Westheimer claims to be "old fashioned and square."

Well known around the world because of her television and radio shows and guest appearances on popular talk shows, "Dr. Ruth" has also authored more than 31 books and produced several documentaries. The 4 foot, 7 inch sex therapist not only has a clinical practice but teaches at New York, Princeton and Yale universities.

Oh, and she is nearly 80 years old.

The diminutive dynamo, who looks like everyone's bubbie but talks openly and comfortably about a topic that bubbie would never have mentioned, spoke recently in Ottawa about "Heavenly Sex: Sexuality in Jewish Tradition," which is also the title of her newest book.

"I'll tell you first why I believe that someone like me… from an Orthodox Jewish home, can talk about that topic about which we are going to talk tonight, from morning to night, and I believe it is because I am so Jewish," she began.

"I believe that for us Jews, sex was never considered a sin… sex is not just for procreation, but for recreation… under the chupah, a man promises to provide food, shelter and sexual satisfaction."

According to our sages, she said, "anything that can be done to bring about shalom bayit [peace in the home] is permissible… the main message for Ottawa: for shalom bayit, everything goes!"

Speaking with humour, yet treating the subject seriously, Westheimer noted that "a lesson taught with humour is a lesson retained."

She used midrashic tales and personal anecdotes to convey her message to an audience of all ages and backgrounds.

Without hesitation, she tackled even the most controversial of topics, including both abortion and homosexuality.

"If abortion becomes illegal again, only women with money will have access to it. I believe it is a public health issue. I believe it has to be available when there is a contraceptive failure," she said.

Dr. Ruth Westheimer

As for homosexuality, Dr. Ruth separates the people from the act, calling it "particularly troublesome in our tradition. On Yom Kippur afternoon, there is a prayer which specifically lists who can engage in sexual activity."

On the other hand, she said, "when two men or two women come to my office, I treat them with the same respect as anyone else. Respect is not debatable, but there are certain issues that have to be dealt with."

The lecture, the first public program of the new Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University, was held at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC.) It was jointly sponsored by the centre, Carleton and and the SJCC.

After her lecture, Westheimer took part in a question-and-answer session with Rabbi Reuven Bulka, spiritual leader of Ottawa's Congregation Machzikei Hadas, then took questions from the audience before signing copies of her book.

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Coast to Coast

Ceasefires and peace talks: Will they lead anywhere?

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Three related topics this week.

Initial media reaction to Ehud Olmert's Nov. 26 speech at Sde Boker, which proposed a renewed peace initiative to the Palestinians, ranged from skepticism and confusion to warm acceptance.

The confusion arose as many journalists now find themselves asking how exactly Olmert's peace overtures are going to be translated into concrete actions.

After all, while Olmert's Kadima party ran on a promise of further unilateral withdrawal in the West Bank, no one was expecting any further territorial concessions, at least not unilateral ones.

Yet even if concessions are to be negotiated, the question is with whom? The Hamas-led Palestinian Authority rejects any negotiations with Israel. And PA president Mahmoud Abbas and his Fatah party are weak and divided – certainly not able to deliver "peace and security" in exchange.

The skepticism is understandable, as the media has already witnessed Oslo's promise destroyed by Palestinian terrorism and Camp David's optimism followed by the rise to power of the rejectionist Hamas.

A growing number of journalists understand that the realities on the ground are not propitious for the advancement of a real "peace" process. For this reason, Olmert's speech was given relatively little attention in the West.

Writing in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, Samuel Segev ("War weariness leads to Middle East ceasefire," Nov. 28) noted a major Israeli concern: that the ceasefire will be an opportunity for Hamas to regroup and even reinvigorate its efforts to smuggle more heavy arms into Gaza and possibly to the West Bank – a breather before the resumption of the "resistance" should attempts at a Palestinian national unity government fail and European financial aid not resume.

* * *

In "Ignore James Baker," (*New Republic*, Nov. 27), Martin Peretz casts a very cynical eye on the Baker-Hamilton Commission that's designed to "rescue" U.S. policy in Iraq from President George W. Bush's failure.

Peretz believes that Baker and the commission fail to grasp "the sheer and relentless butchery of which both Sunni and Shia are capable."

"So what is to be done?" Peretz says that "inevitably, Baker will deploy the only trick he knows: force Israel to retreat to the 1967 lines." He continues: "OK, it can't be forced. Then at least hold a peace conference. The 1991 [Madrid] peace conference actually accomplished nothing, except to pay Bush-Baker's debt to their [Arab] partners in the Kuwait coalition. And the Oslo accords – also nothing. In any case, although many people believe a resolution of the Palestine question is the key to everything, it is the key to nothing but itself."

* * *

Carolynne Wheeler's Page 1 *Globe and Mail* article "Great-grandmother joined legion of suicide bombers," (Nov. 29) described why 68-year-old Fatma Najar, a mother of nine and grandmother and great-grandmother of several times that number, blew herself up in Gaza last week.

On the inside page, the headline reads "Rights group decries 'unethical' use of female bombers," implying that the article would be critical of Najar's act and the use of women and children as suicide bombers. However, Wheeler used most of her story to portray a woman supposedly driven to extreme desperation by alleged Israel oppression, including personal losses in her family and, according to her daughter, Israel's "massacre" in Beit Hanoun.

Only one lone paragraph was devoted to a Palestinian human rights group in Gaza denouncing the use of women and children in combat against Israel.

The broader context was sorely missing in Wheeler's report: that Israel had withdrawn unilaterally a year ago from Gaza and that the Hamas-led government, instead of working to improve life for its own citizens, encouraged terrorist acts. This included launching more than 1,000 rockets, inviting Israel's inevitable military response. There was also no mention of how an entire "cult of martyrdom" has actively encouraged women and children to sacrifice themselves to continue the "resistance" against Israel – a euphemism for the campaign to destroy the Jewish state.

Globe readers need to see this side of the story.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Syria smuggling long-range missiles to Hezbollah

By YAAKOV KATZ
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Long-range missiles, as well as truckloads of advanced anti-tank missiles originating in Iran and Syria, have been smuggled to Hezbollah in Lebanon during the past four months since the war ended this summer, the *Jerusalem Post* has learned.

The Israel Defence Forces destroyed most of Hezbollah's long-range missile array during the month-long war this past summer, including the Iranian-made Fajr and Zelzal. But according to new intelligence obtained by the defence establishment, in the four months since the war, Hezbollah has received weapon convoys carrying short-range missiles, anti-tank missiles and long-range missiles. Most of the weapon convoys crossed into Lebanon from Syria at night.

With the increasing possibility that Hezbollah protests, launched in Beirut on Friday, will topple the U.S.-backed government of Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora, the Israeli defence establishment had decided not to take any chances and on Sunday raised the level of alert in the north. Israel is concerned that the Lebanese instability will ignite the situation along Israel's northern border.

Hezbollah, Military Intelligence believes, might use the Lebanese political instability as an excuse to launch attacks against Israel – not necessarily by renewing Katyusha rocket attacks like the ones used during the 34-day war this past summer, in which 4,000 rockets were fired at Israel but by firing anti-aircraft missiles at Israeli aircraft flying over Lebanon to collect intelligence.

Israel is concerned that the Lebanese instability will ignite the situation along Israel's northern border

Hezbollah "nature reserves" – camouflaged underground systems of tunnels and bunkers used as hideouts for guerrillas – are still operating in southern Lebanon despite the beefed-up presence of the UN Interim Force in Israel (UNIFIL) and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) south of the Litani River. These areas are designated as "closed military zones" to UNIFIL and LAF, and are used as training centres for Hezbollah as well as storehouses for their weapons and rocket caches.

The UNIFIL and the LAF presence in southern Lebanon has forced Hezbollah to conceal its weapons, and MI believes that the multinational force is an "obstacle" for the guerrilla Shiite group. If Saniora's government falls, MI does not foresee UNIFIL being automatically expelled from Lebanon, but rather the sponsor countries, including Italy and France, will have to decide whether to pull their troops out.

Hezbollah, MI has learned, has been using the postwar period to rehabilitate its armed wing. MI believes that "sooner or later" Hezbollah will resume military operations against Israel in the form of mortar and rocket attacks on northern Israeli communities as well as kidnapping attempts along the border.

MI believes that if Israel "engaged" Syria and offered a renewal of dialogue between the two countries, Syrian President Bashar Assad would accept the offer without any preconditions. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has ruled out the possibility of talks with Syria, which he has called the "single most aggressive member of the axis of evil."

While there existed a chance for war with Syria – the Syrian military has been at readiness since the war in Lebanon – MI does not believe Assad will initiate a conflict with Israel despite remarks he recently made regarding the option of military action as a means to redeem the Golan Heights.

MI's assessment does, however, cite an "escalation" in tension between the countries due to Syria's support of Hezbollah, including the supply of weapons to the guerrilla group as well as the strategic alliance Damascus has forged with Iran.

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Israel's brand ranks last out of 36 countries

By TOVAH LAZAROFF
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — It could take Israel 30 years to change its brand image after it placed last in a study of 36 countries, one of the leaders in the field of nation branding warned Saturday.

Simon Anholt spoke with the *Jerusalem Post* on the heels of a recent survey he released in which 25,000 consumers were asked to rank 36 countries on issues of tourism, exports, governance, investment, immigration, cultural heritage and people.

According to the study, known as the Nation Brands Index, which has been published four times a year since 2005, "Israel's brand is, by a considerable margin, the most negative we have ever measured in the NBI, and comes in at the bottom of the ranking on almost every question."

Israel is not typically included in the survey, which looks at such as places as the United States, Germany, Mexico, South Korea, China and Singapore. Britain came in first in the survey and the United States was ninth.

It was included in the third quarter survey of 2006 because there is a guest slot in each survey.

"Only Bhutan, the first guest country we included in the NBI, achieved a similarly low score," said the study. But in the case of Bhutan the study attributed its poor score to the fact that few people had heard of it, according to the study.

"Israel's poor scores are clearly not the result of anonymity. It is one of the most known countries in the world," said the study.

The Foreign Ministry's director of public affairs Amir Gissin said the survey underscored for him the importance of the new nation-branding drive Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni launched this fall.

"We see Anholt's research as an opportunity to increase the awareness of decision makers in Israel to the image problem that Israel has in order to make us more determined to deal with the image problem," Gissin told the *Post*.

As part of that drive, the ministry is looking for ways to focus international public attention away from the country's conflicts with the Palestinians and Hezbollah in favour of more positive images such as the country's technical innovations as well as musical, cultural and historical attractions.

But Anholt warned on Saturday that the Foreign Ministry would have to be very patient before it benefits from its labours. While his 30-year prediction is not set in stone, Anholt said, he warned that changing people's attitudes and prejudice was so difficult and time-consuming that it often took decades. It took Japan and Ireland 30 years to change their public image, Anholt added.

"There are no quick fixes to this," said Anholt, who added that he hoped the Israelis "are very patient."

It was for this reason that he did not believe his study was significantly affected by the fact that it was conducted during the war with Hezbollah in Lebanon over the summer. Israel is often in a state of conflict, Anholt said. It had been his experience, he said, that the survey measured long-seated opinions that were not greatly swayed by current events.

Still, he said, just to be certain, he planned to include Israel for a second time in the survey during a quiet period, "just to ascertain that the results were not skewed."

Anholt said that his study differed from that of other surveys, in that this was not a politically based public opinion poll. It did not measure people's ideas about the conflict with the Palestinians or Hezbollah, but rather it examined people's instinctive associations with the country that would affect their decisions outside the political arena, such as whether they would buy a product from Israel, visit the country or hire an Israeli.

"Israel is famous for all the wrong reasons," Anholt said. People have a negative opinion of it based on a "bewildering variety" of factors that were strengthened with the continual negative images of the conflict that often dominated the news regarding Israel, he said.

Most people did not bother to form a balanced opinion about other countries, he said, preferring to find a simple shorthand for every country. They weaved simple and naive narratives around the facts that were most interesting to them, he added.

The most persuasive and memorable facts for Israel were about the conflict, so the image of Israel as a bully was more likely to stick in people's minds rather than the idea of Israel as an expert in solar energy, Anholt said. These images are "so negative and powerful that they contaminated everything else in the index," Anholt said.

"It is harder for Israeli citizens to work abroad or to get students or other talented people to come to Israel," he said.

"Having a weak or negative brand image is incredibly important to every country," he said.

In Israel's case, for example, the respondents placed it last on the list of countries they would want to visit or which they regarded as having a cultural heritage, Anholt said.

To the question of how willing people would be to live and work in the country, Israel ranked last in every panel, the study said. It fared slightly better on consumer products, but was still toward the bottom, he said.

Overall, he said, a negative brand image made it difficult for Israel to conduct its normal affairs such as selling an Israeli item, engaging in cultural relations or swaying tourists to visit the country.

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IDF warns against ceasefire in West Bank

By YAAKOV KATZ and HERB KEINON
Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — During a security cabinet debate on Sunday about whether to expand the Gaza Strip ceasefire to the West Bank, senior security officials warned that such a move could lead to a spike in terrorism.

To back their argument that continued Israel Defence Forces (IDF) activity is necessary in the West Bank, senior IDF sources in the Central Command said that last week alone, Palestinians tried smuggling some 10 pipe bombs out of Nablus through the Hawara Checkpoint south of the city.

"The terror here never stops and only grows," one officer said of the West Bank. "The only way to keep it under control is by retaining our presence in the territory."

According to statistics released by the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center at the Center for Special Studies, there were 287 terror attacks, including shootings, Qassam rocket attacks, stabbings and roadside bombs in November, compared to 172 in October, 115 in September and 151 in August.

A ceasefire in the West Bank would most likely mean an end to IDF arrest raids in Palestinian towns, such as the one in Nablus last week during which security forces uncovered a number of stuffed animals filled with explosive charges, IDF sources said.

The sources estimated that in addition to a cessation of military operations, the ceasefire would also include the removal of checkpoints outside some Palestinian cities.

A senior official in the Prime Minister's Office said Saturday night that the security issue was a very important consideration in deciding whether to expand the ceasefire, but other considerations would also be raised at the meeting – including international opinion and the need to relieve the humanitarian situation in the West Bank.

Diplomatic officials said there's a growing sense in some capitals that there is now diplomatic momentum that needs to be harnessed, stemming from the Gaza ceasefire and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's Sde Boker speech in which he said Israel would release Palestinian prisoners if the Palestinian Authority complied with the conditions of the ceasefire.

As an indication of the momentum, two foreign ministers – German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik – were to hold talks with Israeli leaders in Jerusalem on Sunday, as was Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief.

While the Plassnik visit was planned well in advance, Solana's and Steinmeier's trips came about as a result of last week's events.

Another indication of international pressure Israel may face to expand the ceasefire despite security concerns, came in an interview U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice gave the Al Arabiya television station on Friday.

Rice said that in order to reach U.S. President George W. Bush's two-state vision for the region, "we have to take advantage of openings that we may have, and we have a little opening now."

She said one of the reasons she met Thursday with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Olmert was "to talk about the importance of the ceasefire."

Canada to join Holocaust education task force

JTA

BUDAPEST — Canada is participating for the first time in an international task force on Holocaust education, remembrance and research that took place this week in Budapest.

"The Holocaust stands alone in human history for its horrors and its inhumanity," said Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay in announcing the decision.

"It is crucial that we learn from this experience — not simply to ensure 'never again,' but also to build societies based on human dignity where such acts are no longer possible."

The Canadian Jewish Congress praised the government's decision to take part in the three-day task force, which began Sunday.

"We commend the Canadian government for recognizing the significance of this task force, and are extremely heartened by Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter MacKay's strong assertions of the importance to learn from and share the lessons of the Holocaust," said CJC President Ed Morgan.

Created in 1998, the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research consists of representatives of 24 governments as well as governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

Its main purpose is to inspire political and social support for Holocaust education, remembrance and research on a global level.

Birthday Angels help Israeli kids celebrate special day

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

There are plenty of ways to support charitable causes in Israel, but Ruthie Sobel Luttenberg believes she's hit on the perfect trifecta for contributors.

Her project not only cements ties between the Jewish Diaspora and Israel, it helps young Israelis feel good about themselves and it offers benefactors the satisfaction of receiving a personal thank you from the Israelis they have supported.

Sobel Luttenberg is founder of Birthday Angels (www.birthday-angels.org), a program that provides a birthday celebration for some of the most disadvantaged youngsters in Israel. An olah from New Jersey who has been in the party business in Israel for some 15 years, she creates birthday kits that she brings to schools to help children celebrate what would otherwise pass as just another day on the calendar.

Ruthie Sobel Luttenberg

Just like Canadian and American youngsters, Israeli kids consider their birthday the most important day of the year. But many families living in poverty don't have the means to really celebrate the event, she said during a recent visit to Toronto.

That's where Birthday Angels steps in. Working in co-operation with the Perach Tutorial Project, a mentoring program of the Weizmann Institute that locates the needy youngsters, Birthday Angels puts together a fun event that includes music, song, decorations and treats.

"I wanted to give the less advantaged [children] the feeling they are important and the centre of the world," she said, "and make the life-cycle event meaningful."

Since she introduced the program in November 2004, she's organized about 2,000 parties across the country.

At the end of the party, the birthday boy or girl fills out a thank you card that is sent back to North American donors.

"The North American donors both give and get. It creates a profound connection and [addresses] important emotional needs of both sides," she said.

Contributors give the Israeli kids – many of whom are from disadvantaged homes or have special needs – "a once-in-a-lifetime experience, empowering them to feel good about themselves and know that people all over the world care about them," she said.

Last summer, Sobel Luttenberg took Birthday Angels north to help kids stuck in bomb shelters celebrate their special day. She personally arranged more than 25 parties in about a month.

"I was in a bomb shelter when a bomb went off during a party," she said. "The building shook and the camera fell off the table."

That was in Tiberias, and the Hezbollah rocket fell just across the street from where the children were enjoying their party. No one was hurt, but "a whole building went down."

The missiles, she said, "were coming every minute. It was quite traumatic."

She plans to bring Birthday Angels next to the kids in Sderot, who are experiencing regular Qassam rocket attacks from Gaza.

Birthday Angels is funded in small part from grants, but the bulk of its funding comes from benefactors around the world. Torontonians are particularly generous, she said, providing about one-third of the organization's budget. One-third is raised in Israel and the final third comes from across the United States.

Altogether, Birthday Angels has raised about $100,000 (US) since 2004.

"It's a low-budget project," Sobel Luttenberg said, noting that she runs it out of her basement.

Contributors in Canada can make a charitable gift through the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science and receive a tax receipt, she added.

While in Toronto, Soble Luttenberg visited several Jewish schools, where she described the program and asked youngsters to consider becoming birthday angels – whether through cash contributions or by earmarking some of their bar or bat mitzvah gifts to the charity.

Israel Briefs

Ya'alon dodges arrest

Israel's former military chief reportedly avoided a bid to prosecute him on war crimes in New Zealand. Israeli media reported that the Auckland District Court last week issued a warrant for Moshe Ya'alon's arrest on war crimes charges at the behest of pro-Palestinian groups who wanted him tried for a 2002 air strike against a senior terrorist in Gaza that killed 14 civilians. New Zealand's attorney general reportedly overruled the court and rescinded the warrant, and Ya'alon remained in New Zealand to continue with his vacation plans. Several former members of Israel's top military brass have been targeted in private war-crimes lawsuits in foreign courts.

'Free Palestine,' fans say

Fans of the Italian soccer team Livorno unfurled Palestinian flags during a game last week with Maccabi Haifa. They also bore a banner reading "Free Palestine" written in Arabic at the match, which ended in a 1-1 draw. The results enabled Maccabi to advance to the next round of the UEFA Cup European soccer tournament.

Arafat hosted Iranians

The Palestinian Authority agreed in 2002 to host Iran's Revolutionary Guard in exchange for weapons. *Ha'aretz* quoted Israeli Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz as saying that then-PA president Yasser Arafat made the deal with senior Iranian officials, under which Iranian troops would be stationed in the West Bank and Gaza in exchange for 50 tons of weapons, which were intercepted by Israel as they came in on the Karine A ship. Mofaz said the ship's capture revealed the extent of ties between Arafat and Iran.

Bombers jailed

Egypt sentenced 13 men in connection with a wave of Red Sea resort bombings. An Egyptian security court sentenced three to death, confirming a decree handed down previously by an Egyptian cleric, and the other 10 to between five years and life in prison after convicting them of complicity in suicide bombings between 2004 and 2006. The attacks killed more than 100 people, including 11 Israelis. Several of the attacks targeted resorts frequented by Israeli tourists.

Tutu heads to Gaza

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who has in the past compared Israeli policies with those under apartheid, has been named to head a United Nations fact-finding mission to the Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, where an Israeli artillery barrage killed 19 civilians last month. The Nobel Peace laureate will travel to Gaza to "assess the situation of victims, address the needs of survivors, and make recommendations on ways and means to protect Palestinian civilians against further Israeli assaults," according to the president of the UN Human Rights Council, Luis Alfonso De Alba.

– from Jerusalem Post, JTA

Judge strikes ban on terrorist funding

JTA

LOS ANGELES — A California judge has declared unconstitutional a 2001 presidential order blocking funds for terrorist groups, a decision that could affect funding for Hamas and Hezbollah.

Last week's decision by Los Angeles District Court Judge Audrey Collins applies only to the Tamil Tigers and the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK.

Those parties were named in the case brought against the U.S. government by the Humanitarian Law Project, which wants to allow Americans to raise money for "lawful, non-violent activities" by the groups, the *Washington Post* reported.

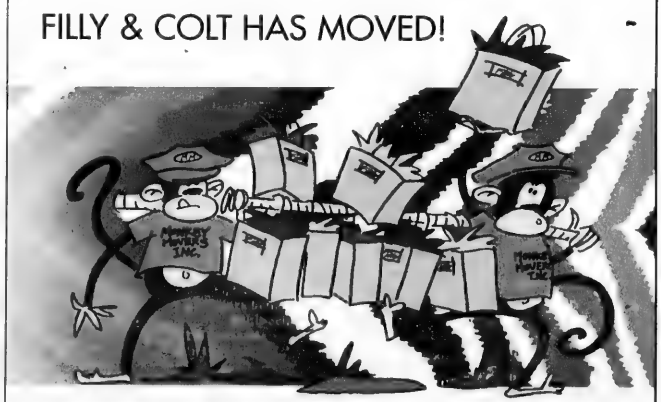
Alykhan Velshi, a lawyer with the Foundation for the Defence of Democracies, told JTA the decision could have a "persuasive" influence on other cases.

Hundreds of terrorist groups, including Hamas, Hezbollah and their affiliates, have been banned from fundraising under the same law used by U.S. President George W. Bush in his presidential order naming the PKK and the Tamil Tigers.

Velshi said his group would likely file an amicus brief if federal authorities appeal.

The foundation has lobbied for inclusion of Hezbollah affiliates on the terrorist list, arguing that allowing money to be raised for terrorists' supposedly "non-violent" activities is ludicrous.

FILLY & COLT HAS MOVED!



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OU may now oppose Israeli gov't

By BEN HARRIS
JTA

JERUSALEM — As Israeli forces mobilized in the summer of 2005 to remove 8,000 settlers from the Gaza Strip, anger mounted among American Orthodox Jews.

Not only was then-Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon's government relinquishing territory that some viewed as Jewish land by birthright, but many felt the withdrawal was a concession to terrorist intimidation that would invite further bloodshed.

But the Orthodox Union, the largest Orthodox umbrella group in the United States, remained silent, following a longstanding policy of not taking public positions opposed to the security policies of Israel's government.

That policy was reversed last month when the Orthodox Union adopted a resolution at its biennial national convention in Jerusalem empowering its leaders to publicly oppose Israeli government positions if they deem it necessary.

At the end of a four-part resolution on Israel – which expressed, among other things, the union's "historic obligation" to preserve the rights of Jews to live freely throughout the land of Israel and its skepticism about trading land for peace – the OU moved to allow itself to publicly oppose the government in "exceptional circumstances," as determined by the organization's board of directors or executive committee.

The resolution's practical impact may be only to change the focus of debate from whether to dissent publicly to what qualifies as exceptional circumstances.

But its adoption, and the intensity with which delegates argued over seemingly minor distinctions in language and emphasis, reflects a larger generational shift within the union.

"This organization is becoming a lonely place for those who believe in old-fashioned modern Orthodoxy," said David Luchins, a longtime OU board member who opposed the change. "The older generation was influenced by teachers who taught us not to get involved in Israeli issues. The grassroots is not satisfied anymore with that approach."

Proponents of a more robust public posture counter that Orthodox Jews have a religious duty to make their voices heard on issues of consequence for the future of Israel and the Jewish people.

"If you're going to be perceived as the organization that represents Orthodox Judaism in North America, you have an obligation," said Aron Raskas, a Baltimore attorney who chaired the commission that drafted the resolution.

Raskas acknowledged that opposition is sometimes best expressed privately, but said there are moments that call for a more public position.

"Silence is often construed as tacit approval of the policy," he said.

Larry Zeifman, vice-president of OU Canada and a Toronto delegate at the convention, is in favour of the resolution.

He told *The CJN* that the organization "needs to have a voice to speak on issues of concern to the Orthodox community. It was muzzled before by previous policies on major issues that affect the Orthodox community."

However, he stressed, "this is not an issue about the Orthodox community's support for the State of Israel." He said the Orthodox community is a leader in supporting Israel, as evidenced by visits, sending children to study and live there, and by giving financial assistance.

"We're talking about the Orthodox community being able to speak out on behalf of its constituency, both here and in Israel." He said that not only should the North American Orthodox community have the right to speak out, but that the Orthodox community in Israel looks to them to do so.

Rabbi Reuven Poupko of Montreal's Beth Israel Beth Aaron Congregation disagrees with Zeifman. "I think [the resolution is] a disappointing reversal of longstanding policy.

He believes the issue goes beyond a generational difference to an idea that developed after the Six Day War in 1967 that there are "two Israels: a religious Israel that we embrace, and a strident secular Israel that we can ignore or even disavow.

"The religious community feels they're not really criticizing [Israel]; they're embracing the authentic Israel. I don't believe you can parse Israel in that way."

Rabbi Baruch Taub of Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation of Toronto declined to address the resolution per se, but said that Diaspora Jews "need to approach with humility any public critique of a security related policy" of Israel.

Because Israelis are directly affected by government decisions regarding security and Diaspora Jews are not, Rabbi Taub said, "it is they and they alone who should be involved in formulating Israeli policy. Anyone in the Diaspora who wishes to influence Israeli policy can move to Israel, become a citizen, and vote in elections."

Rabbi Reuven Bulka of Ottawa's Congregation Machzikei Hadas said he's "of two minds" about the resolution. "I've always been of the mind, if you're going to criticize Israel, do it there, but not in a public manner which is embarrassing to Israel," he said.

However, he added, in the case of the Gaza pullout, the general public didn't comprehend the trauma until they saw it happening.

Most Israelis were in favour of the pullout, he added.

Rabbi Bulka said the careful wording of the OU resolution indicates that it was "obviously a painful thing for them to do. I hope it will never come to a situation where they feel they have to do it."

Longstanding policy changed after extensive debate

He added that the OU is "a significant enough organization that it can get its message to the Israeli government by means that won't embarrass the country."

Diaspora Jewry's role in Israeli decision-making long has been contentious, with many arguing that since Israelis alone bear the consequences of their government's actions, American Jewish organizations have no right to influence them.

But Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, with the spectacle of Jews removing other Jews from their homes, sparked a groundswell of protest in the Orthodox community that severely challenged that view. Raskas called it a "lightning-rod issue" for the Orthodox Union.

At the convention, debate over the union's proper role in Israeli decisions essentially pitted the moralists against the pragmatists – those who believe North American Jewry has an obligation to speak out against those who worry that the costs may outweigh the benefits.

Hillel Halkin, a noted author and translator who participated in a panel discussion on the subject, reminded the group that if it speaks out, other organizations will too. The cumulative effect will be a diminution of American Jewish influence on matters pertaining to Israel, he said.

Americans are just as divided on Israel-related issues as are Israelis, Halkin argued, and a split in the American Jewish community "could nullify its utility as an Israel lobby."

During the question period that followed, it appeared that Halkin's urging had fallen on deaf ears. Virtually every questioner asserted not only a right but a moral imperative to oppose policies they believe put Jewish lives at risk, with many drawing analogies to the period leading up to World War II, when American Jewry was silent in the face of Hitler's rise to power.

"We have to worry what history is going to say about us," said Rabbi Emanuel Feldman, who sat on the panel along with Halkin and OU chairman Harvey Blitz.

Rabbi Feldman suggested that some issues are so morally compelling that they demand a public response, even when the practical effects are nil, or even negative.

The resolution was adopted after debate on several proposed amendments, which differed primarily in the amount of leeway they allowed in determining when to take an opposing position in public.

With files from Frances Kraft

Cuban community turns 100

By LARRY LUXNER
JTA

MIAMI — As the world focuses its attention on Cuba's ailing President Fidel Castro – who was too sick to attend his own 80th birthday bash in Havana – Cuba's Jews are enjoying a rare celebration of their own.

For the next month, the island's tiny Jewish community will mark its 100th anniversary with religious services, music, dancing, parties and speeches.

The festivities were to begin last Thursday evening with a cultural gala at Havana's National Fine Arts Museum. On Dec. 1, local historian Maritza Corrales was scheduled to present her book, *The Chosen Island: Jews in Cuba*, at the biblically themed Hotel Raquel in the capital city's historic colonial quarter.

Throughout December, the Emuna dance company performs contemporary Jewish folk dances in the central Cuban city of Santa Clara, while in Santiago de Cuba, the works of Jewish artists will be exhibited at Congregacion Hatikva. The leader of that synagogue, Eugenia Farin Levy, also will present her book, *History of Cuba's Jewish Community in Maps*.

Some 1,500 Jews live in Cuba, more than 85 per cent of them in Havana, according to Adela Dworin, president of Havana's largest synagogue, the Patronato.

Sources in Miami, however, put the actual number of Jews in Cuba at 600 to 800. They point out that nearly 700 Cuban Jews have left for Israel in the past 10 years, with nearly half of them eventually relocating to south Florida.

Dworin assumed leadership of the Jewish community in March after its longtime president, 80-year-old Jose Miller, died of a heart attack. Miller's grandson, William Miller, 30, is the community's vice-president.

"For us it's very sad not to have Dr. Miller with us because this celebration was his idea," Dworin told JTA in a phone interview from Havana. "The actual centenary of the community was in August, but we had to postpone it after he died."

Jews have been living in Cuba off and on for centuries, but it wasn't until 1906 that 11 American Jews living on the island established a Reform synagogue, the United Hebrew Congregation, with services in English.

They also consecrated a cemetery in Guanabacoa, on the outskirts of Havana, officially marking the start of institutionalized Jewish life in Cuba.

Adele Dworin

By 1959, Cuba had an estimated 15,000 Jews, for the most part wealthy merchants with shoe factories, department stores and mansions. Following Castro's sweeping confiscation of private property, most of the Jews fled to south Florida, with smaller numbers immigrating to Israel and various Latin American countries.

Havana currently has three functioning synagogues, while Camaguey and Santiago de Cuba have one each. In addition, much smaller Jewish communities hold regular Shabbat services at private homes in the provincial capitals of Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus and Guantanamo.

Dworin said several prominent rabbis are in Cuba for the festivities, including Chile's Rabbi Samuel Szteinhandler and Rabbi Arthur Schneier, founder of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation. Also set to attend the opening-night commemoration was Caridad Diego, chief of religious affairs of the Cuban Communist Party's Central Committee.

The island-wide event marking 100 years of organized Jewish life in Cuba was supposed to include a visit to the Patronato by Fidel Castro himself. But that had to be cancelled when the bearded leader was rushed to a hospital in late July for emergency surgery of an undisclosed nature. The illness forced Castro to turn power over to his brother Raul, 75, for the first time since 1959.

By coincidence, the Jewish festivities overlap the Communist regime's official commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces. Yet Castro didn't even make it to a military parade in his honour, telling supporters in a statement read on government-run TV, "It is with great sorrow that I bid you farewell for not being able to personally thank you and embrace every one of you."

Castro has not been seen in public since his surgery. Foreign experts and many Cubans are convinced he has terminal cancer.

"I don't believe this is a moment for celebration," said Moises Asis, an anti-Castro exile living in Miami.

"What's there to celebrate?"

Asis taught Hebrew and led the B'nai Brith Havana chapter before fleeing Cuba in 1992 with his wife and daughter. He told JTA that Jews, like the rest of Cuba's 11.2 million inhabitants, enjoy no basic political or economic freedoms.

"Everything is about money," he said. "Cuba may have the label of a communist country, but the reality is one of brutal capitalism. Workers are exploited more by the Castro regime today than they were in England in the 19th century."

Yet Asis acknowledged that the regime has never been anti-Semitic, despite Castro's vicious criticism of Israel and historic closeness with Palestinian terrorist groups. And private Israeli companies have invested heavily in Cuban citrus and real-estate ventures.

"The discrimination in Cuba is not specifically against Jews but against all religions including Jews," Asis said. "It's true we had some privileges, but the Jewish community was so small and so weak that it would have been very easy for the government to destroy that community if it wanted. When it comes to treatment of Jews, Cuba was one of the most tolerant countries in the Communist world."

The Castro regime has never stopped U.S. or Canadian Jewish organizations from delivering wheelchairs, school supplies and kosher food to the local Jewish community.

MISS ISRAEL ENLISTS

Yael Nezri, Miss Israel, saluted for photographers recently just before enlisting in the army as she stood in front of a sign that reads in Hebrew "Welcome to Tiberias recruitment center". [Reuters/RNS photo]

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Tupelo envies her friends

***Hanukkah Counts Too* by Howard Shapiro, illustrated by Dawn M. Landrum, Trafford Publishing For Young Children.**

Tupelo doesn't have the Chanukah spirit this year. All her friends are getting ready for Christmas, singing carols and putting up Christmas trees.

It's not fair, Tupelo thinks, why does she have to be different from everybody else?

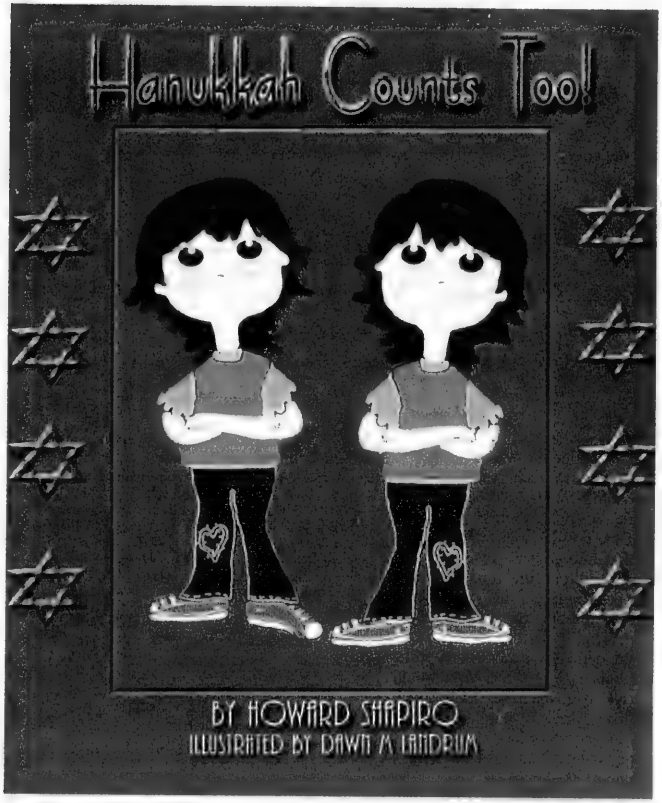
"I just wished we celebrated Christmas like just about everyone else in the world," she tells her mother, father, brother and cousin, Ron, the cool guy in the dark clothes who wears his sunglasses even in the house. "All we do on Christmas Day is eat at a Chinese restaurant."

Does Tupelo's story sound familiar? Maybe you feel this way, or one of your best friends does?

Just remember what Ron tells Tupelo in *Hanukkah Counts Too*: "Celebrating a different holiday is nothing to be ashamed of!"

After all, it's got to be a special day. Why else are there 16 different ways to spell Chanukah, or Hanukkah, or Chanuka or – well, you get the picture.

:-)



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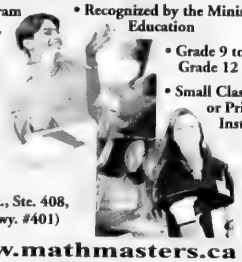

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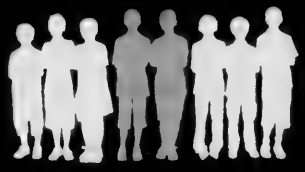

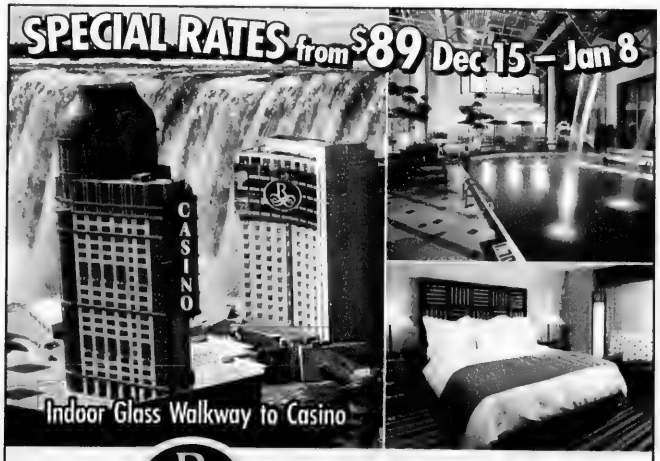

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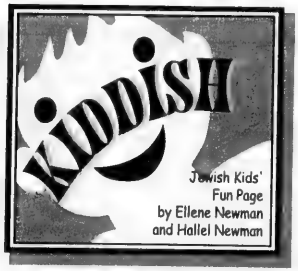


A Menorah for Isaac

Isaac was excited. Morah Amy was coming! He hadn't seen her since last Tuesday. Usually she came twice a week, but last time she didn't come because she thought she was coming down with a cold. And Isaac couldn't be exposed to anyone sick. Even though he was out of the hospital and feeling strong enough to go back to school, they were still injecting him with medicine, strong burning medicine to blast disease out of his body. Medicine that made his body weak and defenceless, and even if he caught as little as a cold, he would have to go back to the hospital. That's why he wasn't in school. With so many kids there, it was too dangerous. So instead of school, Morah Amy came to his house and taught him twice a week.

And today they were going to make a menorah for Chanukah!

"Isaac," his Mom called, "Morah Amy's here!"

Isaac ran to the door. Morah Amy was talking with his mother, but as soon as she saw Isaac, she burst out, "Isaac! It's so good to see you! How have you been?"

"*How have I been?*" he thought. "*I hate being home. I miss camp so much. I wish I was back in school. I was feeling fine, and they made me take these tests and told me I'm sick again, and now I have to take all these awful medicines. I don't even know if it's worth it.*"

But he couldn't tell Morah Amy that, so he just said, "I'm okay, I guess. Are we making a menorah today?"

"Of course." She lifted the shopping bag she was holding. "I have the clay, and you have the talent to make a really nice menorah. Right?"

In no time, they were around the table, pounding down the bricks of clay, rolling and shaping, while Morah Amy talked about menorahs and Chanukah.

"Yuck!" exclaimed Isaac, proudly showing off his dirty hands. "This is great."

"So, what kind of menorah do you want to make?"

"A real tall one. With branches coming out of the middle. Like the one in the Beit *Hamikdash*."

"I don't know if that's a good idea. Before it dries, it will bend very easily, and even when it's done, it will be very fragile. How about a flat menorah. Like this."

She rolled a pudgy cylinder out of the clay, and beat it down. "I'll make it a little higher here for the shamash."

Isaac followed her lead.

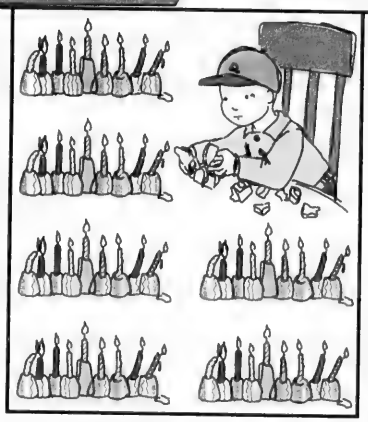
"Now we have to make holes for the candles," continued Morah Amy, picking up a pencil.

"One, two three…" Isaac poked holes, trying to keep them the same distance from each other.

"Wow, Isaac, that's beautiful. I can't wait to see you use it on Chanukah."

MATCHING

Can you find the two menorahs that are exactly alike?



"Now what?"

"Well, now we have to let it dry. And then I'll fire it in a kiln — meaning I'll bake it in a special hot oven, and then we can paint it. Then we'll fire it again. And then it's ready!"

"When will it dry? In an hour?"

"No, clay takes longer than that to dry. A week. Maybe. I hope. We really should have started this last week, but it wasn't possible." She sighed. "But we'll see. Hopefully it will dry in time."

But when she came back a week later, Isaac could tell something was wrong.

"Is my menorah ready to paint?" he asked.

"I'm so sorry Isaac, but your menorah broke."

"What?"

"I put it in the kiln hoping it was dry enough. I guess it wasn't. It cracked, and broke into pieces. I feel terrible."

She looks like she's about to cry. It's not that bad! "Oh. So could we glue it together?"

"Glue? I don't think…maybe. Maybe."

"You have the pieces with you?"

"In my car…I didn't want to show them to you."

A minute later Morah Amy was back. She was right. The menorah was in really bad shape, lying in small fragments.

It was like a hard puzzle, but worse because it was 3-D. Hard, but he would do it.

"It sticks up here, this must be part of the shamash. No, it doesn't fit."

"Try turning it the other way."

"No…oh! It fits! Now where does this go?"

"Remember where the holes were."

"Right…got it!"

It took over an hour, but finally the menorah again stood, intact.

Morah Amy beamed. "So now we'll glue it."

"No, now we paint. You told me that you have to put it in the oven again after you paint it. Then we'll glue it."

"But then we'll have to take it apart and put it together again."

"Okay, I can do that. I kind of remember how it goes together. Plus, I'll paint it with different colour stripes, so it will be easy to tell what goes where. I hope you brought the paint with you."

"I didn't..."

"And it's almost time for you to go already. I don't understand. It's like you gave up on my menorah. My parents, the doctors — everyone's telling me never to give up, to keep fighting no matter what happens. I don't always feel that way, but that's what I have to do.

"And you told me that's what Chanukah's all about — how we didn't give up, even when there seemed to be no hope. And that's why God made the miracle and the oil burned for eight days. To show us if you try your hardest God will help you."

Morah Amy put her arms around Isaac and hugged him close. She didn't say anything for a long time.

Finally she said, "I'm going to my house to get the paint now. We'll paint your menorah, however long it takes. And then we'll fire it. And glue it. You'll have a beautiful menorah for Chanukah. Because you never give up."

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Arts & Travel

Comedians Kenny and Spenny revel in their 'Heb-i-ness'

By BYRON PASCOE and PAUL TELNER
Special to The CJN

In the hit reality comedy series *Kenny vs. Spenny,* two Jewish friends from Toronto battle each other in outrageous competitions, with the loser having to perform a humiliating stunt that the winner chooses.

Competitions in the show, which airs in 40 countries and is in its third season, have included the contests "who can wear a dead octopus on their head the longest?" and "who can imitate the other guy better?"

While Kenny (Kenny Hotz) will have us believe that he's won most of the competitions on the series, which began on CBC before moving to Showcase, Spenny (Spencer Rice) attributes many of those "wins" to cheating.

Spenny says the good guy can't win by playing fair. "One of the reasons why I get up in the morning to have my brain smashed out by Kenny is that we are documenting that reality... People love the character [mobster] Tony Soprano, yet he is a scumbag. Our show can let people see the result of what a Machiavellian manipulator like Kenny can do to me, and at that point, I become a microcosm of society."

Kenny and Spenny have some fun with mouse traps.

Kenny believes he wins more often because he's smarter and thinks outside the box. "If you watch a couple episodes, you want me to lose, but then after watching the third show, everybody wants him [Spenny] to get crushed," he says.

"Why? Spenny is wound up, stressed out, short-fused, paranoid and neurotic. He's got traits that everybody hates. I'm fun loving, happy and very social. He's anti-social and has that goody-two-shoes thing going. He's like a religious fundamentalist that I love to squash."

They both admit that they exaggerate their natural tendencies on the TV show.

They see Judaism as pivotal parts of their lives, at least comically. "We were going to do a competition of 'who's the better Jew?' but last year we did 'who do the older ladies like more?' and went out with three bubbies. I loved it," Kenny says.

"With [comedians] Woody Allen and Larry David, there aren't many people who are revelling in their 'Heb-i-ness' as much as us. The CBC called us 'Whine and Shyster.' I'm a Jew from Toronto. I can't avoid my 'Jew-i-ness' from infiltrating everything I do. I get my devious diabolical skills from my Uncle Abe in Hamilton. Places I've gone in my entire life pepper the show, from the JCC to Bagel World."

Spenny attended a private school that was filled with gentiles, he says. "My humour wasn't appreciated. It was only when I started playing hockey with Jewish kids at Forest Hill [Collegiate] that the impact of my personality was felt amongst my peers.

"It was a matter of being understood. Jews have a great sense of humour, which definitely isn't exclusive – maybe it's a type of humour, I don't know."

They've done several films apart, including Spenny's *Telewhore,* about a 300-pound female phone-sex operator, and Kenny's *The Papal Chase,* about his attempts to meet the Pope. Together they made *It Don't Cost Nothin' To Say Good Morning,* a film about a lovable hobo.

Their film *Pitch* documented Kenny and Spenny trying to sell a film in Hollywood. It featured cameos by movie critic Roger Ebert and actor Al Pacino and was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival.

"We were a unique, modern-classic comedy duo, which is the straight man, me, and the crazy guy, Kenny," Spenny says. "What made it fresh was that we weren't put together at the studios like Laurel and Hardy. We grew up together and are real."

Kenny says: "We decided we would do what most Jews in comedy do. Going to L.A. from Canada is kind of like leaving Egypt and going to the land of Canaan. You have to do it whether you want it or not – it's the natural progression for Jewish comedians."

The two continue to be close friends, as they have been for as long as they can remember. "Everyone can look into their life and see the one friend that they have known longer than anyone else," Spenny says. "No matter how different you are from them, you are kind of stuck with them, kind of like family. Almost to a complete extent, that's what Kenny and I are."

Showcase airs *Kenny vs. Spenny* Thursdays at 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 p.m. The show "features many challenges too racy to be mentioned in *The CJN,* but a fit for their network, which prides itself as being 'television without borders,'" Spenny says.

"Showcase is our ultimate home. I don't think there is a broadcaster in the entire world that would be as forgiving and understanding of our insanity."

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

EVENING OF JEWISH MUSIC AT HARBOURFRONT CENTRE

BMO Financial and Harbourfront Centre present A Lid Un A Tfile – An Evening of Jewish Music to warm up our January. This celebration of the diversity of Jewish music features the **Art of Time Ensemble** and singers **David Wall** and **Monica Whicher**, trumpeter **David Buchbinder**, clarinetists **Martin van de Ven** and **Lori Freedman**, pianist **Marilyn Lerner** and filmmaker **Jarek Obsadny**.

The program includes traditional doinas, Yiddish songs and original Judaic-themed music by **Osvaldo Golijov**, **John Zorn** and **Sergei Prokofiev**. $36-$25. Harbourfront Centre Theatre, 231 Queens Quay W. Thursday, Jan. 18, and Friday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m. 416-973-4000

* * *

Chanukah Events

• The Winchevsky Centre's Chanukah-Palooza is a cabaret-style evening of entertainment that includes a sing-along led by **Peter Kastner** and theatrical adaptations of **I. B. Singer**'s Chanukah stories *The First Shlemiel* and *The Snow in Chelm*. Refreshments. $15. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Saturday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m. 416-789-5502, www.winchevskycentre.org

Laura Silberberg

• Judy & David's Chanukah Time Machine is a comic musical journey through time to meet silly characters from Jewish history, featuring the celebrated duo with **CharActor's Kids Choir**, **Boomie The Boom Box** and others. $14, $18, $24. Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles St. W. Sunday, Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. 416-872-1111. Also at City Playhouse, 1000 New Westminster St., Vaughan, Saturday, Dec. 16, 1:30 and 4 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 17, 10:30 a.m., 1:30 and 4 p.m. 905-882-SHOW

* * *

• **The Sisters of Sheynville** perform "Yiddish Swing", at a Chanukah party at the Rex Hotel Jazz & Blues Bar, 194 Queen St. W on Dec. 10 from noon to 3 p.m. Treats will be served. $12. (Kids, $10). 416-598-2475.

Names in the News: Toronto-based author **Rona Arato**, who began her 30-year-long writing career as a freelancer for *The CJN*, has published her first children's novel, *Ice Cream Town*. The story focuses on nine-year-old Sammy Levin, who comes to New York from Poland in 1920 and learns to stand up for himself in the face of peer pressure from a local gang and prejudice against new immigrants. Aimed at readers aged 8 to 12, *Ice Cream Town* is published by Fitzhenry and Whiteside.

* * *

Three Tenors: Show One Entertainment presents The Three Tenors from the Holy Land in the only Canadian stop on their debut North American tour. The trio performs an evening of opera, show tunes, Russian, Jewish and other international favourites. $36-$118. Beth Tzedec synagogue, 1700 Bathurst St. Tuesday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m., 416-872-1111, www.ticketmaster.ca

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The **Amadeus Choir** presents Season of Joy with special guests the **Bach Children's Chorus**. The program includes première performances of winning compositions in the choir's 20th annual Christmas carol and Chanukah song-writing competition. **Laura Silberberg** took first place in the youth category for the eighth time. $40-$35. Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Saturday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. www.amadeuschoir.com

• Mentalist **Marc Salem**, renowned for his apparent ability to read minds with astonishing accuracy, brings his acclaimed show Mind Games to Toronto for a special Chanukah performance, produced by Chabad on the Avenue. Forest Hill Collegiate, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. $72, $36, $24. www.SalemMindGames.ca

• Toronto Operetta Theatre presents a full staging of the comic operetta *Candide* by **Leonard Bernstein** and **Lillian Hellman**, based on the satiric tale by **Voltaire**. From $39. Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre. Previews Dec. 27, runs Dec. 30 to Jan. 7. Tickets are $145 for New Year's Eve celebration with pre-theatre dinner, dancing and champagne. 416-366-7723, www.stlc.com

* * *

At the Galleries

• Born in Vilnius, Lithuania, after World War II, **Gregory Talas** began to chronicle life in the 600-year-old Jewish quarter of Vilnius as a youth, and has amassed hundreds of images of Jewish life there and in Warsaw, Toledo, New York and Jerusalem. The Lithuanian-Canadian photographer owns the Kodiak Gallery in Richmond Hill, where an exhibition of his work, Four Decades, is on view until Jan. 2. Included is his photo series "Jerusalem of Lithuania." 10176 Yonge St. 905-770-5381

• The Willowdale Group of Artists present paintings in a variety of media. Kathleen Gormley McKay House, 197 Main St., Unionville. Until Dec. 10.

• The public is invited to an exhibition and sale of watercolours by **Leah Belfon**, 436 Lawrence Ave. W., Apt. 3. Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 to 10:30 p.m. 416-787-3888

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Three Tenors to perform at Beth Tzedec

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Break out your opera glasses and brush up on your knowledge of Puccini and Verdi, because the three tenors are coming to town.

No, not "those" three tenors, rather, the Three Tenors from the Holy Land; Yevgeni (the Israeli Pavarotti) Shapovalov, Vladislav Goray and Felix Livshitz.

On Tuesday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m., at Beth Tzedec Congregation, Israel's foremost tenor soloists will grace the air of Toronto with their world-renowned voices.

The three are longtime friends, dating back to the days when they studied together at the music conservatory in Odessa, Ukraine, said Svetlana Dvoretskaia, who is producing the show through her Show One Entertainment company.

Toronto is the only Canadian stop on their 10-city, two-week tour.

The Shapovalov-inspired, three-tenor format has been a success from the outset, with the tenors selling out more than 100 shows in 18 months of touring.

"They always thought about doing [a tour] like this," Dvoretskaia said. "This was planned for a long time."

Aside from his golden voice, Shapovalov, who has a charismatic stage presence, often speaks and jokes with the crowd, playing the showman, said Dvoretskaia.

"He's a big guy, and as soon as he comes out on the stage, he's the most charming guy for audiences," she said. "He has one of the best relationships with his audience. It will be a different type of show… it will be fun."

Though Shapovalov may be the marquee name for the event, both Goray, a soloist with the Israeli opera, and Livshitz, a regular performer with the Israeli Philharmonic, are more than capable of bringing the house down with their talents.

Expect the tenors to sing a variety of songs from their vast repertoire.

"There will be songs familiar to everyone," Dvoretskaia said. "They never tell you what they're gonna do. They [judge] by the audience in front of them. But Toronto will probably get a variety of Italian, Russian, Jewish and Spanish songs."

Though they could have played in a bigger venue, the tenors and Show One Entertainment chose the Beth Tzedec for its acoustic properties and "to emphasize the Jewishness of this performance," Dvoretskaia said.

The synagogue has a capacity of 2,500.

Half of the profits from the concert will be donated to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's 2007 Israel Emergency Campaign.

The Three Tenors from the Holy Land, from left, are Yevgeni Shapovalov, Vladislav Goray and Felix Livshitz.

"People should know that while this will be a fantastic show to attend, they will also be helping Israel," Dvoretskaia said.

For information and tickets, call Show One Entertainment, 416-737-6785 or visit, www.ticketmaster.ca

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I Have Never Forgotten You
chronicles legendary Nazi hunter

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Simon Wiesenthal, the late Nazi hunter, modestly described himself as a "researcher."

Technically, he was right. As director of the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna, he immersed himself in the minutiae of keeping track of Nazi war criminals who had eluded justice after the Holocaust. But on a much deeper level, Wiesenthal – a survivor whose mother perished in the Belzec extermination camp –was far more than a researcher.

He was a skilled and dogged investigator and lobbyist who made sure that their names were in the news and who insistently pressed for their imprisonment. Thanks to his persistence, a succession of important Nazi killers were captured, from Adolf Eichmann, the "engineer" of the Final Solution, to Franz Stangl, the commandant of Treblinka and Sobibor.

"This man played a major role in bringing to justice the murderers of 4½ million Jews," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, in Toronto last week.

Rabbi Hier was here to introduce the centre's new biopic, *I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal*, which had its Canadian premiere at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

Directed by Richard Trank and narrated by actress Nicole Kidman, this documentary unfolds through the medium of file footage, mainly in interviews with Wiesenthal, his associates and his daughter, Paulinka Kriesberg.

The film, which is likely to be sold to television networks and be available on DVD, opens with a sweeping shot of the quarry in the Mauthausen concentration camp, where many inmates died and where Wiesenthal was incarcerated. He weighed a skeletal 99 pounds, and was reduced to eating grass, when he was liberated by American forces on May 5, 1945.

I Have Never Forgotten You, a reference to his dedication to remembering the six million killed during the Holocaust, glosses over his birthplace in Buczacz, his youth in Galicia and his training as a building engineer. Indeed, this segment is rather dull.

Simon Wiesenthal

The documentary only picks up momentum when it focuses on Wiesenthal's hunt for the Nazis who had not paid for their respective crimes. Among them were Karl Silberbauer, the Gestapo officer who arrested Anne Frank, and Hermine Braunsteiner-Ryan, the Long Island *hausfrau* who was implicated in the murder of hundreds of children in Majdanek.

The film also touches on a variety of related issues: Wiesenthal's futile attempt to ascertain whether Raoul Wallenberg – the Swedish saviour of 100,000 Hungarian Jews – was still alive after falling into the hands of the Soviet Union; Wiesenthal's monumental row with the Jewish chancellor of Austria, Bruno Kreisky; Wiesenthal's successful crusade to extend Germany's Statute of Limitations; Wiesenthal's unsuccessful efforts to rein in the so-called Angel of Death, Joseph Mengele; and Wiesenthal's controversial position on Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian president accused of being a Nazi war criminal.

Trank does not address accusations, levelled by a former head of the Mossad, that Wiesenthal falsely took credit for Eichmann's capture. Aside from this omission, the film is comprehensive. It also possesses a delicious sense of irony. When Wiesenthal turned 90, he was feted at the Hotel Imperial, Adolf Hitler's favourite haunt in Vienna.

Israeli songstress stays true to dream

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

One minute into Ronit Ofir Engel's 2006 debut album, Poetry of the Brilliant Silence, she shouts the following words, "Wake up call to the universe! 911!"

It is a fitting start to an album that is all about challenges, both her own and the world's.

Now living in Toronto, the 28-year-old Israeli-born singer/actor/poet has experienced her share of triumph and heartbreak on the road to her ultimate dream: a full-fledged music career.

Since coming to North America in 2000, she has had a record deal gone bad and dealt with broken promises and numerous delays in her recording.

But she remains undaunted.

"God puts stones in your way. But you have to give back to receive," she said.

Poetry of the Brilliant Silence

In 2004, she recorded *The Passion Show*, a European dance hit single that placed in the Top 5 of *VH-1's Pop Song of the Year* contest.

She also lived in New York for one year to try out her acting chops.

Ronit Ofir Engel
[Dario Roberto Quintos photo]

While there, Ofir, as she prefers to be called nowadays, managed to get bit parts in various productions, and worked as an extra on several projects including the hit TV shows, *Sex and the City*, *MTV Jam* and on film in *The Yards*.

She spent time bouncing between Israel and North America before finally settling in Toronto in 2004.

Though she is now waiting for Canadian citizenship, Ofir never forgets where she came from and what Israel means to her.

Born in Nahariya, she always felt she had something to share with the world.

"When you grow up in Israel, you always worry about what you can do for your country and not yourself," she said. "But when you grow up and leave, travel… then you can focus."

Still, she has sacrificed much to be here.

When this summer's war with Hezbollah began, Ofir chose to stay in Toronto to finish *Poetry of the Brilliant Silence* and work on her follow-up album, *The Passion Show*, rather than visit her ailing mother in Israel.

She didn't know how great an emotional cost that decision would exact.

Two months later, in September, her mother died of complications due to diabetes, which left Ofir heartbroken, but also determined.

"I don't know if she knew she was going to die," Ofir said. "But I spoke with her just days before [her passing] and she told me, 'I know you can do it. I know you're going to be successful.'"

Personal loss served to reinvigorate her musical ambitions, and she set about recording *The Passion Show*, with plans to release it before year's end.

In order to do so, Ofir works hard to make ends meet.

She performs gigs around town, often for charitable causes such as Kids Play Youth Outlook, and auditions for acting roles, "[W]hatever comes until I can get the music career on track," she said.

That path is now set firmly toward pop music.

Where *Poetry of the Brilliant Silence* focused on Ofir's enigmatic poetry and psychedelic imagery, *The Passion Show* will highlight her mainstream abilities.

"*The Passion Show* is totally the other side of me," she said. "There's one side that is [highbrow] and the other side is playful and fun."

Ofir is careful to assert limits on what she will and won't do in this next phase of her career.

"I will maintain my values by staying in the middle [ground]," she said. "I won't go sleazy, but I know how to be sexy or cute. This really separates me from a lot of artists these days."

Once she is done working on *The Passion Show*, Ofir will seek out musical collaborators.

She has a copious backlog of songs and poems, all ready to be recorded.

"I have enough work [to keep] a producer occupied from here until doomsday," she said.

For more information about Ofir visit, www.thepassionshow.com

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Books & Authors

The U.S.-Saudi relationship: 'oil for security'

***Thicker Than Oil: America's Uneasy Partnership With Saudi Arabia by* Rachel Bronson, Oxford University Press.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

What does the United States – a bastion of democracy and freedom – have in common with a dyed-in-the-wool theocracy like Saudi Arabia?

Rachel Bronson, an American scholar, addresses this pertinent question in her thoroughly researched and informative book, *Thicker Than Oil: America's Uneasy Partnership With Saudi Arabia*.

Rachel Bronson

The title is a giveaway, of course. This extremely conservative desert kingdom, which has funded and promoted Islamic radicalism, sits astride one-quarter of the world's proven oil reserves, a fact that Washington can hardly ignore.

Saudi Arabia is also important geo-politically, being close to Iraq and Iran, two of the hot spots in the Middle East, and Israel, one of Washington's closest allies in the region.

Bronson, the director of Middle East Studies at the influential Council on Foreign Relations, sums up the United States' relationship with Saudi Arabia in three telling words: "oil for security." In exchange for facilitating the unhindered flow of oil at reasonable prices, the U.S. guarantees Saudi Arabia's territorial integrity. For the past half century, Washington has defended the Saudis from external threats posed by the former Soviet Union, Egypt, Iraq, Iran and, now, Al Qaeda.

Despite this marriage of convenience, Washington's alliance with Israel and Saudi Arabia's on-again, off-again support of Muslim extremists have produced serious differences.

As Bronson suggests, Washington's intense interest in Saudi Arabia goes back to 1932, when a major American company struck oil in neighbouring Bahrain. Convinced that black gold was also to be found in Saudi Arabia, American prospectors converged on that backwater. The Saudis were only too glad to work with the United States, which, unlike Britain, was untainted by the brush of western colonialism.

From 1944 to 1950, the production of crude pumped by Aramco – the preeminent American oil company in the kingdom – jumped from 21,000 to 548,000 barrels per day.

Recognizing Saudi Arabia's potential importance, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt met the Saudi king, Abdel Aziz bin Abdel Rahman al-Faisal al-Saud, in the winter of 1945 aboard the USS Quincy, anchored in the Great Bitter lake adjacent to the Suez Canal.

During much of World War II, the Saudis remained neutral though partial toward the Allies, but in the wake of Roosevelt's congenial meeting with Abdel Aziz; the bond betweeen the United States and Saudi Arabia was forged.

Even so, the king warned Roosevelt that "the heavens will split" and "the earth will be rent asunder" if Jews established a state in Palestine. Roosevelt took his warning under advisement, promising Abdel Aziz never to do anything that might prove hostile to Arabs. Roosevelt died a few months later, his pledge a dead letter. The United States, contrary to Saudi Arabia's position, supported the partition of Palestine and recognized the newly created State of Israel.

Nonetheless, the Cold War drew the United States and Saudi Arabia together. Roosevelt's successor, Harry Truman, initiated a series of military agreements designed to keep the Soviet Union at bay. Bronson fills in the details in voluminous fashion.

The kingdom's relations with the United States reached a nadir in the early 1960s when the new president, John F. Kennedy, announced his intention to cultivate "modernizing" Arab states such as Egypt, which was at odds with Saudi Arabia over a number of issues.

When the Six Day War erupted, the Saudis joined the Arab oil embargo against the United States. With the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War, U.S.-Saudi relations hit a new low as Saudi Arabia orchestrated a much longer embargo. In Bronson's judgment, it was the worst-ever crisis in their relationship.

The Saudis did more than just cut off the flow of oil during the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. They sent an army brigade to assist Syria, but their 3,000 troops did not reach Damascus until after the end of the war. The tardy arrival of the Saudis may have been deliberate, but by that juncture, Saudi Arabia was a vital backer of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Although the United States and Saudi Arabia were not always on the same page on key policy issues, Washington was always receptive to Saudi arms requests. In 1978, in the face of Israeli opposition, the Carter administration pushed through the sale of 60 F-15 fighter jets to Saudia Arabia, while allowing Israel to buy 15. Some years later, during the Reagan presidency, the Saudis were permitted to purchase a fleet of reconnaissance aircraft and F-15 upgrades.

Saudi Arabia, though officially at war with Israel, has promoted two peace plans, both of which the Israeli government has rejected out of hand.

The 1982 Fez plan offered recognition of Israel after its acceptance of a Palestinian state and its withdrawal to the pre-1967 armistice lines. The 2002 plan, presented at the height of the second Palestinian uprising, offered full normalization with Israel in return for Palestinian statehood and a resolution of the Palestinian refugee problem.

According to Bronson, the second intifadah was a high-priority matter for the Saudis, but to their dismay, the Bush administration seemed disengaged from it.

With the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, Washington's co-operation with Saudi Arabia reached new heights.

Working closely with the Americans to repel the Soviets, Saudi Arabia placed huge sums of money at the disposal of Afghan rebels battling the Red Army. Some of these fighters were Islamic fundamentalists who subsequently formed the core of the Taliban regime, a sponsor of Al Qaeda.

The first Gulf War in 1991 marked another high-water point in U.S.-Saudi relations, but it prompted a Saudi national and Al Qaeda leader named Osama bin Laden to turn against the House of Saud once and for all. Saudi Arabia's implicit support of the 2003 allied invasion of Iraq widened the gap between the regime and local Islamic militants, which the authorities had coddled.

The Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, spearheaded by 15 Saudi militants, fundamentally changed the tone of Washington's relationship with the kingdom. But since then, the Saudis have taken credible measures to stamp out Islamic militancy.

In conclusion, Bronson writes that oil will remain crucially important to Washington's partnership with the Saudis. As of three years ago, Saudi Arabia was America's second largest supplier, shipping 1.4 million barrels per day.

In her view, the relationship can only work if the Saudis continue cracking down on Islamic radicalism and play a leadership role in perpetuating "a more positive interpretation of Islam."

In the meantime, *Thicker Than Oil* remains a useful and instructive primer about a pivotal Mideastern relationship.

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CJN Profile

Food critic from Toronto picks TV's 'top chefs'

By DAVE GORDON
Special to The CJN

It's true: Gail Simmons likes her mashed potatoes. It's a strange food pick from a judge on TV's *Top Chef*, and in light of her day job at *Food & Wine* magazine. But she says her professional experience hasn't spoiled her tastes.

"Although it may not appear this way on *Top Chef*, I am actually a very easy-going eater. I love all food as long as it is made with a little soul – be it caviar, chips or chicken wings," she admits.

The second season of *Top Chef* premièred on Bravo in the United States and the first season of Top Chef was featured on the Food Network Canada recently. On the show, the culinary master who bests 15 other chefs in various challenges is dubbed "top chef," and wins $100,000.

'Judge' maintains her love for old-fashioned comfort foods

Simmons is joined at the judging table by actress Padma Lakshmi and Tom Colicchio, co-founder of New York City's Gramercy Tavern and Craft Restaurants, who returns as head chef-judge for the new season.

"Versatility is a skill that can never be underestimated," Simmons wrote in a recent blog entry. "Pairing artichokes with snails and American cheese, or chicken livers with frog legs and peanut butter definitely woke everyone up!" she says of one particular challenge.

Simmons, who grew up in Toronto, transported herself to New York about seven years ago to follow her passions.

Though sometimes, even in the city that seems to have everything, she feels a desire for home. Missing family, inexpensive Thai or Greek food, and public health care, she says are among the drawbacks of New York. "Lack of space, trees, privacy, quiet," are also some complaints of being in the city that never sleeps.

Before taking bites in the Big Apple, however, her interest in food preparation began with a soupçon of basic cooking as an undergraduate at McGill University. Eventually, she wrote restaurant reviews for the student paper, the *McGill Tribune*.

Still, this was never something she thought could be a career. Her first job out of school was as an editorial intern at *Toronto Life* magazine. It was there, with the encouragement of former food editor Michael Totzke and food critic James Chatto, that she found herself drawn to food journalism.

"I was an anthropology major and loved how tactile and satisfying it seemed – it was this whole microcosm of culture that encompassed so much else – art, science, politics," she says.

A year later, she moved to New York to attend culinary school – formerly Peter Kump's New York Cooking School and now called Institute of Culinary Education. This gave her the foundation she needed to move forward seriously with food writing.

"My perception of food and cooking has definitely changed over the years simply by constantly being around it, learning about its evolution and coming to understand the work that goes into it," she says.

"I am no doubt more conscious about food and how it goes from raw product to plate than I was 10 years ago, and probably spend more time than most considering what that means to the planet, our bodies, our society."

Simmons worked her way through kitchen apprenticeships at Le Cirque 2000 and Vong Restaurants in New York City, then moved to *Vogue* magazine, where for two years she worked as a research and recipe-testing assistant to food critic Jeffrey Steingarten. For the past three years, she's been with *Food & Wine*'s special projects, and, most recently, became a TV-show food judge.

Gail Simmons

But make no mistake – when the cameras are off, the chef's hat comes off, and she enjoys the food she eats like anyone else.

"When I go out to eat with friends and family, that is, not on the job, I never analyze or judge the food. At those times I am off duty. Eating or cooking is much more about shared experience, social interaction and pleasure than it is about critique. Besides, I would never be invited to anyone's home for dinner if I thought otherwise."

As for her own family's home cooking in Toronto, she notes that her mother was a food writer for the *Globe & Mail* years ago and was an influence on her, as far as the culinary arts go. Still, she maintains her adoration for old-fashioned comfort foods.

"My favourite food growing up was probably mashed potatoes or anything creamy and mashed for that matter. But my mother will tell you that I was weaned on leek quiche and pâté," she says. "I still love anything mashed, but I also have a weakness for anything pickled, smoked or spicy. I love to cook soups, stews and braised meat. They are just as comforting to cook as they are to eat."

When the Jewish festivals come around, Simmons is especially delighted to be home, enjoying traditional Jewish cuisine.

"I love all holiday food. I love everything at the Passover Seder table. I love Shabbat dinner at my mom's house – something I cherish now more than ever since I do not get home for it often enough. She still makes the best matzah balls. But I am slowly catching up. My brisket is a force to be reckoned with."

Meanwhile, as season two of *Top Chef* approaches its finale, was there anything about the show that was the biggest thrill?

"The entire show has been exciting for me. It has proven to us just how important a place food has in pop culture. *Top Chef* viewers, like our readers [*Food & Wine* magazine's], are so passionate and have really embraced it," she says.

"They love seeing young, creative people live their dreams and succeed, which is not an easy thing to do in the restaurant business. It had also been a thrill to judge on the show alongside so many extraordinary culinary talents."

It didn't hurt that the show featured both exotic foods and exotic locales.

Simmons managed to steal away a few moments for this interview during the filming of the season two finale, in Hawaii. "I have to admit, that is pretty exciting, too!" she says.

For more information about *Top Chef*, visit www.bravotv.com/top chef.

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
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Balancing your wheel of life

Life Coach Corner

Judy Siblin Librach

A beautiful word in the English language is "balance," but it's a word that eludes many of us because we are so busy in our chaotic world of schedules, commitments and demands on our time and energy.

As parents, we want to give everything to our children, so we sign them up for ballet, gymnastics, hockey, karate, skating and after-school swimming programs. We also want to devote time to our marriage, relationships, career, family, friends and the community – and while it is often a happy problem, sometimes it can be overwhelming. At those times, the need to restore balance becomes very significant.

So how do we know when an out-of-whack period is really becoming an out-of-whack way of life? Well, a great way to look at how balanced your life is, is to do the Wheel of Life Exercise created by authors Laura Whitworth, Henry Kinsey-House and Phil Sandal in *Co-Active Coaching*.

Here's how it works: there's a wheel with eight wedges, representing Career, Money, Health, Friends and Family, Significant Other, Spirituality and Growth, Fun and Recreation, and Your Physical Environment. What I do, is ask my clients to tell me, on a scale from one to 10, how deeply satisfied they are with each wedge in the wheel. Inevitably, there are wedges in the wheel that will get a lower number, and this often signifies that the wheel is out of balance, and in that particular area, there is a need for some alignment.

For instance, if someone gives a four to health and fitness, it would suggest that this is an area they might want to work on. What's great about this exercise is that it becomes a very powerful visual map of your life, because you can see what is working and what is not. Then you can actually begin to brainstorm and create new ways of figuring out how tackle the area that is not feeling balanced.

The problem for many of us is that we have so many things we feel we must do, things that people expect of us, but there are also things that look too good to pass up. One of the most empowering skills to learn is the ability to say "no" to the myriad of choices and offers that are always being presented to us. Saying "no" to social engagements, to overtime at work, or even to some recreation, will help restore some balance. Learning to say "no" is a way to honour our values.

As we all know, by saying "yes" to working late hours, we are saying "no" to family time and to more rest and relaxation. But we worry that the word "no" isn't polite, or that it means we're not a team player. But, in fact, learning to say "no" is a valuable skill that actually means saying "yes" to something and "no" to something else. Saying "no" creates a choice, and that is very freeing. What we normally do is say "yes" first, and then we worry and stress about it later.

Whenever we see an area that's out of balance, that's often the area that needs the most attention and action. Brainstorm with a friend, a coach or your spouse, and come up with some new and creative ideas of what you can do that will help you achieve more balance.

A great question to ask is what do you want more of in your life and what do you want less of? Then all you have to do is take some action and ask yourself how you can turn that number 1 on your wheel of life into a triumphant 10.

Balance is beautiful when we achieve it. Think of the ballerina on point shoes, or the acrobat balancing on a thin wire. When we achieve balance, life takes on a natural feeling of rhythm, harmony and grace.

Judy Siblin-Librach is an Adler trained coach. You can reach her at www.findingyourbliss.com or by e-mail at judyelle@ican.net.

Fertility clinic operates according to Halachah

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Couples who are desperate to have children may resort to expensive and invasive high-tech methods to conceive, when there are more holistic options, asserts embryologist and fertility expert Dr. Baruch Brooks.

"Every couple has a different issue," Brooks said. "It may be a question not of what to do [to help them], but how to help them."

Brooks is an embryologist and religious supervisor for the IVF Unit at Shaare Zedek Medical Center, and is very involved with the pre-implantation genetics program, with the responsibility of performing biopsies on embryos before they are implanted. As well, he heads a fertility clinic in Jerusalem, Zir Chemed, with its own lab, that operates according to halachic principles.

He was in Toronto for a lecture at the Sephardic Kehila Centre and for private consultations.

While he treats anyone who needs help, as a member of the haredi community, haredim are a major focus of his work. "Many haredim feel distanced from the general community," he said, adding that they have a different way of dealing with problems, particularly personal ones like fertility.

"They would speak to their rabbi before going to a doctor," he said. Some don't realize that there are ways of dealing with the issue that are in accordance with halachic rules, he said. Similarly, medical personnel who are not haredi don't understand their attitude of the primacy of Halachah.

There are even some, he said, who have the attitude that since conception is a matter between the husband, the wife and God, who are we to interfere with the natural order of things.

Brooks can offer them a chance of having a child, or even having more children than they already have, the latter being often not understood as being important or even worth doing.

"I'm a scientist, not a medical doctor," Brooks said. "I advise and look for options." He said that he feels that his role is to help couples get pregnant, not fit them into some standard program. For instance, if a woman ovulates during the time she cannot, according to Halachah, have relations, there are hormones that can be given to alter her ovulation time period. "Sometimes it's a very simple thing that can make the difference," he said.

That being said, he added, he only suggests hormones or other options if they are needed. He feels, he said, that people who just need a little help should get the same attention as those who need in-vitro fertilization techniques.

Brooks emphasized that he is by no means averse to using IVF if necessary. People should be aware, though, that IVF is not without its own risks, such as birth defects. "With natural conception, there is a two to 2½ per cent chance of birth defects, while with IVF, the chance rises to 3½ to four per cent. It should be used only when there is no other option."

Zir Chemet, where Brooks heads the laboratory, offers professional and emotional counselling, information for rabbis and medical personnel and a fertility clinic, all strictly according to Halachah. There are haredi female obstetrician/gynecologists, for those who feel uncomfortable with male OBGYNs.

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Women's team to skate as Israel Maccabees in tournament

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Esther Silver already has a full-time job as a doctor, but if her efforts of the last few months are any indication, she could probably enjoy a second career as a hockey scout and recruiter.

Silver has beaten the bushes, torn up the phone lines, and done pretty well everything she could short of driving to Moosonee to scout a game in order to uncover hidden gems – at least she hopes they're gems – in the unlikeliest of categories: Jewish women hockey players.

Her goal is to put together the Israel Maccabees entry in the Canadian Women's Multicultural Hockey Championships (CWMHC).

Nineteen players from across Canada, and even a few playing south of the border, have been recruited for the Maccabees, who will play in the late December tournament against teams representing European, Japanese, Chinese, Ojibwa and Iroquois communities.

The tournament is the brainchild of television executive producer Stanley Papulkas, who has been working behind the scenes to establish the Canadian Multicultural Hockey League (CMHL). His purpose is to permit Toronto's ethnic communities to celebrate their diversity in the most Canadian of ways – with a hockey tournament, according to the CJMHL's Web site (www.cmhl.ca).

In addition to the women's tournament, 16 men's teams representing various ethnic communities in the Toronto area will compete for the newly established "Canadian Cup."

Corporate sponsors include Crown Royal, Rogers' OMNI Television Network, Coffee Time and Metohos, as well as Hockey Canada and the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Silver, herself a goalie, has been at the forefront of organizing an Israeli women's hockey team to wear that country's colours in International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) tournaments. As part of that effort, she has identified several eligible players, but under the CWMHC rules, she has been able to expand her net to take in Jewish women who would not be eligible to play for Israel. At the top of her list are goaltender Daniella Winkler and centre Amy Davidovich, both skilled players who will be expected to lead the Maccabees.

"We have at least seven A-level" players, Silver said, "and they are very excited. One wants to play *Hatikvah* [Israel's national anthem] in the dressing room."

An Israel Maccabee getting ready for the Canadian Women's Multicultural Hockey Championships.

The team will be coached by Doug Antoine, a hockey instructor who works with Davidovich and who has volunteered his time, Silver said.

It looks like his work will be cut out for him. Silver has faced off against the aboriginal teams and she rates them as tournament favourites.

"I played with them, and they're so amazing," she said.

Compounding Antoine's problems is that the players are so spread out and busy with work and exams that they will be hard-pressed to play together before the first puck drops.

Silver is attempting to arrange a pre-tournament exhibition series with the Chinese team to develop team cohesion and perhaps aid in cutting the roster down to a more manageable 14 players, plus two spares.

Silver, who plans to move to Israel part time, said at least six members of the Maccabees are also eligible to play for the Israeli national women's team (www.niwih.com).

Although the women's national team has yet to play a meaningful game, Silver hopes Israel will be able to ice a team at an IIHF tournament in the spring of 2007.

However, the program in the Jewish State has suffered a a setback due to last summer's war with Hezbollah. A planned hockey camp in the Canada Cup rink in Metulla, which sits on the Lebanon border, was cancelled and a shipment of six bags of badly needed hockey equipment ended up gathering dust in Modiin, Silver said.

Even now, with the end of hostilities, the Olympic-sized rink in the Canada Centre remains closed because it's too costly to operate. The centre's smaller rink is open, however, and eight women players use it for drills and games. Another five skaters are located in central Israel.

Israel's best domestic player, Lisa Horowitz, has earned a hockey scholarship in Finland and will travel to the Scandinavian country next year to further develop her skills. She'll be in Toronto later this months for the tournament.

Silver said hockey players in Israel are badly in need of equipment, and any donations would be appreciated. She can be reached online at dresthersilver@rogers.com.

Weider retires from bodybuilding organization he founded

MONTREAL — After 60 years as president of the International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness (IFBB), Ben Weider has officially retired from the international amateur sport governing body he founded and has led since 1946.

The announcement came at the IFBB International Congress in Ostrava, Czech Republic, when Weider addressed delegates from 63 countries by video. Weider said he would remain available to assist the new president, executive council and national federations.

Rafael Santonja of Madrid, Spain, was unanimously elected the new IFBB President. Santonja has served as Weider's executive assistant since 1985.

Santonja's first official act was to nominate Weider as honorary life president. The congress unanimously approved the nomination, giving Weider a standing ovation.

What feminism means to me

Sandie Benitah
20Something

Feminism. Apparently, I and the rest of the MTV generation have no appreciation of the concept.

Recently, as my co-workers and I gathered around the board table for our weekly news meeting, an argument broke out between the 20something female staff versus the 50something men over the merits of strip aerobics, a new exercise technique popping up in gyms across the city.

Ironically, if one of the men was writing this column, the word "exercise" would surely be put in quotations. But, being a liberated woman, I am proud to participate and promote any fun technique that will get my butt off the couch and into a gym.

To the men in the room, my young female colleagues and I were prime examples of everything that's wrong with women today.

To the girls in the room, the men's attitude is the reason why women have been banging their heads against the wall in frustration for decades.

I always thought feminism was about freedom of choice and access to equal opportunities. Sometimes, however, it seems as if feminism has become just another role for women to play.

"The problem is, you guys weren't around for the bra-burning days so you can't understand how men have been trained to respect women," said one of the guys at the meeting.

I don't have to burn my bra to know that men shouldn't respect women because they're female. They should respect us because of our personalities, our likes, dislikes, our quirks, our silly girlishness one second and our tomboyish mannerisms the next. They should respect us because we're humans, not just women.

Even some women, I feel, have taken the concept of feminism and have turned it into a limiting stereotype.

As women, do we have the right to look down on girls such as Britney Spears or Christina Aguilera because of their outward sexuality? Isn't feminism about the freedom to be comfortable and confident? How many times have I heard women say that these "type of girls" have set feminism back 50 years. I think those comments are the ones that hold us back.

Am I not a feminist because I think women should stay at home and raise their children? Am I setting a bad example if I don't hand over my keys and my kids to a nanny?

If that's the case, then I'm guilty as charged and proud of it.

If some hot guy calls me "babe," I'm not appalled. If some girl walks down the street with her toned tummy showing, I say good for her.

This babe knows no matter how girly I get, I'm just as smart as the next guy. I can handle a screwdriver as well as I can handle a mop. I'm just as comfortable wearing a sexy dress as I am wearing my favourite loose sweatpants.

That's what feminism is about. Nothing more, and certainly nothing less.

CHEESE LATKES W/APPLE PEAR SAUCE

2 potatoes
2/3 cup dry cottage cheese
2 eggs
2-1/2 tblsp. matzoh meal
1/4 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
2 garlic cloves, minced
peanut oil

Peel, cube, and boil potatoes. Mash. Add cottage cheese. Set aside. Beat eggs well; add matzoh meal, baking powder, and seasonings. Add to cottage cheese mixture. Heat oil until hot; pour large spoonfuls of batter into oil. Cook until brown; flip to cook other side. Serve with apple pear sauce.

Sauce: 8 medium apples
5 medium pears
3 tsp. lemon rind
1 tsp. cinnamon (or to taste)

Core and cut apples and pears. Cover well with water and cook until soft. Stir occasionally to prevent sticking. Process in food processor. Add in lemon rind and cinnamon.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

My fiancé and I have had many discussions about whether or not to have children. They always end badly. We are both in agreement that we are uncomfortable bringing a child into a world that is slowly being destroyed. There is so much hate, war, pollution and devastation. We know logically that we don't want to add to the world's problems and that we don't want to burden our child with what we have done to this planet. Even though I understand the logic behind this decision, I can't let go of my childhood dreams of always wanting to be a "mommy".

I realize this is not something anyone can decide for us, and I'm sure we are not the only couple that has contemplated this problem. I just wanted to hear another opinion.

Major Life Decision

Dear Major Life Decision

One of the strongest instincts of any species is to procreate, and in Judaism, we are commanded to "be fruitful and multiply." The main difference between humans and other living creatures is that we have the ability to reason and think on a higher level, and it's obvious that you are exercising that ability.

There's no question that we have messed up this world. Whether it's about politics, the environment or over-population, the news is not good.

It's true that we have tampered with nature, and in turn with our own evolutionary path, by bringing children into this world and teaching them to be just like us.

It's impressive that you have put so much thought into having a child. What it really shows is that if you do choose to have a child, you will not do so lightly. Maybe the child you bring into the world will be taught not only to respect the world we live in, but also to learn how to turn things around. Your child will be raised to be ecologically and politically aware.

It's not unlike a child with a toy: the world is our toy. The only difference is that if we break it permanently, we don't get another chance. Here is your opportunity to teach a child how to play respectfully with our most precious toy, and maybe make the difference that we all need to survive.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN, email: ella@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional

Conversations with God

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Miriam and I recently went to see *Conversations with God*, a movie based on a book of the same title. The book was written by Neil Donald Walsch, who, following a serious car accident, lost his job and became homeless.

URBAN WRITER

Conversations with God is mostly about Walsch's struggle to discover the strength within him required to get off the street. The movie is worthwhile, if only in that it helps us understand how a person can sink so low and the troubles they go through to survive and sometimes find their way back into society.

At some point in the depths of despair, Walsch begins a process of mindfulness, or what he refers to as an inner discussion with God. He begins writing down his ideas and ultimately produces a book whose rights are later bought by Putnam Publishing for $1.5 million.

One of the central themes of Walsch's book is the idea that we must live life to its fullest, as opposed to just making ends meet. I was inspired by Walsch's words and considered how it plays out in my own world.

In my position as director of a humanitarian organization, I often meet people who seem to be happy with their lives because of sensible and often risky decisions they have made. On the other hand, I also frequently come into contact with individuals who are saddened by their lives, trapped, because of erroneous choices and their belief that they are unable to rise above their lot.

Like Walsch, I believe we have the ability to be content. I do, because I have seen people break away from their old habits of drudgery and depression, discovering instead satisfaction and enthusiasm.

In my experience, those who have been able to do this have a strong inner voice, or as Walsch says: "Within every one of us there is a voice that speaks the truth." These people gather strength and direction as they go, always researching, reading, listening and trying to understand how others have achieved self-satisfaction.

Happier people seem to open their eyes wide and accept advice, suggestions and adhere to the line in *Pirkei Avot*: 'Who is a wise person? One who learns from all people."

A good example of a man who seemed happy with his lot, was the late Milt Harris. I wrote an article about him after his passing; in it I mentioned that Milt learned the harpsichord in his senior years, took a huge interest in the gorrillas of Uganda and was at the top of his game in business upon his demise. Milt (may he rest in peace) is just one of the people who inspired me to push harder and dig deeper for the things that ultimately made me more content.

Life flitters by. We are faced with great struggles and some very sad days. But then there is the potential, the ability to attain fulfilment.

Our community has so many role models for us. There are endless books out there, including *Conversations with God*, to help us move forward and find the happiness we have always craved. Many would say that the biblical characters are a fine example of self-growth, such as Abraham who left Ur of Chaldees to discover his mission and ultimately God and Judaism.

Don't let life pass you by. Remember your dreams and run after them like an Olympian. Remember the people you saw change their lives and emulate them. Life is short. While you are here, make it compelling.

Perhaps, too, it would be wise if we all had conversations with God. No doubt, He would have some worthwhile insight into our lives and some divine advice and recommendations.

Avrum@veahavta.org SUDAN?

An Historic Gift: $50 Million to Mount Sinai

"We believe in Mount Sinai's unique ability to offer outstanding treatment to patients, based on the same values of our heritage: care, compassion and community. Mount Sinai Hospital is an incredible institution, a place of extraordinary accomplishment, dedication, compassion and commitment. We are proud of the wonderful care and leadership Mount Sinai offers. It gives us great pleasure to give something back to our community, now and for the future."

— JOSEPH AND WOLF LEBOVIC, philanthropists

Mount Sinai Hospital
Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Health Complex

Joseph and Wolf Lebovic

Mount Sinai Hospital
Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Centre

"Your long-standing generosity towards this hospital has helped it to remain at the forefront of the health care field in terms of teaching, research and innovation, physical facilities, and quality of care. This most recent gift will certainly reinforce Mount Sinai's already strong international reputation in these important areas."

— Rt. Hon. STEPHEN HARPER, Prime Minister of Canada

TORONTO – Visionary philanthropists Joseph and Wolf Lebovic have set a new standard in philanthropy with a landmark donation of $50 million – the largest contribution to healthcare in Canadian history – to Mount Sinai Hospital. Their historic gift will help Mount Sinai to build on its pre-eminence in patient care, teaching and research, further developing areas of excellence that best serve our patients.

The Lebovic brothers, successful business leaders whose company, Lebovic Enterprises, develops residential properties across the Greater Toronto Area, came to Canada as Holocaust survivors in 1949. Today, the brothers generously give back to the community that welcomed them more than 50 years ago with major contributions that reflect a profound desire to advance Canadian society and improve the lives of all its citizens.

During the span of five decades, Mount Sinai has benefited from the extraordinary generosity and vision of Joseph and Wolf Lebovic. Through leadership and inspirational donations that are deeply rooted in their personal history and cultural tradition, the brothers have created an outstanding legacy that allows the Hospital to prepare for tomorrow while providing the best possible care for patients today.

Their transformational gift of $50 million will help Mount Sinai Hospital to address its highest priorities – quality of care, patient experience, and academic mission. It will help to fund the Hospital's share of a major capital redevelopment program currently being planned in partnership with the Province, with the initial support of an $8 million planning and design grant. The first phase of this plan is the renewal and expansion of the world-class Women's and Infants' Health Centre of Excellence.

The gift supports the Province's healthcare objectives, including the reduction of wait times, and confirms Mount Sinai Hospital's international stature.

"The Lebovic family gift is another example of what we can achieve in Ontario when we dream, work and build together. Not only will this contribution help health care professionals at Mount Sinai deliver the best possible care today, it will ensure new breakthroughs in health care for years to come."

— The Honourable DALTON MCGUINTY, Premier of Ontario

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This Week

National

Toronto program is tops at sending young adults to Israel. *Page 6*

Kids should be inspired by their parents, Rabbi Shmuley Boteach says. *Page 20*

Chanukah Greetings

Photo contest winners and lots more inside. *Section B*

Arts & Travel

Twelve-year-old Allie Drabinsky has leading role in *The Nutcracker*. *Page 49*

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Conservative movement allows gay/lesbian commitment ceremonies

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The Conservative movement's committee on Jewish law and standards has endorsed three conflicting opinions on homosexuality, one of which allows commitment ceremonies for gay and lesbian couples, as well as the ordination of gay and lesbian rabbis.

Five tshuvot, or responsa, were presented last week in New York during a two-day meeting of the movement's highest legal body, but only three papers garnered enough votes in the 25-member voting committee to pass.

Two opinions upheld earlier prohibitions on homosexual activity, but the third endorsed commitment ceremonies and the ordination of gay rabbis, while retaining the biblical ban on male sodomy.

Two other opinions that were under consideration, which would have removed all restrictions on gay activity, were declared *takanot*, or substantial breaks from tradition that would require a majority of the committee members for adoption. They were defeated.

Canadian rabbis don't expect changes to take hold in Canada

Please see related articles on page 9

An opinion by Rabbi Joel Roth affirmed the movement's traditional ban on gay rabbis and commitment ceremonies. Another, by rabbis Elliot Dorff, Daniel Nevins and Avram Reisner, reversed those positions while upholding the biblical prohibition on male intercourse. Both papers earned 13 votes, a majority of the law committee.

The decision on the latter paper "left open what that means in terms of commitment ceremonies, but it said that in general, because the Jewish tradition favours monogomy and because marriage stabilizes communities, etc., some ceremony down the road should be developed, and it also said, therefore, that it should be permissible for gays and lesbians to apply to rabbinical school and to serve as rabbis or as cantors," said Beth Tzedec Congregation's Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, who is a voting member of the law committee.

A third opinion, by Rabbi Leonard Levy, which earned the minimum six votes required for acceptance, also affirmed the movement's traditional position on homosexuality while rejecting the now-common view that

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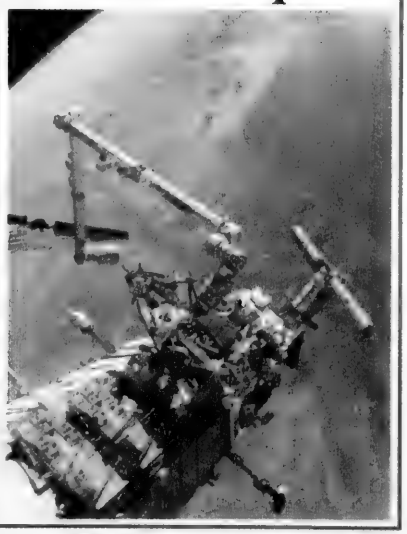
As tribute to friend, he carried Torah to space



Prof. Henry Fenichel, left, Canadian astronaut Steve MacLean and Rona Ramon were in Cincinnati last week for a special ceremony of remembrance and tribute to Ramon's fallen astronaut husband, Ilan. MacLean took a miniature sefer Torah belonging to Fenichel into space in September on the shuttle Atlantis as a way of completing the mission that Ramon began but did not finish. Right, a view of Israel as the Atlantis orbited above the Earth. ***Please see story on page 46.***

[Photos courtesy The Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education]

Shabbat Chanukah Vayeshev
Candlelighting: 4:23
Havdalah: 5:29
Greater Toronto Area

Israelis weigh Iraq Study Group's report — please see page 45

The News in Brief

CANADA

Canadian Heads BB

NEW ORLEANS — Ottawa restaurateur Moishe Smith was named president of B'nai Brith International last week at the organization's board of governors meeting in New Orleans. He's the first non-American to hold the post in B'nai Brith's 163-year history. His term runs until 2009. More than 200 B'nai Brith members gathered in New Orleans last week for a policy conference.

WORLD

All-Chanukah Radio

WASHINGTON — A U.S. satellite radio broadcaster is offering an all-Chanukah station. XM Satellite Radio will run Radio Chanukah for the length of the holiday, Dec. 15 to 23, as part of its seasonal offerings. It will feature holiday music and traditions, and Jewish celebrities such as Matisyahu and Stephen Page of Toronto's Barenaked Ladies.

Iran Holds Conference

TEHRAN — Iran said that it was planning to host an international Holocaust revisionism conference this week. A Foreign Ministry official said 67 "scholars" from 30 countries would convene in Tehran to discuss the fate of the Jews in World War II, including whether the Nazis used gas chambers for mass killings. The conference was dubbed "Holocaust, World Prospect." Iran's president has drawn censure for calling the Shoah a myth, though the controversy didn't stop his government from hosting a Shoah-themed cartoon contest earlier this year.

School Ranked No. 1

LONDON — A Jewish day school ranked No. 1 in a British government survey. The report, released Dec. 7, ranked the North Cheshire Jewish School as the best primary school in Britain. Of the 209 primary schools in Britain whose pupils all reached the expected standard for 11-year-olds in English, math and science, almost two-thirds are faith-based schools, including Jewish, Catholic and Church of England institutions. Some 16,000 primary schools were included in the survey.

Muslims Attack Teens

ANTWERP — Some 60 chassidic teens from Antwerp were attacked by young Muslims in northeast Belgium. The youths went to Beringen Nov. 30, and as they arrived at their hostel in a largely Muslim area, 10 youths approached, throwing stones at the building and shouting anti-Semitic epithets. The Jewish group's leaders called police. Undeterred by the police's arrival, the youths kept throwing stones. The Jewish group left that night, accompanied to the highway by police. The attackers were sentenced to community service.

Carter Book Protested

ATLANTA — A Middle East expert resigned from Emory University's Carter Center over former U.S. president Jimmy Carter's new book, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid.* In a statement last week, Ken Stein distanced himself from Carter and the centre's recent activities, emphasizing that he "had nothing to do with the research, preparation, writing, or review" of the new book. "Any material which he used from the book we did together in 1984, *The Blood of Abraham*, he used unilaterally." The new book "is replete with factual errors, copied materials not cited, superficialities, glaring omissions, and simply invented segments. Aside from the one-sided nature of the book, meant to provoke, there are recollections cited from meetings where I was the third person in the room, and my notes of those meetings show little similarity to points claimed in the book," Stein wrote. Stein, who was associated with the centre for 23 years, will remain in Emory's history and political science departments and as director of its Institute for the Study of Modern Israel.

Jackie Settles Suit

NEW YORK — Jews for Jesus said sorry to Jewish comedian Jackie Mason last week in order to settle a lawsuit. The group distributed a pamphlet featuring a caricature of Mason and the words: "Jackie Mason… A Jew for Jesus!?" Mason, who is not part of the group, sued for $2 million (US). Last week, he accepted an apology instead, along with a promise not to distribute the pamphlet. He said the apology acknowledged that "You can't be a table and a chair. You're either a Jew or a gentile."

Aliyah Logo Contest

NEW YORK — *BabagaNewz*, the Jewish magazine for middle school students, and the aliyah organization Nefesh B'Nefesh are seeking North American students in grades 4 to 7 to create a logo for one of the latter's summer aliyah planes. The creator of the winning logo will win a three-day, four-night trip to Israel. The first 100 entrants will also get a book about Jerusalem. Rules and entry form are at www.babaganewz.com. The contest closes Jan. 29.

Prager Rapped For Attack On Congressman

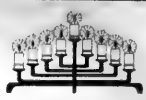
LOS ANGELES — Jewish groups criticized radio host and author Dennis Prager for attacking a U.S. congressman who plans to use a Qur'an in a private swearing-in ceremony.

In his column on Townhall.com last week Prager, a conservative talk-show host and author of a number of books on Judaism, rapped the plan by U.S. Representative-elect Keith Ellison, a Minnesota Democrat, saying it would do "more damage to the unity of America and to the value system that has formed this country than the terrorists of 9-11."

Prager said that all members of Congress, including Jews, use a Christian Bible for swearing in. In fact, members of the U.S. House of Representatives are sworn in en masse with no holy books. Some later hold private, unofficial photo-op ceremonies holding a family Bible, which is what Ellison, the first Muslim elected to Congress, was referring to.

Prager's column was "intolerant, misinformed and downright un-American," the Anti-Defamation League said, adding that his recent appointment to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council holds him to a higher standard. The Reform movement's Religious Action Center said Prager's was a "shameful argument" that would harm Jews if gained currency.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) called for Prager to be removed from the Holocaust council, which oversees the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.



A Chanukah Reminder
from

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For many of us, Chanukah is a time to recall memories of time spent with family and loved ones.

Unfortunately, some seniors are left with only that ... memories.

If there's an elderly person whom you care for, visit, and light a candle with them. Make sure they're in good health, eating nutritionally and taking medication as prescribed.

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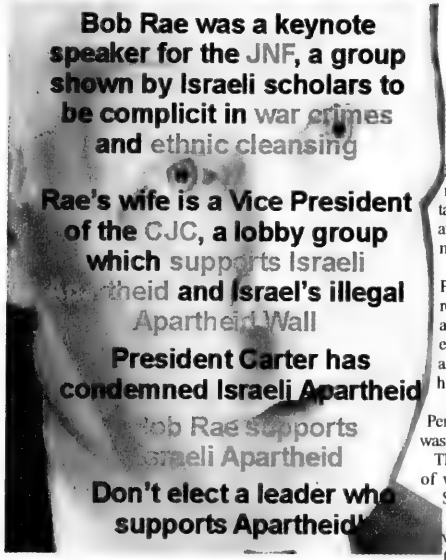

E-mail flyer distributed during Liberal convention

Rae campaign targeted by anti-Semitic slurs

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

Racial politics marred the Liberal leadership convention earlier this month as candidate Bob Rae was the target of anti-Semitic smears that drew attention to his links to the Jewish community.

A source close to Rae's wife, Arlene Perly Rae, confirmed a Canadian Press report last week that said Perly Rae was approached at the convention by a delegate who didn't know who she was and told not to vote for Rae "because his wife is Jewish."

The delegate hastily retreated when Perly Rae informed the person that she was the candidate's wife.

The incident wasn't the only example of what are being described as anti-Semitic smears against Rae.

In another, an unsigned e-mail flyer was distributed during the convention that aimed to sway support away from Rae by labelling him a supporter of "Israeli Apartheid" and of "Israel's illegal Apartheid wall."

The flyer warned delegates not to "elect a leader who supports Apartheid".

The flyer also made reference to Perly Rae and her role as a vice-president of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), which the flyer said "supports Israeli Apartheid".

In a Dec. 6 column in the *Globe and Mail*, Tarek Fatah, founder of the Muslim Canadian Congress and a Rae delegate at the convention, wrote that Khaled Mouammar, president of the Canadian Arab Federation (CAF), had forwarded the flyer as a mass e-mail, and Fatah lamented the ugly politics at the convention.

"Stéphane Dion's... victory came in part through a political process that feeds on racial and religious exploitation," Fatah wrote.

However, in Dec. 7 press release, the CAF categorically denied having anything to do with the flyer, insisting instead that it originated from Ron Saba, the editor of *Montreal Planet Magazine*.

Attempts by *The CJN* to contact Saba were unsuccessful.

"We never put out or circulated anything," said Mohamed Boudjenane, the CAF's executive director. "It was an e-mail sent out by Ron Saba and forwarded to some people here in Toronto, never to delegates or parliamentarians. CAF is a non-partisan organization. We don't get involved in partisan politics and we never will."

But CP reported that it had obtained an e-mail sent by Mouammar in which he forwarded the flyers to others, and it reported that a few days before the convention, the flyer ended up on the website of an immigrant advocacy group. Mouammar reportedly wrote on the site that the flyer had "nothing to do" with the Raes' religion "but has a lot to do with their political views."

In its press release, the CAF endorsed the flyer's content, which also denounced Rae for giving a speech to the Jewish National Fund, an organization that the CAF said is "complicit in war crimes and ethnic cleansing."

The CAF said JNF manages state lands in Israel and only allows Jews to live on them, "a practice that amounts to ethnic cleansing."

Continued on page 21

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Greater Toronto Area

Let's 'do more Jewish'

From the editor's desk

Very often, when Jews gather in large or small groups these days and the conversation steers toward Israel, someone will express a sense of bewilderment that nearly borders on high anxiety, in reference to the fact that Israel's enemies are again openly proclaiming their desire to "wipe it off the map."

The combination of the heightened feeling of vulnerability stemming from Israel's inconclusive though devastating war last summer with Hezbollah (Iran and Syria too) and the menacing possibility of a nuclear Iran, leaves many Jews worried.

Thus, during these conversations, it is not unusual to hear statements such as: "I can't ever recall feeling this way about Israel's future." Or: "I would never have imagined, that in my lifetime, I would have to worry about this."

It is folly to try to suppress the worries and fears as if they were nothing more than a nagging cough. They are legitimate and they are proof of abiding commitment to and connection with the Jewish people. They must be acknowledged and, as far as possible, channelled into constructive individual engagement. The question, of course, is – how?

Nearly two years ago, when there was a steep spike in the number of incidents of anti-Semitism and vandalism of Jewish property in Ontario, Prof. Martin Lockshin urged a large gathering at York University to "do more Jewish things" as a way of defeating the craven anti-Semites who hide their identities behind masks, in darkness at night. It was also a perfect way, he suggested, of personally affirming the very thing that the vandals, thugs, bullies and ignoramuses were trying to deny us: our place in the world *as Jews*.

Lockshin's formula of "doing more Jewish things" rings out with even greater urgency and relevance today. But it is important to note that he neither prescribed nor proscribed what it meant to do "more Jewish things."

Whether the activities are religious, scholarly, educational, cultural or social, trans-, inter-, or intra-affiliation, the key for the individual was to take action, to act assertively, with self-awareness and, if possible, with deep satisfaction, in affirming what our enemies hate: our commitment to Jewish legitimacy and history, to our Jewish past and to our Jewish future.

To more clearly appreciate the transformative individual significance of "doing Jewish," it helps to understand the underlying, truer meaning of Israel's enemies' threats and postures against the Jewish state. Jews have no place in the Middle East as a sovereign nation, they say. This is not a political assertion, it is a theological one.

When Yasser Arafat scoffed to Bill Clinton and Ehud Barak that there was no evidence of a Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, he was not misrepresenting Jewish history, he was deriding Jewish faith.

When Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad denigrates and dismisses the murder 60 years ago of six million Jews, he is not attempting to rewrite modern history, he is attempting to rewrite the mysterious, millennial relationship between God and the Jewish people.

In an inspiring essay written in 1973 by the late scholar Eliezer Berkovits titled *On Jewish Sovereignty* (released as part of a collection of his writing called *Essential Essays on Judaism*, edited by David Hazony, Shalem Press, Jerusalem 2002), Rabbi Berkovits explains the heart of the meaning of the concept of covenant in Judaism. The implications for Jewish individualism are profound and liberating.

"In terms of the covenant, one might say that whereas in other religions, the 'covenant' is between the individual and his God, in Judaism the covenant with the individual derives from the larger covenant with the people.

"This, however, leads us to the essential distinction between religion as traditionally understood, and Judaism. The concern of religion is with the right belief, the credo. Judaism's main concern is with the deed… In Judaism, the significance of faith lies in its capacity to lead to life, to action, to the human deed… The goal is the deed, guided by the teaching."

For Rabbi Berkovits, covenant meant the creation of a people whose focus was on the deed – the mitzvah, the mission – acting as Torah teaches, in this world, in a manner that "always affects others, impinges on their lives, and always refers beyond the boundaries of isolated individuality" and is always for an overall higher purpose.

But, as he also beautifully and powerfully noted, the people is bound up with the land. "If the people of Israel is the instrument of realization [of improving the world through deeds], there must be a land of Israel as the place of realization."

Rabbi Berkovits succinctly explains the metaphysical, theological and practical effect of denying the right of Jewish sovereignty to the land of Israel.

"Apart from falsifying the essence of Judaism," he wrote, "the severance of the land [of Israel] from the faith brings in its wake a re-evaluation of Jewish history." And what is it that would be re-evaluated? The "conviction that the Jews' role in history would ultimately be revealed through their return to Zion," a belief for which Jews struggled, prayed, lived and died throughout the ages.

Israel's enemies are fully aware of this theology too. It bothers them and they strive mightily to annul its cogency. And this brings us squarely back to Lockshin. To "do Jewish" is to confound Israel's enemies because it affirms the thing that bothers them our Judaism, our covenant with people, land, history and God. Chanukah is a good time to start. –*MBD*

See]N

RABBIS ON THE HILL: Twenty members of the newly formed Canadian Rabbinic Caucus (CRC) travelled to Ottawa last week to meet with government representatives, including officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs, MPs from all four federal parties and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, seated second from right. The CRC – which aims to offer a Jewish perspective on a variety of issues – includes rabbis from all streams of Judaism who hail from Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax.

Greater Toronto Area

One Family Fund opens in Jerusalem

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

One Family Fund, an organization that helps victims of terror in Israel, has opened its own centre in Jerusalem.

In addition to providing a meeting place, the centre offers therapy and support groups, and activities for adults and youth.

Pam Albert, Canadian director of the One Family Fund, who was in Israel recently to show support for residents of northern Israel, said the organization recently received a $50,000 grant from KRG Children's Charity Foundation, a Canadian-based charity, to run youth programs at the centre.

Another grant from a Canadian donor, she said, has allowed One Family Fund to furnish a youth club on the centre's third floor.

"We now have a drop-in centre, fitness room and arts and crafts room, and we have a place for kids to stay over when we run retreats. There is also room for caseworkers to do their work."

A big component of the youth centre, she said, is to have a place where kids can come and "hang around with other kids and help each other out.

TZEDAKAH BAGS: Grade 6 students at the United Synagogue Day School's Bathurst campus proudly display tzedakah bags they created and sold at their recent Tanach ceremony. Proceeds will go to the One Family Fund, which assists victims of terror in Israel. Pictured, from left, are Lauren Gorfinkel, Marni Elman, Yona Strauss and Raquel Simpson.

"It's incredible how people who suffer such loss want to try and help others. They get strength from giving back. It makes them feel like they have a purpose. This space is a haven for them."

Albert said her daughter Emily, 10, who toured the centre with her, suggested to her Grade 5 class at Forest Hill Public School that they design a collage for the youth centre. "We did it in the form of a puzzle, and each puzzle piece had a picture of peace on it. It's now hanging on the wall."

Albert has a vision of setting up a memorial room within the centre.

"This would be a quiet place within the building where families can keep the memory of their loved ones alive," she said. "We plan on having a videographer document the life of the victim, and we want a space where families can gather and find some closure."

The memorial room "is still a work in progress, but it would be a very important component of the centre."

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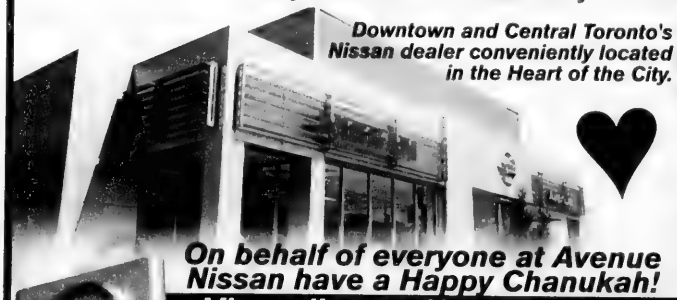

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Toronto's Israel Program Centre named tops

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

The Jewish Agency for Israel has identified the Israel Program Center in Toronto as its top office in North America for sending young adults to Israel in 2006, said Michal Kaye, the centre's regional director.

Kaye, who deals with young adults from Toronto to the Canadian west coast, she said that per capita, more young Canadian Jews than young American Jews are taking part in Jewish Agency-sponsored programming.

She said the Jewish Agency's New York office, which placed second and also deals with Jews in New Jersey, has sent 99 people to Israel so far this year, while the Toronto office has sent 118.

Some two million Jews live in New York and New Jersey combined, compared to less than 400,000 Jews that live in all of Canada, and still the Toronto office sent more Jews to Israel in 2006 than the New York office, Kaye noted.

"Even if I include Vancouver in my numbers, we're looking at maybe 300,000 Jews across the board, and we're still sending per capita… more young adults than any other city in North America," Kaye said.

She estimates that she sent about 115 Jews between the ages of 18 to 35 to participate in volunteer programs in Israel during all of last year.

If you include people who have gone on the IPC's newest program – the Partnership 2000 Toronto Eilat Volunteer Program, known as Eilat-Eilot, which is unique to Toronto – the numbers for this year have jumped to about 190, Kaye said.

The volunteer program in Eilat offers young Jews the opportunity to work in several different fields for a minimum of six weeks, including at a school helping teens with their matriculation English exams; at a summer camp as a counsellor; at a hospital or on a kibbutz.

"The options are endless, and we are funded by [the Jewish Agency's] Partnership 2000 [program], which allows us to provide all the volunteers with a stipend of about 1,200 shekels a month, and that covers their transportation in Eilat to and from work, and meals. They get accommodation as well," Kaye said, adding that the programs are very affordable, costing less than $1,000 (US), not including the flight to Israel.

Other options include professional internships for two to six months, for which participants are offered a $75-a-month stipend.

"We've had people at the *Jerusalem Post* [and] at the Jewish Agency. We've had people in graphic design companies and in businesses just across the board," Kaye said.

Kaye realizes that parents and their children have safety concerns when it comes to living in Israel, but she hopes this won't deter them from taking part in the programs.

"I think that we're all watching the news to see what's happening. I hope that, just as Canadians have done in the past, that they won't stop going. I'm hoping that [the numbers will] be the same next year."

She said that if people are worried about the safety issue, they can take part in programs away from the [conflict].

"Parents and kids should know that safety is our Number 1 priority with all our programs."

She guessed that the increase of young adults who are opting to volunteer in Israel can be attributed to Jews who are starting to see travel to Israel as more of a priority, as well as to positive experiences on birthright israel trips and word of mouth from friends who took part in programs.

Jordana Warner, a participant in the Israel Program Centre.

Jordana Warner, 21, a fourth-year sociology student at the University of Western Ontario, said she heard about the Eilat program from her cousin, who had volunteered in Eilat the year before.

"I worked at a day camp with really young kids," Warner said.

"I liked the staff, I loved working there, it was a great atmosphere, and I had a great time," she said, adding that taking a leadership role was difficult because she doesn't speak fluent Hebrew.

"It was definitely a drawback in communicating with the kids and staff. But I still managed. The people I worked with were really inclusive nonetheless," she said.

"Not being able to speak Hebrew is not a reason why you shouldn't be going," Kaye said, adding that most people in Israel speak English, and for those who work with children who don't speak English well, there is always someone on hand to translate.

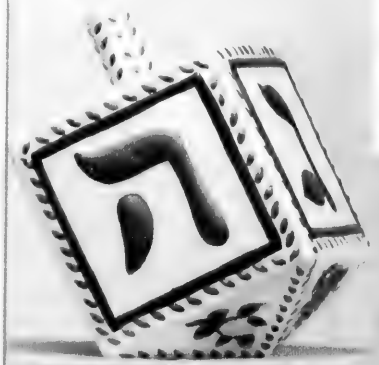
Kaye said that perhaps the most popular program IPC offers is with Magen David Adom.

"It's usually a six-week program and you volunteer in an ambulance and you get to give back to society," she said.

Kaye said young Jews need to "get off the tour bus, and experience Israel," adding that volunteer programs are great for Diaspora-Israel relations.

"They get to experience what it's like to be an Israeli and go to work and be a part of that society. So instead of just hearing about it, they really get to see it."

HAPPY CHANUKAH



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America weary; Israel wary

Americans, it appears, have wearied of the effort to help Iraqis establish a democratic way of life. The images of the atrocities perpetrated in Iraq by Muslims against Muslims are too horrific. The frequency of their intrusion into American living rooms is too overwhelming. And the mounting toll of dead American men and women serving in Iraq is too maddening. In all, the carefully cultivated, unabating slaughter in post-Saddam Iraq has pushed the majority of the American public to their Iraq limit.

The report released last week by the bipartisan, James Baker and Lee Hamilton-led Iraq Study Group (ISG) is intended to provide the foreign policy springboard for the next leap of American politics towards disengagement from Iraq.

Setting aside entirely the pressing discussion on the merits and/or methods of American withdrawal from Iraq, the ISG report contains various references and allusions that strongly suggest that in an attempt to burnish anew its tarnished face in the Arab world, the United States may soon embark on a campaign of pressuring Israel.

"The U.S. cannot achieve its goals in the Middle East," Baker and Hamilton wrote, "unless it embarks on a renewed and sustained commitment to a comprehensive peace plan *on all fronts*." (Our emphasis) That statement is clearly a reference to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. But two large questions beg to be asked: (1) After the failure of Oslo, after the failure of Camp David in September 2000, after the withdrawal in 2005 from Gaza, after the election of the avowedly anti-State of Israel Hamas leadership and after the unceasing barrage, ever since the Israeli withdrawal, of Qassam rockets into Israel from Gaza, what more can Israel do to achieve "comprehensive peace"? (2) What, in any event, is the causal connection between the sadistic, ongoing killing in Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

The ISG report demonstrates no link between the two conflicts except a strained associative one that, essentially, can be reduced to the following kernel: the radicalized Arab world hates the United States and Israel, which it sees as a client, if not a protectorate, of America. Thus, to abate the radicalized Arab world's hatred of America, the U.S. is prepared to twist the arm of the Jewish state. In one of the most pungent examples of its absurd, failed thinking, the report contains a statement that suggests either the most naive wishful thinking or most egregious, wilful blindness by its authors: "The United States should embark on a robust diplomatic effort… [which] should include every country that has an interest in averting a chaotic Iraq, including all of Iraq's neighbours, Iran and Syria among them. Despite the well-known differences between many of these countries, *they all share an interest in avoiding the horrific consequences that would flow from a chaotic Iraq, particularly a humanitarian catastrophe and regional destabilization.*"

To state that Iran and Syria wish to avoid the horrific consequences in Iraq that they, more than anyone, have authored is to also compel Israeli decision-makers to be very wary of the long-term impact of the ISG report.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Israel annexed the Golan Heights, immediately extending Israeli law to the territory, which it captured from Syria in the Six Day War in 1967. The United Nations Security Council later voted unanimously for a resolution calling the annexation illegal.

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Immigrants grateful for JIAS help

This letter is to acknowledge our gratitude to the Jewish community for all the care that we received.

Being recent immigrants to Canada, not speaking very much English, and not knowing much about the laws of the country, we encountered countless problems and obstacles while dealing with certain individuals who were trying to scam and defraud us. We went through real hell, and felt quite helpless, that was until the Jewish community got involved.

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) Toronto, in particular, managed to facilitate, smooth out and virtually eliminate most of our problems. Through JIAS we received not only basic support, but were also treated with care, attention, and even love. It felt like treatment you would receive from your family. What they were able to do was simply remarkable.

Great appreciation and many thanks to JIAS, and especially Dina Polyak. Dina has been our guardian angel, helping and guiding us through all the trouble. The time she spent sorting out our business cannot be measured by hours, since it seems that she was always there for us at any hour, day or night. She is an amazing, caring, and wonderful individual – the epitome of a social worker.

Once again, please accept our gratitude. God bless all of you!

The Krimus family
Toronto

* * *

Surrendering land fuels extremism

For how long will the Israeli government continue to dig its country into a grave ("Olmert offers comprehensive peace," *CJN*, Nov. 30)? Yet again, a liberal-leaning prime minster has promised to hand over more Israeli territory to the Palestinians, despite the glaring evidence from the past that such attempts at peace are utterly futile. Time after time, Israel proffers its land in the name of peace, and time after time, the peace is shattered by Palestinians who continue their attacks on Israeli civilians. The truth is that Israeli and Palestinian states cannot coexist harmoniously while the desire to eradicate the Jewish state from the map continues to exist among Palestinians. And seeing as such sentiments have been imbedded within Palestinian children since their birth, they show no sign of dissipating any time in the future. How much of the Holy Land will the Israeli government surrender before it realizes that this only fuels the ambitions of embittered and bloodthirsty Palestinian extremists?

Brigit Katz
Toronto

Two strikes against the Ontario gov't

The Jewish community's and other minority denominations' schools in Ontario are excluded from the benefit of public school funding inclusion while a majority denomination is funded. This has been strike one for far too long a time

Strike two is the imminent provincial election campaign, for which the government has yet to alter the election date that coincides with a Jewish holiday ("Ont. election date conflicts with Shemini Atzeret," *CJN*, Nov. 30). Results often come down to a slight a margin as small as one per cent of the vote. Candidates and their volunteers who for reasons of conscience won't participate in "getting out the vote" on election day are quite realistically disadvantaged. It is absolutely clear that there are political parties who will gain from shutting out those who observe Jewish holidays.

A. Bruce Gilboord
Toronto

* * *

Winnipeg bone marrow clinic

In "Bone marrow clinic draws more than 100 potential donors," (*CJN*, Nov. 30, there was some incorrect information. Please note that both the Toronto and Winnipeg drives were held under the auspices of the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation.

The article stated that "Toronto's drive focused on finding a match for one Toronto-area person who needs a transplant." While this is true, all donors who came out to the Toronto drive will be entered in the Gift of Life's registry of volunteer donors, as were the donors of the drive that took place in Winnipeg, thereby increasing the likelihood of finding a match for Zvi Golish and other Jewish people living with leukemia and in need of a life-saving bone marrow transplant.

Tammy Balitsky
Toronto

* * *

Dion condemns anti-Semitic slurs

The hateful comments made against Liberal leadership candidate Bob Rae and his wife, Arlene Perly Rae, at the Liberal leadership convention in Montreal are reprehensible and will not be tolerated within the Liberal Party of Canada.

Canada is a nation founded on diversity and tolerance for people of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds. The Liberal Party of Canada celebrates and promotes this diversity and tolerance. There is no room for abhorrent comments such as these within our party. The individuals who made these despicable and prejudiced comments are condemned by myself and Liberals throughout Canada.

Stéphane Dion
Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada
Ottawa

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Conservative Judaism's ruling on gay, lesbian Jews

Decision was difficult, but showed diversity

By RABBI JEROME M. EPSTEIN

Conservative Judaism has taken a historic step by opening a door to the ordination of gay men and lesbians and to same-sex commitment ceremonies. In line with Conservative Judaism's most cherished values, this decision reflects both a reasoned approach toward Halachah and respect for ever-evolving Conservative beliefs and practices.

Jerome M. Epstein

It is important to understand that the responsa, or decisions, of the Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards – of which I am a voting member – force nothing on Conservative Jews. Instead they provide options to them based on the Conservative understanding of Jewish law.

Conservative Judaism has always looked upon change as an organic process. As Conservative Jews, we are equal partners in the process of creating an authentic and resonant Judaism that gives full recognition to the claims of the past while considering the realities of the present.

Those Conservative communities and institutions prepared to move forward in accordance with the law committee's decision now are free to engage openly gay and lesbian rabbis and cantors, and to host same-sex commitment ceremonies. Those that opt for the status quo are equally free to do so. The communities, under the direction of their rabbis, are the final authorities. Change is a process generated from within.

There is no judgment in the committee's decisions about which is the correct course of action. Both positions now are considered valid.

This, too, is in keeping with the Conservative way: diversity has long been a basic truth of our movement.

We draw strength from these differences as they help us to recognize the dignity in all Jews, in all people and in competing views.

A basic tenet of the Conservative movement is that each congregational rabbi is the *mara d'atra*, the final arbiter of Jewish law, within his or her congregation. As executive vice-president of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, I act as the organization's *mara d'atra*.

In that capacity, I have decided that United Synagogue hiring policy may be changed. I will recommend to the United Synagogue leadership that we modify our practice and consider applicants for United Synagogue jobs regardless of their sexual orientation. No longer does Conservative Halachah stand in the way of fully engaging gay men and lesbians in United Synagogue's work environment or elsewhere in Conservative institutional and synagogue life.

The point about Halachah is an important one. Conservative Judaism remains a Halachah-based movement. Scholarship in the nuances of Halachah is a hallmark of Conservative Judaism, and serious scholarship was applied in the course of the deliberations that led to the law committee's decision.

Whenever Halachah can be interpreted to include gay men and lesbians, we have done so. When it cannot be so interpreted, we say so honestly.

Even the wisest of human decisions involves trade-offs. Tension among passionately held viewpoints in sincere and respectful opposition is unavoidable.

This can be painful. I fully recognize that some Conservative Jews will find the committee's decision difficult to reconcile with their personal views. I urge them to accept the pluralism that has been a hallmark of our movement and focus on the values, ideology and practices that unite us.

It is up to each congregation – and each Conservative Jew – to grapple with this decision as best he or she can. The United Synagogue will be there, as always, to provide guidance and resources. The United Synagogue is committed to standing by the side of each congregation as it works through this process in its own way and its own time.

Conservative Judaism's great strength is its commitment to sustained and deep engagement with the great issues of the day as a community of believers in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah. At this emotional turning point, it is incumbent upon us to remember that what binds us together is of far greater importance than what separates us.

We cannot shrink from the complexity that Conservative Judaism's weaving together of tradition and modernity fosters.

It is perhaps no accident that the same week the law committee held its debate, the Torah portion speaks of Jacob wrestling with God. As a result of this encounter, Jacob evolves into a stronger and wiser person and is renamed Israel.

As we struggle forward it is my heartfelt prayer that as a result of our wrestling with the issue we confront, we, too, will become stronger as individuals and in our commitment to Jewish living and to our fellow Jews.

Rabbi Jerome Epstein is executive vice-president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the association of Conservative congregations in North America.

Some reactions

An abandonment of all pretense of fealty to Judaism

This ruling doesn't conserve the Jewish tradition, it defies it.

The entire corpus of Halachah, or Jewish religious law, makes abundantly clear that homosexual behaviour is sinful. That a movement claiming to uphold the Jewish religious tradition can arrogate to stand halachic Judaism on its head is tragic. It will no doubt cheer those who place contemporary mores above the Jewish mandate, but in the end, it seals the fate of a movement long mired in muddle and malaise.

While every Jew is precious in the eyes of Heaven, and while some of us may face more difficult challenges than others as we strive to live by the Torah's prescriptions, that striving is the very essence of what it means to be a Jew committed to Judaism.

- Rabbi Avi Shafran, director of public affairs for Agudath Israel

Commitment to Jewish law utterly stripped away

In keeping with a decades-old pattern on a host of issues, the Conservative view which breaks ranks with Jewish law and tradition is the one which ultimately sweeps the movement. Given this reality, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards would have been more forthright had it acknowledged a blanket reversal of the biblical prohibition on homosexuality. Its endorsement of same-sex commitment ceremonies and the ordination of homosexuals while ostensibly maintaining the traditional ban on anal sex is not only disingenuous. It is ludicrous.

Our hearts go out to the dwindling corps of traditionalists who until now have remained within the Conservative movement. Any fig leaf of commitment to Jewish law within their institutions has now been utterly stripped away.

The issue of homosexual behaviour in Jewish life is complex, not because there is any doubt whether it is clearly prohibited by the Torah, but because Judaism also teaches compassion for human beings struggling with their contending impulses. The Union for Traditional Judaism has addressed that complexity with an approach which is honest, caring and faithful to Jewish law. In contrast, the Conservative movement has once again finessed the tradition to give its abandonment of Jewish law a patina of Jewish authenticity. Let no one be fooled.

-Rabbis Bruce Ginsburg and Ronald Price, respectively the president and executive vice-president of the Union for Traditional Judaism

Commends advancement of rights of gay and lesbian Jews

We applaud the CJLS for taking a step toward advancing the rights of gay and lesbian Jews. We hope that this will lead to a clearer position of welcoming openly gay and lesbian candidates for the Conservative rabbinate, and to the religious celebration of same-sex unions within the Conservative movement.

Our own experience in the Reconstructionist movement suggests that our community can only be enriched by the full inclusion of gay and lesbian Jews.

Reconstructionist Jews have been in the forefront of these issues for more than two decades. In 1984, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College became the first rabbinical seminary to accept openly gay and lesbian students and was the first to endorse the ordination of gay and lesbian rabbis. In 2004, the Reconstructionist movement took another important step by endorsing civil marriage for same-sex couples.

We continue to hope that by our speaking out on such issues (related to same-sex matters), we can encourage all religions of the world to put behind them discriminatory behaviour and hateful words, and instead follow the road of peace and compassion.

-Rabbi Dan Ehrenkrantz, president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; Rabbi Richard Hirsh, executive director of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association; and Carl Sheingold, executive vice president of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation.

To the JTS Community

*Excerpts from the response by Arnold Eisen, chancellor-elect of the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), to the decision by the Conservative movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards (*CJLS).

As we embark on the next stage of our consideration of gay and lesbian ordination at JTS, I am confident that the longstanding JTS tradition of embracing and respecting significant differences of opinion will continue to guide us. I write to remind you of the steps through which we at JTS will carry the discussion forward in coming weeks.

Arnold Eisen

First, let me emphasize that the halachic authority for the Conservative Movement and the institutions associated with it rests with the CJLS. The law committee has split on the status of homosexual behaviour according to Jewish law. Its rules and those of the Rabbinical Assembly regard each of the opinions authorized as equally legitimate. The ball is thus in our court with regard to the question of ordination of gays and lesbians at JTS.

We at JTS are not *poskim*. We will not be adjudicating matters of halachah. However, we are going to consider what we think best serves the Conservative Movement and larger American Jewish community. We know that the implications of the decision before us are immense. We fully recognize what is at stake.

We have the burden and privilege of this debate not because we are in the middle, but because of our commitment to Halachah on the one hand and full immersion in the culture and society of the present on the other hand. We are dedicated to thoughtful change as an essential element of tradition – which is not to say that the change proposed to us now is right or necessary, but that the process of considering it thoughtfully, whatever we eventually decide, is to us inescapable and welcome. One could say that such debate defines us – and that, well-conducted, it strengthens us. Of course, debate on this and similar matters has the potential to wound us as an institution and a movement. It also, however, has the power to remind us of what we stand for, and why despite our differences – or even because of them – we choose to stand together.

That is why I hope you will all join me in doing our very best to ensure that we do this right. I firmly believe that the way we discuss the matter in coming weeks may well have as great an effect on the future of JTS as whatever decision we eventually reach. Argument *le-shem shamayim* is for us a long and valued tradition. Never has it been more needed than now.

Opinions

Numbers and survival

Chanukah, our festival of lights, celebrates one of the earliest known struggles for religious freedom. Its presence (and its presents) in our North American lives is inflated due to the proximity of Christmas.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

Yet, beyond its commercial and competitive value, it has vast potential significance for Jewish identity and continuity. The liturgy for the day (*Al Hanissim*) suggests the critical factor was not the oil but the miracle of the victory of a few over the many. Surely, in our history, this very fact – our ability to survive even when vastly outnumbered – has astonished us no less than it has our enemies.

We should face this festival, then, with a great sense of awe, as well as confidence. We survived. Although numbers do count, they don't predict or dictate the future. Yet our community is constantly concerned with crisis and numbers, and with prophesies of doom based on those numbers. Perhaps I am unduly optimistic, but the fact of our long-term endurance should be reflected somewhere in our sense of our personal identity and communal self-portrait. I would also argue that contrary to our panicked pessimists, we are in a better position today than we have ever been.

We weathered the lachrymose version of Jewish history (the valley of tears) and now need to overcome this doomsday tendency. We should examine the complete picture.

Despite assimilation, intermarriage and indifference, our bank account looks pretty good. Jews are still choosing to be identified as Jews. We are organized and our ethnic neighbours envy our institutional successes. We are wealthy in both material and human resources. There are numerous and diverse paths for institutional affiliation. Almost all Jewish children in North America have been exposed to some form of Jewish education. We have the most Jewishly educated population, ever.

As well, who would have predicted that thousands of adult Jews would choose Judaic studies in yeshivas and at university? Or that we would even have such university courses? The range of day schools is amazing and widespread. North American Jews largely support Israel and are supported by its presence. And while they're diverse, North American Jewish communities share significant commonalities.

Yes, there are problems. No, we should not ignore them. But we should also not cry wolf.

Compare 1900 with 2000, and even given the indescribable tragedy and trauma of the Holocaust, we are better off today. We are not dying. We want better education made available to all. We need stronger communal affiliations and interactions. We need to attract our youth to the dynamics of their heritage. But this is not a sinking ship.

So light the candles, celebrate our persistence and build the Jewish future. (And I highly recommend Calvin Goldscheider's book *Studying the Jewish Future*.)

Another side to the Chanukah story

It's time to light the menorah, eat latkes, cram sufganiyot and hand out gifts – small ones, mind you, not anything resembling the orgy of gift-giving of that other holiday (you know, the one with flying northern animals pulling a sleigh driven by a fat man in a jolly red suit).

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Is the story of Chanukah only the well-known tale of a famous miracle: valiant soldiers of Israel enter the Temple, find oil for the menorah lacking, and by supernatural will, the one-day supply lasts for the eight days needed to rededicate the holy site?

Or is there more to the story more richness, more nuance and more history than the simple child's tale?

In the *Al Hanissim* prayer, the patriarch Matityahu is called the son of Yochanan the High Priest. Well, no he wasn't. His family were priests all right, but not in line for the high priest job. In that simple misleading phrase begins a whole story. In fact, the oil miracle story is a prime example of the clash between the Hasmonean dynasty and the Pharisee/rabbinical class, as well as between the civilizations of the Greeks and the Jews.

My late teacher, Rabbi Samuel Schafler, taught that the Hellenistic period was most like the situation of our own day in North America, where we have flourished. Now, as in the time of Greek civilization, we struggle to maintain our Jewish identity while participating fully in the open, democratic society in which we live.

Choices for Jews in the Hellenistic world were equally challenging. On one side was Hellenistic civilization, a multicultural, multi-ethnic world in which citizens shared language, religious cults, economic opportunity and trade networks – all the benefits of a global civilization. On the other side was Judaism and Judean culture, which felt narrow, provincial, monolithic and just plain dull. No public art, no statue-lined colonnades, no Dionysian revels.

Which did the upper classes of Judean society prefer? The former, of course, and this slow assimilation into Hellenistic society appalled the traditionalists. Yet, ultimately, the Maccabean victory over the Syrian Greeks was more a result of the weakness of the Syrian Empire than of the might of the Judeans, although the "weak against the strong" image has much more attraction for us than the acknowledgement that our enemies were actually pretty weak themselves.

The rule of pagan foreigners may have been disrupted by the Hasmonean victory, but no sooner were they ensconced in power than they began to act like oriental Hellenistic rulers. A Jewish king had to be descended from the Davidic dynasty and a high priest descended from Aaron. In other words, church and state kept themselves to themselves – a first and important example of separation of church and state. Yet here came these upstarts and claimed both for themselves. The Hasmoneans proceeded to acquire both the kingship and the high priesthood.

Subsequently, they fell out with the rising Pharisaic class of scholars, whose intellectual heirs were the rabbis. Things got so bad that some Pharisees died at the hand of Alexander Yannai. The enemy was no longer Hellenizers, but had become the very family that had liberated the nation.

Judah the Maccabee's dedication of the Temple in 164 BCE had been consciously modeled on Solomon's ceremony, with eight days of feasting and fire as its symbol, as fire had descended on the altar for Solomon. Lights continued to be the public focus of the ceremony until it moved indoors to become a home-based ceremony.

However, when rabbis came to rule on customs associated with the festival, more than 200 years later, they chose – consciously – to associate the holiday with a miraculous persistence of the Temple lights through the eight-day period. Rules about how to light, what oils or candles to use, and the injunction not to make any use of the lights, moved the event from the realm of empire to the realm of the redemptive. The Hasmonean victory was diminished, the miracle elevated.

So while we give a nod to Matityahu and his sons' victories, we now focus on God's care for the children of Israel. Chanukah can be not only a tale of miracles and heroism, but also a caution to shun the temptations of absolute power.

Violence in the name of God, Pt. 2

Chanukah is the holiday of dreidels and latkes, candles and chocolate coins. We retell the story of the miraculous defeat of the large Assyrian army by a small band of Jews who fought for three long years to resist forced assimilation. The Maccabees probably thought that they put an end to religious oppression. They would be shocked and saddened to know that more than 2,300 years later, our world is still plagued by the shame of violence in the name of God.

Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton

In my last column, I discussed the international conference Building World Peace: The Role of Religions and Human Rights, held in Edmonton this past October. The conference examined the widespread phenomenon of violence perpetrated in the name of religion. It also focused on the principle that organized religion should assume its proper role of countering hate and violence in an effort to bring about a better world.

Conference speakers discussed many instances of violence in the name of religion occurring throughout the world today, including the victimization of the Falun Gong in China and the animosity and religious sectarianism in Northern Ireland.

It is truly disturbing to note how many different countries and how many millions of people live with terrible realities. The continent of Africa is witness to the tragedies of abduction, brutality, rape, enslavement – and human life seems to have no value at all there. An eleven-year-long civil war, along with serious human rights violations, occurred in Sierra Leone, and the war between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army continues in northern Uganda. There was genocide in Rwanda in 1994; an estimated 800,000 Rwandans were killed. The current conflict in Sudan has led to starvation and genocide in the Darfur region.

With respect to Sudan, it is interesting to note the work of the Canadian Jewish Congress in attempting to alleviate the suffering of those victimized in that area.

Conference speakers such as Lt.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire, who is now a senator; former MP David Kilgour; Gen. John de Chastelain; and peace activists James Loney and Mary Lou and David Klassen passionately described their experiences and shared their visions for a better future.

Former grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Ovide Mercredi, talked about the continued violation of the rights of indigenous persons. Lois Wilson, former president of the World Council of Churches, discussed the political disenfranchisement of women.

This violence is complex and affects politics, economic relations, health and the environment. Some speakers addressed the privatization and shortage of water and the lack of sustainable development. Others referred to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and widespread hunger and disease.

It was pointed out that there are currently more than 45 dictatorships in countries throughout the world. According to Kilgour, these dictatorships "lack any… effective judiciary and rights… and oppose any spread of democratic ideals as an attack on state sovereignty."

The meeting did, however, have a positive agenda as 17 recommendations were brought forward to address some of the concerns. They included recommendations for increased and individual responsibility and for more public discourse about the issues that had been discussed at the conference.

With respect to religious traditions, Rabbi Lindsey bat Joseph and Karen Hamdon, a leader in the Muslim community, cautioned against the radicalization of religion. Speakers urged that moderates become the public faces of each religious tradition and that sacred texts be approached respectfully, but critically and cautiously. Faith communities were encouraged to join together in multifaith organizations throughout Canada.

The common thread, if any, was a desire for organized religions to take seriously the responsibility to act as forces for good, for healing, for peace and for understanding and reconciliation.

At Chanukah we say, "Neis gadol hayah sham." A great miracle happened there. The light from the small cruse of oil lasted for eight days and shines today in the Chanukah candles that we kindle. Some people feel that nothing short of a miracle would rid the world of violence in the name of religion. What we really need is for people to effect this change. It is time that the leaders of nations and various factions forgo policies of violence in the name of God and replace all the hate, suffering and killing with a new era of peace, understanding and respect.

The Kirshner File

A cornucopia of books...

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, casts an illuminating glow on a cornucopia of recently published books.

The Beta Israel, the Jews of Ethiopia, have been transformed since their resettlement in Israel, though the problems they have encountered have been daunting. Families that once dwelled in mud huts without clean running water now live in apartment buildings with modern conveniences. Boys and girls whose horizons were limited to remote villages in faraway provinces now find themselves in towns and cities where opportunities for a better life beckon.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Ricki Rosen, a photographer whose work has appeared in major international magazines, was inspiring by the flight of the Beta Israel from Ethiopia to Israel. Her book, *Transformations: From Ethiopia to Israel* (Gefen), is filled with striking, uplifting colour photographs of their journey to modernity. Rosen takes special interest in juxtaposing their former lives in Ethiopia with their present ones in Israel. The metamorphosis is nothing short of astonishing. As seen from this perspective, Israel is indeed a land where Jews of all colours have been ingathered. An essay by Micha Odenheimer, the founder of the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews, is well worth reading.

Like the Ethiopian Jews, Jeffrey Goldberg – an American Jew – discovered Zion and made aliyah. Animated by romantic dreams of being an Israeli soldier, he ended up instead as a prison guard, keeping a wary eye on Palestinians who had been jailed during the first intifadah. This is where he met Rafiq, an Arab from the Gaza Strip with whom he forged an improbable friendship. It endures to this day and is the subject of *Prisoners: A Muslim & A Jew Across the Middle East Divide* (Alfred A. Knopf), a poignant book about the strength of human relations in the face of seemingly irreconcilable political differences.

Ariel Sharon, the former prime minister of Israel, lies comatose in a hospital, having been stricken by a massive stroke almost a year ago. His contributions are a matter of opinion, but Israeli sociologist Baruch Kimmerling, in *Politicide: The Real Legacy of Ariel Sharon* (Current Affairs), claims that his policies were geared toward one ultimate goal: wiping out the Palestinians as a "social, political and economic entity." This is a serious accusation, and while Kimmerling – a professor at the Hebrew University and the University of Toronto – is right about a number of things, he fails to support his main argument.

Is It Good for the Jews: The Crisis Of America's Israel Lobby (Random House), by neo-conservative journalist Stephen Schwartz, tackles a most sensitive issue – the accusation that the United States was pushed to invade Iraq in 2003 by certain Jewish lobbyists and by a cabal of right-wing Jewish officials in U.S. President George W. Bush's administration whose primary interest was to protect Israel. No shrinking violet, Schwartz addresses this volatile question and urges American Jews to take a hard, second look at the Republican party.

Robert Rosen, in *Saving the Jews: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Holocaust* (Raincoast), argues with some success that the Roosevelt administration, far from being callous about the fate of Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe, actually did what it could under extreme circumstances to help them.

In *Weimar in Exile: The Antifascist Emigration in Europe and America* (Verso), Jean-Michel Palmier, a professor of esthetics at the University of Paris, has written a spendid account of the intellectuals, artists, writers and political figures who fled Nazi Germany and fought it tirelessly through their artistic and literary work.

The late Leon Goldensohn was an American physician and psychiatrist who was posted to Europe during and after World War War II. With Germany's defeat, he was entrusted with the task of monitoring the mental health of top-ranked Nazis, from Hans Frank to Julius Streicher, who had been involved in anti-Semitic agitation or in the implementation of the Holocaust. He recorded his conversations with them, and now they have been transcribed, edited and annotated by historian Robert Gellately in an excellent and revealing volume titled *Nuremberg Interviews* (Alfred A. Knopf).

Kati Marton, in *The Great Escape* (Simon & Schuster), documents the life and times of nine Hungarians who fled Nazism and left their respective marks on society. Her subjects run the gamut from nuclear physicist Edward Teller to photographer Robert Capa. Hungary's loss was obviously America's gain. Toronto writer Eric Koch arrived in Canada, via Germany and Britain, as an enemy alien in the midst of the war and was then stupidly confined to an internment camp on the flimsy pretext that he may have been an enemy agent. In fact, he was an assimilated German Jew who had been hounded out of his country by the Nazis. In *I Remember the Location Exactly* (Mosaic Press), a mélange of narrative, diary entries and excerpts from letters, he deftly recounts his adolescent years in Frankfurt and Cambridge and his rather hard landing in Canada.

After Hitler: Recivilizing Germans, 1945-1995 (Oxford University Press), by Konrad H. Jarausch, is a rigorous account of Germany's recovery from the long night of Nazism and its reintegration into the league of European nations. The fraught relationship between Polish Catholic identity, the Holocaust and Jews is Genevieve Zubrzycki's topic in *The Crosses of Auschwitz: Nationalism and Religion in Post-Communist Poland* (University of Chicago Press). The American playwright David Mamet, in *The Wicked Son: Anti-Semitism, Self-Hatred and the Jews* (Random House), asks a pointed question: Why do some Jews seek truth and meaning in other faiths, political movements and mindless entertainment, but not in Judaism itself? Judging by the title of the book, the answer is hardly surprising.

In *A Vanished World: Muslims, Christians and Jews in Medieval Spain* (Oxford University Press), Chris Lowney eruditely examines the dynamics that made coexistence possible before the late 15th century and suggests how Judaism, Islam and Christianity can coexist in an age of Islamic terrorism. Victor Erlich, a professor emeritus of Russian literature at Yale University and the grandson of murdered historian Simon Dubnov, has written a vivid personal memoir. *Child of a Turbulent Century* (Northwestern University Press) is set in Russia, Poland and the United States, and is never less than interesting.

Kafka: The Decisive Years (Harcourt), by Reiner Stach, richly evokes a period in the novelist's career when he dabbled with Zionism, considered marriage and wrote some of his finest works, including *The Trial* and *Amerika*. Emma Lazarus, the author and immigrant-rights activist whose soaring words are inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbour, was a woman way ahead of her times. Esther Schor, in *Emma Lazarus* (Schocken), has written a full-bodied biography of this remarkable individual.

Franz Kafka

Jerome Kern, the scion of German Jewish immigrants, was the father of the American musical. His classic play *Show Boat* and his songs, ranging from *Ol' Man River* to *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*, remain unforgettable. Stephen Banfield's *Jerome Kern* (Yale University Press), is a critical overview of his musical accomplishments, but as a biography, it is unfortunately pallid and lifeless.

Troubling the Waters: Black-Jewish Relations in the American Century (Princeton University Press), by Cheryl Lynn Greenberg, is sharp and incisive. A companion volume, *The Price of Whiteness: Jews, Race and American Identity* (Princeton University Press), by Eric L. Goldstein, adroitly traces Jews' often tumultuous encounter with race from the 1870s to the end of World War II.

Sliding to the Right: The Contest for the Future of American Jewish Orthodoxy (University of California Press), by Samuel C. Heilman, is an acute examination of Orthodox Jewry as it struggles to maintain traditions against the backdrop of secularization and contemporary American culture.

British journalist Nicholas Faith's *The Bronfmans: The Rise and Fall of the House of Seagram* (Thomas Dunne) takes this Canadian dynasty's amazing saga to the present day, while *Brothers of Iron* (Sports Publishing), by Joe and Ben Weider with Mike Steere, is the straightforward story of how two enterprising Montreal Jewish boys built a bodybuilding empire and athletic federation from scratch.

In general: Cooking maven Bonnie Stern's *Heartsmart* (Random House) bridges the gap between delicious food and healthy eating. *Adventures of a Hollywood Secretary* (University of California Press), by Valeria Belletti, is an insider's view of the film industry during the 1920s. The author, who was Samuel Goldwyn's secretary, is certainly a name dropper. Ted Barris' *Behind the Glory: Canada's Role in the Allied Air War* (Thomas Allen) is a fine historical work. *Struck by Lightning: The Curious World of Probabilities* (HarperCollins), by Jeffrey S. Rosenthal, is an eye-opener, as is Stewart Bell's *Cold Terror: How Canada Nurtures and Exports Terrorism Around the World* (Wiley). *Coffee: A Dark History* (HarperCollins), by Anthony Wild, is a potent brew of investigative journalism. Cyclists will love David V. Herlihy's *Bicycle: The History* (Yale University Press), the first comprehensive acccount on the subject.

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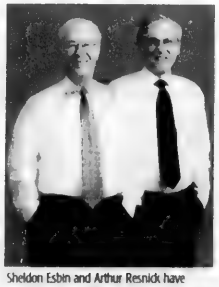

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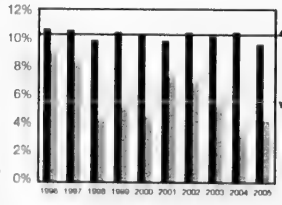

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Cancer survivor grateful to Israeli researcher

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

When Andy Faas, a semi-retired Toronto executive, was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) in 2005, he thought his life was over.

It turns out he was wrong.

Though CML, a rare form of bone-marrow cancer, used to be a death sentence for many of the 14,000 cases diagnosed yearly in North America, revolutionary research by Eli Canaani, an Israeli molecular biologist, has given hope back to those afflicted with the disease.

Instead of submitting to invasive treatments and suffering terrible side-effects, Faas simply takes one pill a day to control his cancer and suffers no ill effects from it.

Sponsored by the North American non-profit Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF), Canaani's work from 1981 to 1992 was instrumental in discovering a cancer-causing protein found in CML patients.

Canaani's research exposed what scientists term the "Philadelphia chromosome," as the one responsible for activating the deadly protein.

Once Canaani published his findings in 1985, subsequent work by the scientific community produced Gleevec, a drug sold by pharmaceutical giant Novartis, which specifically blocks the Philadelphia chromosome on a molecular level.

Gleevec was approved by both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Health Canada in 2001 for use in treating leukemia.

"CML used to be a fatal disease," Canaani said. "And prior treatments had terrible side effects."

Before Gleevec, patients were treated via cytotoxic drugs and bone marrow transplants; therapies that attacked all of a patient's cells instead of targeted ones.

According to Canaani, since 2001 nearly 80 per cent of patients treated with the drug are still alive and doing well.

Though its long-term effects remain unknown, this treatment has been hailed as a major breakthrough in the fight against cancer.

But it took almost 40 years to happen.

"It's unbelievable how long it took for Gleevec," Canaani said. "Starting in 1960 when two [scientists] in Philadelphia found an unknown chromosome in people with CML."

That's why Canaani and Faas both stress the pivotal role ICRF plays in helping make drugs like Gleevec possible.

ICRF is the largest source of private funding for cancer research in Israel, handing out more than 1,500 awards worth approximately $31 million (US) since 1977.

It has funded Canaani's work at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot for more than 25 years and continues to back Canaani's new forays into infant acute leukemia.

"It's approximately 30 per cent more cost effective to do research in Israel," said Brad Goldhar, ICRF's new Toronto chapter president.

"Israel is known for innovation," Goldhar said. "We are really excited that work in Israel is saving lives everywhere."

Faas, who is not Jewish, recently made a $350,000, seven-year donation to the ICRF out of gratitude for the fund's work in supporting cancer.

"I wanted to recognize the work that was done to help me," Faas said. "And to support further developments in Israel. They're a wonderful organization and the efficacy of the [research] done in Israel is superior to any other country."

Eli Canaani

But ICRF doesn't fund Israeli researchers indiscriminantly.

"ICRF gives grants not just to the best and brightest, but also to [research] that... will have the most impact on humanity in terms of saving lives, in a realistic time frame," said Joy Wagner, Toronto's ICRF executive director.

And Israel's scientific community has benefited tremendously as a result, said Canaani.

"I've felt it," he said. "The ICRF has been very influential on the ability of Israeli scientists to do work on cancer."

Born in Tiberias, Canaani received his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley in 1974.

He finished his post-doctoral work at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., before returning to Israel in 1981.

Canaani believes that in the future, cancer-fighting drugs will be used to maintain the health of affected patients rather than provide absolute cures.

"One of the main thrusts in cancer research now is called 'rational therapy.' People are trying to repeat the success of Gleevec with other forms of cancer," he said. "The idea is not to cure, but to make it into a chronic [situation]."

Canaani travelled to Toronto last week at the behest of the ICRF, to help drum up more private funding from the community.

He was also invited to Faas's home for a private gathering.

"It is exciting and unusual," Canaani said of his impending visit with Faas.

"I started work on cancer in 1975, and it's rare to find that your work really touched [someone] and made an impression on the field and on a curé," he said.

When Faas was asked what he would say to the man whose research commuted his death sentence, he responded, "I will simply tell him, 'Thank you for saving my life.'"

For more information about ICRF, visit www.icrfonline.org.

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Yad Vashem dinner to unite survivors, young adults

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Sherri Rotstein and Shawna Spiegelman are planning their second "Dinner of Miracles" for young adults and Holocaust survivors.

The event, sponsored by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem's new leadership division, will be held Dec. 18 at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue to bring together the two groups in an informal way.

The two co-chairs, both 26 years old and grandchildren of survivors, came up with the idea about five years ago, when Rotstein – a teacher by training who is Toronto's March of the Living co-ordinator – was a committee member for Toronto's Holocaust Education Week, and Spiegelman was living in Montreal, studying at McGill University.

The result was the first Dinner of Miracles, held two years ago. About 60 survivors and 200 young adults in their 20s and 30s took part. Many of the survivors hadn't spoken to young people about their experiences before, Rotstein said.

"We wanted young adults to have the opportunity to talk to survivors in a more informal setting, without having to raise their hands to ask questions," she said.

Each table has six to eight young adults, a moderator and, usually, two survivors.

"It's a very intimate setting," said Spiegelman, the events co-ordinator for the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center and a former March of the Living chaperone.

"We wanted to put a face to the [survivors'] stories and [have young adults] get to know the people."

Feedback from younger participants at the last dinner indicated that many had never had the opportunity to talk to survivors one-on-one about their experiences, or that they were intimidated about doing so.

In some cases, intergenerational relationships have developed, Spiegelman said.

The dinners are held during Chanukah.

"That's where the theme came from. We thought it would be a beautiful way to intertwine the two," said Spiegelman.

The co-chairs plan to publish stories of some of the survivors' own miracles in a program booklet for the evening.

They'd also like to make the dinner an annual event, because of the increasing age of participating survivors, the youngest of whom are in their 70s, Spiegelman said.

Even two years later, it's more challenging to find survivor participants, and some of the survivors who took part in the first dinner two years ago have died, she added. "It's devastating for us. It shows us that this dinner is so important.

"I think we're going to be the last generation to have first-hand accounts of what happened," she said. "That means it will be on our shoulders to carry it forward. I have a great passion for it. I think it's crucial to the future of the Jewish community."

For further information or to reserve tickets for the dinner, call 416-785-1333. Tickets are $30.

SNAKE HANDLERS: BBYO's Teen Connection group, for youth in grades 7 and 8, recently had a hands-on afternoon learning about reptiles with Reptilia. Pictured, back row, from left, are Emma Gladman, Alissa Malina, Oren Epstein, Jamie Gladman, Daniel Orellana, Allesandra Orellana and Jordan Finewax. Holding a snake are, from left, Dana Moss, Rachel Salsberg, Shannon Fox and Layla Zolis.

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Miles Nadal JCC

MILES NADAL JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

NOTICE is hereby given that a Special Meeting of Members will be held at 750 Spadina Avenue in Room 318 on Wednesday, the 10th day of January, 2007 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning to

1. Ratify the amended By-law, making UJA Federation the sole voting member of the Corporation, as adopted by the Board of Directors

The pruppose of the amended By-law is to revise the governance structure of the MNjcc in order for UJA Federation to become the sole voting member. This will serve to bring the relationship between the MNjcc and Federation in alignment with the other organizations that are part of the UJA Federation family

Members interested in reviewing this By-law may request a copy by calling 416-924-6211 x 121. If you have questions or comments prior to the Special Meeting, please call our UJA Federation General Counsel, Mark S. Anshan at 416-631-5834 or contact him by e-mail: manshan@unafed.org

Proxy forms may be obtained from the Business Office of the Corporation during business hours

DATED the 4th day of December, 2006
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
"Jodi Shanoff", Secretary

Jewish Life

The 'radical hospitality experts'

By RABBI AVRAHAM PLOTKIN

In the recent edition of *Reform Judaism* magazine, Rabbi Eric Yoffe, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, identifies Chabad as the "Radical hospitality experts" of the Jewish community. He then encourages his members to learn from Chabad's warm and inviting culture.

He recommends that, following Chabad's example, laypeople should be trained and empowered to reach out to those on the fringes of the synagogue and to support their Jewish journeys.

"Spiritual communities," he says, "are not built with more adult lectures, better brochures and efficient administrators. They are built with caring relationships and very large doses of personal attention."

While I was very impressed with his open-minded recommendations and agree with them wholeheartedly, I don't believe it will turn out to be quite as easy as it appears. You see, the global hospitality practised by Chabad is actually the result of a passionate perspective and philosophy unique to the Chabad movement.

To emulate Chabad hospitality, one must also share their passion and perspective on life. Chabad rabbis and laypeople are trained with a unique set of values from a young age and are taught how to translate those values in real life. These values and philosophical underpinnings are what make the hospitality of the rabbis and constituents seem almost effortless and second nature.

So, what are the key values and philosophical underpinnings that make Chabad so hospitable and welcoming?

First and foremost is the unconditional love for a fellow Jew championed by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, of blessed memory. The Rebbe taught that a Jew is a Jew regardless of background, affiliation or level of observance.

"There is no such thing as a small Jew," the Rebbe wrote to a Jew in Curacao.

And to a famous American philanthropist he insisted that "every Jew has a glorious background – they are all the children of Abraham Isaac and Jacob."

Deep down at the very core of the Jew lies a spark of Godliness and goodness. The potential for Jewishness already exists. All we need to do is nurture it. This non-judgmental approach and positive belief in the Jewish potential is key to successful outreach and hospitality.

Furthermore, Chabad Chassidim are taught that helping fellow Jews with their material and spiritual needs is of the highest order. The focus here is not on making people religious or building large organizations or memberships, although that would be nice. The main concern is simply helping a fellow Jew in the spirit of "ahavat Yisrael" (love of Israel). This unconditional assistance is recognized by others and reciprocated.

Finally, Chabad has a messianic sense of urgency in bringing about tikkun olam – literally fixing the world. Every good deed or act of hospitality is seen as another possibility to tip the scales and change the world permanently for good. A mitzvah is viewed not just as another good deed but also as a catalyst to bring about global and historic change. One more act of hospitality can be the "final straw" to usher in a new era of peace and happiness for the entire world. What can be more motivational than that?

You see, copying Chabad is not just a matter of reorganizing and becoming more hospitable. It's also about changing an entire outlook on Jewish life itself.

Rabbi Avraham Plotkin is the spiritual leader of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham in Markham, Ont.

Gay hate and voodoo Judaism

IDEAS ON IDENTITY

By Rabbi Elyse Goldstein

Ha'aretz, Israel's leading newspaper, recently published an astonishing article about gay-hate in Jerusalem. It seems that leaders of both the haredi community and the gay community were working overtime to avoid the predictable anger and the possibility of violence over a planned gay pride parade in Jerusalem. As unlikely partners as they may have been, gay activists made sure the parade did not take place in a religious neighbourhood, while haredi leaders tried valiantly to curb overzealous youths from pelting police officers.

Fade out from that fuzzy picture of strained and strange co-operation to the next scene, at a rabbinical court. Haredi leaders were talking about placing a "curse" – yes a curse – on the police who "beat up" haredi Jews, and on the organizers of the parade. The civil courts of a democratic Jerusalem determined that this parade could take place, and "voodoo Judaism" – a kind of primitive quasi-spiritual excuse for dangerous superstition – was the response.

The curse in question is called *Pulsa denura* – "whip of fire" in Aramaic – and has its origins in Kabbalah. (Another reason to be careful when you study modern "pop" Kabbalah, a la Madonna.) It's intended to cause the death of a subject by calling upon the angels of destruction to refrain from forgiving the subject their sins, while calling down all the curses named in the Bible.

"Fringe" behaviour, you ask? Perhaps. But a pulsa denura was placed on former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was later assassinated, and upon one of his successors, Ariel Sharon, whose coma led to rejoicing by those who had "prophesied" his downfall and asked the Angel of Death to take him.

What kind of religious system supports such "fringe" behaviour? In the Diaspora, this might be Purim Torah. In Israel, it's everyday news. As the saying goes in Israel, "You haven't made it in Israeli politics until you've been cursed by the *Pulsa denura*."

Excommunication didn't end with Spinoza, and some of us have been excommunicated with the best. But it's no wonder most secular Israelis don't want to have anything to do with Judaism when this is what we present: a Judaism of "black magic," supported by a fundamentalism that believes it's obligated to ensure the downfall of those it fears or opposes.

I don't know about you, but this is not the Judaism I practise, nor is it the Judaism I want to teach others. It's certainly not a Judaism that I could offer in my "outreach" classes to the scores of unaffiliated Jews who don't get us at the best of times. It's a Judaism of hatred, Jew against Jew, which led, our rabbis remind us, to the destruction of the Temple itself – that very same Temple whose rededication we celebrate on Chanukah.

This time it's hatred against gay Jews, but next time it will be against some other kind of "Other."

In this "season of light," and at a time when the darkness sometimes seems like it will swallow us up, we should insist that Judaism be a force for light in this world.

But before we can be an *or lagoyim* – a light unto the nations we have to be a light unto ourselves. We can't do that unless we question those leaders who would bring us back to the Dark Ages.

Jewish Life

Final, and not-so-final, sales

Money Matters

By Rabbi Jay Kelman CA

One of the challenges facing retailers during the frantic holiday season is dealing with returns of merchandise. A recent study indicated that up to one-third of all purchases are returned after the holidays. Included in that amount are fraudulent returns, as customers buy items with the intent of using them once before returning them. Besides the obvious issues of theft and deception, such activity undermines the entire structure of business.

In this vein, the Talmud (Bava Batra 88b) teaches that dishonesty in weights and measures – i.e. business fraud – is "more difficult" than sexual immorality. While the latter is a capital offence, its impact on society as a whole is much less than the inability to conduct business in an honest environment.

The economic backwardness and poverty that is the lot of many Third World countries is in a large measure due to their business practices. With bribery, fraud, corruption and kickbacks all too common, the ultimate effect is an impoverished society. Thankfully, in North America, while the practice of business ethics is far from perfect, the general environment is one in which honesty generally prevails and those who try to cheat the system are pursued by the law.

After I penned these words, I read in the *Globe and Mail* (Dec. 5) about a Gallup study that said "endemic and institutional corruption impedes a country's stability and growth, making it difficult for countries to tap into much-needed foreign investment and aid opportunities… It also has a huge effect on the people living in these countries, diminishing their [faith] in their leaders, reducing their incentive to work hard, and making entrepreneurial efforts and civic engagement less likely." While economists don't measure the ethical output of countries, it's clear that economic growth depends on moral growth.

The Mishnah (Bava Metzia 3:2), in expressing its revulsion at those who take – even if technically legal – advantage of the toil and effort of others, asks rhetorically "how can one conduct business using the cow [i.e. property] of another?" It's this principle that generally prohibits an employee from taking clients with them when they establish their own business.

Of course, most returns of goods are not fraudulent and represent shifting assessments of perceived needs. Nonetheless, the Jewish legal system states that all sales are final, the only exceptions being claims of price fraud. Price discrepancies from the market norm of more than one-sixth allow the aggrieved party to void the sale. But even here, there is a very short window of opportunity to make this claim, corresponding to the minimum amount of time needed to verify the legitimacy of the transaction with an expert, which in Talmudic times might have meant as little as a couple of hours. As investors know all too well, the stock market hates uncertainty and so do retailers. Not knowing until weeks later if one has truly made a sale can be quite disconcerting. The Mishnah relates (Bava Metzia3:3) that the merchants of Lod rejected the opinion that price fraud is only actionable at a discrepancy of one-third, as that same opinion allowed returns for the entire day.

A policy in which sales are final eliminates the concern of people using an object temporarily with the intention of returning it at a later date. Of course, merchants may voluntarily waive their rights to certainty in sales. The Talmud terms such concessions as the mark of piety.

It seems to me that consumers have benefited from an environment in which competitive pressures have led to greater displays of piety.

Rabbi Kelman can be reached at rabbijay@torahinmotion.org.

Tzedakah and justice

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish Highway

Rosh Hashanah is well behind us. But another new year draws near and with it the last-minute impulse to donate to charity. I'd like to look at some of the sites on the Internet where you can pick up a good background in charity and perhaps then even leave some tzedakah behind.

Actually, charity really isn't a very good translation of the word "tzedakah." As Judaism 101 points out, "The word 'tzedakah' is derived from the Hebrew root tzade-dalet-qof, meaning righteousness, justice or fairness. In Judaism, giving to the poor is not viewed as a generous, magnanimous act; it is simply an act of justice and righteousness, the performance of a duty, giving the poor their due." **[www. jewfaq.org/tzedakah.htm]**

In an interesting overview of The Economics of Tzedakah, Rabbi Gary M. Bretton-Garanatoor, of New York's Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, looks at the example set by Abraham. "We know little of Abraham's early life, and one might wonder why Abraham was singled out to become God's partner in the Covenant. We learn from the text that '*Vayach'shveha lo tzedakah* – God considered Abraham on account of his righteousness.' (Genesis 15:6) **[http://tinyurl.com/yxvzou]** Throughout the Torah, tzedakah, acts of righteousness, are tied to the Hebrew term *mishpat* legal justice – so that we learn that doing what is right and just is a legal obligation." **[http://tinyurl.com/u6zhy]**

The Just-Tzedakah website has a detailed look at giving from a Jewish point of view. While the theoretical halachic minimum for giving is about $2, this only applies to someone who is living in poverty. The site suggests that most people contribute 10 to 20 per cent of a year's net income. Other tzedakah recommendations from the site: calculate your obligation with care, don't brag and avoid delay. **[http://tinyurl.com/yez8vg]**

There is an interesting discussion about how you should feel about giving tzedakah. Eliezer Abrahamson notes that "if one gives tzedakah to a poor person with a sour and unpleasant face, then he loses any merit from it, even if he gives 'a thousand golden coins.' Tzedakah must be given in a pleasant and compassionate manner… If you have nothing to give, you should appease the poor person with words." **[http://home.aol.com/lazera/tzedaka.htm]**

Dennis Prager notes that not feeling like giving is no excuse. "Judaism would love you to give 10 per cent of your income each year from your heart. It suspects, however, that in a large majority of cases, were we to wait for people's hearts to prompt them to give a 10th of their money away, we would be waiting a very long time. Ergo, Judaism says, 'Give 10 per cent – and if your heart catches up, terrific. In the meantime, good has been done.'" **[http://tinyurl.com/y46us3]**

Speaking of attitude, take a look at Arthur Kurzweil's Brother, Can You Spare a Dime: The Treatment of Beggars According to Jewish Tradition. Kurzweil says that although "the organized Jewish community has gotten the mitzvah of giving tzedakah down to a virtual science," he has always been confused and inconsistent in his treatment of beggars. He poses 15 questions such as "What if they are all fakes or frauds," "Shouldn't these beggars be supported by official agencies?" and "Should I buy them a cup of coffee because they'll probably spend it on booze anyway?" Kurzweil, who is not a rabbi but a well-known Jewish genealogist, clearly spent a great deal of effort sifting through traditional sources, which clearly demand compassion for the needy. **[www.ajritz.com/jew/brother.htm]**

As with any serious issue, Judaism is not above finding the light side. In his essay Why Is There a Need for Tzedakah? Rabbi Louis Jacobs retells a popular Jewish tale. "When a rich man excuses the small size of his donation by protesting that he is unable to afford to give more generously because he has been obliged to pay his son's gambling debts, the poor man retorts: 'If your son wants to gamble let him do so with his own money, not with mine.'" **[http://tinyurl.com/yh4rng]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based website producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Some 350 Christians and Jews gathered at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue recently to pay tribute to two benefactors of the Meir Medical Center (MMC) in Kfar Saba at a celebration marking the hospital's 50th anniversary.

Hosted by Canadian Friends of MMC, the dinner honoured two "pillars of strength"– philanthropist Rose Ziner, honorary chair of the Jewish National Fund, and Donna Holbrook, a national director of the International Christian Embassy (ICE) in Jerusalem.

A supporter of many Israeli causes, Holbrook is also a founding member of Canadians Against Anti-Semitism and Anti-Semitism Must End Now. She and her husband, Richard, were the main donors at the jubilee dinner, which raised more than $300,000 for the expansion of the intensive care unit.

Alan Baker, Israel's ambassador to Canada, called Ziner and Holbrook "women of valour." Harriet Morton, who co-chaired the dinner with Gabriel Regev, referred to them as "women of vision."

While noting Ziner and Holbrook's cultural differences, Morton emphasized the honorees' common values, their strong commitment to the State of Israel. "They are bound together with their love, dedication and commitment to the survival and continuity of Israel," she said.

Israeli Consul General Ya'acov Brosh and Dr. Ehud Davidson, CEO of MMC, were on hand to pay tribute to the two women. Actor Harvey Atkin served as the MC and auctioneer.

Morton told *The CJN* that it was important for the Jewish community to recognize the contributions made to Israel by Christian supporters.

Indeed, Holbrook spoke at length about her deep affection for the Jewish state. "Once you've been to Israel, one wants to return and return and return again," she said.

She noted that ICE is the only embassy in Jerusalem. "Other nations moved their embassies to Tel Aviv. Not this embassy – we stand in support of Israel."

Holbrook said the Christian embassy does outreach work with new immigrants. "If they need money for apartments, education, food… we get involved in absorbing new immigrants.

"We can be a bridge in a land rocked with conflict."

Ziner, a Holocaust survivor, stressed the importance of maintaining a strong Israel, because had there been a Jewish homeland, 1.5 million Jewish children would not have been murdered by Hitler, she said.

Davidson spoke about MMC's work with trauma patients. He said that because of its proximity to the Green Line, Israel's pre-Six Day War border, the hospital has seen a high percentage of victims of terrorist attacks and over the years, it has established a solid reputation as an important trauma centre.

The goal of the campaign for the hospital is to raise $2.6 million to expand the intensive care unit from six to 12 beds.

For more information about MMC, call 905-770-5118.

CAREER DAY: As part of its fundraising efforts, Associated Hebrew School's Posluns campus student council organized Career Day recently. Students dressed up as whatever they want to be when they grow up. Money raised was donated to the John Howard Society, which helps ex-convicts re-integrate into society. From left are Jewel Karbi, Jack Miller, Yoni Zaionz, Liel Miron-Halyo, Dylan Litman and Joshua Cohen.

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Inspire your kids, TV rabbi advises

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
Special to the CJN

The "sex talk" is not the most important conversation to have with your kids, says author Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, author of the book *Kosher Sex* and host of the Learning Channel's reality show *Shalom in the Home*.

The best talks are about inspiration.

"Why would I talk to kids about sex? How effective is it? Has it done anything?" he asked during a recent visit to Toronto to promote his book *10 Conversations You Need to Have With Your Children*.

Parents dread the three "stock" conversations: don't do drugs, don't get an STD, don't get pregnant, he said. "These are the most depressing, morbid conversations…We're essentially telling our kids 'don't die.'"

In the book, Rabbi Boteach writes that "telling our children what we want them to be" invites rebellion, so the book helps parents offer "an image of what they want to be: their own inner voice of conscience."

On one episode of *Shalom in the Home*, Rabbi Boteach counselled a 16-year-old who "did nothing but… paint her toenails" while her mother worked in the background.

Instead of confronting her, Rabbi Boteach, a father of eight, asked her, "What do you want to be?"

The girl replied, "A fashion designer."

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach
[*Seth Olenick photo*]

Rabbi Boteach explained the difference between what you do and who you are. "There are only two answers – a good person or a bad person."

Watching a video of herself lounging as her mother scrubbed, the girl saw what she was becoming.

"You're not a good person if you make you mother into your dishwasher," Rabbi Boteach told her. "You're only 16 and you've already lost control of your life."

The best approach to influencing kids is by sharing values, he told *The CJN*.

"We have an RV, we go into nature, [we] go to all the important historic sites," he said of his own family life.

But his best advice for inspiring kids is to turn off the TV.

"Most TV is stupid. Most reality TV is degrading," he said. "Most TV counsellors think their job is to… point out that you're a jackass. The counsellor portrays himself as Jesus – 'I'm perfect, you're not. I'll tell you what to do.'"

In Judaism, righteousness is about struggle, not perfection, he said, adding that our heroes, such as Moses and Abraham, are flawed, so we can relate to them.

In the same way, Rabbi Boteach seeks commonalties with the families on his show.

"We're all faced with the same challenges," he said. "They have disciplinary issues… I can have disciplinary issues with my kids."

Rabbi Boteach said he's proud of his show, which he contends has integrity and sticks to its mandate of helping families in crisis.

He said he spends 70 hours with each family over the course of one week, and the show condenses that into one hour.

"You can do a heck of a lot in a week," he said.

But does his being a rabbi deter non-Jews? "They don't care what my title is… they judge me by a single criterion: can I help them?"

Only Jews might hesitate to hand their troubles to a rabbi, he said. "Jews… denigrate themselves and their faith by thinking they have nothing to say to the outside world."

Rabbi Boteach said that his dream "from the age of 16 was to grant Judaism a seat at the table… Christianity and Islam shaped the modern world, yet both are daughter religions of Judaism."

If there's one common thread to his many books, columns, and TV and radio shows, it's that Jews need to breach our insularity and reclaim Judaism's global influence.

As on *Shalom in the Home*, in *10 Conversations*, Rabbi Boteach tries to translate Jewish wisdom for Jews and non-Jews alike – with words that will heal not just children, but entire families.

In our society, marriages are failing from boredom, he said. "We call marriage 'settling down'… we accept the drudgery.

"Husbands and wives don't inspire each other. Parents don't try to inspire their kids… they don't make each other laugh, don't share their innermost self… They have very functional lives which are very boring."

Though *10 Conversations* draws some examples from his show, most are from his own personal experience.

"I actually sat down with a tape recorder… and [recorded] the conversations I have with my kids, the 10 most important values I want to communicate."

Whether it's reading Torah or rollerblading with his kids, Rabbi Boteach says his parenting owes much to his experience as a camp counsellor when he was younger.

"In the same way that a camp counsellor moves all the kids in a bunk, a parent can easily move all the kids he has to," he said

"Camp has a lot of discipline, a lot of rules – so why do kids want to go?" he asked rhetorically. "Because it's inspiring."

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Flyer angers leaders

Continued from page 3

Jewish leaders and other Muslim leaders expressed outrage and disappointment at the flyer.

MCC communications director, Sohail Raza called it immature.

"I think it was a rather childish way of getting a point across," Raza said. "If you have a comment to make or a statement to be understood, you should do it in a more democratic, mature manner."

Raza added that there is no room in the Canadian political process for "outside politics" to enter into the debate.

Canadian Jewish Congress president Ed Morgan, who received the flyer in an e-mail a couple of days after the convention, was harsher in his criticism.

"I think this is ethnic identity politics at its absolute worst," he said. "To announce that [Arlene Perly Rae] is vice-president of the CJC is just a thinly veiled means of announcing that Bob Rae is married to a Jew. It doesn't say anything else. It does not say anything about Bob Rae's politics [or] Arlene's Middle East politics."

It seems that the MCC was aware early on of people who were trying to hijack the convention for their own causes.

On Nov. 27, in the run-up to the Montreal event, the MCC's website warned candidates to beware of "self-styled leaders from the Muslim community… making false representations to Liberal leadership hopefuls by suggesting they control Muslim delegate votes at this week's Liberal Party convention."

In the same article, Salma Siddiqui, vice-president of the MCC and a Michael Ignatieff delegate, was quoted as saying, "We urge Muslim Liberal delegates to vote according to their conscience and not be bullied by the dictates of those who represent the the interests of Saudi Arabia and Iran in Canada."

Morgan said he hopes the e-mail flyer incident isn't a sign of things to come from the Liberal party, and he said he doesn't rule out dialogue with Muslim organizations and MPs.

"I will speak to people in the Liberal party to make sure that this type of contaminated discourse does not spread within the party," he said.

Morgan added that he hopes to contact several prominent Muslim politicians in the Liberal party "whom I respect and will be speaking to."

One of those is Omar Alghabra, MP for Mississauga-Erindale and the CAF's immediate past-president.

Morgan said that Alghabra "is collegial and open to discussion. We don't always agree, but we always manage to discuss."

Alghabra also criticized the flyer and its timing.

"Associating racial or religious background to political stances… it's the last thing we need in the Arab-Jewish relationship," he said. "And it does a disservice to us as Canadians."

Alghabra said he never saw the flyer at the convention. He viewed it for the first time after a friend e-mailed him a copy after reading Fatah's article.

Calls to Fatah were not immediately returned.

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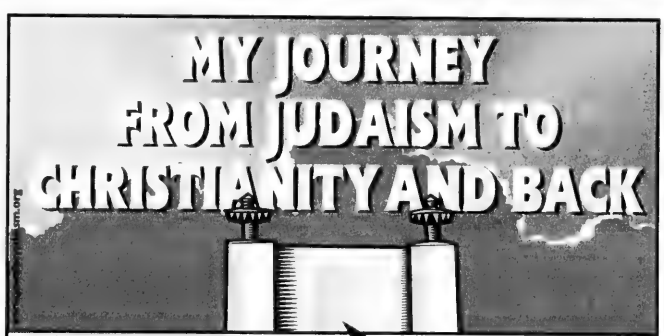

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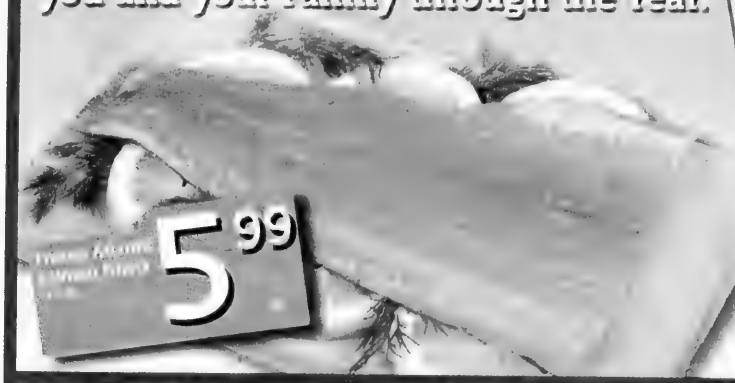

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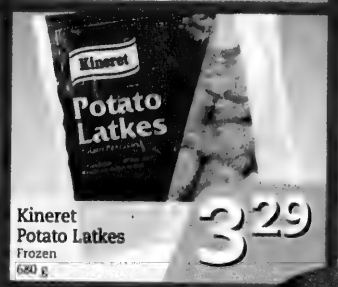

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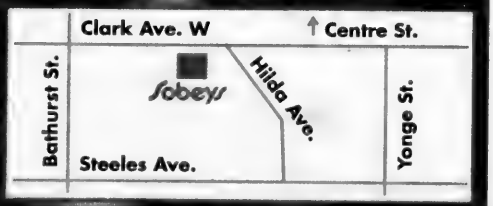

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Parents told to keep eyes open for drug use

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

On the most part, teens who experiment with drugs move on to a healthier lifestyle, says a Chicago-based clinical psychologist who specializes in adolescent and family therapy.

"Sometimes, though, they go over the top and parents don't want to see it. [My] message is that we need to worry, and we need to open our eyes and look for signs," Dr. Jerry Lob said at a recent lecture and panel discussion sponsored by Jewish Family Institute and supported by JACS, Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically-Dependent Persons and Significant Others.

He said that when he was growing up, kids were not "assaulted on all sides" the way they are now.

'We must not be in denial'

"Ricky and Lucy slept [in separate beds] on *I Love Lucy*, and when she became pregnant it broke a boundary. Now kids have the Internet, which can be a scary place," Lob said.

"As parents, we have a responsibility. We cannot abdicate our parental role."

Lob, who has five sons and is in "the middle of the teenage years," said that "a smart parent can give their children space but continue to hold on.

"We must not be in denial. [Be aware of] red eyes, sleep disturbance or sudden moodiness. Should you check your child's e-mails or diary? My only answer is that each child is different. Trust them until you have reason not to."

In order to build a relationship, he said, "your child needs to view you as a safe person. Can they talk to you without [you] freaking? Are all your comments negative?"

A good way to bond with teens is to ask them about their music.

"In order to share a conversation, you need a context. Once you talk about the easier stuff, you can move on to the harder stuff," Lob said.

"The first real conversation cannot be about cigarettes, drugs and alcohol. You have to talk about something easy first."

The cornerstone of parenting is to "let your child know their dignity will never be demeaned," he said.

"Each child has to be parented differently. All children need to know that we are appreciative of them, [even if] that is a challenge. Kids with high self-esteem have an easier time saying 'no.'"

In all of human history, Lob said, "parents have never been able to stop their children from having a bad friend. It is not up to us to do that. Don't trash their friends. When you put their friends down, you put them down."

Never, he stressed, take revenge on your children, "or anyone else for that matter. If they hurt you, don't hurt them back. Tell them in a strong voice that their actions are unacceptable, and unless the relationship is damaged, they will always care.

"Don't be sarcastic or speak in a demeaning tone of voice. Your kid will know you have not stepped over the line, and that is how a relationship goes forward. How we talk to each other when we're angry [says a lot.] They'll know you're angry, but they'll [also] know they're still safe."

What goes into the core of our being, he said, "is if dad or mom slapped us verbally or physically. Kids need to know their family is a safe harbour."

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The Jewish Education Report

CHAT graduate Danny Richmond spurring social change

Where Are They Now?

Since Toronto's Jewish school system was established decades ago, thousands of its graduates have gone on to achieve enormous success in business, public life, and community affairs. In this feature, we profile one such success story.

By A.M. Segal

When AIDS was still a fairly taboo subject, a few students at Bialik Hebrew Day School took the unprecedented step of launching an awareness campaign about the illness.

The endeavour made an indelible impression on a Bialik student named Danny Richmond.

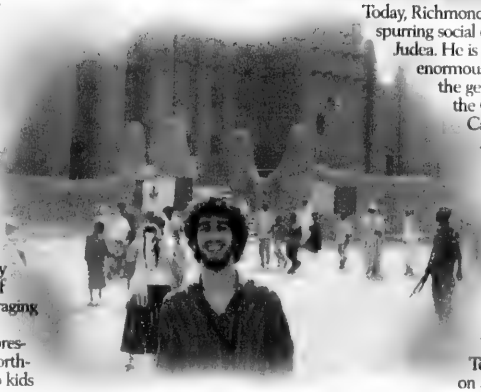
"I think we were all enhanced by the experience in many ways," Richmond recalls. "The students were way ahead of their time and the school should be applauded for encouraging such initiatives."

Fast forward to 2004 when Richmond followed the impressive example set by his childhood peers by travelling to northern Ghana, where he volunteered at a centre dedicated to kids whose parents lost their lives to HIV/AIDS.

"I fell in love with Northern Ghana and the children at the centre," Richmond enthuses.

Since that time, Richmond has given 80-plus presentations about HIV/AIDS and global citizenship to more than 10,000 youth throughout Ontario.

"The most important thing we did was educate thousands of youth, community members and workers about HIV/AIDS," he explained. "It has left me with an incredible impression of what education systems can do."



Danny Richmond poses in Algeria, one of the stops he made as a participant on a recent three-week mission with Canada's Governor General Michaelle Jean.

Today, Richmond continues to be driven by the importance of education in spurring social change as the national program director of Canadian Young Judea. He is also a renowned leader of community projects tackling such enormous issues as homelessness, environmentalism, land mines and the genocide in Darfur. His hands-on activism recently garnered the CHAT graduate the distinguished honour of accompanying Canada's Governor General Michaelle Jean on a state visit to Africa.

Richmond was one of only two Canadian youths selected for the mission, which spent more than three weeks in Algeria, Mali, Ghana, South Africa and Morocco.

"Our role is to assist the Governor General in exploring Canadians' roles in partnering with Africans in development, as well as to shed light on the progress of these specific African nations," he reveals. "I have reconfirmed my notion that Africa is not hopeless and that there is incredible work being done to raise their living standards."

Now back in Canada, Richmond has his sights set on a litany of social causes.

To that end, he will soon be leading 22 high school students on a mission to Argentina, will be helping to enhance the public profile of the Canadian International Development Agency and is eager to engage in *tikkun olam* projects with schools. The focus on youth is anchored in Richmond's belief that this group of people is full of latent potential which he wants to develop for the greater good of all humanity.

"There is a moral absolute in youth," Richmond opines. "Often, this is sneered at, but it should be cherished and engaged. They are so incredibly creative and they are able to think abstractly. I'm just simply trying to be a spark for youth to start realizing that."

Joint programs open students' eyes to different perspectives

By Carla Lancit

A Jewish day school is a community unto itself, but, as many Toronto area students are learning, it is also part of a larger community.

"Holding joint programs is one way in which we assert again that we are members of a broader Jewish community," says Rabbi Elliott Diamond, vice principal, Limudei Kodesh, at Netivot Ha'Torah. "While there are things that distinguish and divide us, there are many commonalities that we share. We want our kids to understand those commonalities."

Netivot HaTorah holds many programs with their immediate neighbour, Leo Baeck Day School. The two schools co-sponsored a speaker for a Holocaust Education Week event, which was attended by students from Shearim as well.

At Purim, they have a mishloach manot exchange—an activity that Leo Baeck's south campus holds with USDS.

This year, the northern campuses of Netivot Ha'Torah, Leo Baeck, and Associated Hebrew Day School held a joint march for Yom Ha'atzmaut. More than 400 grade four and five students participated in the event. The Netivot HaTorah and Leo Baeck students paraded up Atkinson to Associated, where students from all three schools made presentations and spent an hour singing and dancing together.

Students from Netivot Ha Torah, Leo Baeck and Associated Hebrew School came together this year for a joint march in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut.

"These events allow the kids to mix, see what the differences are, see what the similarities are, and break down stereotypes," says David Prashker, director of Leo Baeck Day School. "Even these small opportunities to enable children to see different perspectives is terribly important as part of their education. Our goal is to bring up children who can make informed choices about their Jewish identity and their Canadian identity. You can only make informed choices from an educated perspective. Meeting children who have a different perspective on Judaism, who think about it differently, who practice it differently, who even dress differently, opens their eyes to different perspectives."

But above all, the joint programs are fun. "The kids seem to really enjoy it," says Diamond. "It's always exciting for them to meet kids from other schools. It exposes them to the commonalities of the broader Jewish community."

October's BJE Jewish education fair paying dividends

By Raquel Kaplan Goldberg

The abundance of Jewish education options in the GTA can be overwhelming for both first-time and more experienced parents. So, to help them navigate the many offerings, the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE) and its Jewish Information Service of Toronto (JIST) provided parents and grandparents with a unique opportunity to speak with representatives from 30 day, supplementary, and pre schools, all under one roof.

The Jewish Education Fair - held on October 23 - attracted 350 parents and grandparents to the Tanenbaum CHAT Wilmington campus, many of whom benefited from the evening.

Ann Rastin, who attended the fair with her husband Joe and her mother Faigie Libman, left with a better idea of which schools were appropriate for her two-and-a-half-year-old son Tyler. "I had narrowed it down before the fair to three schools and when I got there I found out more information that helped me narrow it down to two," she said. "It was a very well spent evening."

The schools benefited as well from the exposure the fair provided. Joan Schoenfeld, principal of the Downtown Jewish Community School, was "delighted to meet several families from downtown that, had it not been for the fair, would not have known about our school. It was a terrific opportunity for parents to compile information and make a more educated decision."

"We see this interface between the families and the schools as an important first step in the right choice for each individual child," said Dr. Seymour Epstein, UJA Federation's senior vice-president for Jewish Education and Identity.

Over 350 parents and grandparents attended October's Jewish Education Fair sponsored by UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education and Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto.

THE JEWISH EDUCATION REPORT IS PUBLISHED BY UJA FEDERATION'S BOARD OF JEWISH EDUCATION.

The Jewish Education Report

Supplementary education choices more varied than ever before

By Carla Lanclt

With interests ranging from Israel, to family learning, to Jewish living, a new crop of supplementary schools around the Greater Toronto Area is catering to today's diverse Jewish schoolchildren with innovative and exciting programming.

One of the community's newest ventures in education is Kachol Lavan. The school, which targets Israeli families, teaches Hebrew and Israeli studies. Still in its first year, Kachol Lavan already boasts 84 students, some of whom come from as far as Brampton and Oakville every Sunday.

"We want to provide our children with a little bit of Israeli culture," says David Zaltzman, who co-founded the school together with Amir Freund.

The school, which is hosted at Leo Baeck Day School in Thornhill, does so by teaching students to speak, read, write, and perform in Hebrew, and by including lessons on Israel and Israeli culture.

Beth Radom Congregation has counteracted the challenges of a sprawling membership with a program that combines satellite learning and family learning sessions.

The program, called *Jumpin' for Judaism*, groups students for weekly tutor-led Hebrew classes that rotate among their homes. "The advantage of small groups is that we can give individual attention," says the synagogue's cantor and director of education David Rosen.

Every other Sunday the whole group gathers for Judaic studies sessions. "We make it a creative atmosphere so they're not learning Judaism out of a book, but learning by doing," says Rosen.

For the Reform Educators Council of Toronto, blending formal and informal education is vital. The group runs an overnight program for students in grades four and five, and a retreat for grade six students. An upcoming program for grade 11 and 12 students will prepare them for life outside of their community.

"We're really not schools," says Dr. Ira Schweitzer, Director of Education for Temple Sinai of Toronto. "We are really more like a cultural environment, trying to acculturate our youth and families into Jewish living with a knowledge base."

At Solel Congregation of Mississauga, parents serve as mentors and teachers for the religious school's 185 students.

"We take to heart the words of Deuteronomy—*Veshinantam Levanecha*, And you shall teach them (your children) diligently—and it works," says director of education Arliene Botnick. "Our parents are committed to keeping this Jewish community vibrant, involved and knowledgeable."

At the Hillel Children's Workshop, the emphasis is on family learning. Each Sunday morning starts with an optional Hebrew class. Then, while the school's 60 children are learning about Bible stories, Jewish communities around the world, or Jewish history, their parents have their own classes. The adult topics range from a discussion of Canadian immigration policy in the twentieth century and its discriminatory attitudes towards racial/ethnic minorities to a discussion on Klezmer music with musical demonstrations.

"One of the most impressive parts of the program is the enthusiasm and attendance from the parents and the children," says Abby Robins, the workshop's public relations chair. "The parents are a very bright, well-educated group who really want to be there, learning and sharing their opinions."

As diverse as these programs are, they all have one thing in common—they are educating a new generation of knowledgeable, committed Jews.

Students ready for Rosh Hashanah at Thornhill's Kachol Lavan.

Israel's Indiana Jones shares adventurous life with BJE teachers

By A.M. Segal

Digging deep beneath the ground to try and unearth treasures from our ancient past has been Dan Bahat's business for nearly half a century.

The acclaimed Israeli archeologist is currently juggling writing a book with lecturing at Tel Aviv's Bar-Ilan University and teaching a semester to mostly theology students at the University of Toronto's St. Michael's College.

Acclaimed Israeli archeologist Dr. Dan Bahat.
(Photo courtesy City Light News)

He recently gave a passionate presentation about his specialty, the tunnels of the Western Wall, during a UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE) professional development day.

"I told the teachers about my excavations along the Western Wall and the discovery of the remains of three ancient mikvehs by the Temple Mount," he reveals. "These date back to the second temple period."

Such illuminating findings still seem to excite this 68-year-old trailblazer with the same vigour they did when he first started excavating in the early1960s.

Back then, Bahat was a student at the Hebrew University and made quite an impression on his older, more experienced colleagues.

"I had just finished my BA and I was the youngest of all archeologists working on an area of Masada that was thought to be the least important," he relates. "But it turned out to be very important because we discovered 10 pieces of pottery which bear the names of Jewish troops from that period."

At the time, rather than be defeated by the Romans, the Jewish combatants committed suicide by jumping from Masada, a fortress on top of a rock plateau overlooking the Dead Sea.

Bahat developed a keen interest in Jerusalem and following the Six Day War in 1967, when Israel captured the Old City, the archeologist began to dig by the Western Wall.

"This was the first time in history that we had the liberty to dig wherever we wanted," he recalls.

Bahat engaged in numerous excavations in Jerusalem throughout the 1970s, including the site of Herod's palace, and in 1985, he became the district archeologist of Jerusalem.

Along the way, Bahat has written several books and garnered the prestigious Jerusalem Prize in Archeology.

His explorations and findings have drawn comparisons to the fictional movie character Indiana Jones, who searched for the famed Ark of the Covenant.

Modestly shoving aside these comparisons, the bushy moustached archeologist says it isn't just the big discoveries that provides the thrill, but also the quest.

"I don't expect to make finds," he explains. "But I am happy with what I find because it makes me able to analyze my interests, which is what did ancient Jerusalem look like."

While Bahat, a grandfather, could very well be easing into his retirement years, he remains immersed in his studies. "Now that I'm 68, I feel I'm at the climax of my abilities," he relates. "I love to teach and I always get high marks from the students."

For more information about Jewish education in Toronto, visit the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education Web site, www.bjetoronto.org, call 416.633.7770 or e-mail bje@ujafed.org

THE JEWISH EDUCATION REPORT IS PUBLISHED BY UJA FEDERATION'S BOARD OF JEWISH EDUCATION.

Fresh insights and contradictory ideas

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The journalist's capacity to think clearly about Mideast complexities is constantly being challenged by inconsistent, shifting and even contradictory analytical trends. Sometimes, conflicting ideas appear in the very same article.

For instance, Steven Gutkin, Associated Press bureau chief for Israel and the PA-controlled territories, wrote on Dec. 2 about problems between Fatah and Hamas as their unity government talks reached an impasse. Gutkin's article appeared in the *International Herald Tribune* under the title "Ceasefire and Olmert speech fuel peace hopes, but Hamas now holds the cards."

Gutkin said that many people believe that progress on the Israeli-Palestinian front is the key to resolving regional problems, but Hamas' refusal to agree to the formation of a Palestinian national unity government is stymieing such progress.

Gutkin concludes by noting that "several Fatah officials said they believe that a possible decision by the Bush administration to open a dialogue with Syria and Iran could help ease Israeli-Palestinian relations by reducing outside support for local extremists."

Gutkin was apparently referring to the fact that Hamas' political leadership resides not in the territories, but in Damascus – in the office of Khaled Meshal – and is heavily influenced and supported by the rejectionists in Tehran.

Thus, some continue to argue that resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the key to solving the problems of the Middle East – especially in Iraq – an argument disparaged in some quarters. (Martin Peretz, editor of the *New Republic*, is especially scornful of this viewpoint, as reported in last week's column.) Others, however, argue that a pre-condition for moving ahead on the Israeli-Palestinian front is engagement with other regional powers, such as Syria and Iran, which control or heavily influence the workings of major actors in Palestinian politics. But that suggests the real problem and real power lies elsewhere, thus undermining the first argument.

So what is lost in all this copy is that both views cannot be held coherently at the same time.

* * *

Byron Calame, *New York Times* public editor, in "Scoops, Impact or Glory: What Motivates Reporters?" (Dec. 3), sought to answer his headline's question. Journalists are motivated by a range of goals, he writes, among them the desire "to get on the front page"; to win prizes; and to tell compelling stories that affect readers' emotions. Topping the list, however, was "being first with new facts or fresh insights."

When the need to churn out copy quickly for the nonstop 24-hour news cycle often leads to the shallow repetition of the conventional storyline, finding a truly new insight from a journalist can be as important as it is refreshing. A recent example:

Globe and Mail reporter and columnist Doug Saunders, reporting from Istanbul on "Papal visit underlines Turkish take on faith" (November 30), noted that while only nine per cent of Turks support making *sharia* law the law of the land, and only 25 per cent support the idea that Turkish political parties should be based on Islam, almost half say they consider themselves Muslim first and Turkish second.

However, Saunders contributes a more original take – that these more religious Turks mostly confine their devotions to their private lives. As Saunders writes, while these Muslim Turks "are more faithful and devoted to Islam than ever before, they are less willing to let it become part of their public or political life."

Many analysts have argued that, unlike contemporary Christianity and Judaism, Islam remains predominantly a "political religion." Yet in Turkey, paradoxically, a society made up almost entirely of Muslims, those who espouse religion reveal a development that's rare in the rest of the Islamic world.

"Turkey has begun to practice Islam the way Europe practices its religion, as a largely private matter, removed from overt politics," Saunders writes, following an interview with Bosporus University Professor Binnaz Toprak, who has been studying Turkish attitudes toward religion and politics and is one of the authors of a recent major report on popular attitudes.

In drawing attention to the importance of these findings – and the paradox of Turkish society – Saunders points to a possible liberal tendency that could be emulated by other Muslim countries.

Paul Michaels is communications director of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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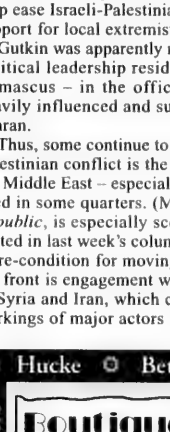

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Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

אָ, איר קליינע ליבטעלעך...

(חנוכה־געדאַנקען)

פון אַלעק סילווער

„ווידער ברענט דאָס אַלטע לעמפל
אויפן הויכן, שיינעם אָרט,
יעדעס הייזל איז אַ טעמפל,
אַ מזבח פינקלט דאָרט".

שמעון פרוג

געוועכט איז דער דיכטער, ווייל פונקט וויי יעדען יאָר וועלן יידן איבער דער וועלט אויך היי־יאָר אָנצינדן דאָס ערשטע ליכטל אין דער נאַכט פון 24סטן טאָג פון חודש כסלו, וואָס פאַלט אויס פרייטיק, דעם 15טן דע־צעמבער, 2006. אָזוי וועלן זיך אָנהייבן די פייערונגען פון חנוכה יום־טוב.

פאַר די נאָכפאָלגנדיקע אכט טעג וועלן צו אונדז ווינקען פון הינטער ווינטערדיקע, אפשר פאַרפרירענע, פענצטער־שויבן די פלעמלדיקע „קליינע חנוכה־ליכ־טעלעך" און „דערציילן געשיכטעלעך" פון העלדיש־קייט און מוטיקייט, פון ניסים און מסירת־נפש, פון גבורה, נצחון און באַגייַסטערונג, „מעשׂהלעך פון אמאָל". יידישע מענער, פרויען און קינדער וועלן זיך פרייען מיטן שימערדיקן שיין פון אָנגעצונדענעם פאָקל אין מדיעוון ביז די וויי־טסטע הענקן פון יידישע ישובים. און ווידער וועלן זיך צינדן אין יידישע הערצער פונקען פון „נצח ישׂראל לא ישקר".

אין זייַן ליד „דאָס חנוכה־ליכטל" באַשרייבט אונ־דזער באַליבטער דיכטער י. ל. פרץ וועגן דעם ליכטל אין דער נאַכט. מיר ברענגען דאָ בלויז איין סטראָפע:

„עס פאַלט־צו די נאַכט, די פינצטערע נאַכט!
און שאָטן באַדעקן די וועגן . . .
נאָר אומעטיק ווילט, פאַרציטערט און זאָכט
אַ ליכטל אין פענצטערל ברענט!"

אָט דאָס קליינע ליכטעלע איז פענצטער, וואָס ברענט שוין אין יידישע הייזער פאר טויזנטער יאָרן, דערמאָנט וועגן גרויסע טעג פון שטאָלץ און דערהויבנקייט פאַרן יידישן פאָלק. אָט דאָס צאַנקנדיקע פלעמעלע, וואָס יידן איבער דער וועלט צינדן שוין לאַנגע יאָרן, איז געוואָרן אַ סימבאָל פון אומבויגזאַמען גייסט און פיזישן קאַמף פאַר רעליגיעזער פרייהייט.

במשך דורות פון יידישע וואַנדערונגען, אין אַלע גרויזאַמע תקופות, אין אַלע שוועכע צייטן, אין אַלע פרעמד־פיינטלעכע לענדער, וווּ נאָר דער גורל האָט אונדז פאַרוואָרפן אין וועג מיר האָבן באוויזן אונזע־שפאַרן, האָבן די טעג פון חנוכה נעשטאַרקט דעם אויסדויער און בטחון ביים יידישן פאָלק; אַרויסגע־ברענגט פריידיקע, אפטיימיזם, טרייסט און גלויבן אין יידי־שע היימען. די קליינע חנוכה ליכט־פייערלעך האָבן אַרויסגעשיינט און זיינען אַרויסגעדרינגען אין אַלע ווינקלען בכל תפוצות הגולה. זיי האָבן אונגעפילט מיט ליכטיקייט דעם פאַרשוואַרצטן אָרום. די מאַגאַטאַניק ווינטערדיקע גרויע טעג אין די צרות פון טראַגיש־פינצטערן גלות זיינען פאַרשוווונדן אין אַ יום־טובדיקע ליכטיקייט, פרייליכקייט און פייערלעכקייט האָט פאַר־נומען זייער אָרט.

די שוואַכע ליכט־פלעמעלעך, וואָס האָבן קוים באַלויכטן דעם לאַנגן גלות־וועג פון יידישן פאָלק, האָבן ענדלעך זיך צעפלאַקערט אין אַ גרויס ליכט — דער פלאַם פון יידישער נאַציאָנאַלער ווידער־אויפלע־בונג. דאָס קליינע קריגעלע ברומל, וואָס מען האָט אָנ־געצונדן אין יענע חשמונאים־טעג מיט 2171 יאָר, האָט ווידער אָנגעברענט דעם נס פון „בימים ההם" צו „בזמן הזה" — דער וידערגעבורט פון מדינת ישׂראל.

מיר ווינטשן אַלעמען אַ פריילעכן און געזונטן חנוכה!

Coast to Coast

'We do not see Jewish law validating homosexual lifestyle'

Continued from page 1

homosexuality is an orientation one cannot control.

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl, who voted for the traditional papers, said that one of the opinions expressed in Levy's paper said that " a sense of being locked in [by homosexuality] is true of most of the gay community, but not all of the gay community, and those people who are not locked in should seek… the kind of therapy that would help them, to place themselves in a heterosexual relationship."

Rabbis Roth and Levy, along with rabbis Mayer Rabinowitz and Joseph Prouser, resigned from the law committee to protest its endorsement of the liberal Dorff paper.

Momentum has been building for years for a more permissive Conservative attitude toward homosexuality in the United States, despite the committee's 1992 decision upholding the ban on gay rabbis and commitment ceremonies.

But Conservative rabbis in Toronto and Montreal do not expect that the attitude on this side of the border will change – at least not for now.

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue's Rabbi Howard Morrison said that if you were to poll 10 rabbis in Manhattan, you might get an array of opinions, but in Toronto, there would most likely be a consensus on a more traditional view.

"I believe that if not every Conservative rabbi in the Toronto area, a great majority on this particular issue is like-minded. We're very welcoming and compassionate to any and every Jew regardless of what they bring or don't bring, but we do not see Jewish law as validating a homosexual lifestyle, let alone officiation of any sort at a commitment of a relationship," Rabbi Morrison said.

Rabbi Wayne Allen at Beth Tikvah Synagogue said that despite the liberal paper's lenience that allows the possibility for rabbinical seminaries to accept gay students and for rabbis to perform commitment ceremonies, none of the rulings overturned the Torah's prohibition on male homosexual activity.

"[The liberal paper] does however, stand in diametric opposition to the entire train of rabbinic thought and for those who hold fast to Jewish law, no doubt this would be embarrassing," Rabbi Allen said.

Rabbi Steven Saltzman of Adath Israel Congregation said he strongly opposed the Dorff, Nevins and Reisner paper.

"I repudiate the liberal decision and find that it is not an halachic decision at all. It is in fact a social, political, dogmatic, philosophic statement, but it does not come up to halachic standards of any sort," Rabbi Salztman said.

Paul Kochberg, the president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's Canadian region, said that although he wasn't surprised that the law committee accepted a more liberal view on homosexuality, people shouldn't expect any radical changes at their shuls.

"We have to remember that these decisions are not mandatory, they're advisory. No one has to follow anything," Kochberg said.

Rabbi Philip Scheim of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation, who is a voting member of the law committee, voted for Rabbi Roth's paper, which upheld the status quo, banning homosexuality. He agreed with Kochberg.

"In the short-term, I don't think anything will happen. I can't see anything changing other than an attitudinal change."

He said that within a day after returning from New York, he received three e-mails from congregants about what these rulings could mean here.

"The e-mails were from people who want to see change, who found the outcome interesting."

But Rabbi Saltzman said that the liberal rulings might cause a rift between American and Canadian conservatives.

"I think that it will sharpen our resolve to want to determine our destiny and to establish our own institutions of Canadian Conservative Judaism so that we can define our own religious message and not be told that we are two generations behind the Americans," he said.

Montreal Shaare Zion Congregation's Rabbi Lionel Moses, who believes that the liberal ruling "unquestionably" defies Jewish law, said that the only major changes he thinks he and his colleagues will face is the way they will respond to gay couples.

"When the movement did not permit commitment ceremonies, rabbis had the unanimity of the movement to say that it is not permitted and being part of the movement, whatever my personal opinion is, is irrelevant. Now, my personal opinion needs to come to the fore, and this is a very sensitive issue because gay and lesbian members of the community make contributions to the community whether they are out in the open or whether they remain private and quiet," said Rabbi Moses, who served on the law committee for about 15 years until 2000.

Rabbi Allen doesn't expect much of a change in the way Toronto-area rabbis run their shuls.

"Here, the rabbis of the Conservative movement, with whom I serve in Canada, have a general consensus and that consensus is that we are content with the traditional reading of Jewish law and we are not compelled at this point to participate in commitment ceremonies of any sort," he said.

"In my mind, the real issue that should have been on the table was how to show compassion to human beings with homosexual tendencies and not how to find some kind of strategy that would validate homosexual lifestyle."

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said that regardless of whether one favoured the traditional or liberal papers, the priority should be making gay and lesbian Jews feel welcome, not changing Halachah.

"Some of us feel very strongly in outreach to people, making them feel comfortable, creating a space, including them, but not changing Halachah," Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said.

"Everyone around the table is sympathetic to working to be more inclusive. There is no homophobia. There is no one who is not sensitive to the issue," said Rabbi Scheim.

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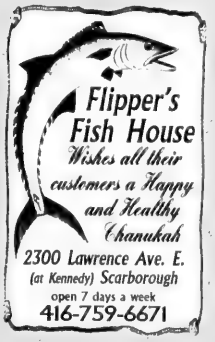

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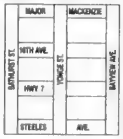

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Coast to Coast

Mitzvah Day draws 300

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Ottawa's Soloway Jewish Community Centre was a hub of activity on Dec. 3 as more than 300 people gathered to individually and collectively help the less fortunate in their community.

"No one [person] can change the world, but all of us can make a small difference with the people who are around us," said Leonard Stern, who, along with his children, took part in the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's second annual Mitzvah Day.

Event chair Evan Zelikovitz and his committee spent nearly a year planning the day, which, he said, exceeded all expectations. "I can't remember the last time I was at a community event where so many families were doing things together… it was a real feel-good day," he said.

The activities began a few days earlier when a group of Grade 6 students from Charles H. Hulse Public School and Hillel Academy Hebrew Day School joined forces to sew traditional challah covers. The covers were included in Sabbath kits to be distributed by Shalom Bayit, a Jewish Family Services program that helps women in abusive relationships find safety.

The activities on Mitzvah Day itself began with a free kickoff breakfast at the JCC, where participants were provided with maps of the JCC building indicating the various mitzvah stations they could choose.

At Mitzvah Day "home base," there was information about Canadian Blood Services and a bone marrow donor registry, as well as a place to donate to the kosher and other food banks, and an opportunity to pick a "leaf" from a "Mitzvah Bush" to provide someone with a much-needed item.

Celebrities were on hand in the event's Painting Palace to paint ceramic tiles that will be part of a permanent wall display along a corridor between Hillel Lodge, a long-term care facility for seniors, and the JCC.

CBC Radio afternoon show host Adrian Harewood spent most of the morning painting both a tile and a spice holder.

"I think it's a great community event and it allows people who might not normally meet to have an opportunity to meet and exchange," he said.

By coincidence, one of the young people painting with him, Noa Nussbaum, had been interviewed by him recently when she was in a Remembrance Day play at her school.

She and her sisters enjoyed painting and getting to know Harewood in person.

Team Radio host "Stuntman Stu" – aka Stuart Adam Schwartz – came to Mitzvah Day with his son, Matteo. "It's an honour to be a part of it," he said. "Otherwise, I would have had Jewish guilt! I was brought up on this, so it's natural to pass it along."

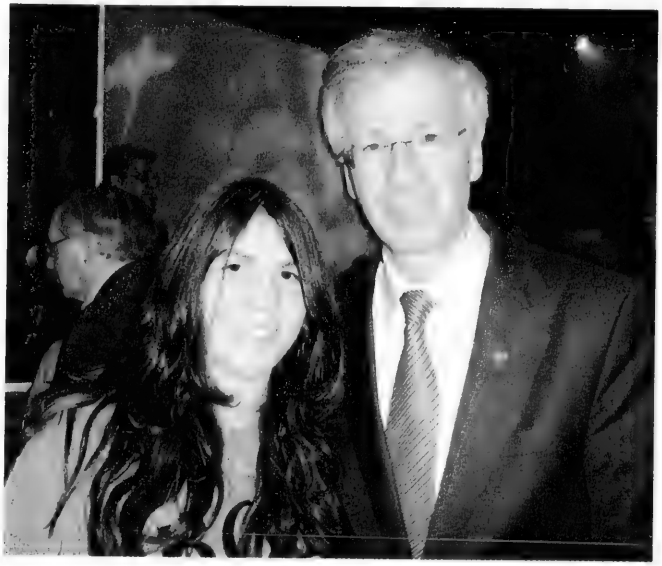
Volunteers, including groups from Beth Shalom Synagogue and Temple Israel, packed lunch kits with non-perishable food to distribute to the homeless.

Zelikovitz said he thinks the event could be a model for a much larger one that extends beyond the Jewish community. "I can see 15,000 people across the city getting together," he said.

VOLUNTEERS HONOURED: Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Mike Colle, standing at left, offered his thanks and appreciation to Ontario's volunteers and volunteer organizations at Baycrest to mark Ontario's Dec. 5 observance of International Volunteer Day. Colle is seen here chatting with Baycrest volunteer Gail Kaufman while residents Helene Kaufman and Morris Reiss enjoy their morning activity in Baycrest's creative arts studio.

Coast to Coast

Take me to your leader



Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School Grade 7 student Sally Rosenwhite, pictured with new federal Liberal leader Stéphane Dion, learned first hand how unpredictable and surprising government can be when she attended the recent Liberal leadership convention in Montreal.

Chanukah lesson

The junior kindergarten class at Bialik Hebrew Day School built a scale model of the Temple from the days of the Maccabees. They looked at photos depicting the Temple and replicated it with supplies they had in their classroom. Standing proudly by the Temple are, from left, Shael Garay, Maya Langburt, Coby Tanentzap, Abby Shore and Emily Lackie.

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

Happy 90th birthday Fay Glazier, our precious wife, mother and bubbie. Love from Jack, Marvin, Suzanne, Bryna, Ruthie, Buster, Aaron, Zach, Mitch, Matt and Chip.

Mazel tov to Harold & Helen Shneer on your 50th wedding anniversary. With much love and admiration, your children and grandchildren.

Mazel tov on the engagement of Lisa, daughter of Sharon & Ivor Schneider, and Guy, son of Misha & Suzanna Kramer. Grandparents Sunny & Anne Schatz.

Mazel tov to Ezzie Stavsky on his second birthday.

A sister for Emma, Samantha Riley. Thrilled parents Racquel & Rory. Grandparents Rami & Jaime Benayon, Roslyn & Larry Berman, Abuella Lucy and Bubbie Shirley.

Mazel tov on the marriage of Shari Rothman & Hartley Starkman. Parents, Vickie & Steven Rothman, Barbara Finkelstein & Andrew Starkman. Grandparents are delighted.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, Dec. 18, is the deadline for the Jan. 4 issue and Wednesday, Dec. 20, is the deadline for the Jan. 11 issue. NOTE: There is no issue Dec. 28; the Dec. 21 issue cover Dec. 21 to Jan. 3. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Dec. 14

THE LATKES ARE COMING!

Dance all night to the sounds of great music and enjoy great shmooze and sizzling latkes at the Minsker family Chanukah party. 5:30 p.m. at 10 St. Andrew St. For information, call 416-595-5723 or e-mail reachus@theminsk.com.

CHANUKAH CONCERT

Join Beth Tikvah for a free Chanukah concert featuring **Cantor Tibor Kovari**, choir conductor **Eyal Bitton**, the Beth Tikvah Choir and young talents, **Coral** and **Ori Solomon** and **Samantha Cooper**. 8 p.m. 416-221-3434

LECTURE: MODERN POETS

The Canadian Institute For Mediterranean Studies presents **Elias Polizoes**, of the University of Western Ontario, on "Selected Modern Poets and the Mediterranean" 5:30-6:30 p.m. St. Michael's College, 100 St. Joseph St. Room 403. Free.

FILM: *NEVER AGAIN*

Beit Rayim screens *Never Again*, an examination of the resurgence of anti-Semitism and terrorism. 7-9 p.m. at Rosemount Community Centre, 1000 New Westminster Dr. $10, students $5. Reserve at 905-770-7639, ext. 31, or admin@beitrayim.org.

Saturday, Dec. 16

PARSHAH DISCUSSION

Lionel Sharp will talk about the weekly portion, Vayeshev, 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

CHANUKAH PARTY

Join Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Club of Ontario for a vegetarian potluck Chanukah party with dreidels, latkes and candlelighting. 7 p.m. For details, see www.mosaictoronto.org.

CHANUKAH: FIRE ON ICE

Chabad Lubavitch of Markham presents Chanukah: Fire on Ice at the Clatworthy Arena with skating for the whole family, Yehuda Macabee on ice, Chanukah ice capades, menorah-lighting ceremony and refreshments. 6-8 p.m. $5 per person, $20 per family. 905-886-0420, ext. 221

BEACH CHANUKAH PARTY

The Beach Synagogue annual Chanukah celebration begins with candlelighting of a large menorah in Kew Beach Park at 6:30 p.m., followed by families lighting their menorahs at the synagogue at 7 p.m. and a Latke Fest at 7:30 p.m. 109 Kenilworth Ave. 416-694-7942

CHANUKAH-PALOOZA

Winchevsky Centre sponsors Chanukah-Palooza, an all-ages talent fest. This cabaret-style evening includes a holiday singalong led by **Peter Kastner** and **Isaac Bashevis Singer**'s Chanukah stories. 8 p.m. $15 at the door, includes latkes and doughnuts. 416-789-5502, or visit www.winchevskycentre.org.

Sunday, Dec. 17

YISHUV OF JERUSALEM

Torah in Motion and Netivot HaTorah Day School present **Paul Shaviv**, director of education at Tannenbaum CHAT, speaking about "The Old Yishuv of Jerusalem and The Origins of Neturei Karta." 9:30-11 a.m. at 18 Atkinson Ave. $5. www.torahinmotion.org or 416-633-5770

THE GREAT DEBATE

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents "The Great Debate: The Latke Versus the Hamantaschen" with **Edward L. Greenspan** debating **Seymour Epstein**, director of the

Continued on page 33

Thank you!

The fourth annual Unicorn Dream Dinner was a huge success and we would like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters for making it possible.

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Join us for the fifth annual **Unicorn Dream Dinner** on Wednesday, **May 2nd, 2007**

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Announcement

The Partners are pleased to announce the admission to Partnership of:

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Terence Chan, MBA, CPA (IL), CA

Congratulations to Kevyn and Terence and to their Families.

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What's New

Continued from page 32

Board of Jewish Education and moderator **Judge Kathryn Feldman**. 10 a.m. 416-781-3511

CHANUKAH PARTY

The Winchevsky Centre hosts a community Chanukah party with holiday arts and crafts workshop led by artist **Aviva Yerushalmi**, Morris Winchevsky School student presentations, holiday music and stories, dreidel games and prizes, latkes, doughnuts and Chanukah gelt. 11 a.m. at 585 Cranbrooke Ave. $8. 416-789-5502 or www.winchevskycentre.org

Monday, Dec. 18

DINNER OF MIRACLES

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem hosts Dinner of Miracles," an evening for young adults and Holocaust survivors. 6:30 p.m. at Beth Emeth Synagogue. $30. To reserve, call **Laura**, 416-785-1333, or laurad@yadvashem.ca.

CHANUKAH FUN & SONG

Beth Emeth Synagogue celebrates Chanukah at a get-together with guest speaker **Sid Rochwerg** of Yids on Wheels, candlelighting and songs led by cantor **Aaron Bensoussan** and the Beth Emeth Youth Singers. 7:30 p.m. Members free, non-members $5. Reserve by noon Dec. 15, 416-633-3838.

WHO IS ELIJAH?

Rabbi Cory Weiss concludes Elijah: Jewish Man of Mystery, an opportunity to study the Elijah stories in the Bible, rabbinic traditions about Elijah, and modern Elijah stories. 8:15 p.m. at Temple Har Zion. 906-889-2252, ext. 5

Tuesday, Dec. 19

FREE FILM IN BARRIE

Am Shalom Congregation of Barrie continues its free film series with *Sister Kay*, a candid documentary about a woman's quest to transform the Catholic Church's attitude toward Judaism. 7 p.m. 767 Huronia Rd. For information, call 705-792-3949 or visit www.amshalom.ca.

JEWISH FEMALE ARTISTS

Beth Tzedec Sisterhood hosts its Chanukah celebration with a talk on "Jewish Female Artists" by **Rachel Levin**, docent at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinberg, Ont. 7:30 p.m. Admission by donation of a non-perishable item for the Kosher Food Bank. 416-781-3511

Other News

CHANUKAH POTLUCKS

Join a potluck dinner Friday, Dec. 15, celebrating Shabbat and Chanukah, and a Saturday, Dec. 16, potluck, celebrating Chanukah, with havdalah service. In Barrie. For information, call **Debbie**, 705-321-7700.

LEARN HEBREW

Temple Har Zion is offering beginner and intermediate Hebrew classes, nine Thursdays beginning Jan. 4 or 11. Register by Friday, Dec. 15. Call 905-889-2252, ext. 5.

Keren Hatarbut Institute offers Hebrew-language classes for adults, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. Classes are taught on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of Jan. 4. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. For registration, call **Joseph Klinger** at 416-787-0197.

The Canadian Zionist Federation offers Hebrew-language studies with **Gila Leaman**. Meet once a week for 10 weeks or join the 45-minute lunch and learn program. To register, contact 416-633-3988 or email czf@jazo.org.il.

ISRAEL 101

There are a few spaces left for Kolel's First-timers Tour to Israel, set to travel Jan. 21-31. For information and pricing, call 416-636-1880, ext. 472.

TOT PROGRAM

Adath Israel Congregation offers a tot program, A Special Time for Yeladim. Register for winter 2007 now. Visit www.adathisrael.com and click on "tots" for more information or call 416-635-5340.

SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Registration for the next Temple Emanu-El Monday lecture series, 2-4 p.m., is now open. April 23, "Our Environment and Our Health" with **Ruth Grier**, former minister of health; April 30, "What Makes a Play Great" with **Robert Fothergill**, department of theatre, York U.; May 7, "What Makes the Romantic Composers So Romantic" with **David Miller**, lecturer, George Brown College; May 14, "**Linwood Barclay** on Writing Columns and Writing Books: It Sure Beats Working" with Barclay, a *Toronto Star* columnist and author. $30. For registration and information, call 416-449-3880.

FOSTER PARENTS WANTED

Jewish Family and Child Services needs new homes for Jewish children who requires foster care. For information, contact **Linda Shapiro** at 416-932-9888 or lindashapiro@rogers.com.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse in the Jewish community is often considered a taboo subject, but it does exist and we all have a responsibility to learn more about it. Trained speakers are available for your group at no charge. Call Jewish Women International, 416-630-9313.

FOR SENIORS

Chai Shalom with the Beth David Seniors, Club Charvarut present a Chanukah dinner and entertainment with pianist Michael Khinkis & Co. Saturday, Dec.16, at 6:30 p.m. $25, non-members $30. Purchase tickets in advance only at 416-633-3838.

The Association of Jewish Seniors hosts its annual Chanukah Party Luncheon with **Yitzchak Argaman**, Thursday, Dec. 21, 11:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $15, non-members $20. Reserve by Dec. 14. Call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Saturday Dance, Dec. 30; Casino Rama, Jan. 17; Intermediate Conversational Hebrew Class, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; Mah-jong, Mondays 12:30-3:30 p.m. and Tuesdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Bridge, Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m. Scrabble players wanted. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m., Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem**, 905-731-7748.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Chanukah celebration, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 3:45-4:45 p.m. $5, guests $8.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Meeting Today's Challenges to Jewish Survival," a lecture with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, Tuesday, Dec. 19, 10-11:30 a.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

Chanukah luncheon, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 12-2:30 p.m. Members $10, non-members $15.

Need a break from care-giving for a loved one? Call **Sharon**, respite co-ordinator, ext. 118, for details.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Artists' choice exhibition of works by students at Koffler Centre on display through Tuesday, Dec. 21.

The Koffler School of Music presents **David Broza**, Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, call ext. 228.

The Koffler Centre of the Arts, School of Visual Arts winter registration continues with classes offered in a variety of areas, including, ceramics, stone sculpture and painting. Contact **Sari Sadofsky** at 416-636-1880, ext. 269.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org

Family Chanukah celebration, Sunday, Dec. 17, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Family Child Centre. Enjoy latkas, chanukiyah building, dreidels and holiday card creating. $5 per family.

"Jewish Meditation: Connecting the Practice of Meditation to our Tradition," Sundays through Dec. 24, 4:30-5:30 p.m. $15/session.

TREASURES AND HEIRLOOMS: Beth Sholom Hebrew School students, from left, Kailee, Russell and Nicole Kaufman hold their family's Shabbat candlesticks at a family education program about Jewish treasures and heirlooms. [Karen L. Goodis photo]

SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Rita Tobias	Nov 24/06	3705 Bathurst St
Wolfe Goodman	Nov 24/06	111 Avenue Rd
Morris Friedman	Nov 25/06	17 Lilywood Rd
Joe Heller	Nov 26/06	3705 Bathurst St
Daniel Siegel	Nov 26/06	290 Hillhurst Blvd
Kenny Freedman	Nov 27/06	44 Mintwood Dr
Honey Plant	Nov 27/06	7300 Yonge St
Diane Miller	Nov 28/06	621 Vesta Dr
Brett Salter	Nov 30/06	1 Palace Pier Crt
Allan Feldman	Nov 30/06	473 Wilson Ave
Nicky Korman	Dec 1/06	3560 Bathurst St
Moishe Tanzer	Dec 2/06	3560 Bathurst St
Jules Hoffman	Dec 3/06	605 Finch AveW

HEBREW BASIC

Sam Newman	Nov 29/06	1 Northwestern Ave

The family of the late

ELI GOLDBERG ז"ל

would like to extend our deepest appreciation to our family and friends for their support during our recent loss. Your cards, donations and shiva meals sent in Eli's memory have been a source of comfort to us.

Pauline Goldberg & family, Pola Oczlak, Bluma Kaufberg, Aron Goldberg & family, Chaya Aschiak & family

The Family of

NETTIE BERLE ז"ל

wish to acknowledge with gratitude, the kind expressions of sympathy received from our relatives and friends on the passing of our dearly beloved Nettie.

Bill Berle & family
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Israel is still strong, says Barak

By KATHARINE HAMER
Jewish Independent

VANCOUVER — Although it recently faced one of the more challenging times in its short history, Israel has lost none of its staying power, one of its former prime ministers says.

If anything, said Ehud Barak, who led the country from 1999 to 2001, there's "a ray of light, even with the bad news. It is the vibrancy of our society and the resilience of our economy."

He said part of the reason that Israel remains unbowed is "our real secret weapon… the solidarity with Jews within the mishpachah [family] all around the world."

Barak was speaking Dec. 3 to a capacity crowd at Congregation Schara Tzedeck, at a fundraiser organized by Hillel Vancouver. In his wide-ranging speech, he reflected on how Israel might have better handled this summer's conflict with Hamas and Hezbollah, and he expounded upon Middle Eastern affairs and expressed his deep fondness for Hillel, an organization he first joined more than 30 years ago while a graduate student at Stanford University.

That school's Hillel House, he said, took care of his wife and infant daughter when he returned to Israel to fight in the Yom Kippur War. He encouraged the audience to contribute to Hillel Vancouver's capital campaign to raise more than $5 million to build new facilities at the University of British Columbia.

Some two dozen protesters from the Canada Palestine Association, the Palestine Community Centre and Jews for a Just Peace stood outside Schara Tzedeck, holding candles and placards calling Barak a war criminal. Hillel students waving Israeli flags also gathered outside the synagogue.

"If Mr. Barak and others had lived up to the stipulations of the Oslo agreements, we would be in a very different place than we are today," said Stephen Aberle of Jews for a Just Peace.

"During the Oslo peace process… settlement construction in the occupied territories was supposed to end and withdrawal from various autonomous Palestinian areas was supposed to be accomplished, and instead we saw an acceleration of settlement construction, and we also saw devastating military incursions against the Palestinian population … [and] targeted killings of Palestinians, along with whom innocent civilians who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time were killed.

"I count all of those as war crimes, and [Barak] was in charge."

In remarks to reporters, Barak strongly refuted the protesters' war crimes allegations.

"I respect their right to protest," he said, "and we [are better off] living in places where people can protest against visiting speakers… Maybe these guys are not aware of it, but at Camp David 6½ years ago, I put together, with [then-U.S. president Bill] Clinton, for the first time in the history of the conflict, an offer on the table, by which in exchange for an end to the conflict and certain considerations for Israeli security and our affiliation to our birthplace, the Palestinians could get a Palestinian, independent state, contiguous over 100 per cent of the Gaza Strip and 90-plus per cent of the West Bank – with right of return into the Palestinian state, of course, not into Israel – and even certain Arab, heavily populated neighbourhoods in eastern Jerusalem as part of their Palestinian capital.

"And [then-Palestinian Authority president Yasser] Arafat, on behalf of the Palestinian people, was unready to accept this offer, even as a basis for negotiations and deliberately and consciously turned to terror. That's why whenever anyone – an Arab leader, spokesman or protester – tells me it's all about occupation, occupation, occupation, I tell them, no, it's about terror."

He continued: "If it were about occupation, we could have already put it behind us years ago and could be well into the implementation of a peace agreement. Unfortunately, what I've found is that Mr. Arafat was not about correcting '67… but '47 and the very establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. I can tell you very bluntly: we will never, ever, yield to terror, period. Yielding to terrorists is like feeding crocodiles: they just want more."

In his speech, Barak, a former chief of staff, criticized how the Israeli government handled this past summer's military campaign.

He said the Israel Defence Forces is still one of the world's best fighting forces, "but like any other force, it should be prepared.

He added: "After five years of policing the West Bank and Gaza, an army should have a certain period, probably several days or several weeks… before it jumps into such a war… But once we decide to go to war – and no war in our history was more justifiable than this one – we have to make sure that it will be decided in an unquestionable way – immediately, with minimal suffering to the home front and in a way that we cause the other side to lose its appetite for wars for years to come. Somehow, we did not come to grips with these basic principles during this last campaign."

Speaking to reporters, Barak also defended his decision to withdraw Israeli forces from southern Lebanon in 2000, following 18 years of occupation, saying the decision helped Israel fight Hezbollah this past summer.

He said he would do the same thing today.

"It is only because I ordered the pullout from Lebanon to the last square inch [that] Israel could have fought [Hezbollah], responded in this way, and occupied the moral high ground in the world, and [received] the support of the UN Security Council and the G-8 or even the support of certain Arabs," he said.

"What [has] happen[ed] since [the withdrawal] only convinced me even stronger that we had to pull out. In fact, we put an end to a tragedy that was there for 18 years and cost the life of thousands of Israelis, many Lebanese, with no real profound reason, because this security zone that we had for the last 15 years could never block Katyushas from coming to Israel," he added.

Katharine Hamer is editor of the Jewish Independent *in Vancouver.*

Edmonton man fined for Internet hate

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

An Edmonton man has been fined $5,000 for operating a website that promoted hatred and contempt of Jews, homosexuals and native people.

In a decision released last week, the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) ordered Glenn Bahr and the website he controlled, Western Canada For Us (WCFU), to stop using the Internet to communicate material that exposes identifiable groups to hate. It ordered the WCFU to pay $5,000 as well.

"Mr. Bahr repeatedly communicated or caused to be communicated messages regarding Jewish people, homosexuals, the mentally disabled, blacks and other non-whites that were vicious and extreme in their characterization. The materials communicated expressed hatred and contempt," the judgement stated.

"Some of the material considered in these reasons advocates for the extermination of Jewish people, homosexuals and persons suffering mental disabilities. This weighs heavily in favour of the assessment of a significant penalty."

The ruling by CHRC member Julie Lloyd came in response to a complaint by Ottawa lawyer Richard Warman, who has launched several other actions against Internet sites and their operators. Warman alleged that in 2004, Bahr and WCFU communicated hate messages through the WCFU website and by making available for download several white supremacist tracts, including *The International Jew* by Henry Ford and *The Turner Diaries*.

The commission accepted evidence that postings to the website under the pseudonym SS-88 – which referred to the Nazi security service and the phrase Heil Hitler – originated with Bahr. It rejected the contention by his representative, former school teacher Paul Fromm, that an unknown person hacked the website and posted the material in question.

Bahr is also facing Criminal Code charges for promoting hatred of an identifiable group.

On Campus

YU rep was six before learning he was Jewish

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

When Mo Lidksy was barely a teenager, he had no idea that years later he would be a graduate of Yeshiva University in New York and national director of Canadian Friends of Yeshiva University.

In fact, Lidsky didn't even know he was Jewish until he was six years old.

But today, the Ukrainian-born 23-year-old is very aware of what it means to be a Jew, and he wants other youths to have the same opportunity to connect with their faith the way he did.

In his new position, Lidsky, who moved to Toronto to be with his wife, hopes to start such programs as a series of shiurim led by YU scholars at participating shuls; a young leaders cabinet, which would help young professionals become community leaders; and a beit midrash where modern Orthodox Jews can learn together.

Lidsky's resume as a community leader is impressive. As a high school senior, he was president of the National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY) and travelled around the United States promoting the organization.

In his second year of university, he and a friend started a non-profit organization called The Helping Jew, whose annual revenues of more than $500,000, go to helping send kids from the former Soviet Union to Hebrew day school.

Despite Lidsky's experience working in the Jewish community, when the vice-president of YU called him a day before he was set to move to Toronto to offer him his new position, he was reluctant to take it. "I never expected to actually work for the community. I thought it would be something that I do in my free time. It's something I have always done, but never did I expect to collect a paycheque from it," he said.

But the most interesting thing about his appointment is not his young age, but the fact that only 10 years ago, the only connection he had to Judaism was that he resented his Jewish roots.

Mo Lidsky

Until he was 10 years old, Lidsky and his family lived in Ukraine, before moving to Austria, then to Italy, and then finally settling in Cleveland, Ohio.

It wasn't until his first day of school in Ukraine that he heard of "Jewish." Lidsky recalled coming into class and looking for his "mini-passport," a card for each student that included information such as name, address and birthday.

"At the bottom of all the cards, it had your nationality. Everyone else's card said 'Russian,' and I was the only kid in the class that said 'Jewish,'" he said. "I had never heard about Jewish before. I thought, 'What the heck does this mean?'"

When he came home, he confronted his mother about being Jewish, but she didn't want to discuss it.

"My mother, for the life of her, tried to hide my Judaism from me as a security precaution. She didn't want me to flaunt it," Lidsky said, adding that while anti-Semitism in Ukraine wasn't overt, it was part of society.

It wasn't until he was invited to a Christmas party by Christian missionaries in Italy that his mother explained to him that he was Jewish and couldn't celebrate holidays such as Christmas.

Although disappointed, he didn't give it another thought until his family arrived in Cleveland and his mother wanted to enrol him in a Jewish Sunday school.

Its principal had an unofficial policy that if an immigrant kid came from the former Soviet Union and got circumcised, that year's tuition would be free.

"I was a Russian kid who had never heard of circumcision," Lidsky, said adding that in Ukraine, no one, non-Jews and Jews alike, got circumcised. "To me, it was like clipping off your nose. It was the most foreign concept. I fought her to the death."

But his mother insisted, and Lidsky agreed to get circumcised as long as his father and little brother did, too.

Lidsky underwent an even bigger transformation while in Grade 9 at an inner city high school in Cleveland.

"For some odd reason or another, it always bothered me that so many of my friends would walk around proudly wearing massive crosses… I just thought they were so proud of who they were and I had nothing to show for who I was."

After trying unsuccessfully to find a place to buy a Magen David to wear around his neck, he found a colourful kippah lying around the house.

"I don't know why in the world I put it on. It was nothing religious, I just wanted to show that I was proud."

At first, he said, everyone at school accepted it, but within weeks, people started avoiding him. He was no longer invited to parties, his Catholic girlfriend broke up with him, he lost touch with friends, and he started getting into fights.

One day, mail arrived from the local Jewish federation about an anti-Semitism-themed essay contest. He entered and was one of 25 people who won $2,500 to take part in a summer program in Israel. It would change his life forever.

The NCSY program Jerusalem Journey taught him the significance of Jewish practices such as Shabbat and kashrut, and while in Israel, Lidsky happened to meet YU's dean, who told him about the school. When his Israel trip ended, Lidsky decided to move to New York and attend Yeshiva University High School for Boys.

At 14, he hopped on a Greyhound bus to New York and cabbed to the high school a week before the start of classes – without having applied, without having been accepted, without money for tuition, and without a place to go.

Nonetheless, the school "welcomed me with open arms," he said, adding that scholarships allowed him to graduate three years later.

Lidsky ultimately decided that his new position would be the best way to give back to a school that helped give his life meaning.

"If I can get the university connected more with the community, whether through outreach, or continuing education for professionals, or to develop community leaders, if I could just do that… there is nothing better I can do."

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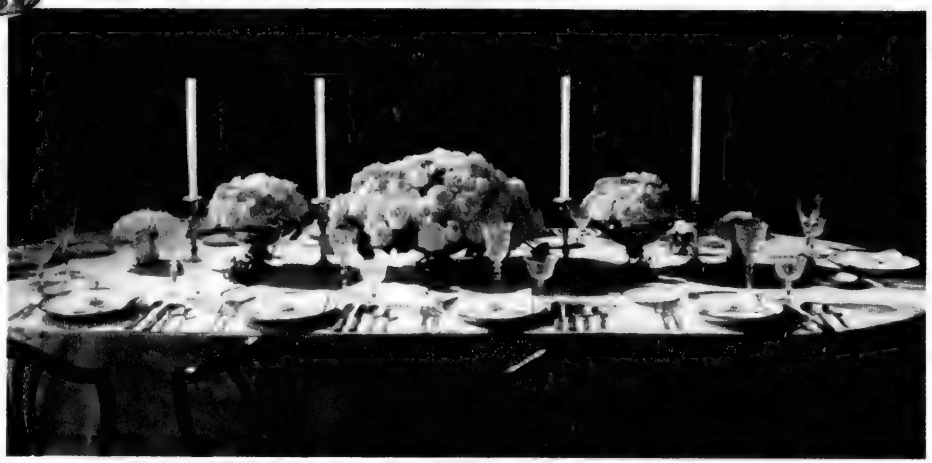
Chanukah Food Ideas

Latkes don't have to start with potatoes

By JUDY BART KANCIGOR
Special to The CJN

I'm bored. Maybe it's the 30-year itch, but I've been making the same Chanukah potato latkes for decades. (Not that there's anything wrong with them. Several years ago, in reviewing my cookbook *Melting Pot Memories*, Food Editor Cathy Thomas of the *Orange County Register* called them "crispy-brown snowflakes" and "lacy, almost-crunchy wonders" – but I don't like to brag.) Now I'm itching for something new.



A formal setting as seen in *kosher by design Entertains* by Susie Fishbein, Mesorah Publications Ltd.

Like the song about love, I seem to be lookin' for latkes in all the wrong places, because lately, daring latke diversions have been popping up where I least expect them, and I'm like Alice in Latke-land. They all seem to say, "Fry me!" Others respond, "No, me!"

For Chanukah, it's all about the oil. When Judah Maccabee and his tiny army defeated the Syrian-Greeks, they found only a tiny flask of oil with which to purify the desecrated Temple. Miraculously, it burned for eight days, setting off a frying frenzy that has lasted for centuries.

But who says traditional potato latkes are the only fritter fit to fry? My latkes this year come from unusual sources. (No Jewish cookbooks were injured in the writing of this story.)

Latkes from a novel? In Sharon Boorstin's irresistible romp, *Cookin' For Love* (chick-lit for the 49-year-old-plus set – with recipes, of course), Miriam, a married Jewish cookbook author, fantasizes about food while her divorced friend, Kate, fantasizes about an old flame. When Kate Googles her former lover (married yet!) and he invites her for a rendezvous in Muslim Malaysia, she begs Miriam to come along.

Miriam's thoughts seldom stray from food – a bikini wax reminds her of Grandma Estelle plucking a chicken – and when she awakens from a dream about Grandma's latkes to find her cleaver-toting captor frying curried onions, it's an "aha" moment of the kitchen kind. Cashews! Ginger! This is a latke with pizzazz!

Next, Chanukah shopping for my grandchildren, I stumble on Joanne Rocklin's *The Very Best Hanukkah Gift*, chosen by the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee of the Association of Jewish Libraries as one of the best Chanukah books of the past few years. (Go to www.jewishlibraries.org to see the whole list of 27.)

In the story, eight-year-old Daniel, an awkward middle child, eagerly awaits Chanukah – eight nights of candlelighting, games and gifts, not to mention the wonderful food. But while Daniel revels in the story of the brave Maccabees, he has to face his own dog phobia before his sister's dream of a puppy for Chanukah can come true. To top it off, his mom is making green latkes! Gross! Daniel faces both challenges, and I've got another recipe. Made with zucchini – the holiday is not about the potato, but the oil, remember – these latkes are called "Miracle Latkes," as they use hardly any oil at all. Healthy and delicious, and I don't have to wear them. Now, that's a miracle!

And speaking of healthy, when I'm hankering for a low-fat dish with panache, the Moosewood Collective never lets me down. These 19 folks who own and operate the legendary Moosewood Restaurant in Ithaca, N.Y., helped put vegetarian dining and organic foods on the culinary map. So this mecca of healthy, natural food would hardly be the first place I'd look for latkes to fry. But, wait. Potatoes are vegetarian, and this lemon-scented sweet potato pancake makes a fine – excuse me? Dessert? Another surprise, but why not? A sweet ending to a sweet celebration.

Judy Bart Kancigor is the author of Cooking Jewish (Workman, 2007) *www.cookingjewish.com.*

MIRIAM'S MALAYSIAN LATKES

Adapted from *Cooking For Love* by Sharon Boorstin (iUniverse)

½ cup chopped cashews or peanuts
¼ cup chopped mint or flat-leaf parsley or a combination
¼ finely chopped sweet red pepper
2 tbsp. finely chopped jalapeno pepper (veins and seeds removed)
2 tsp. freshly grated ginger
1½ to 2 tsp. salt, or to taste (see note)
1 tsp. curry powder
2 large eggs
2 large baking potatoes, peeled and cut into wedges
1 medium onion, coarsely chopped
¼ cup all-purpose flour
vegetable oil for frying

Combine the nuts, mint, peppers, ginger, salt, curry powder and eggs in a large bowl. In a food processor with the shredding disk attached, shred the potatoes and onions together and drain well in several changes of ink-free paper towels. Squeeze to release as much liquid as possible. Add the potatoes and onions to the egg mixture and combine well. Stir in the flour.

Continued on page 38

A lavish setting as seen in *kosher by design Entertains* by Susie Fishbein, Mesorah Publications Ltd.

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Think beyond the potato

Continued from page 36

In a large, heavy skillet, heat enough oil to cover the bottom of the pan on medium-high heat. When the oil is quite hot but not smoking, add a scant 1/4 cup of batter per latke and flatten with a fork.

Fry only as many patties as will fit without crowding. Cook on one side until crisp and brown, about 2-3 minutes. Turn over and repeat. Remove the patties to paper towels to absorb excess oil. Serve with yogurt mixed with chopped cucumbers and salt and cumin seeds to taste. Makes 16 latkes.

Note: To taste the potato mixture (or any mixture containing raw eggs), microwave a teaspoon or two until cooked through, 10 seconds or so, depending on size and strength of the microwave.

MIRACLE ZUCCHINI LATKES

From *The Very Best Chanukah Gift* by Joanne Rocklin (Delacorte Press)

2 tbsp. vegetable oil
5 medium zucchini, unpeeled
3 green onions, white and green parts, thinly sliced
2 large eggs
2/3 to 1 cup seasoned bread crumbs
1 1/2 tsp. salt, or to taste
1/4 tsp. pepper, or to taste

Preheat the oven to 425. Coat 2 cookie sheets with 1 tbsp. of oil each. Spread with a spatula. Spray with vegetable cooking spray.

Clean the zucchini well. Grate them by hand or in batches in the food processor. Drain on several changes of ink-free paper towels for 30 minutes.

Place the grated zucchini in a bowl and mix with green onions, eggs, 2/3 cup of the bread crumbs, salt and pepper. Use your hands to form a "dough" that can stick together, adding up to 1/3 cup more bread crumbs, if necessary.

Using a soup spoon, mound the zucchini mixture on the cookie sheets into 10 equal portions. Press down with a fork to form thin pancakes. Bake until brown on the bottom, about 12 minutes. Turn the pancakes over and bake until brown on the other side, 5-8 minutes more. Makes 20 latkes.

SWEET POTATO PANCAKES WITH LEMON-MAPLE SYRUP AND WHIPPED CREAM

From *Moosewood Restaurant New Classics* by Moosewood Collective (Clarkson Potter)

1 cup peeled and finely grated raw sweet potatoes
1/4 to 1/2 tsp. freshly grated lemon peel
1 large egg
1 cup milk
2 tbsp. oil or melted butter
1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
2 tbsp. sugar
1/2 cup pure maple syrup
2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
freshly whipped cream

In a bowl or large measuring cup, combine sweet potatoes, lemon peel, egg, milk and oil. In a separate bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Gently stir the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients just to combine. Do not beat or overstir. Set aside to rest for 5-10 minutes.

Warm a lightly oiled skillet, griddle, or nonstick frying pan on medium-high heat. When a drop of water bounces and sizzles on the skillet and before the oil smokes, pour a scant 1/4 cup batter to form round pancakes. When pancakes are evenly dotted with bubbles and about half the bubbles have broken, about 2 minutes, flip pancakes with a spatula. Cook the second side until lightly browned, about 1 minute. Repeat until all the batter is used.

Serve right away or keep warm in a 250-degree oven. If you plan to serve at room temperature or reheat later, cook the pancakes in a single layer on a flat surface and then stack for storage. If storing for more than a few hours, refrigerate.

Combine maple syrup and lemon juice in a small bowl. Serve pancakes at room temperature drizzled with lemon-maple syrup and top with whipped cream. Serves 4.

Mango Smoothies as seen in *kosher by design Entertains* by Susie Fishbein, Mesorah Publications Ltd.

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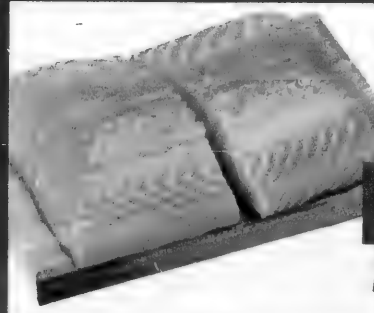

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Sibling property rights after marriage

Family Matters
by
John Syrtash
B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Partner, Beard Winter LLP

Question. My sister is going to marry next month. She and her husband and my sister will be living in the property which is jointly owned by my sister and I and I will be moving out. I paid over half of the value of the house when we purchased it and now I am paying the property taxes and utilities while my sister is paying the mortgage for the rest of the value. My question is: will her husband be entitled to have any interest in the property in case they are separated?

Answer: In the event of separation of your sister and her new husband, your sister's share in this home would be considered a "matrimonial home" under Ontario's Family Law Act. What this means is that one-half of its entire equity, including one-half of its pre-marital value, would be included when calculating her net worth or "net family property" as of the date of separation. Her net worth is compared to her husband's in the event of separation or if one them dies and the richer of the two must pay the poorer an "equalization payment" to "equalize" their respective net worth positions.

To give a simple example, if the only asset owned by your sister is her half-interest in a home worth $400,000 and her half-interest on the date of separation was $200,000 and her husband had no assets, then she would have to pay him $100,000 in the absence of a marriage contract (or pre-nuptial agreement). However, your one-half ownership of the home stays completely unaffected.

Question: If my sister and her husband want to prepare a pre-nuptial agreement, do they have to do it by lawyers or can that be done by witnesses?

Answer: You always need two witnesses. They can do so without lawyers but then again you can also do surgery on yourself without doctors and I don't advise that either. Use competent legal counsel. These agreements require knowledge of the law and certain skills on how to draft an enforceable agreement. Don't fool yourself. . . . .

Question: If there's no pre-nuptial agreement, do investments and RRSPs etc. before marriage have to be shared if the couple separates?

Answer: Except for a home where both parties still reside on the date of separation, the values of pre-marital assets do not form part of a spouse's net family property. In that sense pre-marital assets are not shared. However, any increase in the values of pre-marital assets after marriage are included, unless specifically excluded by a marriage contract.

On behalf of my family, and all of us at Beard Winter, I wish you and your family a happy and healthy Chanukah.

*John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of **Beard Winter LLP**. Neither Beard Winter LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at 416-306-1733, or e-mailed at jsyrtash@beardwinter.com. You can also visit www.beardwinter.com and www.spousalsupport.com.*

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A time to eat greasy foods – without guilt

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

We celebrate Chanukah, the festival of light, to commemorate the tiny jar of oil that miraculously lasted for eight days in the holy Temple liberated by Judah and his Maccabees.

This holiday is a particularly delicious celebration because we get to eat greasy foods, which, according to tradition, symbolize the tiny jar of oil.

We therefore feel no guilt when we consume – it's almost a religious obligation, we tell ourselves – latkes and jelly doughnuts. Chanukah is licence to gobble up foods virtually devoid of nutritional value. We throw out the calorie-counters and forget about fat, carbs and cholesterol for eight glorious days.

We even add fat to fat. We smother our latkes in sour cream and savour each hypercaloric mouthful. Forget about "fat-free" or "low-fat." In some circles, even using calorie-reduced sour cream is considered sacrilegious.

On this holiday, the peasant of all foods, the lowly potato is elevated to the rank of main course. Jelly doughnuts, or sufganiyot, also have a place of honour at the Chanukah table, but the latke is the undisputed king of the festive meal.

And well it should be when one considers the amount of work it takes to turn potatoes into full-fledged home-made latkes. Even with food processors, it's a huge *patchke*. And the smell of the onions and potatoes lingers for days.

I don't know how our grandmothers managed to grate all those onions and potatoes by hand. It was a true labour of love.

More than any other food, the latke in all its greasy glory connects us to our shtetl roots. In our peasant past, the potato in all its guises – knishes, vereinikas, and kugel, to name a few traditional dishes from the Ashkenzi culinary lexicon – was often the main course. Other kinds of foods were not easily affordable.

By making latkes, we pay homage to the creative cookery and culinary devotion of our grandmothers and great-grandmothers and their mothers before them.

And while latkes are the crown jewel of the Ashkenazi Chanukah feast, the holiday is often an opportunity for adventurous cooks to prepare other greasy dishes from recipes clipped from magazines or marked in cookbooks – recipes too fattening to consider serving at any other time.

The following recipes from Susan Mendelson's latest cookbook, *Mama Now Cooks Like This* (Whitecap, 2006), are rich in taste and have enough calories to complement any Chanukah spread.

WILD MUSHROOM RISOTTO BALLS

3 cups vegetable broth
2 tbs. olive oil
½ cup finely chopped onions
1 cup assorted mushrooms
1 cup plus 2 tbs. arborio rice or any short grain pearly rice)
¼ cup dry white wine
6 tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
2 tbsp. butter
salt and pepper to taste
6 oz. fotina or any hard cheese, cubed
2 eggs
1½ cups coarsely ground bread crumbs
canola oil for frying

Heat broth until it simmers and reduce to low, keeping it hot.

Heat oil in a medium saucepan. Sauté onions and mushrooms until soft about 5 minutes, add rice and stir 1 minute. Add wine and stir until it's absorbed.

Add the broth, one-third at a time and simmer until rice is just tender and risotto is creamy, allowing broth to be completely absorbed before adding more and stirring often (this will take 18 minutes). Remove rice from heat.

Continued on page 41

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Add nutrients to your latkes

Continued from page 40

Add grated cheese and butter. Spread into 9 x 1-inch pan and cool completely. Shape risotto in 1-inch balls, placing a small cube of cheese in the centre of each ball. Place on small plate. Beat eggs in a shallow bowl. Dip risotto balls into the beaten egg and then into the bread crumbs to coat.

Preheat oven to 350. In a large shallow skillet, heat oil to medium high and sauté the risotto balls until they are crispy and brown. Transfer to a baking dish to keep warm in preheated oven. Makes 36 to 40 balls.

ZUCCHINI PANCAKES

5 cups zucchini, grated
1 small onion, grated
3 eggs
¼ cup of flour
1 tsp. baking powder
salt to taste
pepper to taste
canola oil for frying

Combine all the ingredients except the oil. Add oil to the frying pan to cover the bottom to ¼ inch in depth. Heat oil and drop in batter by the spoonful. Cook until golden brown on each side, about 3 minutes per side. Makes 3 to 4 servings.

You can make cholent just the way you like it

By SUE EPSTEIN
Special to The CJN

There are at least 52 different ways to make cholent – all of them delicious.

Much as I love cholent, I consider it a winter repast. It's a great way to serve a hot meal on a cold winter Shabbat, and it can be a meal-in-one if you prefer. But many people don't consider Shabbat Shabbat without their hot cholent, winter or summer.

If you're new to making cholent, it may take some time and experimenting until you get it just the way you like it, but after that you're home free! Not only the ingredients but the amount of liquid and temperature you cook it at can vary, depending on whether you cook it in an electric crock pot, a heavy pot on your stovetop or in the oven. It can also vary depending on whether you use an electric warming tray or a stovetop *blech* (warming tray).

One wonderful thing about cholent is that it isn't a dish that has to be carefully measured or tended to. I always spray my cholent pot with non-stick spray before adding the ingredients. It makes for very easy cleanup. A fairly new product on the market is crockpot bags to line your cholent pot, made of a type of high-density plastic that doesn't melt. I found them at the kosher butcher shop.

If you're very fat conscious, it's possible to cook the cholent on Thursday and put it in the refrigerator overnight. All the fat will congeal on top. Just before Shabbat, skim the fat and place cholent back in crockpot or on the *blech*.

Almost all cholent recipes call for beans and almost every Jewish cook has his or her own recipe to "de-gas" the beans. Some cook or soak the beans for several hours beforehand. Some soak the beans in cold water overnight. Some pre-boil them for about 10 to 15 minutes and then let them stand in the water for awhile. My Aunt Evelyn soaks hers overnight with some baking soda added to the beans. Still others use a commercial product on the market to aid digestion of beans. My only suggestion is to try a couple of methods and see what works best for you.

I like to save leftover gravy from roasts and other dishes in the freezer and add it to the cholent as part of the liquid. The water or liquid level should cover all the ingredients, but don't fill the pot higher than within one or two inches from the top of the pot.

Some cooks like to layer the ingredients, others just put it all together. I really don't think it makes any difference in the taste, and cholent isn't the type of dish in which it will make a difference appearance-wise.

The number of servings shown with the recipes is very approximate. It will depend on whether you're serving the cholent as your main course or as a side dish and how many other dishes you're serving with it. There are times that I like to put a whole chuck roast in the cholent and make that the main part of the meal along with a salad.

BASIC CHOLENT

1 cup barley
1 large onion, coarsely chopped
1 cup baby lima beans
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
⅔ cup red kidney beans
2 tbsp. oil
1½ lb. flanken, cut into large chunks
6 small potatoes
2 tsp. salt
5 or 6 beef marrow or neck bones, optional
1 tsp. black pepper

Spray cholent pot with non-stick spray. Brown meat and onion in cholent pot. Rinse barley in a sieve under cold running water, until water runs clear. Rinse beans thoroughly. Peel potatoes (optional) and cut into halves. Place all ingredients into cholent pot, add enough water or liquid to cover and bring to a boil on high heat. Cook on medium high for approximately 1 hour, turn to low and continue cooking. Makes approximately 6 servings.

Continued on page 43

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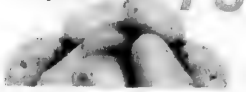

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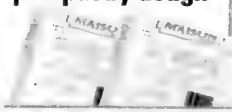

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Chanukah Food Ideas

Cholent – more than just beans and barley

Continued from page 41

VEGETARIAN CHOLENT

2 onions, cut into chunks
8-oz. can tomato sauce
2-3 stalks celery
6 potatoes
2 tsp. salt
4-5 carrots
1 tsp. black pepper
3 zucchini squash, cut into 3-inch chunks
1 cup barley
1 cup beans

Spray cholent pot with non-stick spray. Layer bottom of pot with onions. Add remaining vegetables, seasonings, tomato sauce and enough water or liquid to cover. Cook for approximately one hour at medium high, turn to low and continue cooking. Makes approximately 6 servings.

CHICKEN CHOLENT

1/2 to 1/4 cup white beans
1/2 cup baby lima beans
4 to 6 chicken quarters
salt and pepper to taste
garlic and paprika to taste
2 potatoes, quartered
1 sweet potato, cut into thick slices
1 onion, quartered
1 carrot, peeled and quartered
1/2 cup barley
1/4 to 1/3 cup wheat berries
3 to 5 tbsp. soy sauce
1 bay leaf

Use a 6-quart pot.

The night before you prepare this dish, put all the beans in a large bowl and cover with cold water. Allow to soak overnight. Before cooking, drain beans and discard any dried-out beans.

Season chicken with spices, salt and pepper (if desired, cumin and coriander can also be used). Place chicken on bottom of pot. Add potatoes, sweet potato, onion, carrot and drained beans. Add water to cover. Add barley and wheat berries.

Bring cholent to boil. Add soy sauce and bay leaf and simmer for at least 1 1/2 hours. Add water when necessary, making sure water is one inch above ingredients. Place on *blech* before Shabbat. Keep pot tightly covered.

Variation: Substitute 1 lb. veal and 1 lb. flanken for the chicken. Serves 6-8.

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Visiting the elderly suffering from dementia

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Sharing stories and memories of events keeps relationships going even when a person has dementia or Alzheimer's disease, according to Ruth Goodman, a senior social worker at Baycrest.

She was speaking at the annual Ada Starkman Lecture, sponsored by Beverly Black, in honour of her late mother.

This year's program was titled "Visiting with Elders: Strategies to Help You Have a Meaningful and Rich Visit with an Elderly Loved One." The focus was on those with cognitive impairment.

Talking about past experiences honours those memories, and makes the person talking about them feel valued. For instance, Goodman said, if you are talking about a special person, or a special time, ask what the person is thinking about.

"Make a visit a collaborative experience. Recognize that when, for instance, a woman visits her elderly mother, both of them want the affirmation that they are important to each other."

Even when someone has dementia, she said, memories are an anchor, giving a sense of belonging, comfort and safety – a sense of home.

It is important, she said, to acknowledge that a person in a nursing home or home for the aged has a right to feel sadness, frustration, even anger at losing their independence, and their status as someone with a family, a job, a place in the community. They need solace, but they also need help maintaining their dignity.

> ***'Recognize that when, for instance, a woman visits her elderly mother, both of them want the affirmation that they are important to each other'***

Communicating with someone with dementia doesn't have to be only through conversation, Goodman said. "Tell stories about your own life, such as cooking, or what is in the newspaper. Bring pictures, animals, music. If you go for a walk and pass a fish tank, ask what they think the fish are thinking about. Mention that the leaves are rustling."

If a visit is not successful, she suggested, think about what you could do differently the next time. "You might ask a relative for suggestions."

Annabelle Turner talked about "the reality" of visiting her mother, who is cognitively impaired, at Baycrest. "Not only her reality changed," Turner said of her mother, Ida Orliffe, "but mine did, too."

Orliffe, wife of the late Toronto politician Herbert Orliffe, became politically active when she married. "She loved opera, the symphony, theatre, and travel." In her late 60s, Turner said, there began to be imperceptible changes, until she was finally diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

At first, Turner said, she would try to force her mother to remember things. But the effort, usually unsuccessful, "exhausted her, me and my family." Now, Turner's visits are shorter, and she makes sure she has planned something to do after she sees her. "I need space to recover before I go home."

One of her innovations she is very happy about is a visitors' book. The family tells Orliffe who has come to see her, and something about them. "She knows who she loves, although she may forget people's names or facts about their families. Then she is upset that she doesn't remember."

Like many people with dementias, Orliffe asks endless, and repetitive, questions. Turner realized, she said, that she had to give simple, and repeated, answers.

She does simple, comfortable things with her mother such as watering plants, tidying her room, walking in the hall or on Bathurst Street or having coffee in the garden.

Everyone has to handle these visits in their own way, Turner stressed. "When I go to see my mother, I shut out my own world and enter hers."

Stephen Bloom's mother, Lillian, is also a resident of Baycrest. He said that he has rules for when he visits her.

First, he said, he accepts that he visits her for himself, not so much for her sake, since she often forgets he has been there at all. "She is my connection with my past and my present." Most of all, he said, he appreciates "that I still have one more day with her."

He acknowledges her anger and her emotion as legitimate. That, he said, is because he has respect for her, even when he can no longer have a real conversation with her, or she repeats things over and over. "We discuss gardening – we never had time to do that when I was younger."

Bloom lamented that people who see her now don't see her as she was – intelligent, a great cook and hostess, a great reader, someone who always dressed impeccably and always wore makeup.

"I am living a reversal of roles," Bloom said with a sob. "I have to feed her breakfast, and remind her to chew her food. But she is still my mother, and I speak to her with respect."

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Israel, U.S. contemplate ISG recommendations

By RON KAMPEAS
JTA

WASHINGTON — Officials of the American and Israeli governments agree on two things: Iraq has nothing at all to do with Israeli-Arab issues.

Except when it does.

From U.S. President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on down, the leaderships of the Israeli and American governments are simultaneously embracing and rebuffing last week's conclusions of the congressionally mandated Iraq Study Group (ISG), which makes Israeli-Arab peace progress a linchpin of a successful outcome in Iraq.

The crux of their argument is that while it is wrong to blame the Israeli-Arab impasse for any part of the crisis in Iraq, actors in that crisis – chief among them Iran and its allies – are successfully using Israel as a justification for raising the stakes in Iraq.

"We do this not because we are persuaded by some linkage or another, but because it is in the U.S. national interest," David Welch, the top U.S. State Department envoy to the Middle East, said Friday of U.S. involvement in Arab-Israeli peace when he addressed the Saban Forum, an annual colloquy of U.S. and Israeli leaders.

Another Bush administration official put it more bluntly: "'Palestine' is not a relevant issue to Iraq, but it is an issue exploited by Iran and extremists throughout the region," the official told JTA, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Arab-Israeli peace talks would have a "positive, emboldening effect," the official said. "If progress among Israel and the Palestinians is manifested, then moderates throughout the region win and extremists lose."

Conversely, the official said, "We believe that a success in Iraq, a success for moderates against forces of extremism, whether secular or religious, will have a very significant impact in the region, in Syria, in Lebanon, as well as in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

The Bush administration has welcomed Olmert's recent overture to the Palestinians in which he promised a release of prisoners and increased mobility should a cease-fire hold and the Palestinians prove themselves able to present a negotiating team that renounces terrorism and recognizes Israel's existence.

Mahmoud Abbas, the relatively moderate Palestinian Authority president, has all but given up on such concessions from the cabinet, led by the terrorist Hamas group, and has proposed new elections.

Tzipi Livni, Israel's foreign minister, said at the Saban Forum that Israel and the West should encourage alternatives to the Hamas government, although she did not elaborate.

Bush launched a weeklong review of the Iraq Study Group's recommendations on Monday, starting with meetings with top State Department officials. Later in the week he met with outside experts, top U.S. diplomats in the region and top military brass.

His primary concern about the report is its deadline for a withdrawal of U.S. combat troops by the first quarter of 2008. Bush has steadfastly resisted timetables until now.

But after meeting with Tony Blair, the British prime minister who is about to tour the region, Bush suggested that he embraced its Iraq-Israeli-Palestinian linkage, counting it as one of three ways to move the Iraq process forward.

"The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is important to be solved," the president said.

That's music to the ears of Blair and other Europeans, who enthusiastically welcomed the recommendations of the commission, headed by James Baker, secretary of state to Bush's father, and Lee Hamilton, a former Democratic congressman from Indiana.

"The German government shares many of the political observations in the report," a statement from the German Embassy in Washington said last week on the eve of a visit here by the German foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier. "The entire Middle East region must move into the international community's scope. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is of central importance."

Israeli-Arab peace process linchpin of successful outcome in Iraq

Such views were hardly welcome at the Saban Forum, where the ISG's report lent an anxious irritability to the weekend proceedings at Washington's Ritz Carlton hotel. The Saban Center, a Brookings Institution subsidiary funded by American-Israeli entertainment mogul Haim Saban, attracts top names to its annual colloquies. Last year's was in Jerusalem.

"The Iraqi conflict has very little to do with the Israeli-Palestinian crisis," Yuli Tamir, Israel's education minister, told JTA during a break from the conference's closed sessions. "I don't think it's relevant – it's a good justification but not a reason."

On Sunday, Olmert, who had earlier suggested that he disagrees with the report's conclusions, ordered his cabinet not to comment on it, saying it was an internal American affair.

Livni did not mention the Baker-Hamilton report by name, but its conclusions were clearly the focus of her keynote address at a gala State Department dinner last Friday night.

"There is a commonly mistaken assumption that I sometimes hear that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the core of the trouble of the Middle East, that somehow if this conflict could be resolved, so the situation could be different, and we can face a totally different region," she said. "So, this is wrong. This view confuses symptom and cause. The truth is that the conflicts in the Middle East are a consequence, not a cause, of radicalism and terrorism."

That may be the case, but Livni in the same speech was nonetheless preoccupied by how Iran would fare in the Iraq crisis – and what a success by its Shiite Muslim protégés in Iraq would bode for Israel and the region.

"The idea of spreading Shiism all over the region is a threat not only to Israel but the region itself," she said, citing efforts this week by the Hezbollah terrorist group to topple Lebanon's western-leaning government.

Bush expressed wariness about the commission's recommendations to engage Iran and Syria. He was adamant that those countries were out of bounds until they stopped backing terrorists.

If Syria and Iran are "not committed to that concept, then they shouldn't bother to show up" to a regional conference on Iraq, he said after meeting with Blair.

Iran's ambitions dominated much of the Saban Forum. Shimon Peres, the deputy prime minister, spoke darkly of the possibility of war in a Saturday-night panel with former President Bill Clinton.

"Iran's strength derives from the weakness of the international community," he said. "If there was an international coalition, there would be no need to go to war against Iran, and Iran would return to its natural dimensions."

Israel backs U.S. and European efforts to sanction Iran until it gives up enriching uranium, a step toward manufacturing a nuclear weapon.

Peres described a range of options to prevent Iran's nuclearization: monitoring its missiles with nuclear warhead capability, economic sanctions, limiting its oil production and assisting regime change.

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Canadian completes Israeli astronaut's mission

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Given the hazardous nature of astronauts' work, NASA has implemented a policy that requires each one to pair off with another, with the understanding that if anything should go tragically wrong, the surviving astronaut will look after his or her friend's family.

For Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, Canadian Steve MacLean was that person, the chosen "caretaker" of his household. So it was no surprise that when Rona Ramon got a miniature Torah much like the one her late husband had with him on the ill-fated Columbia shuttle that burned up on re-entry in 2003, she turned to MacLean to complete the mission.

MacLean and Ramon became best friends through their training, and their families were close as well. MacLean was there for Rona and her family when the Columbia was destroyed, killing all on board, including Ilan. MacLean readily accepted her request that he take with him a second miniature Torah scroll, about four or five inches tall, on board the shuttle Atlantis in September.

For MacLean, a native of Ottawa who now resides in Montreal, it was like closing the circle, finishing the task Ilan had undertaken.

For Rona, there was also a life-affirming aspect to the Atlantis mission.

For Henry Fenichel, a Cincinatti physicist who provided the Torah taken by MacLean on the Atlantis, so many coincidences came

together that he admitted turning to the spiritual world to help explain how he, a survivor of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, could help fulfil Ilan Ramon's dream.

The story of the space Torahs goes back a few years to the selection of Ramon as part of the international contingent of astronauts being groomed to fly on NASA's shuttles.

The son of Holocaust survivors, Ramon was an accomplished air force pilot who took part in the successful 1981 Israeli raid on Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor.

As a representative of the Jewish state, Ilan "was very careful even in his request to take [the Torah]," Rona said. "He realized it was a unique piece of history. For him, it was symbolic to overcome this horrible past as a nation and to have the Torah as a representative of an independent country, having survived and taking it to the next step, to take it to space."

Prof. Henry Fenichel, right, displays the Atlantis Torah, seen in close-up at left, after receiving it from astronaut Steve MacLean.

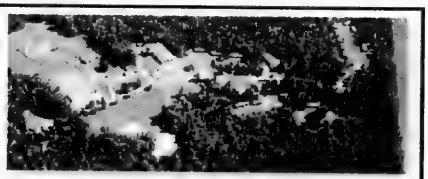
MacLean, a physicist by training who was a mission specialist on the Atlantis, knew about the first Torah scroll. "He told me the story of the Torah, that he was flying with it, and it was pretty important that it go up and come back alright."

The Torah taken by Ramon was particularly significant to him. It had been smuggled into Bergen-Belsen by a rabbi from Amsterdam and was used in the secret bar mitzvah lessons of 13-year-old Joachim Joseph. Joseph studied with the rabbi at 5 a.m. each morning, and he celebrated his bar mitzvah secretly in his barrack, Fenichel said.

Thinking the young man had a better chance of survival than he, the rabbi left the Torah with Joseph. Joseph did survive the camp and moved to Israel where he became an astrophysicist at Tel Aviv University.

Continued on page 47

CAMP B'NAI BRITH OTTAWA



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MacLean had close ties to Ramon

Continued from page 46

Fenichel was in a barrack nearby but knew nothing of Joseph. He was only six at the time. His father had already been shipped off to Auschwitz, where he was killed. Fenichel and his mother survived the camp as part of a population swap – 222 Dutch Jews in exchange for German settlers living in Palestine. He spent 10 days on a special train traversing Europe on a route that paralleled that of the Orient Express, sleeping in the car's luggage rack. When they crossed the Bosporus at Istanbul, a ferry carrying the Germans passed the other way.

After a few years in Palestine and then Israel, the family moved to the United States. Fenichel became a physicist and settled in Cincinnati.

At first, he didn't want to talk about his experiences, but as he got older, he agreed to serve as a living witness to the Holocaust. One day, he attended a video conference with about 150 Cincinnati school children that coincidentally included Joseph and Rona Ramon at the Israeli end. As part of his presentation, Fenichel took out his own miniature Torah, which had been given to him by cousins who had escaped the Nazis, along with the yellow star he wore in the camp.

"That really moved Rona – the parallel to the story with Joachim Joseph," he said.

Rona asked him if he would give the Torah to MacLean to take with him on the Atlantis and Fenichel agreed.

Fenichel saw it as a "symbol of the continuity of the story [that would] bring closure to a chapter of her life."

The more he thought about the situation, the more he saw uncanny parallels and a spiritual connection between the principal characters.

First was the fact that he and the Joseph were interned in the same concentration camp at the same time and survived, Joseph taking with him the Torah.

Then, there was the luck he had in receiving as a gift an almost identical miniature Torah from his relatives.

Years later, he, Joseph and Rona participated in the same video conference, when all this came together.

And finally, there were MacLean's close ties to Ramon, the fact he was about to embark on his second mission on the Atlantis and understood the significance of the Torah scroll to his old friend.

"It's almost as if the little Torah and my background have a certain mission," Fenichel said. "You have three physicists involved in a spiritual enterprise. I feel I'm being guided at this point of my career."

When Rona asked him to carry the second scroll, MacLean said, "It was important for me to do so. It was very important to Ilan. He was not a very religious individual, but those symbols were very important to him… When it came back, I felt I completed something he intended to do. It was a good feeling of completion. It was quite satisfying."

"For me, it was overcoming a very hard time in our personal lives," said Rona. "Overcoming crises, overcoming hard times and to look to the future with hope.

"There will never be closure," she continued. "I was hoping to see [more missions]. When NASA went back to flying, it's 'life goes on.'

"The Torah is a symbol of life – that the circle of life goes on, that we will overcome obstacles."

Space Torah to go on the road

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Rona Ramon, the widow of the late Columbia astronaut Ilan Ramon, first met Holocaust survivor Henry Fenichel on TV thanks to a video conference that linked Israel with Cincinnati.

The midwestern American city is home to the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education, which operates a number of programs designed to instruct young people about the horrors of the Shoah.

One is the Reach for the Stars project, which invites young people celebrating a bar or bat mitzvah to learn about Joachim Joseph's coming of age in Bergen-Belsen. Joseph, who resides in Israel, participates in the video conference, and one special day, he was joined by Rona Ramon in Israel and Fenichel in Cincinatti.

That happy coincidence led to the request by Ramon to borrow Fenichel's mini-Torah so that it could be taken to space by astronaut Steve MacLean to complete Ilan's mission.

Last week in Cincinnati, a ceremony was held in which MacLean returned the Torah to Ramon, who passed it to Fenichel, who then symbolically turned it over to the children. It will be housed on display in the centre, said Racelle Weiman, founding director of the educational facility.

Toronto human rights advocate and Holocaust educator Karen Mock was MC at the event.

In February, the miniature Torah will be sent to Tel Aviv, where a memorial service will be held for the doomed shuttle Columbia. After that, it will be available to travel to Holocaust education centres where its story can be told and it can serve "as a dialogue between space and faith," Weiman said.

"It's not a Jewish story," she said. "It's a story about all humanity."

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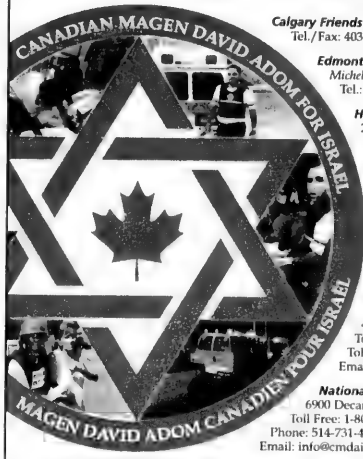

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

TEMPESTUOUS YIDDISH POET ANNA MARGOLIN WAS "DRUNK FROM THE BITTER TRUTH"

Russian-born American Yiddish poet **Anna Margolin** (1887-1952), who published a volume of poetry in New York in 1929, has been largely forgotten – until recently, that is. Thanks to the efforts of Toronto Yiddishist **Shirley Kumove**, State University of New York has published a collection of her poems – *Drunk from the Bitter Truth: The Poems of Anna Margolin.*

Margolin wrote on themes of anxiety, loneliness, sexual tensions and the search for intellectual and spiritual identity: the book presents her poems in the original Yiddish as well as in English translation. As translator and editor, Kumove also offers a brief critical biography of the poet. Margolin is described as an "exceptionally beautiful and gifted woman… [who] adopted a bohemian and an eccentric lifestyle, and threw herself into both intellectual pursuits and romantic attachments beyond her two marriages."

The title comes from the following stanza: "The dark and the heavy – I take them./ Come strike and wound, wild anguish./ Drunk from the bitter truth,/ I refuse all other wine."

For more information about the book and how to order it, visit the website www.sunypress.edu.

* * *

Names in the News: *The Making of a Martyr*, the award-winning documentary by former Torontonian **Brooke Goldstein,** was screened last week at film festivals in London, England; Whistler, B.C., and Anchorage, Ala. It also aired on the American ShalomTV network in the Pennsylvania and Delaware region.

Goldstein, who works as a lawyer in New York, has received increasing media attention for the film, which Harvard law professor **Alan Dershowitz** has called "brilliant." It focuses on the practice by Palestinian militant groups (with the complicity of the Palestinian Authority) of indoctrinating children to become suicide bombers. Its thesis is that the children's human rights are being grossly violated.

Goldstein recently told the *New York Jewish Week* that the film sprang out of a discussion she had in Toronto with her father about how to construct a legal case against Palestinian suicide bombers, and she realized the matter had to be considered from the Palestinian child's perspective.

Soon thereafter she interviewed **Hussam Abdu**, a 15-year-old would-be suicide bomber in a West Bank prison. The film showed that Abdu was just a product of the educational system because Palestinian schools routinely promote jihad and martyrdom to their young charges. Goldstein knocks critics who complain her film is pro-Israeli. "If anything, it's pro-Palestinian," she said. "I'm defending the rights of their children."

* * *

Arts in Brief

• **The Renanim Youth Singers** are set to travel to Israel at the December break "to build bridges of unity, friendship and support between our young Canadian choristers and Israelis from all walks of life," said its musical director, **Susan Michaels**. The choir will participate in musical workshops in Tzefat and Kiryat-Shmona in the north as well as in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Eilat. Donations are sought to allow all choristers to join the tour. www.renanimchoirs.com

• **The Civic Light Opera Company** presents the Canadian première of *I Remember Mama*, the musical by **Richard Rodgers**. Set in San Francisco after 1900, this sentimental, heart-warming story of life within a Norwegian family is told in retrospect by the eldest daughter who becomes a successful writer. Mama, of course, is the one "guiding their precarious journey with a firm hand and a warm heart." $20-$17.50. Fairview Library Theatre, Toronto. Dec. 21 to Jan. 6. 416-755-1717, www.CivicLightOperaCompany.com/

The Renanim Youth Singers, with director Susan Michaels,far left, and accompanist Mark Andrews, far right. A tax receipted donation can still be made, on the Renanim Youth Singers' behalf, to The United Israel Appeal of Canada, 416-636-7655.

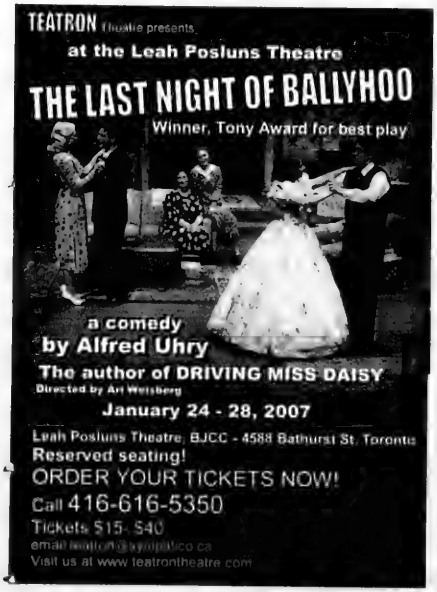
* * *

Quotable Quote: Some reviewers have taken issue with former U.S. president **Jimmy Carter**'s biased take on Middle Eastern politics as evidenced by his new book, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid.* Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz, for one, has called Carter's comparison between Israel and apartheid South Africa "outrageous" and his book "shallow and superficial."

In a Nov. 22 review, Dershowitz said the book "is so filled with simple mistakes of fact and deliberate omissions that were it a brief filed in a court of law, it would be struck and its author sanctioned for misleading the court. Mr. Carter, too, is guilty of misleading the court of public opinion. A mere listing of all of Mr. Carter's mistakes and omissions would fill a volume the size of his book."

African-American Democratic Congressman **John Conyers** concurs that Carter's book is neither fair nor truthful. The use of the word apartheid in the book's title "does not serve the cause of peace," Conyers said, "and the use of it against the Jewish people in particular, who have been victims of the worst kind of discrimination, discrimination resulting in death, is offensive and wrong."

Perhaps the former peanut farmer from Georgia should go back to what he knows. Thanks to HonestReporting for keeping the public informed about the egregious and malicious falsehoods about Israel that are retailed as common currency these days. Visit www.honestreporting.com for more information.



12-year-old has a leading role in *The Nutcracker*

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

At 12 years old, becoming a professional dancer is more than a dream for Allie Drabinsky.

The Grade 7 student at Canada's National Ballet School is dancing one of the lead roles in the National Ballet's performance of *The Nutcracker*, playing at the Four Seasons Centre until Dec. 30. The new theatre, the first of its kind in Canada, was designed specifically for opera and ballet.

Allie is one of the dancers playing the part of Marie, a role that has her on stage, except for two costume changes, for the entire performance.

A former Bialik Hebrew Day School student, Allie entered NBS in Grade 6, after spending most of the summer prior auditioning at the school's summer session.

She has performed since in *La Sylphide* and in former dancer Veronica Tennant's production of *Songs of Survival*.

Risa, Allie's mother, says dancing has been in Allie's blood since she began taking lessons at age four in Los Angeles, where the family lived – Allie is the youngest of four children – for four years. "Her passion for dance was evident at a very early age."

With NBS classes often running until 6:30 p.m., and with a mandatory session in the summer, Allie admits ballet is a sacrifice, "but I wouldn't do anything else. I love it," she adds.

"I have long days at school, but if I was still at Bialik, I would be going to dance classes after school. This way everything is under one roof. NBS is one of the top in the world."

The school's training facilities are located in the new Celia Franca Centre and the adjoining R.A. Laidlaw Centre on Jarvis Street. Included are 12 studios, a fully equipped stage training facility, three sets of change rooms, a wardrobe department and theatrical dressing rooms.

The school also has a physiotherapy department, a conditioning gymnasium and an indoor swimming pool.

Academics are also stressed, says Allie, "because we need to be prepared for the outside world. Not all of us will continue with dance."

There are only 20 to 25 students per grade, she says, and students need to be asked back each year.

Also important, she says, are the school's health services. Specialists include physiotherapists, doctors, social workers and nutritionists who provide instruction on topics such as injury prevention, proper eating, personal fitness and lifestyle.

"They make sure we eat well, we're hydrated, and that we get enough sleep. Kids need direction on keeping up their strength."

Allie is dancing in nine performances of *The Nutcracker*, wearing a 10-pound costume. "I put on my costume [30 minutes] before the performance, and I can't sit down once it's on."

Does she get nervous before a performance? "Sure, but only before. Once I'm on stage, I only think about the dancing. I love it."

Allie will be dancing in performances of *The Nutcracker* on Dec. 16, 20, 23, 27, 29 and 30.

Allie Drabinsky

Correction

In "Primping for your special day" (Party Planner, page B24, *CJN*, Nov. 30), the phone number for esthetician Estee Levine should have been 905-417-8433. Also, the price range quoted in the article was misleading. Levine's prices start at $65 per person (for a group of at least three people). *The CJN* regrets the error.

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Short doc looks at Jews through Barbie-doll eyes

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

What does it mean to be Jewish? What does it mean to be a member of any tribe in the 21st century?

These are some of the questions *The Tribe* – an award-winning film, now on DVD, about the unauthorized history of the Jewish people and the Barbie doll – asks in its running time of about 15 minutes.

It doesn't really answer these questions, though. What it does do is piece together Jewish history and culture and somehow ties it together through the history of the Barbie doll, which, after all, was invented by Ruth Handler, a Jewish American.

Like the ever-changing Barbie, there is no such thing as a single Jewish identity. Within the Jewish tribe are hundreds of sub-tribes, all of them Jewish – in their own way – religious, atheist, affiliated, unaffiliated, kosher, non-kosher, gay, straight, etc.

> ***Like the ever-changing Barbie, there is no such thing as a single Jewish identity***

The film is a lighthearted documentary narrated by Peter Coyote that combines fast editing, rap poetry and a witty script. The short film, directed by Tiffany Shlain and co-written by Shlain with Ken Goldberg, was an official selection at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival and won best short documentary at the Nashville Film Festival and the audience award at the Ann Arbor Film Festival.

For more information or to order a copy, visit www.tribethefilm.com.

Omission

The story "Biblical history may never be the same" (*CJN*, Nov. 30) neglected to mention that the DVD *The Exodus Decoded* is available exclusively at Chapters and Indigo, both in store and online (www.chapters.indigo.ca). *The CJN* regrets the oversight.

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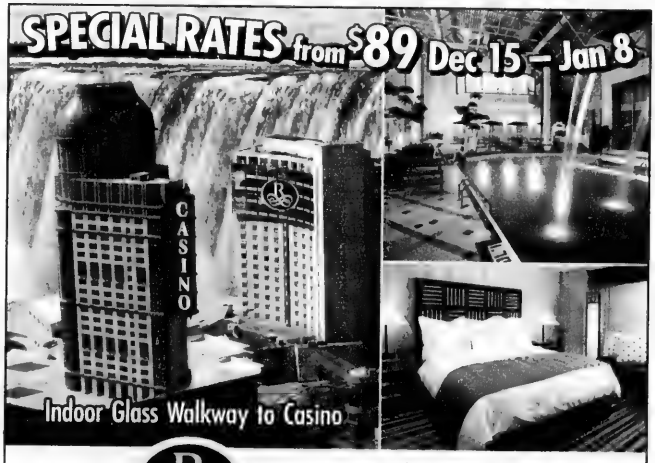

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Books & Authors

Portraits in former ambassador's diary cut to the core

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Allan Gotlieb kept a diary of the swirl of events when he was Canada's ambassador to the United States from 1981 to 1989. He did not intend to publish the entries, but after leaving Washington, he changed his mind, believing they might be of interest to readers.

Judging by *The Washington Diaries* (McClelland & Stewart), he was absolutely right. This is an absorbing book.

Allan Gotlieb

Having had access to to the movers and shakers in American society, Gotlieb – who was undersecretary of state for external affairs before his appointment as ambassador – has mined his experiences for all they are worth. He is a keen observer and a sharp writer, and the combination is beguiling, amusing and revealing.

Early on, Gotlieb mentions his predecessor, Peter Towe. Gotlieb had recommended Klaus Goldschlag, a Jew of German ancestry, for the job, thinking that he was "the best foreign policy mind in the department." Don Jamieson, the minister of external affairs, disagreed with Gotlieb's assessment.

"Jamieson was convinced that the tall, cool, waspy Peter and his attractive socialite wife, Carole, would go down much better in Washington than a naturalized Jewish refugee from Berlin. He thus showed that he knew little or nothing about Washington."

Gotlieb arrived in Washington on a cold morning in December. "And off to the office I went. It's unbelievable." On day two, he writes, "I can't describe my emotions as I sit behind the beautiful antique desk in one of the most ornate offices in one of the most magnificent mansions in Embassy Row."

Gotlieb's pen portraits cut to the core.

Take, for example, the entry from Jan. 8, 1982: "The outgoing Israeli ambassador, Epi Evron, whom I knew when he was ambassador to Canada, said the one man I have to meet here is Robert Strauss. I listened, because when it comes to diplomats, there never was one more wily and cunning than Evron."

Gotlieb was indeed impressed by Strauss, a Texas lawyer and Democratic party stalwart. Noting that he was being urged to run for the presidency, Gotlieb, in a 1983 entry, observes, "Despite his awesome political sense and unrivalled political understanding of how to broker the zillion interests in the country, he stands no chance. He's Jewish."

Three years on, when Gotlieb meets Strauss again, Strauss makes a nasty claim about the syndicated newspaper columnists Robert Novak and Rowland Evans. "Novak is Jewish and anti-Semitic. Rowly Evans is a non-Jewish anti-Semite. I raised my eyebrows at this last one, but Strauss said that if I didn't know Rowly was an anti-Semite, I should be fired."

On March 27, 1982, Gotlieb attends a dinner to which only a handful of ambassadors are invited. "I was placed at the endlessly long table, separating the Saudi and the newly arrived Israeli ambassador. The former did not talk to the latter… The Israeli, Moshe Arens, was very hurt by the Saudi's snub." And then this: "Arens is smart but bloodless. He'll do well in Washington."

Some months later, Gotlieb explains the "antipathy" of Canada's prime minister, Pierre Trudeau, to Israel's prime minister, Menachem Begin.

"Curiously, Trudeau at first liked and admired Begin, particularly his tough stance on terrorists." But after Begin broke his promise not to inject Jerusalem into the forthcoming federal election, Trudeau felt "double-crossed and refused for a long time to meet with any Canadian Jewish leader." Gotlieb adds, "With Trudeau, there is no looking back – he has resented Israel ever since."

In this connection, Gotlieb recalls Trudeau's refusal to even reply to a B'nai Brith invitation to attend one of its conferences. Finally, after Gotlieb's intervention, Trudeau had the courtesy of replying. The answer was flat no. "To be frank with myself, I don't really understand why I have been busting my ass over this… I've never belonged to B'nai Brith, even as a kid. Maybe I just don't like being ineffective."

Gotlieb has a good sense of humour, despite his dour demeanour, and it emerges in an exchange on June 12, 1984, with Senator Ed Zorinsky of Nebraska. Zorinsky urges Canada to stop subsidizing the export of pork to the United States. After a pause, Gotlieb says, "Senator, don't you find it a bit strange, you calling me in here to lecture me about pork?" Zorinsky is puzzled. "I reply, 'A Jewish senator lecturing a Jewish ambassador about pork. That's not kosher.' At first the senator and his entourage seemed stunned. Then the senator started to laugh, and everyone broke up laughing. Great meeting after that…"

On occasion, Gotlieb can be cruel. Canada's foreign minister, Joe Clark, pays him a visit. "Then I discovered the paradox of Joe Clark: the more deeply he gets into a subject, the more superficial he seems to become. He is a man who shines on first exposure to light. But the greater the light, the duller the glow.'"

There are times when Gotlieb wishes he was somewhere else. Consider this entry on Nov. 18, 1985: "Gave a speech in Oklahoma… It was unmemorable in every respect: the trip, the city, the audience, the food, the speech."

On balance, however, Gotlieb enjoys his job immensely. When he finishes his assignment, the distinguished historian Michael Beschloss tells him that he has been "the most effective ambassador in Washington in the past 25 years."

Flattered, Gotlieb mentions the compliment in his last entry, recorded on Jan. 28, 1989: "Sheer vanity leads me to record these remarks. But I tell myself there are worse sins."

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Kids encouraged to write to 'Bubbie and Zadie'

***Bubbie and Zadie Come to My House: A Story for Hanukkah* by Daniel Halevi Bloom, Square One Publishers.**

By PEARL ADLER SABAN
Special to The CJN

"A good heart is like a pretty candle burning in the menorah. It can light up the world."

Daniel Halevi Bloom believes that, and so does Zadie in *Bubbie and Zadie Come to My House: A Story for Hanukkah*.

The story tells of Bubbie and Zadie, a diminutive couple who, bundled up against the December cold, magically and mysteriously fly through the sky on the first night of Chanukah. They visit children everywhere, bringing with them the spirit of the holiday through songs and stories. With laughter and warmth, they enjoy the children they visit, sharing the explanation of Chanukah and taking part in the ages-old tradition of playing dreidel.

Like the weekly visit from the Sabbath Queen and the annual Passover visit from the prophet Elijah, Bubbie and Zadie are happily welcomed into each Jewish home. And it is only children who can see them.

"You can see them if you use the eye inside your mind - your imagination," the little boy narrator tells us.

Before Bubbie and Zadie take their leave, the children in the story are invited to write letters and stay in touch with them.

Bubbie and Zadie Come to My House is the first children's book to be published by Square One Publishers in New York. It is a newly revised and illustrated edition of the story, first published in 1985 by Donald I. Fine, Inc. Although the book has been out of print for more than 10 years, people have continued to read it, and it has kept the author busy.

From his home in Taiwan, where he works as a journalist, Bloom has personally responded to thousands of letters he's received from all over the world – letters addressed to "Bubbie and Zadie."

He started the letter-writing campaign in 1981, and the book followed. Bloom has received letters and e-mails from both children and adults, letters that talk about the excitement of the holiday, memories of family traditions, stories of the letter writer's own grandparents. Adults have told Bloom how meaningful the book is for them, how they have pulled it out each year to read aloud with family members. And Bloom has answered every one of these letters.

It is the joy he gets from reading the letters, as well as "memories of my own wonderful Chanukah as a kid and my sweet and dear grandparents" that has fed his enthusiasm all these years.

And his determination to get the book republished came from the realization that he was getting older and "if I didn't do something soon, I would die one day and the book would disappear."

Enter Rudy Shur, publisher and president of Square One Publishers. Last December, Shur recalled from his New York office, he read a *New York Times* article about this special children's book that had been out of print, yet continued to generate hundreds and hundreds of letters from around the world to "Bubbie and Zadie."

The article, as well as Bloom's gentle persistence, drew Shur's attention to the book and the possibility of reissuing it.

"For me, it was also the fact that I had never known my own grandparents, who had been killed in a concentration camp in Poland during World War II," Shur said. "Around the time that I first spoke with Dan Bloom, I found myself a zadie for the third time. I felt it was time for me to open myself up to this story – as a publisher and as a person."

Bloom and Shur had found each other across the miles. Then Shur found the Israel-based artist Alex Meilichson, whose painting style he felt was perfect for the story.

"There was no question that I had found the right artist for our version of the book. The question was: could Alex produce 28 paintings in eight weeks? The answer was: absolutely."

Meilichson, whose artistic style is influenced by Marc Chagall and Manne Katz, uses brilliant, bright colours throughout this book. Bubbie and Zadie not only fly through the sky, they fly off the pages.

Bloom, who never met or corresponded with the artist during the publishing process, is delighted with the artistry, layout and design of the new book.

In spite of the geographical distance between the author in Taiwan, the artist in Israel and the publisher in New York, "everything seemed to come together fairly well," Shur said. "Communication began with e-mails from the author in Taiwan and continued that way throughout the process."

Designed to be given to grandchildren the first night of Chanukah, this edition of the book invites readers to write letters to the "Bubbie and Zadie" characters in the story.

Each letter will be answered by return mail, free of charge, by the author, and by some real-life bubbies and zadies from Bubbie and Zadies L'Chaim House, a senior citizens home in San Rafael, Calif. Manny Kopstein, director of the home, is encouraged by the idea of authentic bubbies and zadies signing the letters as "Bubbie and Zadie."

In many ways, the letter-writing aspect is what excited Bloom the most about having the book made available again. "The magic and loving feelings of the Chanukah holidays, as passed down to me and those of my generation by our own bubbies and zadies when we were children, is one of the greatest gifts that can ever be given. And it's wonderful that these elderly people now want to share the tradition of the holidays with the children by helping to write letters to them."

Bloom hopes to be able to respond to "Bubbie and Zadie" letters for many years to come. He'd also like to see the book translated into Hebrew for the Israeli market. After that, the sky's the limit. "And a movie for Hollywood... A live-action movie or a cartoon. It might take 10 years, but that's my dream."

With his exuberance and the magical help of "Bubbie and Zadie," Bloom might just make that dream come true!

Children and adults can send their letters to:
Bubbie and Zadie's Mailbox
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Bubbie and Zadie also welcome e-mail letters at bubbie.zadie@gmail.com.

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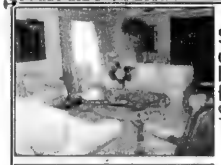

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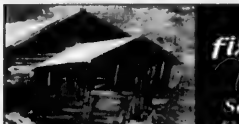

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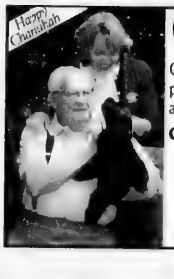

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280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Trying to preserve critical mass of Jewish community

By MATTHEW WAGNER
Jerusalem Post

The one million completely unaffiliated American Jews will probably be lost to assimilation and intermarriage no matter what happens, and therefore outreach efforts should focus on about three million Jews positioned between those who are committed to and those who are completely devoid of Judaism, said the chancellor-elect of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Prof. Arnold M. Eisen said in an exclusive interview with the *Jerusalem Post* over the weekend, that "the answer [to assimilation and intermarriage] is not numbers, but quality," said Eisen, who was in Jerusalem to attend the cornerstone laying for the new campus of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies and its 19th rabbinic ordination ceremony. He will take office on July 1.

"We are losing one-quarter [of U.S. Jews], one-quarter is getting stronger, the middle we have to fight for, and most of them we lose," said Eisen, who is currently Koshland professor of Jewish culture and religion at Stanford University.

Eisen estimated that 20 per cent of the approximately five million Jews in the United States had no connection with Judaism.

"So they really are not there, except maybe for the fact that politicians want their vote. So you are losing one million that you did not have anyway. They matter because every Jew matters.

"But if I take the 20 per cent that are active and if I turn another 20 per cent into active [Jews] I have transformed the Jewish people. That two million out of four million would leave us in better shape than one million out of five million," he said.

In an hour-long interview, Eisen touched on intermarriage, the future of U.S. Jewry, the causes for the shrinking of the Conservative movement, and Zionism.

The incoming head of the Conservative Judaism's flagship rabbinical school refused to comment on two burning issues: ordination of homosexuals and lesbians, and same-sex marriage.

Last week the U.S. Conservative movement's committee on law and standards is expected to rule on the question of ordaining gays. In the past, Eisen, who is not a rabbi, has supported appointing gay rabbis. His selection to head JTS was seen as a harbinger for the upcoming rabbinic decision.

Sidestepping the issue, Eisen described a U.S. Jewry ravaged by intermarriage and assimilation.

"The question is what you can do to improve quality so that you obtain a critical mass of the Jewish community. You don't give up on any Jew, but I read the sociological trends and the numbers are bad. There are issues of quality that we can do a lot about. I see enormous possibilities," he said.

Arnold Eisen

Eisen described himself as an optimist in the sense that "I do not count numbers."

> ***'You don't give up on any Jew, but I read the sociological trends and the numbers are bad'***

Eisen, who has devoted most of his career to studying the ideological trends of contemporary American Judaism, including the causes of strong Jewish identity, said that he accepted the chancellor post because "I believe something can be done" to reduce intermarriage and assimilation.

"The intermarriage rate is not irreversible because it correlates with synagogue attendance, it correlates with commitment, it correlates with day school education, it correlates with strong identity. It also correlates with intervention efforts, as the Boston study proves," he said, referring to a recently released 2005 study conducted by Brandeis University's Steinhardt Social Research Institute on behalf of Boston's Combined Jewish Philanthropies.

"So if I get a stronger core, the intermarriage rate is going to decline. At the moment, if current trends continue, Orthodoxy will be a larger and larger percentage of American Judaism. That means the intermarriage rate will fall. This is good. So the bad thing to do is to project from the present as if the future is the same as the present, only more so and worse," he said.

Although Eisen admits that U.S. Jewry faces many demographic challenges. He rejects Jewish Agency Chair Zeev Bielski's prognosis, voiced during to the United Jewish Community's General Assembly in Los Angeles last month, that Jews have no future in America and should all move to Israel.

"Israel has many advantages in building Jewish communities, language first of all, but Israel doesn't have a monopoly on the possibility of building Jewish communities," said Eisen.

"Obviously there is a future for U.S. Jewry. I think that an Israeli Zionist should not want [Bielski] to be right. It is not in the interest of the Jewish people. Rather it is in the interest of the Jewish people that there be a strong Jewish future in the United States.

"We are not rivals. So we should get past that and have a realistic critique of Golah [exile] because there are a lot of real things to criticize about Golah. There really is anti-Semitism in this world and there really is assimilation in this world.

"And the Zionist analysis was generally correct about these things. I say this as an American Jew and as a scholar. But to get carried away and say, 'There is no future' is wrong and unhelpful," he said.

Eisen pledged to strengthen ties between Conservative Jews and Israel. "It bothers me to no end that two-thirds of American Jews feel no connection with Israel [according to studies by sociologist Steven Cohen].

"I believe as a scholar that the existence and the vitality of the U.S. Jewish community depends on the existence and the vitality of Israel. And I believe, unfortunately, that the same is true of Israel. I really think we are mutually dependent. Politically and religiously we are interdependent," he said.

Eisen is planning a "new operation for co-operation" that will bring more Conservative rabbis, cantors, educators and laypeople to Israel. The aim is to strengthen the feeling of a shared destiny among Diaspora and Israeli Jews. "If I do nothing else as chancellor I will do this. If I fail at this I will be a failure. This is why I took the job."

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Summer hockey tournament to commemorate war vs. Hezbollah

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

One year to the day after Israel's deadly war with Hezbollah began, the northern town of Metulla will mark the occasion with an event that is being seen as a symbolic affirmation of life.

Metulla's Canada Center, the sports facility built with financial support of Canadian Jews, will host a hockey tournament starting on July 12, 2007 that will bring together teams from at least five Jewish communities around the world.

Canada, the United States, Israel, France, Mexico and perhaps a European team consisting of Russians, Swedes and Finns, will compete for bragging rights at the tournament.

Organizers are also hoping to attract spectators from the Diaspora in a unique mission that will combine hockey in the Holy Land, a rewarding Israeli tourist experience as well as a solemn commemoration of the war which broke out on July 12, 2006.

Metulla, which abuts Israel's northern border with Lebanon, was in the line of fire during the conflict, which began when Hezbollah terrorists killed eight Israeli soldiers and kidnapped two others. Since then Canada Center's Olympic sized rink has remained closed but organizers have been assured it will be open for business when the first puck drops.

The tournament is the brainchild of Montreal businessman Alan Maislin, who heads the Ice Hockey Federation of Israel. He's hopeful the event will produce the best calibre of hockey in Israel since the 1997 Maccabiah Games, when the winter sport was added for the one and only time to the "Jewish Olympics."

Stocked with professionals, major junior stars and college players, Canada dominated the tournament and defeated the United States in the championship game.

This time around the quality should be just as good. The French squad will include three players from the country's national team. Israel will be coached by Stanley Cup winner Jean Perron, who led the Habs to the NHL title in 1986. France will be coached by Canadian expat Dave Henderson.

The American team will be managed by Neil Smith, the architect of the New York Rangers' 1994 Cup win, while the U.S. coach is expected to be former L.A. King player and general manager Dave Taylor.

Will Jeff Halpern, seen here as a Washington Capital, be on the American team at next summer's hockey tournament in Metulla?

Canada's team will be put together by Charles Henry, manager of the Gatineau Olympiques, who had the same task prior to the '97 Maccabiah. Canada's coaching staff has yet to be determined but Maislin is hopeful some name coaches with NHL experience will be behind the Canadian bench.

As for players, Maislin said that will be up to Henry and his scouting staff, but he expected the roster to consist of professionals, including perhaps an NHLer or two, plus Major Junior players and skaters from the college ranks.

The idea for the tournament took root last spring at the IIHF Division Division I Championships in Amiens, France. While scouting France, one of Israel's opponents, Maislin noticed three players with Jewish-sounding names. He later met with them, suggested a revival of the Maccabiah tournament and found they were receptive to the idea.

At subsequent IIHF meetings, Maislin met with representatives from Mexico and Sweden and again found interest in his proposal.

Working his international contacts, Maislin was able to put together the event. Sid Greenberg, long associated with Maccabi Canada, agreed to come on board as tournament chair and in the United States, hockey enthusiast Caleb Koeppel agreed to chair the U.S. team.

Koeppel, a New York real estate investor, is a former U.S. college player with Trinity College (Hartford). He still laces up his skates four times a week in the Road Warriors' Skate at Chelsea Piers recreational complex, where Smith also plays.

Koeppel said the U.S. team will "be representative of Jewish American hockey players" with a nucleus drawn from NCAA college ranks. One player he has in mind is Matthew Cohen, the captain of Yale. If the Americans go the NHL route, they can look to Jeff Halpern, Matthieu Schneider and Eric Nystrom (son of one time Islander Bob Nystrom).

Whether they'll play is unclear but Koeppel believes adding pros gives the tournament more credibility and brings up the quality of play all-round. "They will open the ice and create ice for everybody...They play at a different level," he said. "I'm optimistic because of personal relationships we may be able to get some of them to play."

At this point in the process, Henry is keeping his cards close to the vest. He expects Canada's team will consist of players from the pro, junior and college ranks, but he hasn't closed the door to open tryouts. One skater he's got his eye on is Benjamin Rubin, the 17-year-old Orthodox player recruited by Patrick Roy's Quebec Ramparts, even though he won't play on the Sabbath.

The bottom line for Henry, as for Maislin and Greenberg, is to put together the best team available.

"All coaches at the NHL level want to win," Greenberg said.

Greenberg will travel to Israel in January to check out Canada Center and to make sure the big rink will be ready for the tournament.

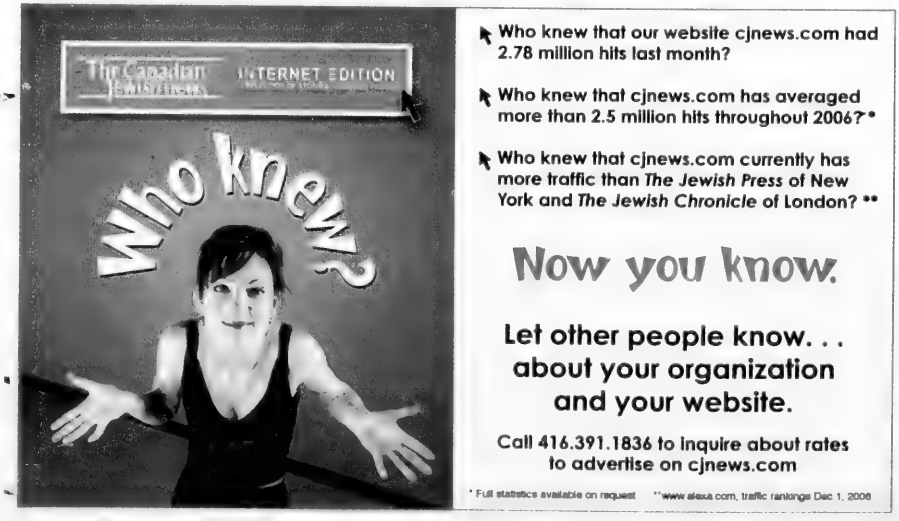
Maislin has been in contact with the United Israel Appeal, which funnels funds raised in Canada to recipients in Israel, and with the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, to make sure the rink is in good shape and to organize a support mission to Israel.

Adam Minsky, director of Israel and overseas programs for UJA Federation, has been charged with arranging a mission to view the tournament and tour the country.

"On a symbolic level, it would be powerful to be there one year later in large numbers," he said.

Koeppel sees it that way too. "I think the tournament is important in much the same way birthright israel is important. It will introduce a large group of people who would not otherwise be introduced to Israel."

And as for opening the event on the first anniversary of the outbreak of war, Koeppel believes "it shows that life goes on and that nobody is going to hold us down."



Inside Back

The drive to drive

By MICHAEL GORDON

'My father's very angry with you and with me for bringing him to you."

We were just starting a follow-up appointment for Ben's problem with cognitive decline. The medical resident had finished the geriatric ambulatory evaluation clinic, and we were interviewing the patient who was accompanied by his daughter.

"Generally his condition is stable," the resident said, "with no real decline in his mental or physical function."

Ben then piped up, "I must get my licence back. There is no reason that I can't drive. I am losing money because I can't visit my buildings to check that everything is OK and speak to the superintendents. How do I know if they are doing their job?" The daughter's expression said it all while he continued to focus on this subject.

"Where are the properties?" I asked.

"Mostly in north Toronto," he replied. "I only have a few low-rises left. I need to see them to know they are OK. I can't do this without my car."

I suggested that there were other ways to get to the places he needed without a car. He looked at me quizzically. "Ben, last time you were here I explained why I had to report you to the Ministry of Transportation. We discussed the cost of running your car compared to the cost of taking taxis to wherever you need to go."

His daughter looked at him and said, "Dad, we talked about this as well last week, and I showed you all the costs and we figured you could take hundreds of taxis a year for those costs."

Ben looked at her and then at me and said, "You don't understand, in my business I have to visit the buildings to make sure everything is OK, and not having a car makes it impossible. I don't understand why you took my licence away."

This scenario repeats itself a few times a month in my weekly half-day geriatric clinic. The issue of driving is one of the most contentious challenges that physicians dealing with an increasingly elderly population face. Sometimes the difficulty in dealing with the problem stems from the fact that patients know they are going to the physician for a specifc reason. Yet, even if the reason they are there is related to memory problems, they have never contemplated that their driving may be curtailed by the end of the interview. Even if the family is grateful that finally a doctor has acted on what they have been concerned about for many months or longer, the results can be devastating to the patient. I am periodically asked to provide a second opinion because the patient believes another doctor erred and that coming to me would reverse the decision – a decidedly rare occurrence.

The Senior Side of Life

The Ministry of Transportation rules are somewhat ambiguous about cognitive impairment as a cause for mandatory reporting compared to other neurological disorders such as epilepsy. The ministry regulation says, "Every legally qualified medical practitioner shall report to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles… who, in the opinion of the medical practitioner, is suffering from a condition that may make it dangerous for the person to operate a motor vehicle." The challenge for physicians is that the reporting duty is mandatory and instructions stipulate the duty with the imprecise term "may." Most physicians, being aware of the increased likelihood of accidents involving people with cognitive impairment, feel duty-bound to report the person. It is the government's role to act on the report and decide whether or not to remove the driver's licence.

One option that sometimes allows for a deferral of the decision in borderline situations is to refer to a third-party non-governmental driving assessment programs such as DriveABLE (www.driveable.com). It evaluates the driving abilities of the person, and its reports may inform the ultimate reporting decision and sometime effect the ministry's final decision. The fee is $495. Some individuals resent having to pay to keep their licence. The program, being non-governmental, assures all parties that it is unbiased. I frequently recommend that route and most participants feel it was worthwhile.

Losing one's driving licence seriously affects mobility, independence and one's sense of dignity. However, driving is a privilege not a right. Physicians are obligated to serve the public safety even at the expense of those patients under their care.

Vegetable & Feta Latkes

2 1/2 c grated zucchini
1 c peeled and shredded potatoes
1 c shredded carrots
1/2 tsp salt
3 eggs, lightly beaten
salt to taste
freshly ground black pepper
3/4 c matzo meal
1/2 c chopped fresh parsley
1/2 c crumbled feta cheese
1/4 c vegetable oil

Squeeze moisture out of zucchini, potato and carrots over a colander. Sprinkle salt over vegetables; let drain for 15 min. Squeeze vegetables again in paper towels.

In large mixing bowl combine eggs, vegetables, salt and pepper. Mix well. Stir in matzo meal, parsley and feta.

Heat vegetable oil in large frying pan. Place vegetable mixture, formed into pancake sized cakes in hot oil and fry until golden brown on both sides, about 2-3 min. each. Add more oil as needed to keep latkes frying up well. Drain fried latkes on paper towels. Yield: 6 servings.

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Epi on Education

Postmodern Chanukahs lessons

At different ages, we teach and learn the Chanukah story in different ways. The same is true of different moments in our history.

Seymour Epstein

There is a short essay by Chaim Nachman Bialik from the 1920s in which he pleads with secular members of the Yishuv in Palestine to see value in Chanukah as a national holiday that unites us with our past and gives purpose to our future.

When we are very young, we learn of the heroics of Judah the Maccabee in valiant struggle against the forces of Antiochus and the Syrian-Greeks. As we mature, we come to understand some of the more subtle complexities internal to the Jewish population of the time. A careful reading of the non-biblical books of the Maccabees, other primary sources and Victor Tcherikover's *Hellenistic Civilization and the Jews* gives us, as adults, a more detailed perspective, a truer account of the times, and a greater appreciation of the complexity of the historic moment than we had in some pre-bar/bat mitzvah classroom.

One of the lessons we learn from such study is that we were not one people back then, in the same way that we are not one today (notwithstanding the slogan, "We are one!"). Of course, it's simple in retrospect (some would say, simplistic) to see the Hasmoneans as all good and the Hellenizing Jews as all wrong.

However, once we move the scene to our century, in a postmodern world, values such as pluralism and democracy (which are not inherently Jewish) require most of us to recognize the worth of diversity in the Jewish world.

It's entirely possible that some of our most strongly identifying Jews in our community are more assimilated to the values and customs of the majority culture than some of the "worst" Hellenizers. But such is the 21st century, and perhaps one of the lessons of Chanukah is that our lights are glaringly different than the lights of old, but still brightly shining.

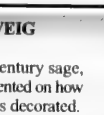
Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Moving – *meshaneh makom, meshaneh mazal*

The Chafetz Chaim, a 20th-century sage, was visited by a friend who commented on how sparsely the wise man's home was decorated.

He asked the Chafetz Chaim where all his worldly goods were. The Chafetz Chaim replied, 'Where, my friend, are all your belongings?" The visitor said, "Why, I am simply passing through." The Chafetz Chaim responded, "Indeed, that is my reason as well for having so few material things. I, too, am simply passing through this world and need very little."



URBAN WRITER

This lofty approach to life is one seldom practised by most of us. I have just gone through a move and was disappointed with the number of boxes required to hold my worldly belongings – "Avrum, downstairs study, CDs'; "Avrum, upstairs kitchen, cookbooks."

Boxes were everywhere, filled with things I have amassed over 40 years. Some of them reflect moments in my history, such as my collection of tapes from 10 years of working in radio; others are packed with reminders and keepsakes.

Things, things and more things. I own three-dozen shirts, five suit jackets, five guitars, two sets of bongo drums and 12 harmonicas. While I was moving, I looked at the boxes and two things struck me: my father took nothing with him, and most of the things I own do not make me happier.

Moving – I was intrigued by the movers. They were skinny but strong, like the Sherpa (an ethnic group from the mountainous region of Nepal, highly regarded as experts in mountaineering and often hired as employees for expeditions in the Himalayas), able to manipulate a solid wood shelf with four drawers around a tricky turn in our hallway and down a set of stairs, with a keen geometric understanding.

The youngest of the movers was 21 years old. He told me he scored 94 in high school English. I encouraged him to read and write a lot. He seemed surprised I had taken interest in his intellect.

Another of the movers was more seasoned and rough. He told me he had furnished his house with items he'd received from individuals he moved. Recently, he bought a 42-inch Trinitron TV for $50. I gave him my old motorcycle gloves. I sold my bike this summer after my son was born. It seemed wise.

The third mover was in his mid-40s but appeared older. He'd been a mover for 15 years and the strain of lifting pianos (which pays an extra $20 per mover) and moving entire homes had affected him physically, like an old quarterback.

Moving – it is generally unsettling and high on the scale of things that cause people stress, especially when you are neither rooted in your new place or your old home. On the other hand, there is something exciting and refreshing about moving. A friend told me it allows him to cleanse his life, throw away the old and useless (a popular rule is, if you haven't looked at it, touched it or used it in one year, toss it) and file and organize those things that make up one's personal archive.

There are those people who move regularly. A colleague told me he had moved 15 times in 25 years – from continent to continent and then neighbourhood to neighbourhood. We all know people who live today in the very same home they lived in 40 years ago. Speak to them about moving and the best they can come up with are distant memories.

So with all of this, why do we move at all? Perhaps we do because the old Jewish adage *meshaneh makom, meshaneh mazal* (change your place, you change your luck) is true. Each move is a bid to make our lives better through change and fresh walls that allow us a new start and a homeful rebirth.

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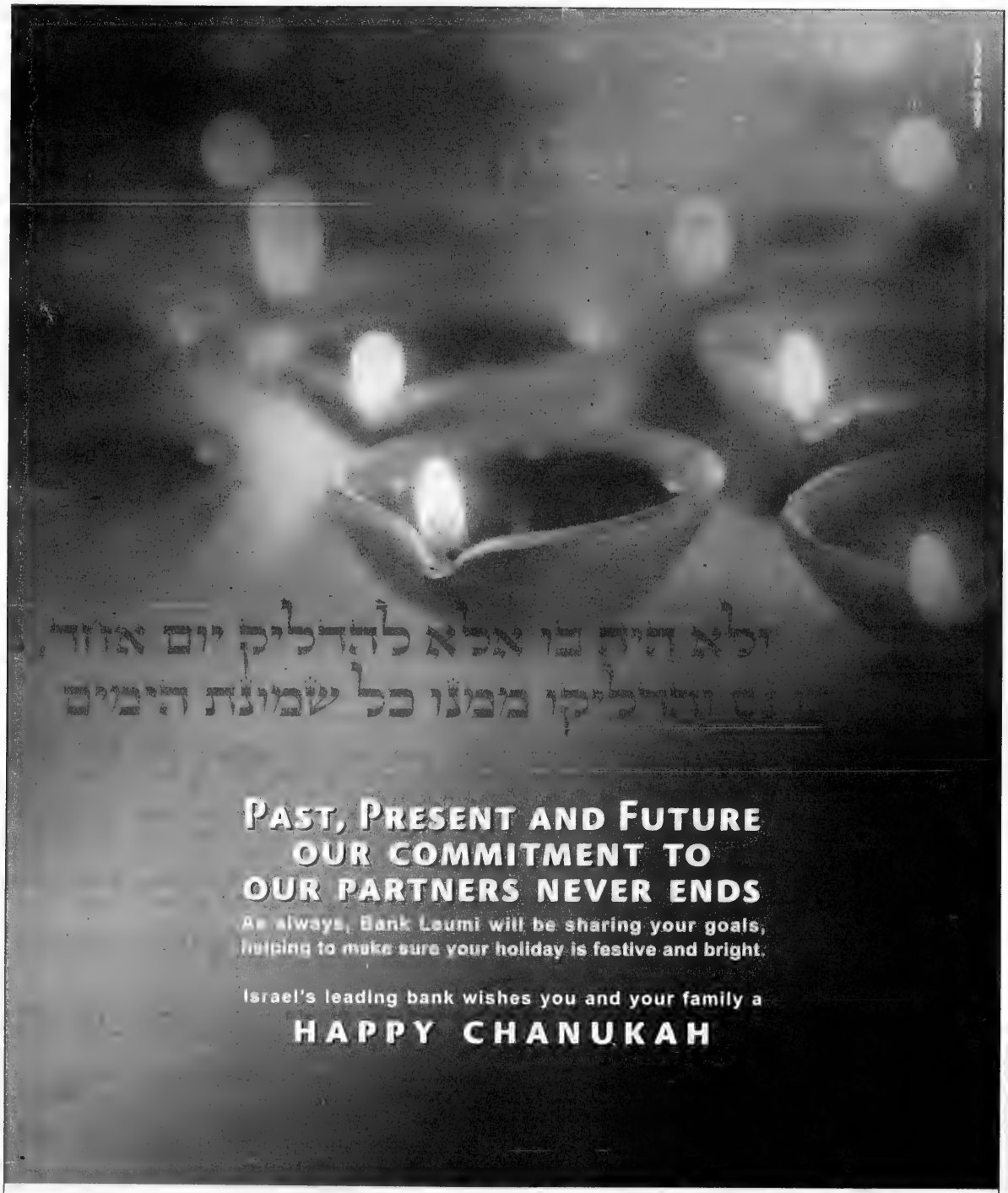

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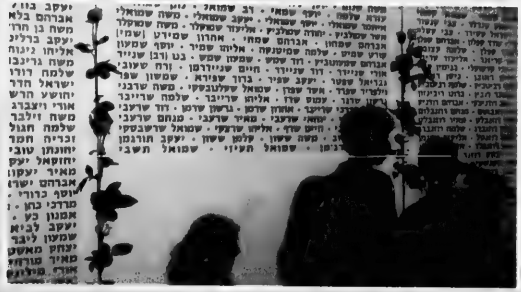


Canada Israel Experience alumni photos

Daniel Alexander, 1st place, above
Alexandra Silverberg, 2nd place, left
Sandra Baumander, 3rd place, right

The Canadian Jewish News

Section B

Chag samayach to all our readers

The rolling mists of the Tel Aviv-Jaffa shoreline so hauntingly captured by Daniel Alexander in the photo above can be seen as a metaphor.

The clarity and familiarity of shapes and temporal bearings that are occasionally obscured always re-emerge and re-assert themselves anew in the fullness of recurring light.

Chanukah, *chag ha'urim*, the holiday of light, reminds us of this.

It is either the singular, melancholy or character-building poignance of our fate that the current events of Jewish life unfailingly underscore the timeless relevance of our festivals and celebrations. Such is especially the case this year with Chanukah.

Editorial

The darkness of the season bespeaks the darkness of the times. In the past four decades, Israel has seldom seemed as vulnerable to the malign intentions of its enemies as it is today. And one enemy in particular – Iran – taunts the Jewish state and shouts its menace with the disquieting regularity of an obsessed and obsessive fanatic at a football match.

But unlike the obnoxious football fanatic, this loudmouth is dangerous. He has his dogma, eschatological objectives, military might and a rabid following.

There is thus good reason for the Jewish state, and indeed the civilized world, to be deeply worried. But never in the Jewish past has vulnerability ever trumped resolve; never has deep worry trumped strong-heartedness.

Nor, as the holiday of Chanukah proves, has darkness ever trumped light.

We must take heart from the holiday's core message: that against all odds, the few did indeed vanquish the many, and that the darkness that frightens and the mists that obscure are always lifted by light.

In this year's Chanukah supplement, we are pleased to offer a variety of readings, the centrepiece of which is a four-part JTA investigative essay by award-winning author Edwin Black.

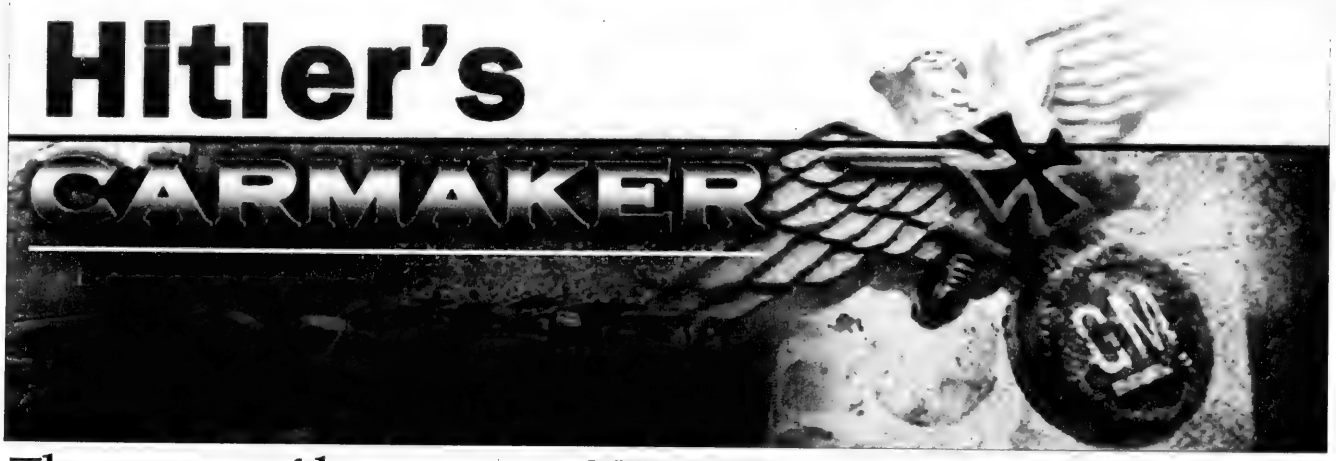
Black exposes the role played by General Motors in helping build up the industrial capability of the Nazi Reich before and during World War II.

We are also pleased to once again co-operate with Canada Israel Experience and publish the top 10 submissions in their annual alumni photo "contest" sponsored by El Al Israel Airlines, the birthright israel Alumni Association, Canada Israel Experience and Empire Restaurant and Lounge.

We hope you enjoy the offerings in this supplement. And we hope, of course, that you enjoy a meaningful holiday with family and loved ones.

Hold onto and be inspired by the light.

Hitler's CARMAKER



The story of how General Motors helped mobilize the Third Reich

By EDWIN BLACK
JTA

James D. Mooney thrust his arm diagonally, watching its reflection in his hotel suite mirror. Not quite right. He tried once again. Still not right. Was it too stiff? Too slanted? Should his palm stretch perpendicular to the ceiling; should his arm bend at a severe angle? Or should the entire limb extend straight from shoulder to fingertips? Should his Sieg Heil project enthusiasm or declare obedience? Never mind, it was afternoon. Time to go see Hitler.

Just the day before, May 1, 1934, under a brilliant, cloudless sky, Mooney, president of the General Motors Overseas Corporation, climbed into his automobile and drove toward Tempelhof Field at the outskirts of Berlin to attend yet another hypnotic Nazi extravaganza. This one was the annual "May Day" festival.

Tempelhof Field was a sprawling, oblong-shaped airfield. But for May Day, the immense site was converted into parade grounds. Security was more than tense, it was paranoid. All cars entering the area were meticulously inspected for anti-

Continued on page B3

SOURCES

Edwin Black's research for the JTA four-part investigative series, "Hitler's carmaker" involved the review of documents at Georgetown University; Georgia State University; the Henry Ford Museum; Kettering University; U.S. National Archives repositories in Chicago and Washington; New York Public Library Special Manuscript Collections; Yale University Sterling Memorial Library and other repositories in the United States and Germany. In addition, he had access to confidential FBI files obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, period media reports from both Germany and America, secondary literature and other materials researched to produce his just-released book **Internal Combustion: How Corporations and Governments Addicted the World to Oil and Derailed the Alternatives.** ***His sources also included the books*** **General Motors and the Nazis** ***by Henry A. Turner;*** **Sloan Rules** ***by David Farber and*** **Working for the Enemy** ***by Reinhold Billstein, Karola Fings, Anita Kugler and Nicholas Levis.***

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GM has steadfastly denied it helped the Nazis

Continued from page B2

Hitler pamphlets or other contraband. But not Mooney's. The Fuehrer's office had sent over a special windshield tag that granted the General Motors' chief carte blanche to any area of Tempelhof.

Mooney would be Hitler's special guest.

As Mooney arrived at the airfield, about 3:30 in the afternoon, the spectacle dazzled him. Sweeping swastika banners stretching 33 feet wide and soaring 150 feet into the air fluttered from 43-ton steel towers. Each tower was anchored in 13 feet of concrete to resist the winds as steadfastly as the Third Reich resisted all efforts to moderate its program of rearmament and oppression.

Thousands of other Nazi flags fluttered across the grounds as dense column after column of Nazis, marching shoulder to shoulder in syncopation, flowed into rigid formation. Each of the 13 parade columns boasted between 30,000 and 90,000 storm troopers, army divisions, citizen brigades and blond-blue Hitler Youth enrollees.

Finally, after four hours, the tightly packed assemblage totalled about two million marchers and attendees.

Hitler eventually arrived in an open-air automobile that cruised up and down the field amid the sea of devotees. Accompanied by cadres of SS guards, Hitler was ushered to the stage, stopping first to pat the head of a smiling boy. This would be yet another grandiose spectacle of Fuehrer-worship so emblematic of the Nazi regime.

When ready, Hitler launched into one of his enthralling speeches, made all the more mesmerizing by 142 loudspeakers sprinkled throughout the grounds. As the Fuehrer demanded hard work and discipline, and enunciated his vision of National Socialist destiny, the crisp sound of his voice travelled across an audience so vast that it took a moment or two for his words to reach the outer perimeter of the throng. Hence, the thunderous applause that greeted Hitler's remarks arrived sequentially, creating an aural effect of continuous, overlapping waves of adulation.

Mooney went to meet Hitler in the German leader's Chancellery office

General Motors World, the company house organ, covered the May Day event glowingly in a several-page cover story, stressing Hitler's boundless affinity for children. "By nine, the streets were full of people waiting to see Herr Hitler go meet the children," the publication reported.

The next day, May 2, 1934, after practising his Sieg Heil in front of a mirror, Mooney and two other senior executives from General Motors and its German division, Adam Opel A.G., went to meet Hitler in his Chancellery office. Waiting with Hitler would be Nazi Party stalwart Joachim von Ribbentrop, who would later become foreign minister, and Reich economic adviser Wilhelm Keppler.

As Mooney traversed the long approach to Hitler's desk, he began to pump his arm in a stern-faced Sieg Heil. But the Fuehrer surprised him by getting up from his desk and meeting Mooney halfway, not with a salute but a businesslike handshake.

This was, after all, a meeting about business – one of many contacts between the Nazis and GM officials that are spotlighted in this multi-part JTA investigation that scoured and re-examined thousands of pages of little-known and restricted Nazi-era and New Deal-era documents

This documentation and other evidence reveals that GM and Opel were eager, willing and indispensable cogs in the Third Reich's rearmament juggernaut, a rearmament that, as many feared during the 1930s, would enable Hitler to conquer Europe and destroy millions of lives. The documentation also reveals that while General Motors was mobilizing the Third Reich and co-operating within Germany with Hitler's Nazi revolution and economic recovery, GM and its president, Alfred P. Sloan, were undermining the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt and undermining America's electric mass transit, and in doing so were helping addict the United States to oil.

For GM's part, the company has repeatedly declined to comment when approached by this reporter. It has also steadfastly denied for decades – even in the halls of Congress – that it actively assisted the Nazi war effort or that it simultaneously subverted mass transit in the United States. It has also argued that its subsidiary was seized by the Reich during the war. The company even sponsored an eminent historian to investigate, and he later in his own book disputed many earlier findings about GM's complicity with the Nazis. In that book, he concluded that assertions that GM had collaborated with the Nazis even after the United States and Germany were at war "have proved groundless."

Continued on page B5

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ROGERS

Mass use of autos seen as part of Germany's great destiny

Continued from page B3

A Fascination With Four Wheels

Hitler knew that the biggest auto and truck manufacturer in Germany was not Daimler or any other German carmaker. The biggest automotive manufacturer in Germany – indeed in all of Europe – was General Motors, which since 1929 had owned and operated the longtime German firm Opel. GM's Opel, infused with millions in GM cash and assembly-line know-how, produced some 40 per cent of the vehicles in Germany and about 65 per cent of its exports. Indeed, Opel dominated Germany's auto industry.

Impressive production statistics aside, the Fuehrer was fascinated with every aspect of the automobile, its history, its inherent liberating appeal and, of course, its application as a weapon of war. While German automotive engineers were famous for their engineering innovations, the lack of ready petroleum supplies and gas stations in Germany, coupled with the nation's massive depression unemployment, kept autos out of reach for the common man in Nazi Germany. In 1928, just before the Depression hit, one in five Americans owned a car, while in Germany, ownership was one in 134.

In fact, just two months before Mooney's meeting at the Chancellery, Hitler had commented at the Berlin International Automobile and Motor Cycle Show: "It can only be said with profound sadness that, in the present age of civilization, the ordinary hard-working citizen is still unable to afford a car, a means of up-to-date transport and a source of enjoyment in the leisure hours."

Even if few Germans could afford cars – GM or otherwise – the company did provide many in the Third Reich with jobs. Hitler was keenly aware that GM, unlike German carmakers, used mass production techniques pioneered in Detroit, so-called "Fordism" or "American production."

As the May 2, 1934, Chancellery meeting progressed, Hitler thanked Mooney and GM for being a major employer – some 17,000 jobs – in a Germany where Nazi success hinged on re-employment. Moreover, since Opel was responsible for some 65 per cent of auto exports, the company also earned the foreign currency the Reich desperately needed to purchase raw materials for re-employment as well as for the regime's crash rearmament program. Now, as Hitler embarked on a massive, threatening rearmament program, GM was in a position to make Germany's military a powerful, modern and motorized marvel.

The Quest For The 'People's Car'

During the meeting with Mooney, Hitler estimated that if Germany were to emulate American ratios, the Reich should possess some 12 million cars. But, Hitler added, three million cars was a more realistic target under the circumstances. Even this would be a vast improvement over the 104,000 vehicles manufactured in Germany in 1932.

Mooney told Hitler that GM was willing to mass produce a cheap car, costing just 1,400 marks, with the mass appeal of Henry Ford's Model T, if the Nazi regime could guarantee 100,000 car sales annually, issue a decree limiting dealer commissions and control the price of raw materials. Many automotive concerns were vying for the chance to build Hitler's dream, a people's car or "volkswagen," but GM was convinced it alone possessed the proven production know-how. An excited Hitler showered his GM guests with many questions.

Would the cost of garaging a car be prohibitive for the average man? Could vehicles parked outdoors be damaged by the elements? Mooney answered that the same vehicle built to withstand wind, dust and rain at 40 m.p.h. to 60 m.p.h. could stand up to overnight exposure outdoors. To promote automobile ownership Hitler even promised something as trivial as legalized street parking.

Of course, Hitler had already committed the Reich to expedite completion of the world's first transnational network of auto highways, the Autobahn. Now, to further promote motorcar proliferation, Hitler suggested to Mooney that the German government could also reduce gasoline prices and gasoline taxes. Hitler even asked if Opel could advise him how to prudently reduce car insurance rates, thus lowering overall operating costs for average Germans.

The conference in Hitler's Chancellery office, originally scheduled for a quarter hour, stretched to 90 minutes.

The conference originally scheduled for a quarter hour, stretched to 90 minutes

The next morning, May 3, 1934, an excited Hitler told Keppler, "I have been thinking all night about the many things that these Opel men told me." He instructed Keppler, "Get in touch with them before they leave Berlin." Hitler wanted to know still more. Mooney spent hours later that day ensconced in his hotel suite composing written answers to the Fuehrer's many additional questions.

Clearly, Hitler saw the mass adoption of autos as part of Germany's great destiny. No wonder Mooney and GM were optimistic about the prospects for a strategic relationship with Nazi Germany.

A few weeks after the prolonged Chancellery session, the company publication, *General Motors World*, effusively recounted the meeting, proclaiming, "Hitler is a strong man, well fitted to lead the German people out of their former economic distress… He is leading them, not by force or fear, but by intelligent planning and execution of fundamentally sound principles of government."

Ironically, Hitler's famous inability to follow up on ideas caused GM officials to wonder if they had been too revealing in their company publication's coverage of the Chancellery meeting. Copies of *General Motors World* were seized by Opel company officials before they could circulate in Germany. Mooney later declared he would do nothing to make Adolf Hitler angry.

For Mooney, and for Germany's branch of GM, the relationship with the Third Reich was first and foremost about making money – billions in 21st century dollars – off the Nazi desire to re-arm even though the world expected that Germany would plunge Europe and America into a devastating war.

Typical of news coverage of events at the time was an article in the March 26, 1933, edition of *The New York Times*, headlined "Hitler a Menace."

Continued on page B6

A Very Happy Chanukah

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Sloan was the decision-making force

Continued from page B5

The article, quoting former Princeton University President John Hibben, echoed the war fear spreading across both sides of the Atlantic. "Adolf Hitler is a menace to the world's peace, and if his policies bring war to Europe, the United States cannot escape participating," the article opened. This was one of dozens of such articles that ran in American newspapers of the day, complemented by continuous radio and newsreel coverage in the same vein.

However, the commanding, decision-making force at the carmaker was not Mooney, GM's man in Nazi Germany, but rather the company's cold and calculating president Alfred P. Sloan, who operated out of corporate headquarters in Detroit and New York.

Who was Sloan?

Mr. Big Sloan lived for bigness. Slender and natty, attired in the latest collars and ties, Sloan commonly wore spats, even to the White House. He often out-dressed his former GM boss, billionaire Pierre du Pont.

An electrical engineer by training, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate was a strategic thinker who was as driven by a compulsion to grow his company as he was compelled to breathe oxygen.

"Deliberately to stop growing is to suffocate," Sloan wrote in his 1964 autobiography about his years at GM. "We do things in a big way in the United States. I have always believed in planning big, and I have always discovered after the fact that, if anything, we didn't plan big enough. I put no ceiling on progress."

For Sloan, motorizing the fascist regime that was expected to wage a bloody war in Europe was the next big thing and a spigot of limitless profits for GM. But unlike many commercial collaborators with the Nazis who were driven strictly by the icy quest for profits, Sloan also harboured a political motivation. Sloan despised the emerging American way of life being crafted by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Sloan hated Roosevelt's New Deal, and admired the strength, irrepressible determination and sheer magnitude of Hitler's vision.

> ***Admired the strength, determination and magnitude of Hitler's vision***

For Sloan, the New Deal – with its Social Security program, government regulation and support for labour unions – clanged an unmistakable death knell for an America made great by great corporations guided by great corporate leaders.

In a 1934 letter to Roosevelt's Industrial Advisory Board, Sloan complained bitterly that the New Deal was attempting to change the rules of business so "government and not industry [shall] constitute the final authority." In Sloan's view, GM was bigger than mere governments, and its corporate

Continued on page B7

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Sloan pressured GM executives not to serve in government

Continued from page B6

executives were vastly more suited to decision-making than "politicians" and bureaucrats who he felt were profoundly unqualified to run the country. Government officials, Sloan believed, merely catered to voters and prospered from backroom deals.

Sloan's disdain for the American government went beyond ordinary political dissent. The GM chief so hated the president and his administration that he co-founded a virulently anti-Roosevelt organization, and donated to at least one other Roosevelt-bashing group. Moreover, Sloan actually pressured GM executives not to serve in government positions, although many disregarded his advice and loyally joined the government's push for war preparedness.

At one point, Sloan's senior officials at GM even threatened to launch a deliberate business slowdown to sabotage the administration's recovery plan, according to papers unearthed by one historian. At the same time, Sloan and GM did not fail to express admiration for the stellar accomplishments of the Third Reich, and went the extra mile to advance German economic growth.

Indeed, Sloan felt that GM could – and should – create its own foreign policy, and back the Hitler regime even as America recoiled from it. "Industry must assume the role of enlightened industrial statesmanship," Sloan declared in an April 1936 quarterly report to GM stockholders. "It can no longer confine its responsibilities to the mere physical production and distribution of goods and services. It must aggressively move forward and attune its thinking and its policies toward advancing the interest of the community at large, from which it receives a most valuable franchise."

In ramping up auto production in the Nazi Reich, Sloan understood completely that he was not just manufacturing vehicles. Sloan and Hitler both knew that GM, by creating wealth and shrinking unemployment, was helping to prop up the Hitler regime.

When explaining his ideas of mass production to Opel car dealers, Sloan proudly declared what the enterprise would mean: "The motor car contributes more to the wealth of the United States than agriculture. The automobile industry is a wealth-creating industry." What was true in America would become true in Germany.

Ironically, GM chose the alliance with Hitler even though doing so threatened to imperil GM at home. Just days after Hitler came to power on Jan. 30, 1933, a worldwide anti-Nazi boycott erupted, led by the American Jewish Congress, the Jewish War Veterans and a coalition of anti-fascist, pro-labour, interfaith and American patriotic groups. Their objective was to fracture the German economy, not resurrect it.

The anti-Nazi protesters vowed not only to boycott German goods, but to picket and cross-boycott any American companies doing business with Germany. In the beginning, few understood that in boycotting Opel of Germany, they were actually boycotting GM of Detroit. Effectively, they were one and the same.

GM president Alfred P. Sloan, right, with DuPont Company chairman Pierre du Pont. [Library of Congress]

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As the Nazis amassed power, what did General Motors know, and when?

By the spring of 1933, the world was beginning to learn about the lawlessness and savagery of the Nazi regime, and the Reich's determination to crush its Jewish community and threaten its neighbours.

On March 27, 1933, a million protesters jammed Madison Square Garden in New York, and millions more around the world joined in a co-ordinated show of protest against Nazi brutality. By May 10, 1933, Nazi-banned books were being torched in public bonfires across Germany. The corporate library at General Motors' Opel in Germany was purged as well, of Jewish-authored publications and other undesirable literature.

Beginning in the late spring of 1933, concentration camps such as Dachau were generating headlines reporting great brutality.

By June 1933, Jews everywhere in Germany were being banned from the professional, economic and cultural life of the country. As state-designated pariahs, they were forbidden to remain members of the German Automobile Association, the popular organization for the general German motorist. Hitler's anti-Semitic demagoguery and the daily, semi-official, violent attacks against Jews were discussed in the American media almost daily.

GM's president Alfred P. Sloan knew what was happening in Germany. Sloan and GM officials knew also that Hitler's regime was expected to wage war from the outset. Headlines, radio broadcasts and newsreels made that fact apparent. America, it was feared, would once again be pulled in.

Nonetheless, GM and Germany began a strategic business relationship. That relationship is largely the focus of this JTA investigative series that re-examines the company's conduct on both sides of the Atlantic before, during and immediately after World War II. This four-part investigation reveals that while General Motors was helping mobilize the Third Reich, it was conspiring to demobilize America's electric mass transit, and in the process, was helping addict the United States to oil.

GM was one of Germany's leading employers in 1938

Unleashing The Blitzkrieg

Opel became an essential element of the German rearmament and modernization Hitler required to subjugate Europe. To accomplish that, Germany needed to rise above the horse-drawn divisions it deployed in World War I. It needed to motorize, to "blitz," that is, to attack with lightning speed. Germany would later unleash a Blitzkrieg, a lightning war. Opel built the three-ton truck named "Blitz" – to support the German military. The Blitz truck became the mainstay of the Blitzkrieg.

Quickly, Sloan and James D. Mooney, GM's overseas chief, realized that the Reich military machine was in fact the corporation's best customer in Germany. Sales to the army yielded a greater per truck profit than civilian sales – a hefty 40 per cent more. So GM preferred supplying the military, which never ceased its preparations to wage war against Europe.

In 1935, GM agreed to locate a new factory at Brandenburg, where it would be geographically less vulnerable to feared aerial bombardment by Allied forces. In 1937, almost 17 per cent of Opel's Blitz trucks were sold directly to the Nazi military.

That military sales figure was increased to 29 per cent in 1938 – totalling some 6,000 Blitz trucks that year alone. The Wehrmacht, the German military, soon became Opel's No. 1 customer by far. Other important customers included major industries associated with the Hitler war machine.

Expanding its German workforce from 17,000 in 1934 to 27,000 in 1938 also made GM one of Germany's leading employers. Unquestionably, GM's Opel became an integral facet of Hitler's Reich.

More than just an efficient manufacturer, Opel openly embraced the bizarre philosophy that powered the Nazi military-industrial complex. The German company participated in cultic Fuehrer worship as a part of its daily corporate ethic. After all, until GM purchased Opel in 1929 for $33.3 million, or about one-third of GM's after-tax profit that year, Opel was an established carmaker with a respected German persona. The Opel family included several prominent Nazi Party members. This identity appealed to rank-and-file Nazis who condemned anything foreign-owned or foreign-made.

For all these reasons, during the Hitler years, Sloan and Mooney both made efforts to obscure Opel's American ownership and control. As a result, the average storm trooper, Nazi Party member or German motorist accepted the company's cars and trucks as the product of a purely Aryan firm that was working toward Hitler's great destiny: "Deutschland ueber alles."

Continued on page B9

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Happy Chanukah

Opel became a stalwart of the Nazi community

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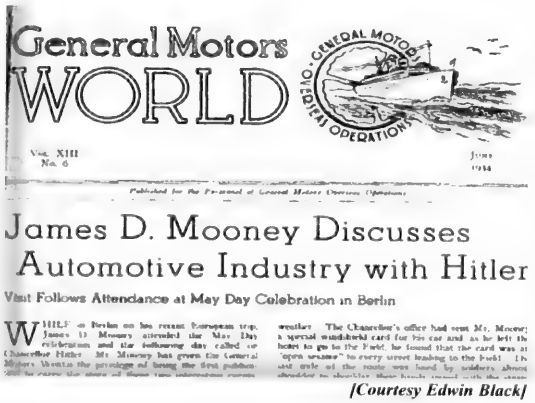
The Masquerade

Opel became an early patron of the National Socialist Motor Corps, a rabid Nazi Party paramilitary auxiliary. Ironically, most of the members of the corps were not drivers, but Germans seeking to learn how to drive to increase national readiness. Opel employees were encouraged to maintain membership in the Motor Corps.

Furthermore, Opel cars and trucks were loaned without charge to the local storm trooper contingents stationed near company headquarters at Russelsheim, Germany. As brownshirt thugs went about their business of intimidation and extortion, they often came and went in vehicles bearing prominent Opel advertisements, proud automobile sponsor of the storm troopers.

The Opel company publication, *Der Opel Geist*, or *The Opel Spirit*, became just another propagandistic tool of Fuehrer worship, edited with the help of Nazi officials. Hitler was frequently given credit in the publication for Opel's achievements, and was frequently depicted in *Der Opel Geist* portraits as a fatherly or stately figure.

Hitler's voice regularly echoed through the cavernous Opel complex. His hate speeches and pep rallies were routinely piped into the factory premises to inspire the workers. Great swastika-bedecked company events were commonplace, as Nazi *gauleiters*, or regional party leaders, and other party officials spurred gathered employees to work hard for the Fuehrer and his Thousand-Year Reich. Opel contributed large cash donations to all the right Nazi Party activities. For example, the company gave local storm troopers 75,000 reichsmarks to construct the *gauleiter*'s new office headquarters.


General Motors WORLD

Vol. XIII No. 6

Published for the Personnel of General Motors Overseas Operations

James D. Mooney Discusses Automotive Industry with Hitler

Visit Follows Attendance at May Day Celebration in Berlin

[Courtesy Edwin Black]

In the process, Opel became more than a mere carmaker. It became a stalwart of the Nazi community.

Working hard and meeting exhausting production quotas were national duties. Employees who protested the intense working conditions, even if members of the Nazi Party, were sometimes visited by the Gestapo. SS officers worked as internal security throughout the plant. Order was kept.

Of course, GM's subsidiary vigorously joined the anti-Jewish movement required of leading businesses serving the Reich. Jewish employees and suppliers became verboten. Established dealers with Jewish blood were terminated, including one of the largest serving the Frankfurt region. Even long-time executives were discharged if Jewish descent was detected. Those lower-level managers with Jewish wives or parentage who remained with the company did so stealthily, hiding and denying their background.

To conceal American ownership and reinforce the masquerade that Opel stood as a purely Aryan enterprise, Sloan and Mooney, beginning in 1934, concocted the concept of a "Directorate," comprised of prominent German personalities, including several with Nazi Party membership. This created what GM officials variously termed a "camouflage" or "a false facade" of local management. But the decisions were made in America. GM as the sole stockholder controlled Opel's board and the corporate votes.

Among the decisions made in America beginning in about 1935 was the one transferring to Germany the technology to produce the modern gasoline additive tetraethyl lead, commonly called "ethyl," or leaded gasoline.

This allowed the Reich to boost octane that provided better automotive performance by eliminating disruptive engine pings and jolts. Better performance meant a faster and more mobile fighting force – just what the Reich would ultimately need for its swift and mobile Blitzkrieg.

As early as 1934, however, America's War Department was apprehensive about the transfer of such proprietary chemical processes. In late December 1934, as GM was considering

Continued on page B10

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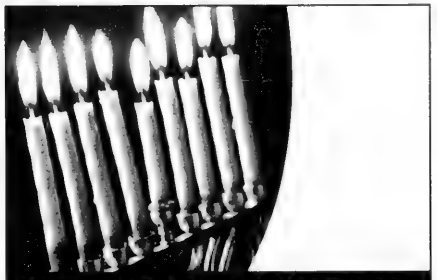
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Opel began to dwarf all competition

Continued from page B9

building leaded gasoline plants for Hitler, DuPont Company board director Irénée du Pont wrote to Sloan: "Of course, we in the DuPont Company have always recognized the propriety and desirability of closely co-operating with the War Department of the United States. In any case, I know that word has gone to the War Department and have the impression that they would be adverse to disclosure of knowledge which would aid Germany in preparing that chemical." The profits were simply not worth it, argued du Pont.

Sloan had already bluntly told du Pont, "I do not agree with your reasoning to this question." Days later, Sloan appended that GM's commercial rights were "far more fundamental than the question of making a little money out of lead in Germany."

GM moved quickly – in conjunction with its close ally Standard Oil. Each company took a one-quarter share of the Reich ethyl operation, while I.G. Farben, the giant German chemical conglomerate, controlled the remaining 50 per cent.

The plants were built. The Americans supplied the technical know-how. Captured German records reviewed decades later by a U.S. Senate investigating committee found this wartime admission by the Nazis: "Without lead-tetraethyl, the present method of warfare would be unthinkable."

Years after the war, Nazi armaments chief Albert Speer told a congressional investigator that Germany could not have attempted its September 1939 Blitzkrieg of Poland without the performance-boosting additive.

GM was responsible for stunning growth in Germany's economy

Dwarfing The Competition

Within a few years of partnering with the Hitler regime, Opel began to dwarf all competition. By 1937, GM's subsidiary had grown to triple the size of Daimler-Benz and quadruple that of Ford's fledgling German operation, known as Ford-Werke. By the end of the 1930s, Opel was valued at $86.7 million, which in 21st-century dollars, translates into roughly $1.1 billion.

In the meantime, GM was responsible for stunning growth in Germany's economy. As most economists of the day knew, and as Sloan himself bragged, automobile manufacturing created thousands of factory jobs, hundreds of suppliers, numerous dealerships, widespread motorization and an attached oil industry.

Moreover, the growth of the highway network, from local roads to the Autobahn, spurred a construction boom that spawned thousands of additional jobs and necessitated hundreds of additional suppliers. Even GM's own sponsored expert historian, who decades later examined Hitler-era documentation, concluded: "The auto industry spearheaded the remarkable recovery of the German economy that boosted the popularity of the Nazi regime by virtually eliminating within a few years the mass unemployment that had idled a quarter of the workforce and contributed so importantly to Hitler's rise."

But Reich currency restrictions obstructed the outflow of cash for profits or even the purchase of raw materials to build trucks. GM in America circumvented those regulations through the overseas sales of German pencils, sewing machines, Christmas tree ornaments and virtually any other exports that would earn foreign currency internationally. Those sales proceeds were then exchanged for profits or raw materials through complicated bank transfers.

On The Homefront

Ironically, while GM's Opel was a deferential corporate citizen in Nazi Germany, going the extra mile to comply with Reich requirements and making no waves, Sloan helped foment unrest at home as part of the company's efforts to undermine the administration of president Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Continued on page B11

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Sloan worked behind the scenes to defeat Roosevelt

Continued from page B10

For example, the GM president was one of the central behind-the-scenes founders of the American Liberty League, a racist, anti-Semitic, pro-big business group bent on rallying Southern votes against Roosevelt to defeat him in the 1936 election. The American Liberty League arose out of a series of private gatherings organized in July 1934 by Sloan, du Pont and other businessmen. Some of those meetings were even held at GM's office in New York.

The businessmen sought to create a well-financed, seemingly grassroots coalition that du Pont declared should "include all property owners, the American Legion and even the Ku Klux Klan." Sloan served on the American Liberty League's national advisory board and was one of a number of wealthy businessmen who each quietly donated $10,000 to its activities. The American Liberty League, which raised more money in 1935 than the National Democratic Party, in turn, funded an array of even more fanatical, racist and anti-Jewish groups.

One such group funded by the American Liberty League was the Southern Committee to Uphold the Constitution. With help from the du Pont family fortune, the Southern Committee circulated what it called "nigger pictures" of Eleanor Roosevelt with African-Americans. Sloan sent a $1,000 cheque directly to the Southern Committee after those pictures were distributed, according to congressional testimony.

Racist diatribes found in Southern Committee literature included an anti-union screed that complained:

"White women and white men will be forced into organizations with black African apes whom they will have to call 'brother' or lose their jobs." The Southern Committee also jointly organized protest marches with the American Nazi "Silver Shirts."

The American Liberty League also financed the Sentinels of the Republic. The Sentinels of the Republic, in turn, orchestrated incendiary, anti-Semitic letter-writing campaigns, and otherwise provoked a backlash against Roosevelt and what was sometimes derisively labelled his "Jew Deal."

True, the Sentinels of the Republic bore all the earmarks of a rabble-rousing extremist group. But behind it were some of the nation's most affluent and well-heeled, supplying the operating cash and direction. Among them: Sun Oil president Howard Pew, investment banker Alexander Lincoln, who served as the group's president, and the president of Pittsburgh Plate Glass, John Pitcairn. Sloan himself wrote a $1,000 check directly to the Sentinels of the Republic.

Adolf Hitler rides in a motorcade through the Brandenburg Gate to the opening ceremonies of the 11th Olympic Games in Berlin in August 1936. [USHMM, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park]

Only after an April 1936 congressional investigation was Sloan's financial involvement in the Sentinels outed. Just days after the disclosure, Sloan issued a statement to an inquiring Jewish newspaper in Louisville, promising, "Under no circumstances will I further knowingly support the Sentinels of the Republic." He added, ambiguously: "I have no desire to enter into any questions involving religious or political questions."

Continued on page B12

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In 1936, the President threw down the gauntlet

Continued from page B11

Although Sloan backed away from further financing of the Sentinels, the GM chief continued to fund and fundraise for another anti-Roosevelt-agitation group, the National Association of Manufacturers. Founded in 1895 as a pro-business organization and still prominent more than 100 years later, NAM sowed anti-union and anti-New Deal discord among Americans in the 1930s through clandestinely owned and operated opinion-moulding arms.

Roosevelt openly acknowledged that Sloan, GM, the du Ponts and other corporate giants hated him for his reforms and his efforts to relieve Depression-era inequities. In his final 1936 campaign speech, the president threw down the gauntlet, shouting to an overflow Madison Square Garden crowd, "They are unanimous in their hate for me – and I welcome their hatred."

FDR was re-elected by a landslide

Roosevelt added that he wanted his first four years to be remembered as an administration where "the forces of selfishness and of lust for power met their match."

Fearing Roosevelt's possible re-election, several of Sloan's top executives at GM actually considered deliberately extending the financial woes of the Depression, presumably in retaliation against the entire nation. In the final days of the 1936 election campaign, several GM officials met with W.H. Swartz, a Lehman Brothers investment banker, according to a historian who studied the incident.

The GM officials apparently planned to stop investing in and expanding their company in the event of Roosevelt's expected victory. Swartz's Nov. 4, 1936, confidential memo about the GM meeting asserted, "Certain General Motors people also felt further capital expenditures could not be expected now, in view of Roosevelt's possible re-election." Based on their plans, Swartz predicted "a break in general business next year… mid-summer is the logical time to expect it," adding, "I would suggest that the rather intense political emotions of certain of these men may have coloured their thinking more than they themselves may have realized."

Despite the lush opposition funding by Sloan and other affluent anti-New Deal nemeses, Roosevelt was re-elected by a landslide.

While no capital slowdown was actually implemented by GM, Sloan did continue to battle the administration. The conflict was not subtle. Washington knew that Sloan and GM were powerful adversaries. For example, in 1937, when Sloan telephoned secretary of labour Francis Perkins to renege on a promise made to meet with labour strikers, Perkins lashed out bitterly at the GM chief.

Shocked at the reversal, Perkins shouted into the phone, "You are a scoundrel and a skunk, Mr. Sloan. You don't deserve to be counted among decent men. You'll go to hell when you die. Are you a grown man, Mr. Sloan? Or are you a neurotic adolescent? Which are you? If you're a grown man, stand up and be a man for once."

A flabbergasted Sloan protested, "You can't talk like that to me! You can't talk like that to me! I'm worth 70 million dollars and I made it all myself! You can't talk like that to me! I'm Alfred Sloan."

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Shifting gears: From war profiteer to U.S. public transit conspirator

During the late 1930s, Hitler's persecution of Jews was building to a frenzy even as fears of a war escalated. Nevertheless, General Motors' German automotive subsidiary, Opel, remained a loyal corporate citizen of the Third Reich – content to obediently do the Nazi regime's bidding, and unstintingly supporting Hitler's program on many fronts. These included economic and employment recovery, anti-Jewish persecution, war preparedness and domestic propaganda. In return, Opel prospered.

Hitler was pleased – very pleased. In 1938, just months after the Nazis' annexation of Austria, James D. Mooney, head of GM's overseas operations, received the German Eagle with Cross, the highest medal Hitler awarded to foreign commercial collaborators and supporters.

On Nov. 9-10, 1938, shortly after Mooney's decoration, nationwide pogroms broke out in Germany against the Jews – Kristallnacht. The American public was finally shocked onto its heels by the night of officially orchestrated burning, looting and mob action against Jews.

President Roosevelt recalled America's ambassador, plunging German-American relations to their lowest point since Hitler assumed power. All things American came under special scrutiny in Germany.

By now, the truth about GM's ownership of the Opel car and truck operation was out in the open among Germans. Reich armament officials increasingly directed Opel's output, including mandating that nearly all vehicles be devoted to military use.

These are among the many findings of a multi-part JTA investigation that culled and re-examined thousands of pages of Nazi-era and New Deal-era documents that shed new light on GM's relationship with the Third Reich.

They reveal that even as GM and its president, Alfred P. Sloan, were helping mobilize the resurgent German military, they were undermining the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt and undermining America's electric mass transit, and in doing so helped addict the United States to oil.

GM has declined comment for this story. The company has steadfastly denied for decades that it actively assisted the Nazi war effort or that it simultaneously subverted mass transit in the United States.

Laissez Faire, Sloan-style

In the months leading up to the feared 1939 invasion of Poland, Sloan, GM's president, defended his close collaboration with Hitler. Brushing off attacks for his partnership with a Nazi regime already notorious for filling concentration camps, taking over Austria and now threatening to install the "master race" across Europe, Sloan was stony and proud.

He stated, in a long April 1939 letter to an objecting stockholder, that in the interests of making a profit, GM shouldn't risk alienating its German hosts by intruding in Nazi affairs. "In other words, to put the proposition rather bluntly," Sloan said in the letter, "such matters should not be considered the business of the management of General Motors."

Indeed, in August of 1939, the world wondered when Hitler might invade Poland. During those days, Opel, under the direct day-to-day supervision of GM's senior executive, Cyrus Osborn, played its role in Germany's fast-paced military plans. The company was already manufacturing thousands of Blitz trucks that would become a mainstay of the Reich's upcoming Blitzkrieg.

The German military in early August urgently ordered Blitz-truck spare parts to be delivered to Reich bases near the Polish border. Days later in August, nearly 3,000 Opel employees, from factory workers to senior managers, were drafted into the Wehrmacht. Moreover, at about that time, GM's Osborn began evacuating most of the American employees and their families to the Netherlands. Soon, virtually all Opel civilian passenger car sales were eliminated in favour of military orders.

At 6 a.m. on Sept. 1, 1939, Germany launched its Blitzkrieg against Poland, with troops arriving in Blitz trucks manufactured by GM's Opel. The night before, Sloan reportedly told stockholders that GM was "too big" to be impeded by "petty international squabbles," according to a congressional investigation.

Shortly after war broke out in Europe, however, GM executives in Germany tried to distance the American company from its involvement in the brutal German war machine. The Opel board was restructured to ensure that GM executives maintained a controlling presence on the board of directors but continued invisibility in daily management. This was accomplished in part by bringing in GM's reliable Danish chief, Albin Madsen, and maintaining two Americans on that board.

Continued on page B14

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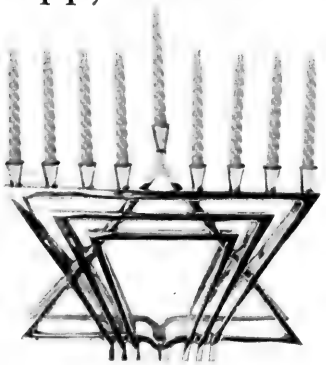
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By mid-1940, GM became a major war supplier for Allies

Continued from page B13

The company's 1939 annual report, released in April 1940, stated: "With full recognition of the responsibility that the manufacturing facilities of Adam Opel A.G. must now assume under a war regime, the Corporation has withdrawn the American personnel formerly in executive charge and has turned the administrative responsibilities over to German nationals."

However, GM was still masquerading. By the summer of 1940, a senior GM executive wrote a more honest assessment for internal circulation only. He explained that while "the management of Adam Opel A.G. is in the hands of German nationals," in point of fact, GM is still "actively represented by two American executives on the board of directors."

The construction and German-American balance of the many management entities created in the façade of control was constantly shifting during the Hitler years. But regardless of the number of members – German or American – on the various directing, managing or executive boards and committees, GM in the United States controlled all voting stock and could veto or permit all operations.

For all intents and purposes, though, once war began, Wehrmacht requirements and orders determined the specifics of military manufacturing at Opel. Like any nation at war, including the United States itself, the Reich alone determined what weapons would be made by its militarized factories. That said, it was GM's decision to remain operating in Germany, to continue to subject itself to Reich military orders, and answer the Reich's call for ever more lethal weapons.

As anticipated, Opel's Brandenburg facilities were conscripted and converted to an airplane-engine plant supplying the Luftwaffe's JU-88 bombers. Later, Opel's plants also built landmines and torpedo detonators. The factories and infrastructure that GM built during the 1930s were in fact finally used for their intended purpose – war. Opel-built trucks on the ground, Opel-powered bombers in the sky and Opel-detonated torpedoes in the seas brought terror to Europe.

Back in the United States, Sloan tried to obstruct FDR's war preparedness planning. The GM chief tried to dissuade GM executives with needed manufacturing and production experience from helping Washington's early mobilization plans. In one typical 1940 case, Sloan asked Danish-born William Knudson, who had ascended to become president of GM, not to leave the company and help Washington's war efforts. Sloan, who had become chairman of the company in 1937, warned his friend that the Roosevelt administration would make a "monkey out of you."

Knudson replied, "That isn't important, Mr. Sloan. I came to this country [from Denmark] with nothing. It has been good to me. Rightly or wrongly, I feel I must go."

Sloan retorted, "That's a quixotic way of looking at it."

By mid-1940, with or without Sloan's acquiescence, GM had been drafted by Washington to become a major war supplier for the Allies. Sloan had no choice but to comply, and GM and its employees would ultimately make enormously valuable contributions to the Allied war effort.

In June 1940, Sloan brought Mooney back to America to head up GM's key participation in America's crash program to prepare for war. He was installed as an assistant to the new GM president to take "full charge of all negotiations [with Washington] involving defense equipment "

Mooney's mere appointment sent shivers through the anti-Nazi boycott and protest committee, which well remembered his 1938 medal for what the Nazis had termed "service to the Reich." The Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League railed in a letter to Roosevelt: "How should we interpret the placing of a Hitler sympathizer and a Hitler servant (one must render service to the Reich to deserve such a medal) at the throttle of our defence program? Doesn't that appear suspiciously similar to the planting of Nazi sympathizers in key positions?"

Collusion But No Disloyalty

In June 1940, about the same time Mooney returned to America, Sloan wrote to a colleague, expressing disdain for FDR's democracy while grudgingly acknowledging his admiration for Hitler's fascist drive, even if that drive had become criminal.

"It seems clear that the Allies are outclassed on mechanical equipment," Sloan wrote, "and it is foolish to talk about modernizing their armies in times like these – they ought to have thought of that five years ago. There is no excuse for them not thinking of that except for the unintelligent, in fact, stupid, narrow-minded and selfish leadership which the democracies of the world are cursed with."

Sloan added a poignant contrast: "But when some other system develops stronger leadership, works hard and long, and intelligently and aggressively – which are good traits – and, superimposed upon that, develops the instinct of a racketeer, there is nothing for the democracies to do but fold up. And that is about what it looks as if they are going to do."

When at the end of 1940 the White House began to insist that GM break off relations with Latin American car dealers suspected of being pro-Nazi, Sloan defiantly refused. He lashed out at Washington, accusing it of protecting Communists at home while focusing on GM dealers in South America. "I have flatly declined to cancel dealers," Sloan wrote in April 1941 to Walter Carpenter, a GM board member and vice-president of du Pont.

Continued on page B15

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Mooney only one mentioned by 1941 FBI investigation

Continued from page B14

Days later, on April 18, 1941, Carpenter retorted, "I think that General Motors has to consider this problem from three standpoints – first, from the commercial, second, the patriotic and, third, the public relations standpoint… We are definitely a part of the nation here, and our future is very definitely mingled with the future of this country. The country today seems to be pretty well committed to a policy opposite to Germany and Italy."

Carpenter continued with a blunt warning. "If we don't listen to the urgings of the State Department in this connection," he said, "it seems to me just a question of time… The effect of this will be to associate the General Motors with Nazi or Fascist propaganda against the interests of the United States… The effect on the General Motors Corporation might be a very serious matter and the feeling might last for years."

A few weeks later, in May 1941, a year and a half after World War II broke out, with newspapers and newsreels constantly transmitting the grim news that millions had been displaced, murdered, or enslaved by Nazi aggression and that London was decimated by the Blitz bombing campaign, Sloan, then in his mid-60s, told his closest executives during a Detroit briefing: "I am sure we all realize that this struggle that is going on through the world is really nothing more or less than a conflict between two opposing technocracies manifesting itself to the capitalization of economic resources and products and all that sort of thing."

He then continued in a rambling, incoherent fashion, trying to further justify the company's Nazi business dealings.

By now, Assistant Secretary of State Adolf Berle, whose portfolio included the investigation of Nazi fronts and sympathizers in Latin America, had had enough of Sloan and GM executives. Berle circulated a memo asserting "that certain officials of General Motors were sympathetic to or aligned with some pro-Axis groups… That this is [a] 'real Fifth Column' and is much more sinister than many other things which are going on at the present time." Berle called for an FBI investigation.

The FBI's probe of GM senior executives with links to Hitler found collusion with Germany by Mooney, but no evidence of any disloyalty to America. The Aug. 2, 1941, summary of the investigation clearly listed Sloan in the title of the report, but Mooney's was the only name mentioned in the investigative results. However, in a separate report to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, the agent stated, "No derogatory information of any kind was developed with respect to Alfred Pritchard Sloan Jr."

Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini ride in an open car through the streets of Munich during the Italian dictator's visit to Germany, circa 1941. [USHMM, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park]

Opel's Friendly Nazi Custodian

On Dec. 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was bombed. The United States declared war on Japan. On Dec. 11, German diplomats in Washington called at the State Department to deliver Germany's declaration of war against America. All direct communications between GM and its Opel subsidiary in Germany were necessarily severed, although historians have always wondered about indirect links through Denmark, where GM operated a long-time subsidiary. Ranking GM men from Denmark were also in ranking positions both in Opel in Germany and GM in America.

After Germany declared war on America, all American corporate interests in Germany or under German control were

Continued on page B16

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GM reaped financial benefits of relationship with Third Reich

Continued from page 15

systematically placed under the jurisdiction of a Reich-appointed "custodian" for enemy-owned property. In practice, the "custodian" was akin to a court-appointed receiver. Generally, the Reich custodian's duty was not to dismember the firm or Aryanize it, but to continue to run the enterprise as efficiently and profitably as possible, holding all assets and profits in escrow until matters would be resolved after the war. This generally meant reappointing members of the pre-existing management team, although these managers no longer reported directly to their American masters in the United States.

In the case of Opel, Carl Luer, the longtime member of the Opel Supervisory Board, company president and Nazi Party stalwart, was appointed by the Reich to run Opel as custodian, but only some 11 months after America entered the war. In anticipation of the outbreak of hostilities, GM had appointed Luer to be president of Opel in late 1941, just before war broke out.

In other words, the existing GM-approved president of Opel continued to run Opel during America's war years. The company continued as a major German war profiteer, and GM knew its subsidiary was at the forefront of the Nazi war machine. An Aug. 27, 1944, a New York Times article detailed that Opel was the principal target of a 1,400-plane Royal Air Force bombing mission because its 35,000-worker plant was turning out crucial military transport and was known to be developing rocket technology.

In the wartime months and years that ensued, 1941-1945, GM built and operated some $900 million (US) worth (about $120 billion (US) in today's dollars) of defence manufacturing facilities for the Allies. Almost all of the company's undertakings were propped up by federal programs that guaranteed profit and "cost-plus" contracts, various subsidies, tax benefits and other incentives then available to defence contractors to produce goods for the war effort. Secretary of War Henry Stimson later explained that when a capitalist country wages war, "you have got to let business make money out of the process, or business won't work." Gen. Lucius Clay, who oversaw war matériel contracts, confessed, "I had to put into production schedule the largest procurement program the world had ever seen. Where would I find somebody to do that? I went to General Motors."

GM's Opel Blitz truck was a pivotal cog in Nazi Germany's military machine. It is shown here juxtaposed next to a Panzer tank, made by another manufacturer. [Collage by JTA]

GM also reaped the financial benefits of its relationship with the Third Reich. During the prewar Hitler years, GM entered its Opel proceeds under "reserves" instead of listing the profits as ordinary income. Then during America's war years, GM declared it had abandoned its Nazi subsidiary, and took a complete tax write-off under special legislation signed by Roosevelt in October 1942. The write-off of nearly $35 million created a tax reduction of "approximately $22.7 million" or about $285 billion in 21st-century money, according to an internal Opel document.

Continued on page B17

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Post-war boom powered by U.S. auto industry

Continued from page B16

But Opel's friendly Nazi custodian, Carl Luer, kept on making profits for the company during those war years. Opel produced trucks, bomber engines, landmines, torpedo detonators and other war matériel, a significant amount of it by the sweat of thousands of prisoner labourers or other coerced workers; some of those workers were tortured if they did not meet expectations. Those profits and GM's 100 per cent stock ownership were preserved by the Reich custodian, even though GM and Opel ostensibly severed ties with each other after America entered the war.

During the Hitler years, many of those excess profits were used to acquire other companies and properties, only increasing Opel's assets in Germany. After the war, starting in 1948, GM began regaining control over Opel operations and eventually its monumental assets as well as blocked dividends. GM also collected some $33 million in "war reparations" because the Allies had bombed its German facilities.

After the defeat of Berlin, GM and its executives, including those who joined the government in Washington, then steered America toward its gargantuan postwar boom. That boom was in large measure powered by the constellation of direct and indirect economic benefits delivered by the U.S. automobile industry.

GM indicted in 1947 on two counts of conspiracy

The Transit Scam

Ironically, while GM was mobilizing the Third Reich, the company was also leading a criminal conspiracy to monopolistically undermine mass transit in dozens of American cities that would help addict the United States to oil.

The war in Europe had only been over for 16 months when on Oct. 2, 1946, a memo from the Department of Justice landed on the desk of J. Edgar Hoover, outlining the elements of the GM conspiracy.

At the centre of the conspiracy was National City Lines, an Enronesque company that suddenly arose in 1937, ostensibly run by five barely educated Minnesota bus drivers, the Fitzgerald brothers. Yet the Fitzgeralds miraculously marshalled millions of dollars to buy one failing trolley system after another. Soon, through a patchwork of subsidiaries, the brothers owned or controlled transit systems in more than 40 cities. Generally, when National City Lines acquired the system, the tracks were pulled from the street, the beloved electric trolleys were trashed or burned, and the whole system was replaced with more expensive, unpopular and environmentally hazardous motor buses that helped addict America to oil.

The Justice Department discovered that National City Lines was just a front company for General Motors, in league with Mack Truck, Phillips Petroleum, Standard Oil of California and Firestone Tires – all petroleum interests. The companies became the major preferred stockholders of National City Lines, but operated behind the scenes.

The scheme worked this way: the manufacturers purchased NCL preferred stock to acquire transit lines on condition that when the systems were acquired, the trolleys would be dismantled and replaced with motor buses.

That is exactly what happened. All the conspirators gained immensely when nonpolluting electric systems were replaced by oil-burners. Phillips and Standard sold oil products. Firestone sold the tires. GM and Mack divvied up the bus manufacturing and sales market according to an agreed-upon formula.

Transit systems in 16 states were converted, adversely affecting millions of Americans, who had to pay higher fares for lesser, more unpopular service. Dozens more cities were targeted in the $9.5-million scheme.

In April 1947, indictments alleging two counts of criminal conspiracy were handed down against General Motors, Mack Truck, Phillips Petroleum, Standard Oil of California and Firestone Tires, as well as against numerous key executives of the companies.

The defendants were found guilty on one of the two counts: conspiring to monopolize the bus business by creating a network of petroleum-based transit companies that were forbidden to use transportation or technology products other than those supplied by the defendants themselves. The jury found the defendants not guilty on the count alleging a conspiracy to actually control those transit systems. On April 1, 1949, the judge handed down his sentence: a $5,000 fine to each corporate defendant except Standard, which was fined $1,000. As for National City Lines, president E. Roy Fitzgerald and his co-conspirators at GM and the other companies, they too were fined.

Each was ordered to "forfeit and pay to the United States of America a fine in the amount of one dollar."

The cases were appealed – even the one-dollar penalties – all the way to the United States Supreme Court, which allowed the convictions to stand. The government filed a civil action against the same circle of companies trying to stop their continued conduct. But the government was unsuccessful. Undaunted, National City Lines and its many subsidiaries continued into the 1950s to acquire, convert and operate urban transit systems using evolved methods.

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How will posterity remember General Motors' conduct?

The epilogue of the tumultuous saga of General Motors during the New Deal and Nazi era is still being written. That saga is the subject of a four-part JTA investigative series that concludes with this story. Thousands of pages of decades-old documents were scrutinized and re-examined to produce this series, which sheds new light on General Motors' relationship with the Third Reich and on the company's activities in America. They reveal that even as GM and its president, Alfred P. Sloan, were helping jump-start the resurgent German military, they were undermining the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt and undermining America's electric mass transit, and in doing so, helped addict America to oil.

In 1974, a generation after World War II, the company's controversial history was resurrected by the U.S. Senate judiciary committee's subcommittee on antitrust and monopoly.

GM and Opel's collusion with the Nazis dominated the opening portion of the subcommittee's exhaustively documented study, which mainly focused on the company's conspiracy to monopolize scores of local mass transit systems in the United States.

The report's author, judiciary committee staff attorney Bradford Snell, used GM's collaboration with the Third Reich as a moral backdrop to help explain the automaker's plan in more than 40 cities, to subvert popular, clean-running electric public transit and convert it to petroleum-burning motor buses.

The Senate report, titled *American Ground Transport*, was released shortly after the Arab-imposed 1973 oil shock – and it accused GM of significantly contributing to the nation's petroleum woes through its mass-transit machinations.

GM had been convicted in 1949 of leading a secret corporate combine that funded a front company called National City Lines that systematically replaced electric trolleys with oil-guzzling motor buses across America. After Snell's report was presented, GM immediately went on the counterattack, denying Snell's charges about both its domestic conduct and its collusion with the Nazis, and demanding that the Senate judiciary committee cease circulating its own report. That, of course, did not happen.

But following the release of the Snell report, the automaker then created its own 88-page rebuttal report titled *The Truth About American Ground Transport*, whose entire first section, as it turns out, had nothing to do with American ground transport. It was headlined: "General Motors did not assist the Nazis in World War II."

GM has also consistently denied domestic wrongdoing.

Thus, GM's involvement with Nazi transportation in Germany juxtaposed with its conspiracy to convert electric mass transit at home became inextricably linked by virtue of the Senate's investigation, the company's own rebuttal and the compelling historical parallel between the company's conduct in the United States and its conduct in Germany.

GM further demanded that the Senate never permit its own report, *American Ground Transport*, to be distributed without GM's rebuttal attached. The Senate agreed – a rare move indeed. Snell, however, labelled the GM rebuttal a document calculated to mislead historians and the public.

Yet, another generation later, in the late 1990s, GM's collaboration with the Nazis was again resurrected when Nazi-era slave labourers threatened to sue GM and Ford for reparations. At the time, a GM spokesman told a reporter at the *Washington Post* that the company "did not assist the Nazis in any way during World War II." The effort to sue GM and Ford was unsuccessful, but both Ford and GM, concerned about the facts that might come to light, commissioned histories of their Nazi-related past.

In the case of Ford, the company issued its 2001 report, compiled by historian Simon Reich, plus the original underlying documentation, all of which was made available to the public without restriction. Ford immediately circulated CDs with the data to the media. Researchers and other interested parties may today view the actual documents and photocopy them. The Reich report concluded, among other things, that Ford-Werke, the company's German subsidiary, used slave labour from the Buchenwald concentration camp in 1944 and 1945, and functioned as an integral part of the German war machine. Ford officials in Detroit have publicly commented on their Nazi past, remained available for comment, apologized and generally helped all those seeking answers about its involvement with the Hitler regime.

As for GM, it commissioned eminent business historian Henry Ashby Turner Jr. in 1999 to conduct an internal investigation and report his findings. Turner, author of several favourably reviewed books, including *German Big Business and the Rise of Hitler*, was well known for, among other things, his insistence that big business did not make a pivotal contribution to the rise of Hitlerism.

GM, however, declined to release Turner's internal report or discuss the company's Nazi-era or New Deal-era history or archival holdings when originally contacted by this reporter. In February 2006, corporate spokeswoman Geri Lama twice refused to give this reporter the location of the company archive. In November of this year, Lama was again asked for an on-the-record response. She said she was referring the question to "staffers," but after more than a week, no reply had been received.

GM has maintained a special combative niche in the annals of American corporate history, achieving a reputation for suppressing books, obstructing access to archival records and frustrating critics from Ralph Nader to Bradford Snell. GM attorneys even fought efforts by Alfred P. Sloan himself to publish his own memoirs, although the autobiography was finally published in 1964 after a long court fight.

In July 2005, Turner published the book *General Motors and the Nazis: The Struggle for Control of Opel, Europe's Biggest Carmaker* (Yale University Press). The book features 158 chapter text pages of carefully detailed and footnoted information, plus notes, an index and a short appendix. Although the book has been reviewed, BookScan, which tracks about 70 per cent of retail book sales for the publishing industry, reported in late October that only 139 copies of the Turner book had been sold to the key outlets monitored by the service since the publication's release.

Continued on page B19

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Wartime impact monumental

Continued from page B18

In his book, Turner, relying on his work as GM's historian, disputed many earlier findings about GM's complicity with the Nazis, concluding that charges that GM had collaborated with the Nazis even after the United States and Germany were at war "have proved groundless." Turner rejects "the assumption that the American corporation did business in the Third Reich by choice," asserting, "Such was not the case." Turner also states that GM had no option but to return wartime profits to its stockholders, since "the German firm prospered handsomely from Hitler's promotion of the automobile and from the remarkable recovery of the German economy."

However, Turner does state explicitly that "by the end of 1940, more than 10,000 employees at Opel's Russelsheim plant were engaged in producing parts for the Junkers bombers heavily used in raining death and destruction on London and other British cities during the air attacks of the Battle of Britain."

Turner also condemns GM for taking the Opel wartime dividends, which included profits made off slave labour. He writes, "But regardless of who [in the GM corporate structure] decided to claim that tainted money, its receipt rendered GM guilty, after the fact, of deriving profit from war production for the Third Reich made possible in part from the toil of unfree workers."

Aware that questions would arise about his relationship with GM, Turner's book states in its preface: "This book was not commissioned by General Motors. It was written after the documentation project was completed and without any financial support from GM. Its contents were seen by no one at GM prior to publication. It is therefore an independent undertaking by the author, who bears sole responsibility for its contents."

Turner did not respond to voice mail and e-mail messages seeking information about his sponsored GM history project, his subsequent book or other relevant topics.

The GM Opel documents assembled for the company's probe and Turner's commissioned examination were digitized on CD-ROMs and donated to Yale's Sterling Memorial Library, where the collection is categorized as being "open to the public." In point of fact, the obscure collection can only be viewed on a computer terminal. Print-outs or digital copies are not permitted without the written consent of GM attorneys.

Sterling reference librarians, who are willing to make the collection available, complained to this reporter as recently as October that they do not know how to access the digitized GM materials because of a complicated and arcane database never before encountered by them. One Sterling reference librarian answered a question about the document by declaring, "I have spoken to two reference librarians. No one knows anything about it [the GM Opel Collection], no one is in charge of it. No one knows how to access it."

Yale archivist Richard Szary, who supervised the accession of the collection, said that for the approximately half a decade that the documents have been on file, he knows of only "one or two" researchers other than this reporter who have had access to the papers. Szary, who was previously said to be the only Yale staffer who understood how to access the materials, facilitated this reporter's on-site access. He has since left Yale. By late November, however, in response to an inquiry by this reporter, a senior Sterling librarian said her staff would "figure out how to make it available" by reviewing technical details.

Simon Reich, who compiled Ford's Hitler-era documents, bristled at the whole idea. "Ford decided to take a very public, open and transparent route," he stated. "Any serious researcher can go into the [Henry Ford] archive, see the documents in paper form, and have them copied. Compare and contrast this with the fact that GM conducted a very private study and the original hard-copy documentation upon which the study was made has never been made available, and today cannot be copied without the GM legal department's permission."

Between the unpublished GM internal investigation, the restricted files at Yale and the little-known insights offered in Turner's book, the details of the company's involvement with the Hitler regime have remained below the radar.

Nonetheless, GM's impact in both the United States and the Third Reich was monumental.

On Jan. 15, 1953, company president Charlie Wilson was nominated to be secretary of defence, a job that would ultimately see him usher in the era of the interstate highway system. At Wilson's confirmation hearings, Senator Robert Hendrickson pointedly challenged the GM chief, asking whether he had a conflict of interest, considering his 40,000 shares of company stock and years of loyalty to the controversial Detroit firm. Bluntly asked if he could make a decision in the country's interest that was contrary to GM's interest, Wilson shot back with his famous comment, "I cannot conceive of one because for years, I thought what was good for our country was good for General Motors, and vice versa. The difference did not exist. Our company is too big."

Indeed, what GM accomplished in both America and Nazi Germany could not have been bigger.

Edwin Black is the author of the award-winning IBM and the Holocaust *and the recently published* Internal Combustion: How Corporations and Governments Addicted the World to Oil and Derailed the Alternatives.

SOURCES

Edwin Black's research for the JTA four-part investigative series, "Hitler's carmaker" involved the review of documents at Georgetown University; Georgia State University; the Henry Ford Museum; Kettering University; U.S. National Archives repositories in Chicago and Washington; New York Public Library Special Manuscript Collections; Yale University Sterling Memorial Library and other repositories in the United States and Germany. In addition, he had access to confidential FBI files obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, period media reports from both Germany and America, secondary literature and other materials researched to produce his just-released book* Internal Combustion: How Corporations and Governments Addicted the World to Oil and Derailed the Alternatives. *His sources also included the books* General Motors and the Nazis *by Henry A. Turner;* Sloan Rules *by David Farber and* Working for the Enemy *by Reinhold Billstein, Karola Fings, Anita Kugler and Nicholas Levis.

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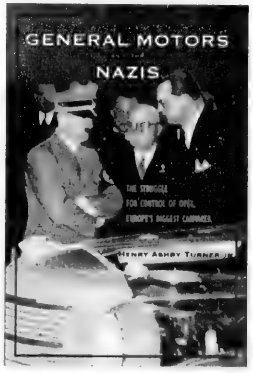
GM 'responds' to the allegations

By BILL CARROLL
Detroit Jewish News

DETROIT — In response to allegations in a JTA investigative series by author Edwin Black that General Motors assisted Nazi Germany's war efforts before and during World War II, GM said that its German subsidiary resisted the Nazis before the war but was completely taken over by the genocidal regime in 1939.



GM told the *Detroit Jewish News* that that its executives in charge of its German subsidiary Adam Opel A.G. "strove to evade Nazi demands to convert the firm's main factory for production of dedicated war material. But this became moot shortly after Germany invaded Poland in 1939, and the Nazis took complete control of Opel, turning to forced labour to bolster its manufacturing industry."

GM added that in 2000, Opel made a $15-million contribution to the German multi-company Trust Fund Initiative to compensate these forced-labour workers and their survivors.

"During the 1941-1945 period of the war, when harsh state-sponsored sanctions against Jews and others grew into the horrors of the Holocaust, GM had no role in supporting the Nazi regime," said GM spokesperson Geri Lama. Lama is based in GM's Detroit Renaissance Center headquarters.

"In fact," she added, "GM became a key part of the American war effort, without which the Nazis might have remained in power for many years longer."

To help unearth the facts of the Nazi period, GM commissioned Yale University professor Henry Ashby Turner Jr. in 1998, and Adam Opel A.G. engaged Prof. Hans Pohl of Germany to conduct independent investigations of GM and Opel activities before and during World War II. They had unrestricted access to GM's internal records.

The professors completed their research in 2000 and Turner subsequently published a book based on his findings – without participation or financial assistance from GM. The book is *General Motors and the Nazis: The Struggle for Control of Opel, Europe's Biggest Carmaker* (Yale University Press; 2005). Turner's papers were turned over to Yale's Sterling Memorial Library in New Haven, Conn.

The book tells that, like all German companies, Adam Opel A.G. helped rebuild German industry during the 1930s. As Germany remilitarized in the mid-1930s, Opel sold trucks and other vehicles to the German armed forces, as did all other German vehicle manufacturers. The last GM executive departed Opel in early 1941, many months before the United States entered the war.

Refuting any inferences of anti-Semitism on GM's part, Lama cites the GM Foundation's long history of contributions to Jewish cultural and community organizations in the Detroit metro area. In the past five years, the GM Foundation has made donations totalling about $300,000 to such organizations as the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield, the American Jewish Committee and the Shoah Visual History Foundation.

Says German subsidiary resisted the Nazis before the war but was taken over in 1939

In retrospect, concluded Turner and Pohl, Western governments, corporations, churches and other institutions should have been more alarmed as the economic revival of Germany came under the control of the Nazis and was transformed into an engine of warfare and genocide.

"Like all who lived through this dark period, GM is resolved to do all in its power as a corporation to make certain this never happens again," said Lama.

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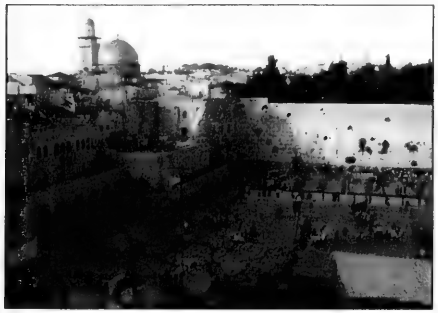

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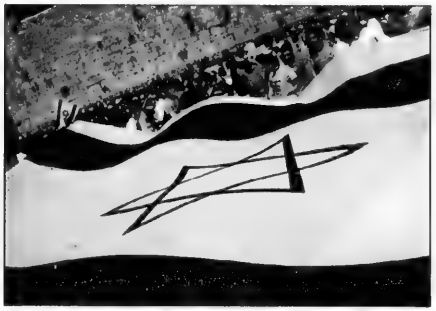

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Happy Chanukah

Liora Norwich: Canadian for coexistence

By JENNY HAZAN

It wasn't until Torontonian Liora Norwich, 25, came to Israel to research her MA thesis during the war with Lebanon in July that she really began to consider making aliyah.

The former student of comparative politics at the London School of Economics (LSE) – who graduated at the top of her class for her research on Israeli Arab identity issues – had been to Israel several times before with family and on various youth programs. But it wasn't until this past summer that opportunity knocked – or so she thought.

Norwich was offered a job with a sub-contractor offering strategic support to non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

"I had done everything I could outside of Israel, and I realized that it was time to move here, so that I could actually do long-term coexistence work with the communities I wanted to work with," she explains. "I have come for very political reasons.

"I don't believe in Zionism in and of itself – as in building the land of Israel for the Jews – because it's not viable. We've got to build the land of Israel for the inhabitants that are here," says Norwich, who officially immigrated to Tel Aviv on Sept. 5.

> ***She dreams of launching a large-scale 'social justice' project***

"If it's going to be a Jewish state, it's got to be a Jewish state living by the rules of Judaism, and it's pretty far from that right now. The state has strayed from its respect for human rights and equality. It's a question of social justice, which is what Judaism is all about," says Norwich, who graduated from United Synagogue Day Schools and Northern Secondary School in Toronto.

"I don't want to put my stamp of approval on the state yet, because I don't like so many things that the state is doing, that I think we could fix. But the external conflict is not intractable and the internal troubles aren't either. As Jews, we have done so much in the last 50 years. We have done so much wrong, but we have done so much right. Now is the time to move two steps forward."

Norwich dreams of launching a large-scale "social justice" project involving the construction of a nation-wide network of coexistence educational centres for Arab and Jewish youth.

"I know of many programs that are very small-scale, but I feel that what is needed is a big network of programs to be launched simultaneously, so that each can support the other. There is so much that can be done to create a much stronger atmosphere and much healthier citizens of the state of Israel.

"I think this kind of work is the key to eventually reaching across the Green Line, too," she adds. "Israel's relationship with the Arab Israeli community could be instrumental to ending the conflict."

Norwich got her first taste of coexistence work in her undergraduate degree in peace and conflict studies at University of Toronto. "I was already interested in the Arab-Israeli conflict, but it got me interested in how conflict resolution systems work," she explains. "The program really straddled the divide between focusing on conflict and how conflict erupts, and how peacebuilding happens."

Just after she completed her undergraduate degree in June 2004, Norwich headed to Israel, where she spent eight months interning at the *Jerusalem Post* and B'Tselem (The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories), through the Jewish Agency's Tnuat Aliyah Professional Internship program.

"I really didn't know what I was in for," admits Norwich, who lived at the Beit Canada Absorption Center in Jerusalem for the duration of the internships. "Both of them thought they were more than half time, so I ended up working around the clock for them," she says. "But they were both great experiences, if by the end of it I was a little burned out from all the free work."

Still, she pursued a third internship with Ve'ahavta, the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee, which then had a satellite office in Israel. For the final three months of her stay, Norwich designed and implemented a six-week program bringing together children from the Arab and Jewish community centres in Ramle.

"In some ways it was more exhausting than the other internships put together," Norwich says. "But it was so interesting for me to see how the two groups got along. It was an extremely rewarding experience."

Norwich says that leaving Israel after the internships was very difficult for her. "I was settled in, and I really didn't want to leave." But when she heard that she had been admitted to LSE, she knew she had to go.

Her experience in Ramle stuck with her during the year that she worked on her degree, and it was this work that eventually inspired Norwich to write her MA thesis on internal Arab-Israeli dynamics. The fallout of the events of October 2000 had a special impact on her, when, during the intifadah, Israeli police killed 13 Palestinian demonstrators in Israel's north.

Norwich returned to Israel in July to research her thesis. For three weeks, she ran around the country interviewing the families of the demonstrators, Israeli police and third-party organizations that had been stationed there.

"I tried to look at how the event had affected the identity of the Arab citizens in Israel, since I think their identity is really changing, and I think it's overlooked in the literature because of the bigger conflict happening over the Green Line," she says. "In a lot of ways, Israel is a much better place to grow up than a lot of places in the Middle East. But it's hard on its Arab citizens. It's also a push-pull because they want to be here: they want to be a part of the country, but they know that they are seen as outsiders."

While she was running around, she was offered the job with the sub-contractor, where she could apply her research to fundraising for NGOs.

Continued on page B23

Aliyah one of the toughest things she has ever done

Continued from page B22

Liora Norwich

So, after returning to London to write and submit her thesis, Norwich arranged her aliyah through the shaliach in London, promptly returned to Israel as a new immigrant and started working in September.

Alas, like most aliyah stories, hers didn't turn out quite as planned. The intended job fell through, and instead she found herself unemployed and living in Tel Aviv.

"Losing this job was really hard for me," she says. "I know so many fabulously bright, competent people who are really struggling for jobs here. So, I'm a little down on the process."

But all is not lost. While she continues to search for the perfect job, Norwich enrolled in full-time, intensive Hebrew classes at Ulpan Gordon in Tel Aviv.

"This has been a real experience," she says, adding that she hasn't learned Hebrew since she was in day school. "All of a sudden, I'm hearing Hebrew in everyday language, and it's something very interesting to me."

When she's not studying, Norwich fills her time volunteering. Her favourite organization is Rabbis for Human Rights, and she goes olive picking in the northern West Bank with group members every Friday morning. "We help Palestinian farmers pick their fields."

She explains that it's less about increasing the farmers' yields than it is about ensuring that they can gain access to their land. "It's about making an occupation – which I am not scared to call it – functional," she says. "It's not a long-term solution, but it's one way of making things a little bit better. There are things that can be done – every week, every day – and I feel this is one of the more positive things to do."

Although she feels she is making a positive contribution to Israel by being here, she admits that making aliyah is one of the toughest things she has ever done.

"What I struggle with most is a psychological thing," she says. "You are told when you come here that you are building a life, and in those words, it's really psychologically heavy. But it doesn't happen like that. Almost nothing has just snapped into place, and when things aren't going well, my inclination is to panic. I have to constantly remind myself to calm down and enjoy this adventure that I have chosen to take."

At the same time, she has been pleasantly surprised by some aspects of Israeli culture. "Israel is a really dynamic place. There is always something happening here: whether it's a random rally that you didn't know about, or someone decided to plan an event on Shenkin Street where everybody stands around and hugs everybody else at 4 p.m., or you are sitting on the beach and some guy who is completely naked and silver-spray-painted with wings stops by to tell you that 'you just have to find your inner light.'

"That's the best part about Israel – that I can't predict my day and that almost every day, something totally unexpected happens," she says. "Whereas I know that if I'm in Toronto, I can spend the whole day doing exactly what I planned to do."

Norwich says that actually being in Israel has made her more moderate. "It's very easy to sit back in Canada and say everything the state is doing is wrong. Actually living and breathing Israel has made me less extreme and less dogmatic, and has given me a much more balanced viewpoint."

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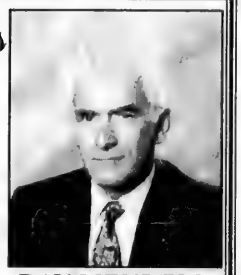

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German Jews inaugurate new shul in Munich

By TOBY AXELROD
JTA

MUNICH — Eight-year-old Sarah was perched on a trash can, with her father, Alois, holding her steady. Before them was a throng of Jews, parading somewhat solemnly down the rain-dampened street.

"They're carrying Torahs to the new synagogue," Alois explained as the crowd passed, chupahs raised high, following a young boy with a lantern that contained a spark of the eternal flame.

That spark soon would light the lamp in a new synagogue and community centre in the heart of Munich.

Former Israeli Chief Ashkenazi rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, left, carrying the Sefer Torah took part in the inauguration ceremony of the synagogue. [RNS/Reuters photo]

The Nov. 9 ceremony, attended by Jewish and political leaders and broadcast live on television, marked another liberation for the Jewish community – this time from its postwar angst, embodied by its old community centre, which was hidden in a courtyard barred by gates.

The new centre, a rectangular construction of natural stone topped with a glass box hung with nets of bronze, is open for all to see and visit. The inauguration event competed for Germans' attention with the 17th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the 68th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Nazi pogrom that heralded the end of centuries of Jewish life in Germany.

Inside the sanctuary, some 1,000 people welcomed the Torah scrolls. As in a sukkah, the sky's changing moods played out through the lofty glass structure. Only the rain stayed outside.

Inauguration event was on the 68th anniversary of Kristallnacht

Ohel Jakob, or Tent of Jacob, is a fitting name for the structure designed by architects Rena Wandel-Hoefer and Wolfgang Lorch. It bears the same name as a Munich synagogue burned on Kristallnacht.

As long as she lives, she'll never forget that day, Charlotte Knobloch, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and of the Munich Jewish community, said in inaugurating the new centre.

"I was six years old… holding my father's hand," looking at the blackened synagogues and shattered windows of Jewish shops, she said. "I did not understand at all. But I also understood everything," said Knobloch, who later went into hiding with a Catholic family.

Now, there is a new Nov. 9 to remember.

"A 68-year circle has closed," she said.

A child handed Knobloch the key to the new synagogue, and she urged Munich's non-Jews to "see this as their place, too, and visit it. Discuss, laugh and argue with us."

The day's celebration would not eclipse remembrance, nor would it distract from watchfulness, German President Horst Koehler said.

Continued on page B25

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New centre is 'a great step toward normalization'

Continued from page B24

"It's painful – painful that right-wing extremists planned an attack on the day of the laying of the cornerstone here three years ago," he said, "painful that neo-Nazis wanted to hold a march nearby" on the day of the opening.

But Koehler applauded young Germans for asking tough questions about the past. He also said he rejoiced in the growth of Jewish communities in Germany: Germany has the fastest-growing Jewish community in Europe, with 120,000 members, up from 30,000 in 1990.

Germany the fastest-growing Jewish community in Europe

Rabbi Steven Langnas, Munich's Orthodox rabbi, will preside over the synagogue, and he said he hoped it would become a spiritual centre and gathering place for the community. He asked Yisroel Diskin, Munich's Chabad rabbi, to light the eternal lamp with the spark carried from the street procession.

"There are still those around the world who would deny our flame, who deny our history," said Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress. "We must maintain our vigilance."

And yet to be a Jew in Germany today, "you don't have to hide. You can be proud," said Yisrael Meir Lau, a Polish-born Holocaust survivor and former Israeli chief Ashkenazi rabbi.

Lau described his feelings as he helped carry the Torah scrolls through the streets.

"We had for many years to hide the Torah, and today is a demonstration for the survival of Jewish identity, for Jewish immortality," he said. "People are standing outside in their windows, watching this parade of the Jewish renaissance."

But Rabbi Israel Singer, chairman of the WJC's policy council, described the new synagogue as a "test." The proof, he said, will be if the Jewish community continues to grow and thrive in Germany, if it can integrate its new Russian-speaking majority and educate a new generation.

With the mezuzahs up, the eternal flame lit and the Torahs stowed in their new ark, celebrants retired to the new ballroom for food and drink.

"I'm happy that this centre is here," said Irene Buchhalter, 82, a Holocaust survivor from Lemberg.

But she wasn't sure it was a good idea to mix with non-Jews. The older generation still has fears, she said.

When she was young, it didn't help if you fit in, and "they killed us anyway.

"We're living here like in a ghetto. But the second generation is different," she said.

A group of students congregated at the exit, gathering their coats and making plans. For them, the night was still young.

The new centre is "a great step toward normalization," said Ruth Chmiel, 21, a student born in Munich.

"Everyone can see this, just like the churches."

But how normal can Jewish life be in Germany when a new synagogue has to be guarded by sharpshooters? And when there's a growing Jewish community on one hand and signs of growing right-wing extremism on the other?

Actually, it's that contrast itself that is normal. Not just Nov. 9, but on any day.

"That's life," Langnas said between shaking hands and saying l'chaim. "Positive and negative, living and dying, joy and sadness, all mixed up with one another. And that's what we had today."

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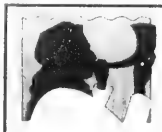
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Happy Chanukah

Leader of German Jewry sees a decades-old dream fulfilled

By TOBY AXELROD
JTA

MUNICH — The new head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany now has more time to bring her dreams to fruition.

Elected in June to serve out the term of Paul Spiegel, who died last spring, Charlotte Knobloch was unanimously confirmed Nov. 19 for a full four-year term. The council's 120 delegates met in Dusseldorf, Spiegel's former hometown, in his memory.

Like her predecessors Spiegel and the late Ignatz Bubis, Knobloch is a Holocaust survivor. As a former hidden child, she represents a bridge to the next generation of Jewish leaders, those who grew up after World War II.

Charlotte Knobloch

She thus carries hopes for the future together with sombre remembrance of the past. Those sentiments sometimes seem to clash: while Knobloch saw a dream come true with the opening of a new Jewish community centre in Munich on Nov. 9 – the 68th anniversary of the Kristallnacht pogrom that she witnessed as a child – she also has spoken out against rising right-wing extremism in Germany.

Knobloch remembers when Jews in Germany never thought they'd see a new synagogue open in the heart of Munich. Of the handful of German Jews and tens of thousands of displaced eastern European Jews stranded in Germany after the Holocaust, most wanted out.

"After 1945, none of us wanted to stay in Germany. Everyone wanted to leave, especially the young ones," Knobloch recently said in an interview with JTA. "Everyone who stayed has their story. They weren't staying voluntarily."

Knobloch's story begins with her birth in 1932. Her mother, Margarethe, had converted to Judaism to marry Fritz Neuland, an attorney and politician, but she left the family in 1936 as a result of the pressure of the Nazis' racial policy.

Young Charlotte was sent to live with her grandmother, Albertine Neuland, who was later deported.

Desperate to save his daughter, Fritz Neuland brought 10-year-old Charlotte to Kreszentia "Zenzi" Hummel, a Catholic woman who had worked as a maid for a relative of his. Charlotte went by the name Lotte Hummel and lived as Zenzi's illegitimate daughter until the war was over.

A devout Catholic, Zenzi "lived in her own world," Knobloch recalls. "She always rejected any form of recognition" after the war.

Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial, "wrote 10 times to her" hoping to recognize Zenzi's heroism, but in vain.

"She said she already had been rewarded. The family had a reason why they took this risk," Knobloch says. "Their two sons were soldiers in the war, and they hoped that if they did a good deed, their sons would come back alive. And they did come back."

Knobloch's father survived the war, and Charlotte later went to work in his law office. She also followed him as leader of the official body of Munich's Jewish community, which he had co-founded.

She later became a vice-president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany before becoming president this summer. She also heads the European Jewish Congress and is a vice-president of the World Jewish Congress.

Knobloch married Samuel Knobloch when she was 18. They have three children and three grandchildren, two of whom currently serve in the Israeli army.

"Mrs. Knobloch is a world class Jewish leader in every one of the endeavours she undertakes," said Rabbi Israel Singer, chair of the World Jewish Congress policy council. "She stands between two generations, both as a Holocaust survivor and as a person who is building for the next millennium in Jewish life. She is a woman filled with contradictions and positive creativity."

Continued on page B27

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Ever watchful, Knobloch is also ever the optimist

Continued from page B26

Knobloch has not always drawn applause from other Jewish leaders. She recently opposed Germany's decision to send peacekeeping troops to Lebanon, bending only after Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert came out in favour.

And her recent statements comparing today's right-wing extremism to the situation in 1933, when the Nazis assumed power, were contradicted publicly by Central Council vice-presidents Salomon Korn and Dieter Graumann, who expressed concern in more measured tones.

An increase in right-wing extremist incidents over last year

Crime statistics show an increase in right-wing extremist incidents over last year. Recently, pupils in a former east German town forced a schoolmate to wear a sign reading, "I am the biggest pig of all because I hang around with Jews."

During Israel's war with Lebanon this summer, a demonstrator in Munich carried a sign that read, "Jews are murderers of children."

Knobloch defended her approach.

"I was not expressing a personal fear, but I'm responsible for 120,000 registered Jewish citizens of this country, and I have seen that just raising a finger in warning is not enough," she says. "If I have to see how a young person is paraded with a sign, like Jews were forced to do [during the Nazi period], then it is not enough to raise one's finger. One has to use very drastic words, words that I hope will also have a lasting effect."

Right-wing crimes are not the only problem: neo-Nazis have used elections to gain a foothold in a handful of state parliaments in Germany.

"I sometimes have the feeling that they come and go. But the intensity of the situation today has nothing to do with the jackboots and bomber jackets" of the old Nazis, Knobloch says. "It's more subtle. It has to do with the influencing of young people, of influencing unhappy people, people who are not coming to terms with the state of the economy."

It may be a passing situation, she says, "but one has to pay enough attention so it does not become a permanent situation."

Ever watchful, Knobloch also is ever the optimist. One of her chief hopes was to see Jewish life here flourish, and to some extent it has, especially since Jews from the former Soviet Union began to arrive after 1990.

Wishes to bring certain normalcy back to Jewish life

Their integration has been a challenge, but the quadrupling of the Jewish population has led to the building of new synagogues, the opening of Jewish schools and competition among Orthodox, Conservative and Reform institutions.

One might call Knobloch a seer: some 20 years ago, when she first entered Jewish public life, she asked herself why no one had ever proposed a new main synagogue in Munich.

She decided it was her job to do that, went to city authorities and suggested that they lay a cornerstone on the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht in 1988.

"They were very polite and nice and friendly, but there was little understanding for my idea. The notion of a 'living Jewry' was not a theme at the time," she says. "I naturally did not give up. I pursued it, and the result is that now, in 2006, a synagogue and community centre and museum are opening here. It's important that Jewish life can show itself openly."

Jews and non-Jews helped raise money for the $51-million project – some gave millions, but many gave $5 or $10, Knobloch says. The centre reportedly already has the nickname "Charlottenburg."

"I hope that we in Munich will give a signal to all other institutions working hard to bring a certain normalcy back to Jewish life," Knobloch says, "so that Jews can feel the acceptance of the non-Jewish society, and not only on paper."

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Happy Chanukah

Israel wants larger share of Claims Conference funds

By URIEL HEILMAN
JTA

JERUSALEM — An Israeli coalition including the Jewish Agency for Israel, Israeli Holocaust survivor organizations and the Knesset's pensioner affairs minister is calling on the Claims Conference to give Israel a larger share of Holocaust restitution funds and more control over distribution decisions.

Leaders of the coalition announced last month that they were launching a unified effort to get the Claims Conference to recognize the centrality of Israel in its distribution of hundreds of millions of dollars in unclaimed Holocaust-era assets. The new public relations campaign was prompted by the Claims Conference's "paltry" response to emergency aid requests from Israel during its summertime war in Lebanon, Jewish Agency chairman Zeev Bielski said.

"Only one agency did not respond when I asked for one-time emergency disbursements during the war in Lebanon this summer: the Claims Conference," Bielski charged. The conference's response arrived only after the war, he said, and it was "too little and too late."

The Claims Conference denied aid requests from the Jewish Agency for hospitals and protected rooms in northern Israel, Agency spokesperson Yarden Vitikay said, committing only $100,000 (all figures US) after the war to a program for terror victims – this, from what is perhaps the richest Jewish organization in the world. By comparison, the United Jewish Communities umbrella group raised $320 million for northern Israel from its member federations.

> ***Attempting to break control over hundreds of millions of dollars***

Members of the Israeli coalition, including Yad Vashem chairman Avner Shalev, now are demanding that the Claims Conference boost Israeli representation on its board, transfer most of its operations to Israel and increase the speed and quantity of disbursements to Israeli Holocaust survivors.

This Israeli campaign represents the latest in a long string of efforts to break the Claims Conference's virtual monopoly of control over hundreds of millions of dollars in Holocaust restitution disbursements. In recent years, various survivor groups, advocates, community leaders and Israeli officials have tried to wrest some control over the restitution process from the conference's board, with only limited success.

In response to last month's announcement, Claims Conference communications director Hillary Kessler-Godin issued a statement saying, "Issues concerning governance or structure, as well as proposed changes to policy, can be brought to the board of directors of the organization, which meets in July every year."

Kessler-Godin said the conference "has been outstandingly successful in negotiating for Holocaust-era compensation on behalf of Holocaust survivors worldwide in recovering property, in assisting Nazi victims and in educating future generations about the lessons of the Shoah."

The Claims Conference has allocated emergency payments of $3.2 million to 13,000 needy Nazi victims in northern Israel, Kessler-Godin said. These are direct payments to assist victims of Nazism affected by the war. The group also recently held information sessions for Nazi victims in Israel's north concerning their eligibility for payments and assistance from various sources of Holocaust compensation and restitution.

Continued on page B29

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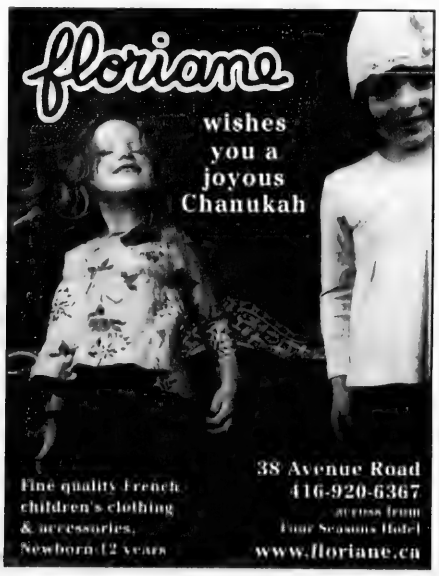

'In another 15 years, there won't be Holocaust survivors'

Continued from page B28

In addition, the Claims Conference has just allocated $1.7 million to build protected rooms in sheltered housing complexes primarily housing victims of Nazism. The Claims Conference is also preparing future projects to assist hospitals in border areas, Kessler-Godin said.

Under agreements dating back to its formation in 1951, the New York-based Claims Conference – formally, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany – is the lead organization charged with recovering Jewish war-era assets from Germany, and its successor organization has become the legal heir of unclaimed Jewish properties from East Germany.

The value of the assets recovered so far from the former East Germany numbers in the billions of dollars. Every year, the Claims Conference distributes approximately $90 million of that money to organizations of its choice according to a formula whereby 80 per cent goes to groups that provide services to survivors and 20 percent goes to Holocaust education and documentation projects.

Projects range from soup kitchens in Russia run by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to a Tel Aviv-based Yiddish theatre troupe that performs for survivors.

In the past, critics such as the National Association of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors' Leo Rechter and the World Jewish Congress' former executive vice- president, Elan Steinberg, questioned why grants were going to birthright israel, Yiddish theatre and the installation of sprinkler systems in Israeli nursing homes, rather than to needy survivors.

'Our struggle is over centrality of State of Israel'

This time, the Israeli critics – including groups that are on the Claims Conference's board – are focusing not on the types of programs that receive funding, but on the geographic distribution of funds and the composition and location of the body that makes funding decisions.

The Israelis say that they, rather than a multinational board dominated by American Jews, should decide how their share of the money is spent.

"We are a nation of victims of the Holocaust," said Noah Flug, chairman of the Center of Survivor Organizations in Israel. "Today we have no say. We don't even have autonomy in deciding how the money is distributed. Neither Israelis nor survivors are making these decisions. Things are decided for us, and without us."

Israeli Minister for Pensioner Affairs Rafi Eitan – the erstwhile Mossad field officer who captured Nazi fugitive Adolf Eichmann – said the Claims Conference has failed survivors.

Eitan visited particularly harsh criticism on the pace of disbursements, saying money is being hoarded by the Claims Conference rather than being released to survivors while they're still alive.

"In another 15 years, there won't be Holocaust survivors around anymore," Eitan said. "The Claims Conference works according to its own rules, but the money belongs only to the Holocaust survivors."

The Claims Conference's spokesperson declined to respond to specific charges.

Eitan said the fulcrum of the problem lies in the composition of the Claims Conference's board, which has not changed to keep up with the changing Jewish world. Aside from the addition of three board members, two of them survivor groups added in 1988, there have been no significant changes in the composition of the Claims Conference's board in the 55 years since it was created. Eitan's critiques echoed those described by critics in a special JTA investigative series in 2004.

The Israelis say such distortions should be rectified – by giving Israel more control.

"I don't know if they know it, but the centre of the Jewish world is here in Zion," Bielski told reporters at a press conference last month at the Jewish Agency's headquarters in Jerusalem. "We will continue this campaign until they give us our rightful seats at the table. This is our historic responsibility.

"Our struggle today is over the centrality of the State of Israel," Bielski said.

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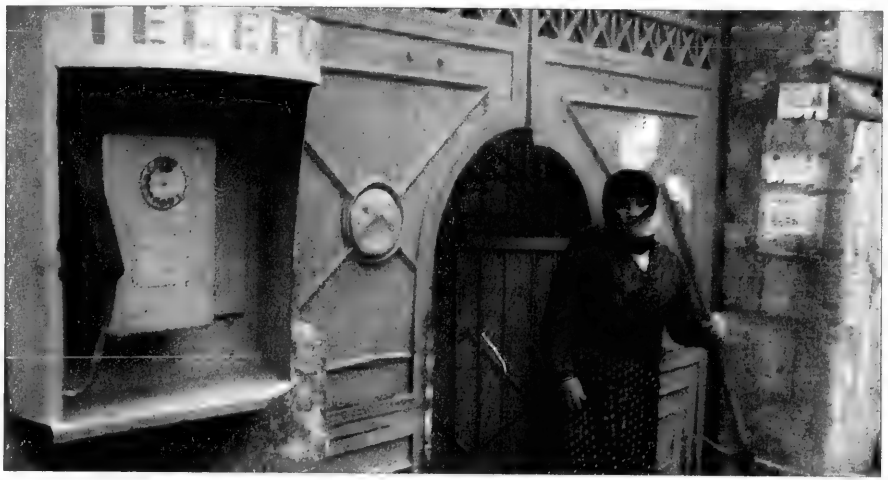

A "babushka" pushes a broom in Baku. [All photos by Kristian Gravenor]

Predominantly Shiite Muslim Azerbaijan cultivates its Jewish connections

By KRISTIAN GRAVENOR
Special to The CJN

For those following the recent conflicts in Israel, it might come as a surprise that some of Israel's best friends are Shiite Muslims.

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Since it split from the Soviet Union in 1991, Azerbaijan – where about three out of four people are Shiites – has developed a rich friendship with Israel.

The relationship was born in 1992 when Israel supported Azerbaijan against Armenia in the Karabakh War, a territorial conflict following the break-up of the Soviet Union. The war killed an estimated 20,000, and Armenia currently occupies about 20 per cent of Azerbaijan's territories.

Israel has since continued to provide intelligence, security and military training to Azerbaijan, as part of an Israel-Turkey-Azerbaijan alliance roughly pitted against an Armenia-Russia-Iran axis.

The Jews and the Shiites also do much business. Israel's Backcell is the second-largest cellphone operator in the country of eight million and just one of many Israeli businesses doing brisk trade in the nation at the foot of the Caucasus. The recent opening of the BTC pipeline allows Azerbaijani oil to flow from the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean, a supply that helps secure Israel's vulnerable energy supply from political interruption.

The relationship was born in 1992

Although its citizens are Muslim, Azerbaijan might be the most secular Muslim country, likely a result of 70 years of Soviet atheism. The main streets of Baku, the capital and the largest city of Azerbaijan, are full of women sporting trendy skin-tight western fashions and nowhere can a veil or any other religious clothing be seen. Those who climb atop Baku's famous ancient Maiden Tower might be hard-pressed to find more than a couple of minarets on the skyline.

On a recent visit to the country, I found myself at a picnic table overlooking the Caspian discussing Azerbaijan's politics with a half-dozen Azerbaijani professionals. The men proceeded with their customary lunchtime ritual – unscrewing a large bottle of Azeri vodka, which was followed by the first of countless salutary toasts.

We drank to Canada and Phil Esposito's performance in the 1972 Canada-Russia hockey series. We feasted on a sumptuous spread of fresh fruits, fried sturgeon and fatty mutton kebab.

Continued on page B33

At left, a boys' club in Baku and below, a melon market on one of the city's main streets

Some 4,000 Mountain Jews live in Azerbaijan

Continued from page B33

While such Azerbaijanis consider themselves solid members of the Muslim brotherhood of nations, they are thoroughly committed to having a fully western state.

None seem tempted by the overtures of their co-religionists in neighbouring Iran, a country that has long wooed Azerbaijan into the orthodox fold. Many Azerbaijanis remain mistrustful of Iran, a country that has forbidden its own Azeri minority to attend school in their own language, which is similar to Turkish. Iranian support for Armenia during the Karabakh War was also seen as a stinging insult.

Iran continues to attempt to dissuade Azerbaijan from the Israeli orbit. In August 2004, Iran offered Azerbaijan major concessions in a dispute over oil rights. In return, it requested that Azerbaijan cut military ties with Israel.

Iran's efforts to cultivate Azerbaijan's bitter rival, Armenia, have been more successful. In 2002, the U.S. State Department accused Armenia of helping Iran develop its nuclear program.

Azerbaijan's link with its Jewish community goes beyond modern diplomatic necessity. Just 25 kilometres from the seaside picnic table where we raised too many glasses sits Krasnaya Sloboda, home to an estimated 4,000 Mountain Jews, or Tats as they're known. The history of the Jewish hill town is debated, but it's believed to have sprung up more than 15 centuries ago. Iranian Jews settled there in the 17th century.

The area was once a stronghold in the Khazar Empire, the only Jewish state in history outside of Israel. The Khazars originated when a nomadic tribal leader named Khagan converted to Judaism in order to avoid having to choose between the Byzantine Greek Christians in the southwest and the Kievan Rus barbarians in the north.

Continued on page B34

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Most of Baku youth are trendy, modern and look to the West.

Country rich in precious petroleum resources

Continued from page B33

In a recent visit to the Mountain Jews of Krasnaya Sloboda, bestselling Jewish American author Gary Shteyngart, whose roots are in the region, described "the incredible prosperity of the place." Meanwhile, French historian Marek Halter's historical novel *The Winds of the Khazars* offers spellbinding historical conjecture about the roots of the Jewish past in the region.

Some religious historians suggest that Zoroastrianism inspired many key elements of Judaism, which is one of the world's first monotheistic faiths. Zoroastrianism originated in Azerbaijan and was inspired by the fires that shoot from the soil in the country, a phenomena that the Zoroastrians consider a divine symbol.

Another connection between the Azeris and Jews was explored in one of last year's hottest titles. Tom Reiss' *The Orientalist* explores the rich traditions of Jewish-Azeri relations through the tale of Baku novelist Lev Nussinbaum, who became a literary hero in Azerbaijan in the 1930s.

Israel has an embassy in Azerbaijan (although Canada does not) and the two countries frequently make friendship and cooperation deals. Yet Azerbaijan also lines up with other Muslim countries to speak up for the Palestinians.

The complex diplomatic web might seem impossible to other nations, but Azerbaijan has faced such demands for centuries. This country at the crossroads of Asia and Europe has seen just about every civilization pass through. Even Vikings hung their horned helmets in Azerbaijan, as proven by Gobustan's ancient petroglyphs.

Israel has an embassy in Azerbaijan although Canada does not

The popular petroglyphs, perhaps only eclipsed as a tourist site by the nearby and highly bizarre mud volcanoes, depicts ancient drawings scratched into rock by one-time Viking residents.

Some say that the Vikings have returned in the form of rowdy British Petroleum oil workers, whose pubs are now a fixture in Baku, a booming yet picturesque hill city full of winding streets, mansions, discos, museums and leafy parks.

Azerbaijan's geography and precious petroleum resources has led it to suffer much political manipulation, as regional superpowers such as Iran and Russia have played diplomatic chess in the oil-rich region.

Even Hitler hungered for control of the country. In a famous newsreel, Hitler is shown eating from a cake baked in the shape of the country, lustily swallowing the piece marked Baku. Alas, the Nazis would never gain control of the area, to the delight of the many Jews who moved there to flee the Holocaust.

Modern offshore oil extraction has allowed one million tonnes of crude to be sucked daily from the Caspian, sent north to Tbilisi, Georgia, and finally to tankers on the Mediterranean at Ceyhan, Turkey, where the crude is loaded on tankers and shipped to Israel and other countries beyond.

Contin ued on page 35

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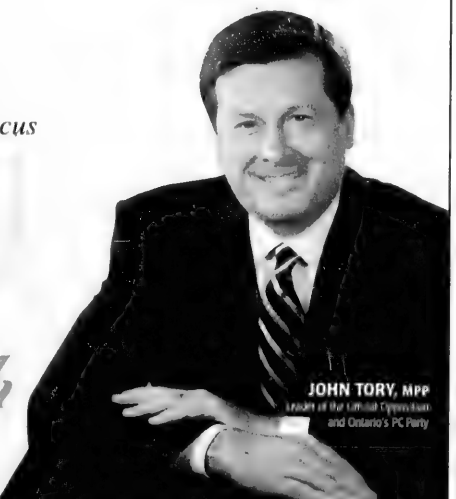

JOHN TORY, MPP
Leader of the Official Opposition and Ontario's PC Party

john@ontariopc.net

Baku is home to 11,000 of country's 16,000 Jews

Continued from page 34

The pipeline is fast turning Azerbaijan into a Kuwait of the Caspian, as an estimated $150 billion will flow to Azerbaijan over the next two decades, big money to a country where many war refugees have been living in train cars and pensioners exist on paltry pensions of $30 (US) a month.

The BTC is good news for Israel, which like most of Europe, has faced serious energy supply vulnerabilities. In May, visiting Israeli Knesset member Joseph Shagal even suggested that the BTC be extended from Turkey to Ashkelon City in Israel. The fuel that courses through the giant underground vein should offer a chance for Israel to survive any politically inspired oil blockade

After chatting about the complex politics at the Caspian-side picnic, our van headed south along the main highway to Baku, home to 11,000 of the country's 16,000 Jews. We passed Five Finger Mountain. Myth has it that it's the hand of a hero who conquered a monster that had blocked the water supply. Our driver stopped at a mosque to give alms for the needy, undoubtedly asking Allah for a bit of safety on the trip down the two-lane two-direction road.

In Baku, construction cranes dot every horizon, but Muslim traditions and tendencies are well hidden. After days of people watching on the bustling streets, I didn't spot a single burka.

I drop into a language school where thousands of young Azeris learn English. Under the Soviets, all Azerbaijanis were conversant in their language as well as Russian; many are now also learning English.

The school's principal, Senan Huseynov, who also serves in a variety of foreign relations government posts, expressed optimism about Azerbaijan's ability to get along with all sides. "We have very good relations with Israel, we are also proud to have normal relations with Iran. All this is impossible for other countries," he says, adding that "many of the Azerbaijani Jews who moved to Israel following independence have been moving back. They missed it too much here."

Huseynov dreams of seeing Azebaijan become a new Switzerland – a country of comparable geographic size and population – and eventually join the European Union. In its efforts to impress the EU, Azerbaijan has appointed many opposition party members to government committees and it has agreed to place its oil profits into a transparent fund.

Although I don't manage to track down a Jew in Baku, the words of my Toronto-based friend Fema Gelman rings in my ears throughout my trip. Gelman, a bear-like Jewish jazz bassist from Azerbaijan – a country that produces poets and jazz musicians the way Toronto produces stockbrokers and accountants – often speaks with a melancholy tone that only disappears when talking about Azerbaijan. "The seaside! The food! Delicious! The beaches! The women! Beautiful! You go! You will love it!"

He was right. I have a hunch that he might be one of the Jews who eventually returns, too.

Kristian Gravenor is a writer who lives in Montreal.

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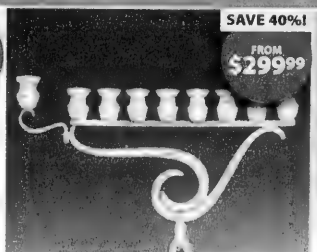

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This Week

National

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Sufganiyot on the march

The annual Chanukah sufganiyot parade was held last week in Tel Aviv, to the obvious delight of the many children who took part. *[Israel Sun photos]*

Harper, Dion condemn Iran conference

CJN News Services

The prime minister, the leader of the Opposition, Canadian Jews and politicians of all stripes joined an international chorus condemning a Holocaust-denial conference sponsored last week by the government of Iran.

In a statement issued in Ottawa, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said, "On behalf of the government of Canada, I want to condemn, in the strongest terms, this latest example of anti-Israeli and racist statements from the president of Iran. In addition, the conference hosted by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with the sole purpose of denying the Holocaust is an offence to all Canadians."

The conference, organized by the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies, was attended by 67 participants from 30 countries, including a lone Canadian, Shiraz Dossa, a professor of political science at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. Dossa, who said he is not a Holocaust denier, spoke on the topic "Liberalism, Holocaust and war against Muslims."

> ***'Latest example of anti-Israeli and racist statements from the president of Iran'***

Other conference participants included several Holocaust-deniers from Europe – among them Robert Faurisson, who twice testified on behalf of neo-Nazi apologist Ernst Zundel at his Toronto trials – former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke and half a dozen haredim from the anti-Zionist Neturei Karta sect.

Critics of the conference slammed it as hateful and incendiary.

Opposition leader Stéphane Dion issued a statement saying, "It was with shock and indignation that I first learned of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's recent comments at an international gathering of Holocaust deniers, solely designed to inflame anti-Israeli rhetoric and spread hate and racism throughout the world.

"On behalf of the Liberal Party of Canada, our parliamentary caucus and all Canadians I wish to openly denounce not only this recent example of hatred, but the intolerance and lack of mutual understanding that breeds such attitudes."

Responding to a question in the House of Commons, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay called the conference "an outrage" and "an insult to Holocaust victims" and their descendants.

"Canada's new government and I am sure many others in this House and around the globe condemn this conference, just as we have previously condemned the Iranian president's comments about the Holocaust as hateful," he said.

Continued on page 34

Shabbat Chanukah Miketz
Candlelighting: 4:26
Havdalah: 5:31

Greater Toronto Area

Happy Chanukah to all! The next issue of The CJN will be Jan. 4, 2007

The News in Brief

Canada

Hezbollah Active Here

TORONTO — Hezbollah is still engaged in fundraising and other activities in Canada several years after the government outlawed the Lebanese group as a terrorist entity, the *National Post* reported. The *Post* used the Access to Information Act to obtain secret intelligence assessments generated after Israel's recent war with Hezbollah. One of the heavily edited reports said Hezbollah still has a presence in Canada and its "activities in Canada include fundraising, censored collection and the procurement of equipment."

Deportation Upheld

TORONTO — An alleged former leader of a local arm of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) has lost his court battle to stay in Canada. Issam Al-Yamani, 50, of Mississauga, Ont., says his involvement with the PFLP was a form of freedom of expression that should be protected by the Charter of Rights. But Ottawa banned the PFLP as a terror group in 2003, and the Federal Court ruled no one has a right to belong to a terror group. The Beirut-born Yamani has been in Canada since 1985. According to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, he was also allegedly involved in the 1977 bombing of an Air Egypt office, but never charged. The Dec. 1 ruling upholds one by the Immigration Refugee Board and brings him closer to the deportation he's been fighting since 1992.

Chanukah by the Falls

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. — A 20-foot-high chanukiyah sponsored by Chabad Lubavitch of Niagara has joined more than 100 lighting displays along the Niagara Parkway in Niagara Falls, Ont.'s annual Winter Festival of Lights. Mayor Ted Salci joined Chabad to inaugurate the display at a Dec. 17 ceremony featuring latkes and donuts.

CJA Directors Named

MONTREAL — Two former Torontonians have been named directors in the Combined Jewish Appeal department of Federation CJA in Montreal. Israeli-born Yair Szlak is CJA's new campaign director, while Robin Rosenberg becomes director of the women's campaign and women's federation.

School Sells Building

LONDON, Ont. — The London Community Hebrew Day School (LCHDS) has completed the $1-million sale of its building to the University of Western Ontario. The building was a public school before the LCHDS bought it in 1979. The LCHDS will rent the 86-year-old structure until June 2008, then move to a new one on the site of London's Jewish community centre.

Cotler Pleads for Bangladeshi Journalist

MONTREAL — Montreal Liberal MP Irwin Cotler has raised the plight of a Muslim Bangladeshi journalist who faces the death penalty for allegedly damaging his country's international image, in part for attempting to travel to Israel.

Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury is standing trial on charges of treason, sedition and blasphemy for also, according to the presiding judge, "praising the Jews and Christians" and "predicting the so-called rise of Islamist militancy in the country."

Through his writings, the judge stated, Choudhury, the editor of an English-language weekly newspaper called *Blitz*, has "tried to damage the image and relations of Bangladesh with the outside world."

Cotler, a former justice minister, told the House of Commons that Choudhury is being targeted for "promoting Muslim, Christian and Jewish dialogue, peace with Israel and for seeking to attend a conference in Israel for the promotion of peace." A former Bangladeshi minister says there is no basis for the charges, Cotler said, adding that Choudhury has been beaten, received death threats and seen his office vandalized. Cotler urged Bangladeshi authorities to drop the charges.

World

Montreal Prof Barred

DUBLIN — A University of Montreal professor who wrote a book on Jewish anti-Zionism said he was prevented from giving a blessing from the bimah in Dublin's main synagogue. Yakov Rabkin, an Orthodox historian who wrote *A Threat From Within: A Century of Jewish Opposition to Zionism*, tried during Dec. 9 Shabbat services to recite a thanksgiving blessing after crossing the ocean, but was stopped by two shul members. Community members said they don't object to his politics or scholarship, but to the fact he was in Ireland at the invitation of the Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign, which many Jews say is a hate group.

Big Birthright Gift

NEW YORK — Casino mogul Sheldon Adelson is donating $5 million (US) to pay for 2,000 birthright israel trips. There are more than 20,000 18-to-26-year-old Jews on the waiting list for the free 10-day Israel trips because of insufficient funding. The gift comes as Adelson, 74, is reportedly also starting a foundation that would give $200 million a year to Jewish causes and Israel.

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Teachers withdraw Israel boycott resolution

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In what could be the first skirmish in a dispute between Toronto teachers over the Middle East, a bargaining unit of the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers Federation (OSSTF) withdrew two controversial – and opposing – motions shortly before the unit's labour council was to discuss them last week.

The first motion would have expressed the support of the Secondary Teachers Bargaining Unit (STBU) for the international boycott campaign against Israel while the second called for that motion to be tabled until experts expressing the Israeli point of view were heard and the union's membership could devise its own policy position on the Middle East.

Arron Eisen, a math teacher at A.Y. Jackson Secondary School, co-authored the second resolution along with his colleague Eric Walker. He said the pro-boycott motion supported a controversial resolution passed by the Ontario wing of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) last May.

Eisen said CUPE Ontario's Resolution 50, if adopted, "would be detrimental to the union."

"It was divisive of CUPE, and I didn't want to see that divisiveness within our own union," he said.

What's more, he added, "I believe the CUPE resolution brought CUPE into disrepute in the eyes of the public and I don't want that to happen to the OSSTF."

Eisen said he learned of the resolution after reading an interview with a senior CUPE Ontario official, Katherine Nastovski, in *D12 Voice*, the newsletter of OSSTF's District 12, which represents teachers in Toronto.

"There have been a number of highly unbalanced articles on the Middle East appearing in *D12 Voice*," Eisen said. "I didn't react to them, but the last one was the straw that broke the camel's back. I felt it was something I needed to voice opposition to."

When he raised his concerns to colleagues in the union, he learned of the proposed motion in support of the CUPE Ontario position, and he decided to submit his own motion.

Doug Jolliffe, president of District 12, said the motion to support CUPE's position did not originate with the executive. "It came out of a group of teachers who were pushing this from the fall. The first time it came forward officially was when it was presented for the December [STBU] Council." (It was submitted by Jason Kunin of Vaughan Road Academy and Hyssam Hulays of Harbord Collegiate.)

"I don't know why it was withdrawn," Jolliffe said, though if it is resubmitted, "I will be speaking against the motion."

Jolliffe, who stressed he was speaking only in his personal capacity as a member of the STBU's labour council, said the OSSTF has not taken a position on the Middle East conflict, and he would like to keep it that way.

He said he personally does not believe Israel practises apartheid as South Africa did, though some Israeli practices could well be criticized and do resemble apartheid.

However, he asked, if the labour council opens the door to criticism of Israel, why should it stop there?

"In the end, why just Israel? I don't think we should be doing this at all."

The conflict in the Middle East is so complicated, "how do you come up with a resolution in Toronto that deals with it?" he said.

In a mass e-mailing, B'nai Brith Canada warned that the motion could reappear at the January labour council meeting. It urged B'nai Brith supporters to voice their opposition to the motion and to familiarize themselves with the issues.

Eisen also expects the motion to be reintroduced next year. It's the first skirmish in a larger war, he suggested. He said he has support from other teachers at A.Y. Jackson as well as from outside the school.

Until recently, he had remained silent while criticism of Israel was voiced. Now, he said, "People realize it's important to react and speak up."

Len Rudner, director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, said that "we have confidence that District 12 will pay close attention to the opinions of all its members and not act in a precipitous fashion."

He noted that many teachers had contacted congress to express opposition to the motion.

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Greater Toronto Area

Doing more Jewish with books

From the editor's desk

In the past two weeks in this column, I have urged readers to "do more Jewish," as a way of standing up to the enemies of the Jewish people.

It is my firm belief that this formula is an in-their-face, self-asserting, self-empowering, consciousness-raising, personal statement of defiance and self-confidence against a natural encroachment of excessive worry or loss of hope over a Jewish future that sometimes seems too heavily populated by rogues, thugs and plain old anti-Semites intent on our harm.

The beautiful utility of the formula is that it requires merely a modicum of curiosity and a slightly higher degree of commitment to actually get started. And there are myriad ways of doing so, including lectures, song, dance, study, prayer and group discussions, to name but an obvious few.

Perhaps the easiest way to "do more Jewish" is simply to pick up a book on a Jewish theme – any theme – and travel in, through and along its pages to the destination the author inscribed.

In that vein, I recommend the following recently published books as possible personal starting points.

In the field of Judaica, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz has just released a 30th-anniversary edition of his seminal guide to the novice Jewish student, called *The Essential Talmud* (Basic Books, 2006).

The original book arose out of the magnum opus undertaken by the remarkable rabbi to translate the Talmud into modern Hebrew and, along with Random House, to bring forward a new English version.

Described by *Time* magazine as a "once-in-a-millennium scholar," Rabbi Steinsaltz is an immensely talented gatherer, synthesizer and explainer of vastly disparate material.

The re-released edition of *The Essential Talmud* contains a new preface by the author along with new material throughout. It is a lucidly written, contextualized, engaging primer that masterfully fulfils the aspiration of its author, namely, "to enable readers to understand the significance of the Talmud" and to serve as an entry point into its fascinating world.

One year earlier, in 2005, the prolific Rabbi Steinsaltz published *We Jews: Who Are We and What Should We Do?* (Jossey-Bass). This book is "about Jews" and for Jews, as a "private, intimate conversation within the Jewish family." Each of the 12 chapters answers large, fundamental questions concerning the modern condition of the Jewish world. The last chapter, for example, asks "What will become of the Jewish People?"

His answer is important reading in our troubled times. His books are always entertaining and highly informative, worthy reads all of them.

In the field of Bible, the distinguished American biblical literature scholar, Robert Alter has published an artful English translation of *The Five Books of Moses* (W. W. Norton & Company Inc., 2004) for readers who cannot read the Bible in Hebrew, yet yearn to become more familiar with its historic figures, momentous stories and life-altering instruction. His skill is masterful. And his devotion to the sanctity of the task is evident on every page. He has also added commentary that provides linguistic, historic, anthropological and other informative contexts for the text he so lovingly translated.

In the field of Bible commentary, Rabbi Moshe Lichtman has written *Eretz Yisrael in the Parashah* (Devora Publishing, 2006).

Born and raised in Elizabeth, N.J., Rabbi Lichtman emigrated to Israel in 1991. As he makes plain in the book's very first pages, his book has an overt purpose in addition to biblical exegesis for its own sake.

"Its goal is to demonstrate how overridingly important Eretz Yisrael is to our religion and encourage Diaspora Jews to at least consider making God's Chosen Land their permanent dwelling place."

The book is primarily a compilation of essays that Rabbi Lichtman wrote "during very trying times" in Israel, beginning in 2000. The tone of the essays reflects those trying times. The author demonstrates his wide scholarship in highlighting the specific references to the Land of Israel in the weekly Torah portions and how they are woven into the beliefs and traditions of Israel.

In the field of poetry, I recommend *Within the Song to Live* (Gefen Publishing House, 2005) about the songs, poetry and insights of the late Israeli author Natan Yonatan.

The book is a superb introduction to Yonatan, who died on March 12, 2004, and to his poetry: elegaic, pithy, earthy, very much reaching to the heart of ordinary, existential, life-testing trials.

Two features of this book make it especially attractive: the poetry is written in Hebrew and in English; and a CD is included of selected poems from the collection. The music on the CD was written by *CJN* columnist Gid Koren.

Do more Jewish. Read a book. Any book. The times in which we live call for it. And so do the stirrings of our souls.

–MBD

See]N

ORDER OF ONTARIO

Donald Carr, founding partner of the law firm Goodman and Carr and president of *The Canadian Jewish News*, was appointed last week to the Order of Ontario, which recognizes the highest level of individual excellence and achievement in any field. Carr was named to the order for serving as counsel and adviser to a wide range of charities and not-for-profit organizations in the province, and for his pro-bono legal work. Carr said he is extremely honoured to be a recipient of the Order. "When I look at what many of the other recipients have done, I feel honoured to be among them," he said. "I have been blessed with partners who not only permit me to spend time on charitable activities, but encourage it as part of the firm's commitment to contribute to a community of which we are part." Other new members of the Order include civil servant Naomi Alboim, orchestra conductor Boris Brott, medical inventor Leon Katz, philanthropist Sandra Rotman and broadcaster Moses Znaimer.

Chabad of Markham celebrates Chanukah

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
Special to the CJN

Skating Maccabees aren't an everyday sight at public arenas in Markham, but thanks to strong bonds Chabad-Lubavitch of Markham, Ont., has forged within its community over the last two decades, they're not entirely unexpected.

"Twenty years ago in Markham, it was a big deal" to see a public Chanukah celebration, said Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti at Fire on Ice, Chabad's annual skating party held at Clatworthy Arena last Saturday.

With more than 50 per cent of its residents born outside Canada, Markham has become one of Canada's most diverse communities, and Scarpitti called the giant outdoor menorah that now stands at Bayview Avenue and John Street "a symbol of peace and light for everyone."

From left are Yossie Berktin as the "skating Maccabee," Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Rabbi Avrohom Plotkin at Chabad's annual skating party. Below: Leo Baeck Day School students Emma Rosen, 7, and Daniel Rosen, 5, enjoy Chabad's annual skating party.

The evening began with a Havdalah ceremony led by Chabad Rabbi Avraham Plotkin, followed by a menorah-lighting ceremony, Chanukah ice capades featuring demonstrations by two former Olympic skaters, and – last but not least – a public skate with the "skating Maccabee," who roamed the ice, bravely stopping once in a while to help fallen kids or pose for a photo.

MP Susan Kadis as well as regional councillor Jack Heath also joined the celebration, bringing official recognition for Chabad and for the holiday. "I come every year," said Heath. "Jews on ice – how Canadian can you get?" He also admitted: "I come for the latkes. I've already had four."

Latkes scored high for a number of young participants, like Ori Epstein, 3, who sat on his mother's lap happily watching the skaters, his face shiny with cotton candy. Ori also looked forward to being home to light candles in the new menorah he made at Chabad's Torah Tots preschool.

"Chocolate," said Eli Romi-Babanyi, a Grade 5 student at Netivot HaTorah, that's his number one Chanukah treat, along with a chance to light the menorah, not to mention next week's big Florida trip during his school vacation. Other kids said they loved dreidel games and were also enjoying the Chanukah-themed carnival in the arena's lobby.

Chanukah is the festival most closely associated with the Chabad-Lubavitch chassidic movement worldwide, with eager young shiluchim travelling the world to bring a message not just of fun but also of *pirsumei nisa*, publicizing the miracle.

Through public menorahs, car menorahs and countless inexpensive menorahs given out free, shiluchim like Rabbi Plotkin have worked to spread word of God's miracles for the Jewish people, and spur Jewish pride in places that may not encounter many Jews.

"This is a great opportunity," Scarpitti said, "for young children and families to gather to celebrate faith, celebrate community, during this very special time."

Rabbi Plotkin credits Chabad's success to allies like Scarpitti, who was elected around the same time that Rabbi Plotkin came to Markham. "We're very lucky to have the mayor as a friend."

Chabad has opened its arms to Scarpitti at most of its public celebrations, including welcoming him to a "l'chaim" in its sukkah. Scarpitti enjoys every chance to participate with the Jewish community, but calls Chanukah a "wonderful opportunity," a deeper lesson of peace overcoming persecution.

With great pride, all of us at Goodman and Carr LLP
extend our warmest congratulations to our Partner and a founding member of the firm

DONALD CARR, QC

On his appointment to the

ORDER OF ONTARIO

*We have long recognized Don Carr as an exceptional lawyer,
a community leader and a gentleman – it has now simply been made official.*

G&C
GOODMAN AND CARR LLP

Women to speak out against domestic violence

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Jewish Women International Canada has created a speakers' bureau to help spread awareness of domestic abuse in the Jewish community.

"We are putting out a call to survivors of abuse who may want to tell their story," says Penny Krowitz, JWI/C executive director. "It is an extremely delicate, emotional issue, and it takes incredible guts and courage [to talk about it]."

The idea, Krowitz said, is not for the woman to get revenge publicly, "but rather to describe the abuse and talk about how she felt while it was going on."

The goal is to help people understand what acceptable behaviour is, and to help identify emotional, psychological, financial and sexual abuse, she said.

"Abuse is an imbalance of power. It is insidious, and it grows slowly. People don't often recognize it," said Krowitz, whose organization launched a billboard campaign about the issue last spring.

"We wanted to create a buzz about the issue, and we absolutely did. [Everyone] in the Jewish community needs to know that we are not immune to domestic violence."

They plan to hold the billboard campaign every Passover, because it is the holiday of freedom, she said.

"If we help one family identify an abusive relationship, then I will feel good."

In an attempt to reach out to youth, JWI/C has partnered with Hillel and has trained university students interested in the topic to go out and speak to groups.

"We want to educate young people about identifying red flags in a relationship. Peer pressure is so strong that sometimes youth accept behaviour [in other people] that is not acceptable.

JWI creates speakers' bureau to spread awareness

"We are in a catch-22 situation. We have lived with the stereotype of the Jewish family being perfect, and that myth can be destructive."

The organization is also working on a needs assessment, in partnership with Jewish Family & Child Service and the University of Toronto school of social work, in order to determine the number of women in abusive relationships and what they need to help them, Krowitz said.

"This will enable us to evaluate services and be proactive in creating healthy environments."

Krowitz said they are "trying to be out there in the community. We have to talk about it publicly so people know that if they are in an abusive relationship, they are not alone. There is help available.

"Getting help does not necessarily mean the marriage is going to break down. It is just the next step. There are many roads to take," she said.

Yvonne (not her real name), 63, who was in an abusive marriage for 18 years – she married her first husband at age 20 – said she has joined the speakers' bureau because she felt so isolated when she was young.

"I would like to help anyone in the situation that I was in for so long."

Her husband began abusing her, she said, the morning after her wedding, and continued throughout the honeymoon. "I was shocked and scared, but my parents had just made me a lovely wedding. I was too embarrassed to tell anyone."

Years of abuse followed, Yvonne said, and "one of the worst incidents was being thrown out in the cold in my nightgown when I was pregnant with my second child."

She never shared her experiences with anyone while she was married, she said. "My feelings ranged from hope that things would change, to pure hate. I was always sad and terrified, and I had resigned myself to my fate."

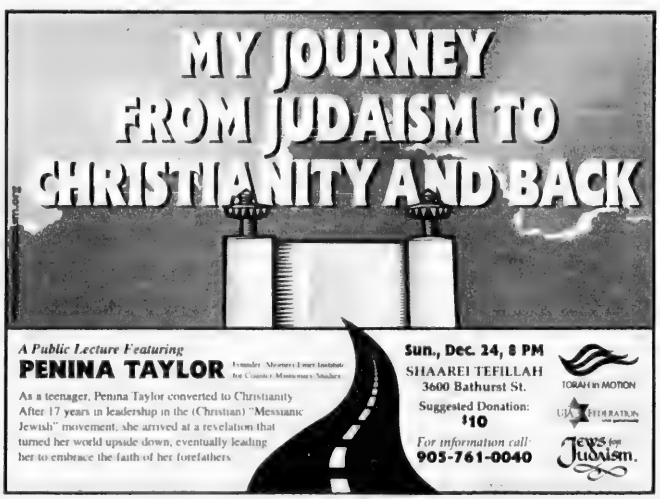
She tried to hide all evidence of abuse, she said, "but my oldest [of three] children would hear him screaming and would come into the room and beg him to stop.

"For years, he would make me cry, but then I stopped and decided I couldn't lower myself anymore. When I finally said, 'That's it,' he threatened to kill himself, and to this day, he says I was unfair."

She had a brief second marriage that didn't work out, she said, "but I have now been happily married for 20 years. I was able to move on.

"I had always had a small income, but when I left my first husband, I went back to work. For that, he did me a favour. I was forced to go to work."

Her advice to women in a similar situation is to "get out. There is help out there. No one is alone anymore."



Women central to Chanukah story, rabbi says

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Little is known about women's central role in Chanukah, says Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, director of Kolel: the Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning.

"There are all kinds of texts about women and Chanukah, but people are generally unfamiliar with them," she says.

She spoke recently, along with Rachael Turkienicz, director of the Learning Centre, at the first of a three-part series sponsored by the two organizations.

The next two workshops are about women and Passover on March 18, and women and learning on June 3 and 4.

The seeds for the series were planted, says Rabbi Goldstein, after the two co-taught a six-week course about studying texts using a women's perspective.

"We discovered a lot of women are interested in learning about their role in history."

Speaking about the laws and texts on women and Chanukah, Rabbi Goldstein said that although Jews are allowed to work on Chanukah, there is a custom that women don't work during the time the candles are lit, and one should not be lenient about this.

"The reason women are stricter about this than men is because the decrees of the Greeks were harsher on Jewish women."

Regarding the custom of eating dairy on Chanukah, Rabbi Goldstein said that that was also because of woman.

"The Greeks decreed that in order to be married, [a woman] must first have relations with the Greek governor. Yehudit, daughter of Yocharian, the high priest, was very beautiful. The enemy king asked her to sleep with him, and she said she would agree to his request," she said.

"She then fed him dishes of cheese products so that he would become thirsty, and [gave him wine to drink] so he would become drunk and fall asleep.

"She then cut off his head and brought it to Jerusalem. When the head of the Greek army saw that the king was dead, they fled.

"Some people today have the custom of eating dairy dishes on Chanukah to remember the miracle which [occurred] through these dishes."

There is a Sephardi Chanukah tradition, she says, that on the seventh night of the holiday, women hold a gathering at which all who fought with each other during the year agree to reconcile their differences.

Rabbi Goldstein says that by hearing these stories, women become encouraged and inspired to get more active, "because they feel central to the holiday."

TOY DRIVERS: BBYO members collected toys last week for the group's annual Chanukah toy drive. All items were donated to the United Chesed Toy Drive. Pictured, back row from left, are Sarah Katz, Michelle Covant, Emmanuel Elkabas, Gillie Geller, Kyle Goldman, Jaime Glassman, Sharon Turner, Tyler Berman and Jamie Matin; and, front row from left, Kelly Indarjit, Tammy Dayhin, Melissa Kadish, Edan Kelner, Daniel Covant.

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Where the world should shudder to go

Francois Heisbourg is a man of great integrity and determination. The indignation that cut and seared its angry wound into his conscience was finally too much to bear without reacting. Thus, the Paris-based researcher single-handedly organized a wide, international band of his research colleagues to protest last week's Holocaust denial conference in Tehran.

Heisbourg is chairman of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London and president of the Geneva Center for Security Policy. As reported last weekend in *Ha'aretz*, he persuaded some 40 European and North American research institutes to suspend contact with the Iranian Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), a leading Iranian think tank that helped organize last week's conference.

According to *Ha'aretz*, the 40 institutes which includes the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria, led by Gordon Smith – have agreed to suspend ongoing programs with the IPIS and have also refused to join in IPIS meetings or invite IPIS staff to their own forums and to decline travel to Iran sponsored by the Iranian institute.

"IPIS has now forfeited its status as an acceptable partner," Heisbourg told the media. The social scientist explained that he and his colleagues are determined "to make it very, very clear that every time a red line is crossed there actually is a price to be paid."

They are to be commended for taking so unambiguously forthright a stand. So too were the group of prominent individuals – among whom were Meir Rosenne, Dore Gold, Elie Wiesel, Irwin Cotler and Alan Dershowitz who convened last week in New York to urge that the Iranian president be charged with incitement to commit genocide. The moral clarity and resounding courage of their very public opposition to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ring very loudly against the mostly silent, ineffectual response of the rest of the world.

Ahmadinejad convenes a conference aimed at proving the genocide of the Jews of Europe did not happen, even as he constantly boasts of the need to perpetuate the genocide of the Jews of Israel and feverishly attempts to build or buy nuclear weapons know-how. He long ago crossed an ominous red line and appears headed like a moth to white light, toward a dark, deadly chaos of hell and madness. The world should shudder to go there with him.

But few are the governments, and fewer still the international institutions, that are prepared to make the Iranian regime pay a price for its worrisome and dangerous policies.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Victor Kugler, who helped hide Anne Frank in World War II, died in Toronto at 89. Kugler, a native of Austria, managed a spice business with Frank's father, Otto, in Amsterdam. In July 1942, the Franks and four other Jews went into hiding, and Kugler was among those who brought them food and supplies. Known in Anne's diary as Kraler, he was sent to a camp when the Franks were discovered. He survived and came to Canada in 1955.

Dry Bones

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Neturei Karta a fringe extremist group

On behalf of the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto, the Council of Orthodox Rabbis of Toronto, I want to express our outrage at the participation of outwardly Orthodox-looking men in the recent fiasco of Holocaust denial at a conference in Iran.

These people represent a fringe extremist group, Neturei Karta, who have expressed their anti-Zionism in hateful and outrageous behaviour. Hugging a man intent on the destruction of Israel has not one shred of justification. Do they think that he will destroy Israel but the Jews of Israel will be spared? And that with the destruction of Israel, all the Jews will live happily under Iranian rule?

There should be no confusion that since these men look Orthodox, other Orthodox Jews share their views. On behalf of all the Orthodox rabbis of Toronto, I vehemently express our total opposition to this behaviour.

We pray daily for the welfare of Jerusalem, for the peace of all Jews regardless of political views. We recite psalms for the protection of all the Jews of the Land of Israel in the face of threats of terrorism and war.

On this, the holiday of light, may we all be enlightened with the light of the Torah, whose ways are pleasant and paths are all peaceful.

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks
Secretary
Vaad Harabonim of Toronto

* * *

Hatred emanating from Tehran

Sixty-three years after I stood in the shadows of Auschwitz gas chambers and saw my mother and sister and hundreds of others transported to the gas chamber, I thought that the frequency of my nightmares would diminish. Instead my sleep is invaded almost nightly with intermingled old horrors and new ones. This time my nightmares of unspeakable horrors do not only include the past but also embrace the future as I hold my grandchildren in my embrace.

The Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, at a conference of world-infamous Holocaust deniers, promises annihilation and destruction of Israel and its Jews. Reminiscent of 1930s, it is painful to all Jews, but especially to the small remnant of survivors that is diminishing with each week and each day. The memory of the cruelty of death through gassing, shooting, hunger and brutal beatings of our loved ones are sufferings that we relive daily and that few will ever understand. We lost all our families throughout Europe, and there is now a concerted attempt and conspiracy to erase the memory of those that perished and also to deny that the most horrific crime of the 20th century ever happened. Except for the few world leaders who have the courage to denounce the Iranian threat – among them, thankfully, our own Prime Minister Stephen Harper – there is a deafening silence. The majority of nations and most prominent individuals are silent, there are no mass demonstrations in front of the Iranian embassy and the Muslim organizations are silent.

When will the world understand that Israel is the canary in the mine? Israel's fate and that of the free world are tied together. Israel and the Jewish people may be the first to be targeted but will not be the last in the plans of the Islamist fascists. Together with Israel, the world must stand resolved to fight to overcome this new evil threat to our way of life.

Nathan Leipciger
Co-chair
Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada
Toronto

* * *

OU doesn't represent all Orthodox Jews

Readers of the article "OU may now oppose Israeli gov't" (*CJN*, Dec. 7) may get the wrong impression that the Orthodox Union speaks on behalf of all Orthodox Jewry on this continent. The last time I checked, however, there is no democratic process in place for selecting delegates or representatives to this organization. So, while I respect Larry Zeifman's right to express his personal views (or express views in his capacity as the vice-president of OU Canada) and to advise us of his condemnation of certain Israeli government actions, I do not believe that they are truly representative. There are many Orthodox Jews in Canada who are uncomfortable in adopting such a critical view of the Israeli government, as is suggested by the article, yet they have no official spokesperson or lobby group to advocate these views on their behalf.

Joseph Y. Adler
Toronto

* * *

Seeking a kidney donor

I am the father of seven children and have three grandchildren. As of Dec. 24, 2005, I have been on dialysis for kidney failure. Up until then, I was very active in the community as a chiropractor, helping others to feel better. I have had to give up my practice and still have children in university who require my support.

If there is someone out there who can donate a kidney or know of someone who could help, please contact me. Being an only child, I have no siblings to match up with me.

Zev Kniznik
Toronto
416-256-7975 (home)
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Perspectives

'What then must be done?'

By IRWIN COTLER

The following is a statement presented in New York City Dec. 14 at an international gathering on brining Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to justice for incitement to genocide in violation of both the Genocide Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide and the Treaty for an International Criminal Court.

We are witnessing – and have witnessed for some time – the emergence of state-sanctioned incitement to genocide whose epicentre is Ahmadinejad's Iran.

The toxic convergence of the advocacy of the most horrific of crimes – namely genocide – embedded in the most virulent of hatreds namely, anti-Semitism.

Propelled by the publicly avowed intent to acquire nuclear weapons for that purpose so as to "eliminate" Israel "in one single storm."

Dramatized by the parading in the streets of Tehran of a Shahab-3 missile draped in the emblem "wipe Israel off the map."

Denying the Nazi Holocaust as it incites to a new Middle Eastern one.

And if this were not enough:

Warning Muslims who would recognize Israel that they will burn in the umma of Islam.

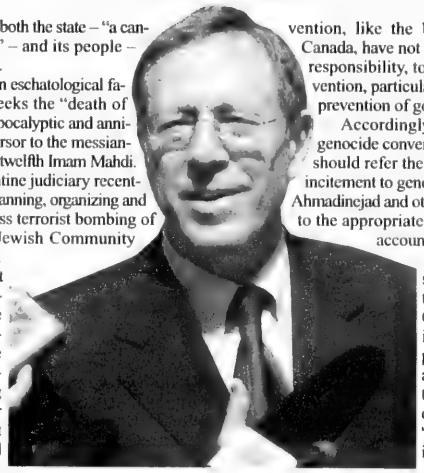
Seeking not only the destruction of a country Israel – but the annihilation of its people.

Demonizing both the state – "a cancerous tumour" – and its people – "evil incarnate".

Inspired by an eschatological fanaticism that seeks the "death of Israel" – as an apocalyptic and annihilationist precursor to the messianic coming of the twelfth Imam Mahdi.

As the Argentine judiciary recently determined, planning, organizing and ordering the mass terrorist bombing of the Argentine Jewish Community Centre (AMIA).

This direct and public incitement to genocide is a standing violation of the genocide convention, constituting not only a clear and present danger to Israel and the Jewish people, but to the international community as a whole.



Irwin Cotler

What then must be done?

1. First, we should support the issuance of arrest warrants by the Argentine judiciary for the named Iranian authorities – including former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Hezbollah operatives.

2. Second, state parties to the genocide convention, like the United States or Canada, have not only a right, but a responsibility, to enforce the convention, particularly as regards the prevention of genocide.

Accordingly, pursuant to the genocide convention, state parties should refer the horrific criminal incitement to genocide by President Ahmadinejad and other Iranian leaders to the appropriate UN agencies for account.

3. State parties should initiate in the International Court of Justice an inter-state complaint against Iran, also a state party to the genocide convention, for its "direct and public incitement to genocide" in violation of the genocide treaty.

4. The situation of the international criminality of President Ahmadinejad, and other Iranian leaders should be referred by the UN Security Council to the special prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for investigation and prosecution.

5. State parties to the genocide convention, which have enabling domestic legislation, should prepare criminal indictments for President Ahmadinejad, former president Rafsanjani, and other Iranian leaders on the basis of the "universal jurisdiction" principle embodied in the genocide convention.

6. A group of international lawyers, including Prof. Alan Dershowitz and myself, are preparing an indictment of president Ahmadinejad and other Iranian leaders for the violation of the prohibition in both the genocide convention and the International Criminal Court Treaty, against the "public and direct incitement to genocide".

There has been a good deal of discussion about holding Iran accountable for its international criminal conduct, particularly its defiance of UN Security Council Resolutions, calling for the suspension of its uranium enrichment process as a prelude to acquiring nuclear weapons. The recommended options have included everything from UN sanctions to military strikes.

It is time that these juridical options be initiated, which might also embolden progressive forces within Iran while holding the responsible individuals accountable. Indeed, recent history has taught us that sustained international juridical remedies can bring about the indictment of seemingly immune dictators, such as Slobodan Milosevic and Augusto Pinochet. This is an opportunity for countries like the United States and Canada to exercise juridical leadership in regard to one of the most important threats confronting the international community.

Indict Ahmadinejad for inciting genocide

By BEN HARRIS
JTA

NEW YORK — Barely 48 hours after the conclusion of a government-sponsored Holocaust denial conference in Tehran, Jewish leaders gathered in New York to announce an initiative to bring Iran's president to trial for inciting genocide.

An all-star lineup of prominent politicians, lawyers and Jewish leaders laid out the case against Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, noting his stated objective of "wiping Israel off the map," his consistent denial of the Holocaust, and his country's pursuit of nuclear and ballistic missile capacity.

Ahmadinejad's incitement violates the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, speakers said. The Dec. 14 event at the New York County Lawyers' Association was organized by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Even as speakers accused Ahmadinejad of violating the genocide convention, they also sought to lay the groundwork for a military strike if diplomacy and legal action don't derail Iran's quest for nuclear weapons.

"We will try the law. We will try politics. We will try everything," said Alan Dershowitz, a prominent attorney and professor at Harvard Law School. "But if they fail, we will use self defense."

In addition to seeking an indictment of Ahmadinejad in the International Criminal Court, Dershowitz disclosed that he and Canadian MP Irwin Cotler, a former justice minister and prominent human-rights lawyer, were preparing a brief to justify military preemption if legal efforts don't work.

"We waited once, we will not wait again," said Dershowitz, who like other speakers evoked the global silence as the Nazis prepared the Holocaust. "Do not expect passive acceptance of genocide. We will fight back."

Iranian diplomats in New York were unavailable for comment.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

Several speakers expressed reservations about placing too much faith in the United Nations.

"When you're thinking about remedies, don't be naive about the United Nations," said Ruth Wedgwood, a noted international lawyer and professor at Johns Hopkins University.

She further cautioned that UN initiatives have a history of being turned around and used as diplomatic weapons against the State of Israel.

Martin Peretz, editor-in-chief of the *New Republic*, scoffed at the idea that the United Nations could stop Iran. He accused outgoing UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan of being a "handmaiden to Darfur," the region of Sudan where government-sponsored Arab militias have killed tens of thousands, and a silent bystander as genocides unfolded in Rwanda and Bosnia.

Annan "is invited to dinners all over Manhattan, at Jewish tables," Peretz said. "He should be put in *cherem*," or excommunicated.

Peretz noted also that Annan has avoided using the term genocide to describe the killings in Darfur – a term that would compel international action under the anti-genocide convention.

The resort to legal recourse against Iran was initiated by the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, whose president, former Israeli UN ambassador Dore Gold, said Ahmadinejad was in "clear-cut violation of the anti-incitement clauses of the 1948 genocide convention."

Speakers noted two cases in which international law had been used successfully to prosecute war criminals — former Chilean leader Augusto Pinochet and Slobodan Milosevic, former president of Serbia and Yugoslavia.

But neither of those figures was brought up on charges before committing their crimes, leading a questioner to challenge the efficacy of using legal remedies to prevent Ahmadinejad from achieving his objectives.

Dershowitz stressed that the legal initiative was intended to "give the international community a chance to prove itself," a community he noted that includes not only the United Nations but states and non-governmental organizations.

If that effort fails, Dershowitz did not mince words in describing what should be done.

"If the international community fails, if this challenge is not met, we reserve the right of self defence," he said. "We pledge here today to do everything it takes, and anything it takes, to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. We will not fail. We cannot fail."

Also speaking at the event were outgoing American UN envoy John Bolton, U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) and Meir Rosenne, a former Israeli ambassador to the United States.

Opinions

Translated, but not improved

English, unlike Hebrew, can be made gender neutral. Thus, in prayer we can paraphrase the English "Lord" as "Eternal," or "King" as "Sovereign," and not refer to God in the third person. We thereby avoid the question of whether God is male or female. English renderings in many new prayer books reflect this trend.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

The Union for Reform Judaism has gone further. In 1996, it published its Haftarah Commentary and made the English references to God in the biblical texts gender neutral. Its recently revised Plaut Torah Commentary has adopted the same principle.

To me, this smacks a little of the Bible, like the prayer books, having been "translated and improved," as they used to describe the Yiddish versions of European classics. The laudable aim is to make sure that, when the English is read aloud, nobody is offended by sexist language. The fact that the original text is thereby distorted seems to matter little.

Though nowadays more Hebrew is being taught in schools and synagogues, several new siddurim offer transliterations of the major prayers, thus turning them into potentially meaningless mantras. The intention here, too, is to make worshippers comfortable. Nobody should be excluded because of a lack of Hebrew skills. But the effect is ominous. Implying that Hebrew is ultimately not essential, and thus further diminishing the status of Judaism's indigenous language, it's another manifestation of the neglect of content in favour of "feel good." And when content becomes secondary, Jewish prayer itself – with its strong emphasis on theology – becomes problematic.

My fear is that, because inclusive language is only possible in English – the first or second language of most Diaspora Jews – it may in the end usurp Hebrew as the primary vehicle of authentic Jewish discourse. This would divide the Jewish world.

Since inclusive language is not possible in Hebrew, in Israel, even ardent modernists have learned to live with it. They add the names of the Matriarchs in the Amidah and occasionally even use a feminine sounding name of God, but these are feeble tokens, and Hebrew-speaking worshippers know it.

Because Hebrew is the primary language of the sources of Judaism, their truthful translations must take precedence over political correctness. This doesn't compel us to perceive God in terms of gender, only to accept the inadequacy of human language.

Judaism leaves us with many problems that, though not resolved, should not stop us from praying. Among these is how to sincerely refer to God, despite the limitations of grammar. Unlike many modernists, I am prepared to live with the difficulty in fear that the solution is worse.

I pray in the belief that God accepts all my shortcomings, including this one.

Just a little bit of teamwork

The most frustrating thing I have ever run into in my adventures in academia is the "group project" – words so dreaded that they cause even the mightiest student to quake in fear.

With most assignments, you get a handout – an instruction sheet of some kind, on which are directions that, if followed, will lead to academic success. Such projects are relatively simple – indeed, they're comparable to a simple race: here is the starting line, here is the finish, go do all the steps between.

Gershon Richter in Winnipeg

Simplicity itself.

The group project takes that simple race and messes with it. Now you have to run the race tied to another runner, or perhaps multiple runners, none of whom you can choose. Other complications may arise: some runners come without shoes, or can only run certain portions of the race, or don't know how to run at all. Now you're no longer simply running from start to finish – you're dragging the limp bodies of your teammates, with bullets flying overhead and explosions ripping through the air.

You are, for lack of a better word, screwed.

The particulars of how you're going to do the group project don't really matter. If you all work together, invariably one or two people shoulder most of the workload. If you divide it up evenly among everyone in the group, some people will undoubtedly do a horrendous job and others will do nothing at all. In the end, the responsible element – usually you – gets stuck trying to make sure everything gets done, and done well.

The mathematical odds of this actually happening are comparable to the likelihood of your inept group members spontaneously combusting and saving you the trouble of having to deal with them.

As such, a successful group project requires divine intervention, and probably a few stiff drinks.

As Jews, we can easily relate to how a group project can be potentially disastrous. There's a saying that says something to the effect of "two Jews, three opinions." Well, the truth is that this aphorism isn't Jew-specific. It turns out that people in general are like this. At your first group meeting, everyone shouts out – all at the same time – their brilliant solution to everything and the result is the combination of a disaster and catastrophe that is greater than the sum of its parts – what you might call a "disastrophe."

Now I'm sure that many of you are thinking it's a good idea to force people to do group projects in university, because it's extremely likely that during our careers we'll have to work with people who are at least one pancake short of a full stack.

Better to develop strategies while you're learning, right? Wrong. This idea of work-by-committee must be stopped.

We civilized monkeys have taken group work and made it the way everything else in our society functions.

For instance, the government uses committees for practically everything, and consistently exhibits the stunning efficiency that we have come to expect from it. We've also asked all the world's governments to send a representative to New York and made a committee out of them! The result is a potentially massively powerful international organization that could be like a just Godzilla to an evil Tokyo, but is too confused to knock anything over, or even climb the Empire State Building, a la King Kong.

Truly notable accomplishments are almost always attributed to individuals. Einstein thought up relativity, Alexander the Great conquered the known world, and George Foreman was the heavyweight champ – twice – and he makes a mean grill.

None of these people used group projects to accomplish the things they did. They knew that success was always in their own hands.

But since group projects don't seem to be going away any time soon, it's the personal responsibility of those who take part in them to come with their running shoes laced up, ready to run the race.

A King's Chanukah

Last week, we celebrated Chanukah at King's College with an evening of latkes, sufganiyot, dreidels and even a bit of music. It's the first time since I've been at King's that we've celebrated the holiday in this way.

The last time there was any sort of Chanukah celebration on campus was when I was in first year and our gracious residence dining hall managers made latkes for dinner one night. Though they had the best of intentions, the latkes were not very successful, for a number of reasons. First of all, the letter "t" was left out of the dinner menu that night, so students were confused as to why (and how) they would be consuming "lakes" for dinner. Secondly, for some strange reason, it was decided that instead of finding an actual latke recipe, the best way to make latkes was to take a normal pancake mix and simply add pureed potatoes and chopped onions. Needless to say, they didn't taste quite like the home-cooked wonders we Jews were boasting about to our friends.

Mordechai Walfish in Halifax

Many of these said friends ordered pizza that night.

In many ways, our latest Chanukah party rectified this situation, even if it came three years later and I was the only one who remembered the 2003 "lakes" disaster. This year, the latkes were delicious, and the turnout was fantastic – due not only to the generally wide appeal of Chanukah, but also to the need for procrastination that the exam season inevitably heralds, and the fact our party took place during the first snowstorm of the year in Halifax, and people had an extra need for the warm and fuzzies.

While the Jewish students on campus who came to the party expressed an appreciation for it, in the past, students haven't pushed for a Chanukah party because they felt they get their dose of the holidays through campus-wide Christmas events.

It's interesting that at a school like King's, which in its early years required all of its students to take a vow to the Anglican Church – to which it still has ties – religious events, in themselves, rarely take centre stage. There is still a chapel on campus, but its choir is composed mostly of atheists, and it even includes some Jewish students who just want a high-quality choral experience. Very few students actually attend the chapel.

King's has a communal atmosphere, with a large number of students gathering many days of the week for fun events such as plays, lectures or formal meals. During the holiday season, Christmas events such as carolling, listening to stories by the fire and consuming large amounts of food at a special brunch are simply fun events that happen to be taking place that week. They're almost devoid of religious content. For non-Christians on campus, this is great – as it feels inclusive and non-threatening – but I wonder how the Christian minority feels. Is this just a reflection of the secularism at work in the larger society, or is it an example of watering-down Christian culture in the name of political correctness?

I think that our Chanukah celebration provided a good model for future cultural and religious celebrations at King's. Just by having the event, we reminded the school that there are Jews on campus and that we have a particular way of celebrating during the holiday season. Also, unlike campus-wide Christmas celebrations, this event was organized entirely by students, allowing the leadership-inclined to really take charge and shape the course (and taste!) of the evening. Finally, we maintained King's tradition by having it as inclusive affair, and we were pleased to have in attendance both students and faculty, including the college chaplain – who is the minister of the Anglican chapel.

I hope that we showed everyone on campus a good ol' Jewish time and that King's can handle more than one type of celebration – one that need not be watered-down in any way.

Maybe in the future we'll even try to celebrate a holiday that doesn't fall during the "holiday season."

The Kirshner File

The passing parade...

They died recently, leaving footprints in time...

Theodore Levitt, a Harvard University professor, coined the term "globalization" in a 1983 *Harvard Business Review* article *The Globalization of Markets*. **Milton Friedman**, a University of Chicago economist and free-market theorist, won the 1976 Nobel Prize in economics. **Harry Magdoff**, a Marxist economist and author of *The Age of Imperialism: The Economics of U.S. Foreign Policy*, was co-editor of the socialist journal *Monthly Review*. **Hans W. Singer**, an economist who studied the effects of trade in developing nations, helped create the United Nations World Food Program.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Melvin Schwartz, who shared the 1988 Nobel Prize in physics, was credited with discovering a new way of studying the disintegration of atomic nuclei. **Gideon A. Rodan**, a biomedical researcher, was one of the creators of the compound Fosamax, which is used in the treatment of the bone disease osteoporosis. **Monroe Romansky**, a medical researcher at the Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, devised a method of prolonging the effects of the drug penicillin. **Joseph J. Schilkraut**, a Harvard psychiatrist who studied the effects of antidepressants on brain chemistry, shed light on the biochemical basis of depression and mood disorders. **Morton Kligerman**, an oncologist and radiologist at the University of New Mexico Cancer Center, was an early advocate for using radiation and other experimental methods to treat cancer. **Esther Lederberg**, a microbiologist who specialized in a virus that invaded DNA, was a member of the scientific team, led by her husband Joshua, which won the 1958 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Milton Friedman

Gail G. Shapiro, a Los Angeles pediatric allergist, helped develop widely used techniques to manage childhood asthma. **Fred J. Epstein**, a pediatric neurosurgeon at New York University Medical Center, devised new ways to operate on slow-growing tumours on brain stems and spinal cords.

Iris M. Ovshinsky and her husband, Stanford, based near Detroit, invented the rechargeable nickel metal hybride battery, which helped lay the groundwork for today's hybrid gasoline-and-electric vehicles.

Nathan Mendelsohn headed the mathematics department at the University of Manitoba for 20 years, while Toronto-born mathematician **Irving Kaplansky** was a professor at the University of Chicago for 39 years and was once president of the American Mathematical Society. **Raoul Bott**, a Harvard mathematician, made innovative contributions to differential geometry and topology.

Leonard Levy, originally from Toronto, won the 1969 Pulitzer Prize in history for *Origins of the Fifth Amendment*. **Warren J. Mitofsky**, president of a polling organization based in Manhattan, co-devised a random digit dialing system that became the standard for telephone polling. **Yuri Levada** of Moscow was a pollster and sociologist who pioneered the use of public opinion surveys in the Soviet Union and then Russia.

Norman Lewis, an authority on English grammar, was the author of *30 Days to Better English*, *Word Power Made Easy* and *30 Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary*. **Albert B. Friedman** was a scholar of medieval literature whose works included *The Penguin Book of Folk Ballads in the English-Speaking World*. **Ezra Fleischer**, an Israeli poet and scholar, catalogued the Cairo Geniza, a treasury of ancient Jewish manuscripts. **Pierre Vidal-Naquet**, a Paris historian of Greek antiquity, was an outspoken opponent of Holocaust deniers and exposed torture by the French army in pre-independence Algeria. **Mortimer Ostow**, a New York-based psychiatrist who examined the psychological sources of anti-Semitism, wrote *The Psychodynamics of Anti-Semitism*.

Markus Wolf directed East Germany's foreign intelligence service for more than three decades, brought down West Germany's chancellor, Willy Brandt, and authored *Man Without a Face*. **Silvio Brucan** (Saul Bruckner) was Romania's ambassador to the United States from 1959 to 1962 and chief of the country's television network. During the post-Communist era, he was one of Romania's most respected political analysts. **Herty Lewites**, the son of a candy manufacturer from Poland, was Nicaragua's minister of tourism in the Sandinista government and then mayor of the capital, Managua.

Joseph F. Kaufman, an educator, was the first training director of the Peace Corps in the United States. **Eli J. Segal** was former U.S. president Bill Clinton's chief of staff in his victorious 1992 campaign for U.S. president and then a White House assistant in his administration. **Mayer Jacob (Chic) Hecht**, a businessman, was a one-term U.S. Republican senator from Nevada from 1982 onward. **Steward Edward Albert**, along with Jerry Rubin, Abbie Hoffman and others, formed the leftist Yippie party to protest the Vietnam war.

H. Freeman Matthews Jr., an American diplomat in Cairo, helped bring the 1978 Camp David accords to fruition. **Hermann F. Eilts**, a former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, played a role in setting up Anwar Sadat's historic 1977 visit to Jerusalem and assisted Henry Kissinger, the then-U.S. secretary of state, on his diplomatic missions to Israel and Egypt after the Yom Kippur War.

Red Buttons (Aaron Chwatt) was a major Borscht Belt comic, TV comedian and Academy Award performer in *Sayonara*. **Jan Murray** (Murray Janofsky) was a standup comedian, a star of the TV show *Treasure Hunt* and a substitute host for Johnny Carson on *The Tonight Show*. **Betty Comden** (Elizabeth Cohen) and her partner, Adolph Green, wrote the lyrics and often the librettos for some of the famous musicals of the stage and screen: *Wonderful Town*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Do Re Mi* and *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*.

Red Buttons

Gillo Pontecorvo, the Italian director, made the classic film, *The Battle of Algiers*. **Gerard Oury** directed *La Grande Vadrouille*, one of the most popular movies in the history of French cinema. **Herbert B. Leonard** produced a succession of TV hits, from *Route 66* to *The Naked City*. **Jerry Belson** was a TV comedy writer whose credits included *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and *The Tracey Ullman Show*. **Gerald Green** wrote the screenplay for the NBC TV series *Holocaust*. **Jack Warden** (John Lebzelter) was a character actor who appeared in *All the President's Men* and *Twelve Angry Men*, among other films.

Dorothy Uhnak (Dorothy Goldstein), a former New York policewoman, wrote crime novels, notably *Law and Order* and *The Bait*. **Yizhar Smilansky**, the Israeli novelist known as S. Yizhar, wrote *Hirbet Hizah* and *Days of Ziklag*. **Gyorgy Faludy** (Leimdorfer), the Hungarian poet who lived in Canada, wrote *Love Poems to Her, Dying*.

Jan Simons, a baritone, was the co-founder of Canada's Elmer Iseler Singers choir, while **Joe Glazer** was a songwriter and labour organizer who was the first to record *We Shall Overcome*, the anthem of the U.S. civil rights movement. **Irving Green** was the co-founder of Mercury Records, which promoted African-American singers such as Sarah Vaughan and Dinah Washington.

John Jacob Weinzweig was a Canadian composer whose works included *Symphonic Ode* and *Divertimentos*. **Charles Reiner,** a Holocaust survivor, taught music at McGill University for more than 40 years. **Ira F. Brilliant**, a real estate developer, founded North America's only research institute devoted exclusively to the works of the German composer Beethoven, located at San Jose State University.

Sheldon Meyer was the American editor of Oxford University Press, while **Ralph Ginzburg** was a publisher and editor who, with *Eros* magazine, helped set off the sexual revolution in the United States. **William B. Ziff Jr.** was a magazine publisher whose titles included *Popular Photography* and *Car and Driver*. **Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber** was a French publisher and author who co-founded *L'Express*, France's version of *Time*, and penned *The American Challenge*. **Sid Adilman**, a *Toronto Star* journalist, was one of Canada's most influential entertainment writers. **Anatole Shub,** a journalist, wrote about the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe for major U.S. newspapers and magazines. **Michelle Urry** (Michelle Dorothy Kaplan) was cartoons editor of *Playboy*. **Richard Gilman** was *Newsweek*'s drama critic and a professor at the Yale School of Drama.

Joe Rosenthal, an Associated Press photographer, took the iconic 1945 photograph of U.S. Marines raising a huge American flag over the Japanese island of Iwo Jima. **Leonard Freed** was a Magnum photographer who covered the Six Day War and whose photographs were published in periodicals ranging from *Life* to *Stern*. **David Bronstein** was a Ukrainian chess grandmaster and author of the classic, *Zurich International Chess Tournament, 1953*. **Ralph Cohen** of Montreal was a four-time winner of the North American Bridge Championships. **Red Auerbach** was coach, manager and president of an iconic basketball dynasty, the Boston Celtics.

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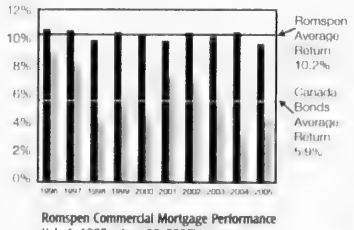

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Jewish Toronto

Ted Rogers to be honoured by UJA Federation, CIJA

Ted Rogers, president and chief executive officer of Rogers Communications Inc., has been named as the recipient of this year's Words & Deeds Leadership Award, sponsored jointly by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA). CIJA is the umbrella organization for Jewish community advocacy in Canada, helping to improve the quality of Jewish life in Canada and abroad, increase support for Israel, and strengthen the Canada-Israel relationship.

The announcement was made by former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, this year's Words & Deeds Leadership Award chair, together with dinner co-chairs Ivan Fecan, president and CEO of Bell Globemedia, and Peter Godsoe, former chair and CEO of Scotiabank.

The dinner to honour Rogers will be held at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York Hotel on Tuesday, April 17. It follows last year's inaugural Words & Deeds Dinner, which honoured RBC Financial Group president and CEO Gordon Nixon.

The Words & Deeds Leadership Award recognizes Canadian leaders whose contribution to humanitarian causes, social cohesion and inclusion, and civil discourse in Canadian society has been outstanding.

"I am delighted to be honoured with the Words & Deeds Leadership Award," said Rogers. "The organizations involved do excellent work and it is gratifying to follow such a distinguished recipient as Gord Nixon. Like Gord, it has always been my goal to do what I can to enrich our community experience."

Ted Rogers

"We are thrilled that Mr. Rogers has accepted our invitation to be the next Words & Deeds honouree," said UJA Federation of Greater Toronto chair David Engel. "His efforts on behalf of education in the community have been tireless, an outstanding example of putting his principles to work for the good of the entire community."

Joining the award chair and dinner co-chairs are honourary co-chairs Brent Belzberg and Steven Cummings who head CIJA; Gordon Nixon; Gerald Schwartz, CEO of ONEX Corporation; and Lawrence Tanenbaum, chairman and CEO, Kilmer Van Nostrand Co. Ltd., and chairman of the board, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Ltd. which owns the Toronto Raptors and the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"Many are aware of Ted's exceptional business acumen and gift for innovation, but I am delighted that the community will now learn of Ted's behind-the-scenes work in support of Canada's universities and colleges," said Tanenbaum. "Ted is truly a great Canadian who influences all of us to follow his example of humanitarianism and philanthropy."

"We are thrilled to have an honouree such as Ted Rogers, providing the Jewish community a reason to celebrate the numerous contributions made by Ted – to the entire Canadian community," said Belzberg. "His philanthropic work supporting higher education and health care are perfect examples of good words and deeds coming together for the benefit of all."

Rogers Communications Inc. is Canada's largest cable relevision operator, with substantial telecommunication and publishing interests. Rogers also owns the Toronto Blue Jays baseball club.

Capital Ideas

Top 10 Year End Tax Planning Tips

The countdown is on!

With only ten days left to year-end, here are my top 10 tax planning ideas that must be completed by year-end in order to realize the tax savings for the 2006 tax year:

By JAMIE GOLOMBEK

Jamie Golombek

1. Tax loss selling

December 22 is the deadline to sell any stocks and have the trades settle in 2006 to be able to recognize any accrued capital losses on your 2006 tax return.

2. Pay investment expenses by December 31

Investment-related expenses such as interest, investment counseling fees or safety-deposit box rental fees must be paid by year-end to be deductible.

3. RESP contributions for 15 year-olds

If you have a (grand)child who has never participated as a beneficiary in a Registered Education Savings Plan and who turned 15 this year, Dec. 31 is your last chance to contribute at least $2,000 to his or her RESP. You will be allowed to collect the maximum Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) for 2006 and create eligibility for 2007 and 2008.

4. Final RRSP contribution

If you turned 69 earlier this year, you only have until Dec. 31 to make your last RRSP contribution, if you plan to do so.

5. Converting Your RRSP

As above, if you turned 69 in 2006, you must convert your RRSP into either a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) or an annuity by Dec. 31.

6. Gifts to employees

If you're an employer, you have the opportunity to make up to two non-cash gifts a year on a tax-free basis to your employees for special occasions such as Chanukah, marriage, birthdays or other similar events, where the combined cost of the gifts is less than $500.

7. Purchase business assets

Consider accelerating the purchase of new business equipment you were planning to buy next year to be able to claim one half of a full year's tax depreciation in 2006.

8. Delay withdrawals under the Home Buyer's Plan

Planning to buy a new home in January? Delay withdrawing money from your RRSP under the federal HBP until 2007 to allow you one additional year before repayments must begin.

9. Reduced source deductions

If you regularly receive a large income tax refund each spring, consider completing CRA's Form T1213 early to allow your employer to reduce the amount of tax withheld at source beginning with your first January 2007 pay cheque.

10. Charitable donations

Finally, keep in mind that December 31 is also the last day to make a donation and get a tax receipt for 2006. Scrambling to donate? Remember that many charities now offer online, Internet donations where an electronic tax receipt is generated and e-mailed to you instantly. (To donate to UJA, visit: www.ujadonations.com)

Jamie Golombek, CA, CPA, CFP, CLU, TEP is the Vice-President, Taxation & Estate Planning, at AIM Trimark Investments in Toronto. He can be reached at jamie.golombek@aimtrimark.com

New initiative offers Israel's teens a brighter future

By DAN HOROWITZ & RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA FEDERATION

Natalie Biton, a 16-year-old participant in a new Israeli project called Unistream, never used to think about what she had; only what she didn't have. Since becoming involved with the program, the Israeli teen - who grew up in a poor family - has a new and positive outlook on life.

"Thanks to Unistream, I have learned the importance of contributing to the community which, in turn, has allowed me to appreciate how much I have, and the act of giving allows me to feel good about myself," she says.

As part of its partnership with Israel's southernmost region of Eilat-Eilot, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is funding the business and leadership education program for teenagers in the area. It is an example of the components of UJA Federation's Youth Futures initiative in Eilat. Youth Futures is a holistic program designed to provide at-risk children living in remote parts of Israel with equal educational opportunities.

"Unistream was founded on the conviction that the most effective way to help Israel is to develop a new generation of business and social leaders committed to improving economic and social conditions in their community," says founder and chairman Rony Zarom.

The Eilat centre opened in October to coincide with the start of the school year. It is the fifth in the country. Fifty Eilat teenagers, identified as self-starters who come from poorer families, were chosen from 250 applicants to take part in Unistream's youth entrepreneurship program.

Over the course of three years, participants establish their own start-up companies, operate social action projects in their communities such as big-brother/sister initiatives, meet with top executives and business leaders, and gain the skills and self-confidence that position them as Israel's future leadership. Bi-weekly workshops focus on leadership and empowerment, business skills, and community involvement.

"It was a wonderful experience meeting these wonderful teenagers who, although they came from poorer backgrounds, had a very positive perspective about the future," says Harold Wolfe, who was in Eilat for the inauguration of Unistream. "We talked about how to create business plans and what it takes to build a successful business. But we also talked about their dreams and aspirations. Unistream is a wonderful and important initiative."

"Unistream is important in that it gives young people a chance to not only hope but to realize the opportunities waiting for them in making future life decisions based upon higher education," says Brian Shachter, co-chair, UJA Federation's Partnership 2000 committee. "The teens in Eilat whom we met were not only excited about the program, they told us that their views on their own opportunities have been greatly increased by being involved in this process."

Activities revolve around the program centre, where participants meet, plan and work on their projects, and hear from the business-people who volunteer their time delivering lectures or workshops to inspire and educate participants.

"Unistream has taught me that I can reach high," says Etti Ben Dahan, a 17-year-old participant. "I have learned to plan my future, not to be afraid of taking risks, never to give up on a dream and to work to make it happen."

Toronto philanthropist Harold Wolfe speaks with one of the teenagers taking advantage of the Unistream initiative in Eilat. Wolfe was in Eilat in October for the inauguration of the city's Unistream centre.

"The Unistream centres are located in the students' own impoverished neighbourhoods in order to give them a sense of ownership, pride and community building," says Iris Reff-Ronen, CEO of Unistream. "The Eilat centre is equipped with sophisticated technology that provides a stimulating environment for thinking, learning and developing leadership skills."

While official workshops are held twice a week, the drop-in-style centres are open until 8 pm daily and also function as a home away from home for the teens, many of whose parents are unemployed or earning minimum wage. "The program centre may be the only place where these kids get hot meals," adds Reff-Ronen.

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Historic UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign comes to a close

Record $81 million raised - $20 million earmarked for Israel's emergency needs

By RAQUEL KAPLAN GOLDBERG
UJA FEDERATION

Capping the most successful annual campaign in UJA Federation of Greater Toronto history, 500 community members gathered Monday, December 18, the third night of Chanukah, to celebrate the success of Israel Emergency Campaign (IEC) 2007 in addition to remembering why it was necessary to begin with.

Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 raised $81 million, with $20 million in emergency aid going directly to Israel.

Exceptional volunteers were recognized at the campaign closing, and campaign chairs for 2008 Lesley Binstock-Offman and Morris Perlis were introduced.

"Toronto stepped up without any prodding or pushing," said Fred Waks, chair of the IEC along with Ariella Rohringer. "I'm a results-oriented person and the results speak for themselves."

"This was a campaign of firsts," says Rohringer. "We were the first community to launch an emergency campaign. We were the first to land dollars on the ground in northern Israel in the midst of the war. We had the greatest number of canvassers ever assembled in a Toronto annual campaign, and of course, the total dollars raised have never been higher. The Jewish people have paid dearly in our quest for a homeland and we must never lose sight of the important role we play in supporting Israel. It is incumbent upon us to do everything we can to ensure that Israel prospers. I am so grateful to have had the honour of chairing the IEC 2007."

Chair of UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy Judith Finer Freedman (left), with the chairs of the Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 Fred Waks and Ariella Rohringer, in Israel on a fact-finding mission prior to the start of this year's campaign.

The community's commitment to Israel and local Jewish institutions and programs was particularly evident in a record-setting year for Women's Campaign & Advocacy's (WC&A) as well, which raised more than $9 million for the campaign.

"There was a whole new energy and spirit in the campaign this year," said Judith Finer Freedman, chair of WC&A. "A lot of young women in the community wanted to come out and give back to the Jewish community and they wanted to roll up their sleeves to do the hard work."

But amidst the smiles and festivities, there was a sober awareness of why the emergency campaign, begun a month earlier than usual this year, was so important in the first place. Dennis Ross, the former American point man in both the Bush Sr. and Clinton administrations for the Middle East conflict addressed the closing, sharing his insights and views on the ongoing quest for peace in the Middle East.

"Unfortunately, I think that the emergency campaign is one that will be with us for some time," said Waks. "Until some things are resolved on an international basis – like Iran hosting a Holocaust denial convention – we've got our work cut out for us."

Israel Emergency Campaign funds provided enormous assistance to northern Israel residents by:

- outfitting bomb shelters with air conditioners
- providing families with weekend getaways
- sending children to summer camp in safer areas of the country
- offering small business loans and vocational counseling for those who lost their jobs because of the war
- funding trauma counseling
- supplying new equipment for schools and other buildings destroyed by katyushas
- providing student scholarships to encourage young adults to remain in the north
- assisting victims of terror and their families

Hillel of Greater Toronto launches campaign for missing soldiers

UJA Federation supports the initiative to remember the captives

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA FEDERATION

Thanks to the creativity of two Hillel of Greater Toronto leaders, an idea started on campus is quickly spreading to the community-at-large.

The Campaign for the Missing Soldiers - the brainchild of Hillel's Israel advocacy and education program coordinator Rebecca Woods Baum and Jerusalem native Dafna Regev, Hillel's Israeli cultural program coordinator for a year in Toronto - was created shortly after the war ended.

Hillel of Greater Toronto's Rebecca Woods Baum (left) and Dafna Regev, pose in front of a photo of the three Israeli soldiers kidnapped this summer, sparking the war with Hezbollah. The women created Hillel's Campaign for the Missing Soldiers to raise funds for the soldiers' families.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, which financially supports Hillel , is cooperating closely with the Hillel campaign through joint initiatives involving UJA Federation's Israel Forum. UJA also bought 500 pins which were given to participants at this week's Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 closing.

"Dafna came to Toronto from Israel in September and, together, we thought of a number of ways we could get people to focus on the human element of the war. We wanted to show that the three missing soldiers are not merely statistics, but somebody's son, brother or uncle."

On June 25, Israel Defense Forces corporal Gilad Shalit was wounded and abducted by a group of Palestinian terrorists inside of Israel on the Gaza border. On July 12, two more soldiers – Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev – were also abducted, this time by Hezbollah on Israel's side of the Lebanese border.

The vehicle the two young women came up with – after many late-night brainstorming sessions – to convey their message is a black pin with no text or photos, just three distinct white lines down one side. Each line represents one of the soldiers.

"We didn't want to write anything on the pin so that it might initiate dialogue," says Woods Baum who credits countless Hillel students with helping to create the pin's design. "We hope that people will see them, be curious, and ask about them, and that it will raise awareness about the issue. Our ultimate goal is that there will eventually be a groundswell of support for this campaign, and that people will voice their outrage at these kidnappings. We want to ensure that these kinds of tactics do not become a regular aspect of war."

So far, Hillel has raised close to $1,000 by selling the two dollar pins on campuses throughout the city, and it has plans for the future including an awareness-raising initiative in partnership with the Israel Forum, a UJA Federation initiative.

The Torontonians also took hundreds of the pins to the recent Hillel International Conference held in Baltimore.

All money raised from the sale of the pins will go to The Karen Maor Foundation, which was founded to assist and support the families of the kidnapped soldiers in their struggle to free their sons.

"As an Israeli, I am so proud of Toronto's students. They fill my heart with so much hope for the future," says Regev. "I can't believe how much these young people care about Israel. This is my first time in Toronto and I must say the Jewish community here is unbelievable."

"When you realize that an initiative as important as this one came from our city's university campuses; you can't help but feel proud," says UJA Federation board chair, David Engel, who visited Corporal Shalit's father Noam in Israel this summer. "These are the future leaders of our Jewish community and through this campaign to remember the missing soldiers, these young men and women have displayed compassion, sensitivity and visionary leadership which bodes well for our future."

New sports pavilion honours late Toronto philanthropist

In honour of Phil Granovsky z"l, his wife Shirley, daughter Maxine and son-in-law Ira Gluskin have committed five million dollars to UJA Federation's Tomorrow Campaign to build the Phil Granovsky Sports and Recreation Pavilion as the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan. Pictured clockwise from far left are: Mark S. Anshan, general counsel and director, Public Affairs, UJA Federation; David Koschitzky, vice chair of the board, UJA Federation; Maxine Granovsky; Ira Gluskin; Ted Sokolsky, president & CEO, UJA Federation; Jeffrey Kaufman, solicitor for the Granovsky Gluskin family; Shirley Granovsky; and Carol Seidman, director, Capital Campaign, UJA Federation, who were present as Maxine Granovsky and Ira Gluskin ceremoniously signed their contract. Portions of the Phil Granovsky Sports and Recreation Pavilion, set to open by the fall of 2008, are already under construction.

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Rabbi seen as source of validation for modern Orthodox

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

The loneliness referred to in the title of Rabbi Joseph Ber Soloveitchik's seminal work *The Lonely Man of Faith* may refer to the loneliness of his own position in the Orthodox community rather than to that of a religious man in a secular world, a panel discussing his legacy agreed.

The discussion took place at the closing session of a recent day-long program at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation under the auspices of Torah in Motion, Yeshiva University (YU) and the adult education committee of the synagogue.

Panellists were Rabbi Shalom Carmy, professor of Bible at Yeshiva University; Ethan Isenberg, creator and director of a new documentary film called *Lonely Man of Faith: the life and legacy of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik*; Arnold Lustiger, editor of a new Yom Kippur machzor with commentary adapted from the rabbi's teachings; and David Shatz, professor of philosophy at Yeshiva University. The moderator was Elliott Malamet, a teacher at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and a co-founder of Torah in Motion.

Rabbi Soloveitchik, referred to affectionatly as the Rav, is considered the mentor of modern Orthodoxy. He founded Maimonides school in Boston, the first day school in the United States, and later was rosh yeshiva at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) of Yeshiva University. He was an ardent proponent of *Torah u'maddah*, belief in the coexistence of Torah and modern science.

This position, though, often put him at odds with the trend toward the isolationism of much of the Orthodox world, the panel noted.

Shatz explained that the Rav saw secular studies as a tool to better understand the Torah and the Jewish worldview. At the same time, he saw Torah as the way to better understand the world. To the Rav, secular knowledge had an intrinsic value as a source of truth, and truth, he believed, is valuable in itself, Shatz said.

Rabbi Carmy said Rabbi Soloveitchik "used the arsenal of liberal arts studies to better understand the word of God in his published works. He regretted that because of his commitment to communal affairs, he didn't have the time to devote to secular subjects that he would have wanted to."

However, Rabbi Carmy added, "he saw them as valuable for himself and others, provided they don't interfere with Torah studies."

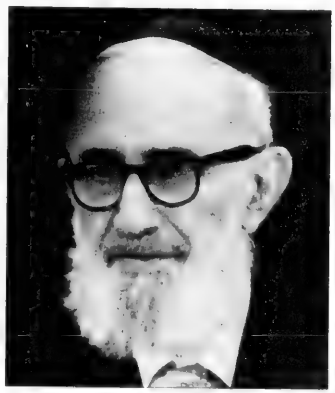
Isenberg said the Rav was proud that students at YU went to study physics directly after a class on Torah.

Another facet of Rabbi Soloveitchik that Malamet in particular found interesting was that the Rav claimed not to be bothered by such things as Creation, Revelation and biblical criticism, all of which are major issues in theological thought today. "Was it simply a matter of faith?" Malamet wondered.

Shatz replied that the Rav was interested in the inner experiences of people, not in metaphysics. "These questions simply were not the most important thing in the modern world to him."

Rabbi Carmy suggested that "if someone isn't bothered by something, there is no reason to force oneself to be bothered. The real issue, Rabbi Soloveitchik considered, was what was to be done with one's life?"

Turning to the question of Rabbi Soloveitchik's attitude toward Israel and Zionism, Lustiger said the Rav saw the land itself as holy – whether or not there was a political state. "[He] had no element of messianism in his philosophy. For instance, right after 1967, he said that if security demanded giving back the Kotel, then that is what must be done – it was an issue of *pikuach nefesh*," the halachic imperative that the saving of life supersedes almost any other consideration.



Rabbi Joseph Ber Soloveitchik

That being said, Lustiger noted, Rabbi Soloveitchik also stressed that "we must recognize that Arabs are [descendants of] Amalek, and so are not to trusted [in issues about Jews or Israel]."

While the Rav didn't endorse any political plan, Rabbi Carmy said, he was opposed to Israeli militarism. "He was suspicious of the ideology of Gush Emunim [the settlement movement]. While he never intervened in Israeli politics…, after Camp David, he hoped that God would give Israeli leadership power to do the right thing. Too many rabbis were giving halachic rulings on the situation, the Rav believed."

Similarly, Rabbi Carmy said, the Rav would have lamented the alienation of many religious Zionist settlers after they were forced to leave Gaza in 2005. "If you see God's hand in the establishment of the state, it is irrational to abandon it if the government of the day isn't doing what you want."

Shatz said one of the problems in the Orthodox world today is that there are no *gedolim* (great scholars) to address issues of concern.

"The average modern Orthodox Jew looks to Rabbi Soloveitchik for validation of their position on Zionism, education and the role of women," he said. "The problem, however, is they want to create a kind of cult – since the Rav said something about an issue, they don't have to do anything about it."

Lustiger noted that while modern Orthodox Jews are troubled by the lack of someone to follow Rabbi Soloveitchik, the haredi world is desperately trying to to create a *gadol* – one *gadol* to be the ultimate arbiter of the entire Orthodox community.

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Veteran teacher believes in learning with students

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Tova Dror believes that every child is capable of learning.

"We just have to find the way that is the best for him to learn and shine," said the veteran Jewish studies teacher in a recent early-morning interview at United Synagogue Day Schools' Beth Tikvah campus, where she teaches grades 4 and 5.

An energetic 59-year-old mother of two grown sons who also teaches at Beit Rayim Hebrew School, Dror said many students feel Hebrew is a "mission impossible."

She tells them "never to despair."

Dror – who was born in Hungary but lived in Israel from the time she was a year old – hopes her students will take heart from her own experience as a youngster learning English in Bat Yam.

She "just couldn't get it," she said.

After months of frustration and "trying to hide" in class, she made up her mind that if others could learn the language, she could, too. A fellow classmate tutored her for several years, and by the time she graduated, she was at the top of her class.

Dror also shares her story so students can see how the language may become more relevant for them in the future, as English did for her.

"Who thought I would ever leave Israel and go abroad?" she asked.

But as a young bride, fresh out of high school, she ended up living in Los Angeles for eight years with her husband Joseph, now an electronic engineer.

"I thought I was fluent in English, but boy was I mistaken!" Dror recalls. Her students helped her with colloquialisms, and she studied diction and phonics to take the edge off her strong accent.

As a student at the University of Judaism – where she received a BA in Jewish education and took courses toward a master's degree – Dror was approached about a teaching position at a Jewish supplementary school.

"I loved it," she said. "I always liked to work with kids."

She has been teaching in North America ever since, aside from a three-year stint as an English teacher back in Israel. The Drors returned there in 1973, when Joseph, a seventh-generation Israeli, began to serve as an officer in the Israel Defence Forces.

Three days after she arrived in Toronto, Dror had an interview at USDS. She has been teaching there for the past 30 years.

A lesson from the teacher: *"I think that you have to respect each student as an individual.*

"Don't judge them; be there for them. If they feel you won't judge them or criticize them, you're all in a process of learning together. They learn from me, I learn from them. I point out my mistakes. If the teacher can do it, so can they."

Over the years, she has continued her professional development. "We used to teach everybody the same way," she said. "Now we work in multiple intelligences [an approach that recognizes different modes of learning] and address the needs of every child."

She doesn't believe that children have really changed over the past three decades. "Children are always curious," she said, citing her students' thirst for knowledge as a constant.

To feed that thirst, she finds that storytelling is "a good tool," she said. She likes to use intonation and other dramatic techniques to "make the study more interesting for [the students]."

Dror finds that teaching – helping children grow both academically and emotionally – gives her "a sense of accomplishment like none other.

"That's the beauty of this profession. Not very many people can say they get up in the morning and like to come to their place of work.

"I look forward every day to the new challenges, and seeing the kids."

Tova Dror

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Jewish Life

The veil of tolerance

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

Through A Sephardi Window

People are inherently tribal. Left to themselves, they will happily self-segregate and form their own little ghettoes. No one created Toronto's Chinatown, Little Italy, or, for that matter, the Bathurst Street corridor. The Chinese, Italians and, yes, Jews themselves all prefer the comforts and familiarity of being among their own.

Just as a neighbourhood helps to identify a person, the clothing we choose to wear does the same. A man in a business suit distinguishes himself from another man sporting overalls, and clothing can also distinguish people along cultural lines. By wearing a specific item, people show that they're members of a specific group. In doing so, they are, at the same time, professing not to be part of the general public.

It's just such a statement of separateness that has all of Europe in an uproar.

The once-homogenous countries of Europe are having a hard time with a relatively recent reality: multiculturalism – or, to put it more bluntly, the mass influx of Muslims into Europe.

The issue goes much deeper than the right of women to veil their faces. Rather, the problem is the perception that adopting this mode of dress marks a deliberate rejection of western secular norms. This, of course, is a classic case of two civilizations clashing. What is to one person an expression of natural and decent feminine modesty is to the other an oppressive, bigoted and an in-your-face rejection of the dominant culture.

The issue is now well past the stages of discontented murmurs, editorials or even racist platforms of fringe parties. It's now being openly and publicly addressed by heads of state, governments and legislatures.

Note British Prime Minister Tony Blair's recent call to radical Muslims to integrate, to "conform to [Britain] or don't come here," and note, too, France's outright outlawing of head coverings in its public school system.

What needs to be debated is whether this kind of attitude is itself an expression of intolerance, or is it simply a corrective reaction to too much tolerance or to pluralism that has run amok.

What also needs to be considered is whether this xenophobic sentiment is now in a way replacing traditional anti-Semitism. Are these Muslim issues turning the Muslims into today's new Jews? Have Muslims displaced us and made themselves into the lightning rod for people's discomfort with anything different from themselves that they don't understand?

If these issues continue to fester, how will this affect us as Jews? Will other cultural, ethnic or religious peculiarities come to be denounced as well? Will all of our own particular differences be tolerated? Will common sense prevail? And exactly just how common is common sense?

The characteristic of smugness is seldom, if ever, appropriate – and that's all the more true when we could be the next target.

Our world would be just so much grander if everyone would just live and let live.

Guest Voice

Gay rulings go beyond halachah

By RABBI JOEL ROTH
JTA

Earlier this month, the Conservative movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards validated three responsa, or tshuvot, on the general subject of homosexuality.

In fact, the primary technical issue was the Jewish legal status of sex between members of the same gender. From the answers offered to that question followed the views of the authors as to the permissibility of commitment ceremonies – implying, of course, a need also for "uncommitment ceremonies" – and the ordination of gays and lesbians as clergy, who serve as exemplars of commitment to Halachah.

Two of the papers reaffirmed the classical position of Jewish law forbidding such sexual activity and, therefore, forbade commitment ceremonies and the ordination of gays and lesbians.

The third paper permitted most sexual activity between men – forbidding only intercourse – and sexual activity between women. As a result, the authors of this paper permit commitment ceremonies and ordination.

I was the author of one of the papers that reaffirmed the classic Jewish legal position, a position I had affirmed in 1992 when this subject was last on the law committee's agenda

Despite the popular view of what we were arguing about, I believe that the subject of gays was not what we were really divided over. It happened to be the specific subject that revealed the real fault lines in the committee, and in the Conservative movement in general.

I believe we were divided over the following irreconcilable issues:

• How entitled are we to overturn long-standing and uncontested precedents of Jewish law? None of the authors of any of the papers denied what the uncontested precedents of Jewish law are, and that the preponderant majority of decisors of Jewish law from time immemorial considered all types of sexual behaviour between members of the same sex to be a prohibition of biblical status – *d'oraita* – based on rabbinic interpretation of scriptural verses, midrash halachah.

What divided us was the question of our right to adopt a legal stance attributed to one sage that the prohibitions against sexual behaviour other than male intercourse are rabbinic in status, d'rabbanan, and not biblical, which attribution is itself open to serious question and is denied by most decisors.

• Even if the prohibition against sexual behaviour other than male intercourse is rabbinic in authority and not biblical, what justifies our abrogating that prohibition? The authors of the permissive paper argued that the talmudic category of "human honour," which they translated as "human dignity," allowed for its abrogation. I argued that the category is entirely inapplicable to the case under discussion, even if we assumed that the prohibition is rabbinic and not biblical.

In almost all of the cases in which the category is invoked, the claim is that X may violate the law out of deference to the honour of Y. In the case under discussion, X is to be entitled to violate the law out of deference to his own honour, for which claim there is no real precedent.

What's more, such a claim is theologically weak, since no law-abiding Jew would ever entertain the possibility that his honour would supersede that of God. And in the few cases of application of the category which can possibly be understood to imply that X may violate the law out of deference to his own honour, X is always literally in a social context and in the presence of others.

For example, X may wear a hearing aid on Shabbat in the synagogue lest he be embarrassed by his inability to hear the *Kaddish* being recited and not answer the communal lines when the community does. In our case, there is no social context, since sexual relations are, by definition, private. Therefore, the category is inapplicable.

• How halachically defensible does an argument have to be before it can be considered within the halachic ballpark? We all understand and agree that decisors of Jewish law often approach the subject before them with a predisposition to give a specific answer. There's nothing wrong with that, in my opinion.

What, then, distinguishes a good decisor from a poor one?

The good decisor is able to judge his decision with enough dispassion to see whether his predisposition has blinded him to the indefensibility of his answer, and the poor one is not.

It is my opinion that my colleagues have here been blinded to the indefensibility of their conclusion. It is based on three pillars – I have not discussed one of them here – each of which is either quite clearly false or, at a minimum, is debatable.

For their conclusion to follow, however, all three must be considered as true and valid. This leads me to conclude that their decision was arrived at entirely independently of halachic reasoning, and that the defensibility of their after-the-fact reasoning was not relevant to them. The decision simply had to be as it was.

The combination of the above lead me to believe that the permissive position validated by the law committee was really outside the halachic framework, and I resigned from the committee.

Rabbi Roth is a professor of Talmud and Jewish law at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

The other side of the grave

***Ghost Hunters, William James and the Search for Scientific Proof of Life After Death* by Deborah Blum, Penguin Press.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

What does Judaism teach about spiritualism? Is it permissible to try to communicate with the dead? In Deuteronomy (18:10-12), there is a direct injunction against any such attempt.

The biblical account of the witch of En-dor, who brought to life the spirit of Samuel, remains a puzzle. It would appear that attendance at a séance is not expressly forbidden. But as Rabbi A. I. Kook (Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Palestine) suggested in 1912: "The Jew who believes in the Lord, God of Life, should have no desire to pierce the veil and should be concerned with the duties of God and man on this side of the grave."

Spiritualism has been a flourishing belief for more than 150 years. From its noisy, melodramatic beginnings to its present mainly low-key manifestations, it has intrigued, baffled, convinced and comforted millions of people, while many others have dismissed it as utter nonsense

The book under review, by a professor of science and journalism at the University of Wisconsin, tells a fascinating many-sided story of how a group of distinguished personalities, British and American, launched a determined effort to investigate and explain instances of clairvoyance and ghostly visitations.

William James, the world-renowned psychologist, was joined in this effort by such unlikely "ghost hunters" as the co-discoverer of the theory of evolution, a physiologist from France who would win the Nobel Prize in medicine, an Australian who became a founding member of the American Anthropological Society, a female mathematician who became principal of Cambridge University's first college of women, a pioneer in British utilitarian philosophy and trio of respected physicists.

All of them believed that they were working toward an understanding of life that could help bridge the chasms between science and faith, between what people see and what they imagine.

James made it clear that even one instance of supernatural evidence was logically sufficient to prove the case for communication with the dead. As he put it, "To upset the conclusion that all crows are black, there is no need to seek demonstration that no crow is white; it is sufficient to produce one white crow; a single one is sufficient."

The author relates that the untiring investigators found themselves, as time went on, in hundreds of candlelit séance rooms with their elaborate "spirit cabinets," where glowing apparitions would appear and objects fly. What they mostly found, however, was fraud.

One medium, Leonara Piper, a respected Boston housewife, impressed James as having startling psychic abilities. He visited her in 1885, soon after the death of his one-year-old son. Although he never quite accepted that life after death was a reality, he was convinced, nonetheless, that only supernatural means could explain her astonishing knowledge of his family secrets.

About a decade ago, Martin Gardner, a writer in the field of popular science, in a debunking essay, explained how Mrs. Piper fooled the psychologist.

A mid-19th-century medium, D.D. Home, performed inexplicable marvellous feats. He was, he confidently said, a conduit, a messenger from the beyond. All psychic investigators acknowledge that he was never detected in fraud.

This riveting book is replete with ghost stories, strange happenings and striking characters. But it is also an extraordinary saga of how a group of earnest researchers staked their careers, their reputations – and even their sanity – in one of the most intriguing psychological quests ever undertaken. The knowledgeable author tells the story in a manner that is both entertaining and informative.

Tzedakah and your money

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

So many worthy causes. So little money.

You'll find many wonderful tzedakah organizations on the web. I couldn't possibly list even a fraction of them. Nor would I dare recommend one over another. However, I would like to examine a few sites with advice about how to give and what to look for in a well-run charity. Thankfully, there are a few people who research charities (many of them lesser known ones) and recommend those that are truly making a difference.

First, a few words of caution. Before you donate to any cause on the Internet, no matter how worthwhile, I strongly advise further investigation. If a charitable donation receipt is important to you, find out whether one is available before you give. Also, there is much debate about whether you should send a credit card donation online. If you are hesitant, no charity would turn down a donation by mail.

Just-Tzedakah.org is a great resource that has developed a set of voluntary standards for Jewish charities that go beyond the requirements of the American government. As well, there are a couple of downloadable documents that I recommend, especially "Smart Tzedakah: How to Evaluate Charities Before You Give" and "Principles of Ethics, Governance and Accountability for Jewish Philanthropies."

The second one takes traditional Jewish sources about tzedakah and applies them to the modern marketplace. For example, on the (sometimes controversial) issue of fundraising expenses, it looks to T'shuvot v'Hanhagot Yoreh De'ah. "The practice that the tzedakah solicitor takes a portion of the proceeds for himself is certainly permitted. That is for the benefit of the poor. If the collector did not receive compensation for his effort, there would be no solicitors… However, the donors don't intend that the majority should go to the collector." **[www.just-tzedakah.org/bpb.pdf]**

If you are unfamiliar with a charity, you may want to research its goals, its overhead and the amount of money it raises. All registered Canadian charities file documentation which can easily be retrieved from the Canada Revenue Agency website. You are supplied with the Registered Charity Information Return for up to six years where you will find information about a charity's goals, fundraising activities, paid staff and expenditures on compensation. When I typed in the word "Jewish" I got 228 matches; "Israel" had 126. Please note that the information in the database is provided by the charities themselves. **[http://tinyurl.com/yz37ut]**

In the United States, there's Guidestar, the National Database of Nonprofit Organizations, which allows to you search online for information about more than 1.5 million IRS-recognized nonprofits **[www.guidestar.org]** as well as the Internet Nonprofit Center. **[www.idealist.org]** To learn about Israeli charities, visit Giving Wisely: The Internet Directory of Israeli Nonprofit and Philanthropic Organizations. Unfortunately, this helpful resource doesn't seem to have been updated recently. **[www.givingwisely.org.il/]**

One of the most incredible advocates of tzedakah is mitzvah maven Danny Siegel. Siegel is based in Rockville, Md., and operates the Ziv Tzedakah Fund Inc. Siegel likes to proclaim his "Mitzvah Heroes" such as Elana Erdstein from Detroit, who requested and received for her bat mitzvah 25,000 hotel-size soaps, shampoos and conditioners to be given to the poor. **[www.ziv.org/]** Similar to Ziv, the Nebraska-based Kavod (dignity, honour) describes itself as a "non-profit tzedakah collective. We are a group of individuals who have chosen to pool our tzedakah resources together so that, as a community, we can have a greater impact in our efforts to repair the world." **[http://kavod.org/]**

Still looking for more information about how and where to give? Try these tzedakah links: Tzedaka.org **[www.tzedaka.org]** and Maven. **[www.maven.co.il/subjects.asp?S=172]**

There may never be enough money for all the worthy institutions and individuals who deserve it. But Brandeis University Prof. Reuven Kimelman suggests that the recipient of the donation is not the only one who gains. "Tzedakah may not save us, but it makes us worth saving." **[http://tinyurl.com/yk59d8]**

Next time, you'll find out how you stack up against donors big and small.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based website producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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האופציה הסורית

ג'יימס ביקר, שר החוץ האמריקני לשעבר, פרסם בשבוע שעבר את מסקנות העדה שעמד בראשה בעניין עיראק והמזרח התיכון.

למרות שעיקר עבודתו נסבה סביב איך לצאת מעיראק, הוא גם גרס שעל ישראל וסוריה להכנס למשא ומתן, כמו גם שעל ארה"ב לשוחח עם איראן. בקיצור: יש לדבר עם כוחות הרשע, כי עם חברים טובים אין צורך לדבר.

במשך שנים התעקשה ישראל שהתנאי לשיחות עם סוריה הוא העדר תנאים מוקדמים-כלומר הסורים אינם יכולים לאמר: נשב רק אם תסכימו מראש להחזיר את כל הגולן. והיה עכשיו מכריזה סוריה חזור והכרז על נכונותה להידבר עם ישראל, אך ישראל מסרבת.

לא נקפו שעות מאז הדעת ביקר ואהוד אולמרט מכריז שישראל לא תדון עם סוריה מאחר וסוריה תומכת בטרור של חיזבאללה כמו גם בטרור הפלשתינאי. האם אין זו בדיוק הסיבה המרכזית מדוע חייבים להידבר איתם? אם הם נדרמים או מלבים את התסיסה הפלשתינאית-הרי שרק הידברות והסכמה איתם יכולה בפוטנציאל להביא לשינוי. מה הסיכון שלוקחת ישראל בשיחות כאלה? איזה דבר רע יָצָא אי פעם מזה שאנשים דברו במקום להרוג אחד את השני? האם יש ספק שכחלק מהידברות כזאת יכולה ישראל כתנאי ראשון לדרוש הפסקת התמיכה סורית בטרור. אם למרות זאת הם ימשיכו-ידע העולם שישראל עשתה את אשר ביכולתה. עד כה נמנעה ישראל מהידברות עם סוריה כי ג'ורג' בוש נָרַס שאסור לדבר עם ציר הרשע. והיה והעדה שמינה בוש עצמו מייעצת לו שרק דיבור כזה יכול להולך לשינוי.

יתכן מאוד שהפוליטיקאים הישראלים פוחדים לפתוח מחדש את נושא רמת הגולן, שמא יפסידו מנדטים. אלא מה- הסקרים מצביעים דווקא שרוב תושבי ישראל היחודים מוכנים לעשת הרבה עבור שלום קבע. חוץ מזה הדיסיטנט של הממשלה הנוכחית ממילא שואף לאפס, על כן מעשה אמיץ כמו הידברות עם סוריה עשוי רק לעזור להם. אבל שישאר בינינו.

מרתף הספרים של סיגל

כמה פעמים רציתם לקרוא ספר ישראלי ששמעתם עליו דברים טובים ולא היה לכם מושג איפה אפשר להשיג אותו מיד? ולא בא לכם להכנס חודשים על שמישהו יביא אותו מהארץ?

או סוף סוף יש פתרון הולם שהומצא על ידי סיגל אלמוג:

המרתף של סיגל בת'הרצליה, שבו תוכלו למצוא מבחר גדול של הלהיטים העכשוויים, וגם להזמין ספרים שאינם בנמצא.

416 887 8132

עצות לאוהבים

חברי שמחה הצליח להצחיק אותי במבחר אמרות כנף של אנשים מפורסמים. יד על הלב-לא כולם יכולים לראות דפוס, אבל כמה וכמה דוקא בסדר אפילו לכמה זה:

"אנשים חושבים בטעות שהם מפסיקים להתאהב בוקנתם, מבלי לדעת שמדקנים ברגע שמפסיקים לאהוב" (נאדיה מאדקס)

"להתווכח עם אשה זה כמו לנסות לקרוא עיתון נגד הרוח" (דוסטויבסקי)

"אל תתחתני עם מישהו כדי להחזירו למוטב בשביל זה יש בתי סוהר". (מיי וסט)

"נישואים זו ברית בין שני אנשים, אחד מהם שמעולם לא יוכר ימי הולדת, והשניה שלעולם לא תשכח אותם" (אדן נאש)

"לפעמים אתה פוגש מישהו ובטוח שהייתם נאהבים בגלגול הקודם. אחרי שבועיים ביחד, אתה מבין למה לא שמרת איתה על קשר במשך אלפיים שנה" (וודי אלן)

"יצאתי לכל כך הרבה פגישות עיוורות, שמגיע לי כלב נחייה חינם".

Canadian Friends of THE KOBY MANDELL FOUNDATION

THE KOBY MANDELL SUMMER IN ISRAEL PROGRAM
For teens currently in Grades 10 & 11

INFORMATION EVENING
Sunday, December 24, 2006
For time and venue, please contact:
Joanne Brodkin at 905-882-1997
or by e-mail at joanne@kobymandell.org

A summer of chesed and new adventures.
Meet with Summer Program Director, ***Michael Lawrence*** and learn more about this unique opportunity to give, to grow and to heal.
For more info, see: www.kobymandell.org

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Miles Nadal JCC

PLEASE NOTE:
CHANGE OF MEETING TIME AND FORMAT

MILES NADAL JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

NOTICE is hereby given that a Special Town Hall Meeting of Members will be held at 750 Spadina Avenue in Room 318 on Wednesday, the 10th day of January, 2007 **at 7:30 o'clock in the evening** to:

- Discuss the proposed amendment to our By-Law making UJA Federation the sole voting member, which will serve to bring the relationship between the MNjcc and Federation in alignment with the other organizations that are part of the UJA Federation family.

The Board of Directors of the MNjcc would like to extend this invitation to the Membership to meet to discuss and clarify this issue with the leadership of UJA Federation.

Members interested in attending may review this proposed By-law by contacting the MNjcc Business Office at 416-924-6211 x121 and if you have questions or comments prior to the Special Meeting, please feel free to contact UJA Federation General Counsel, Mark S. Anshan at 416-631-5834 or by email: manshan@ujafed.org.

DATED the 13th day of December, 2006
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
"Jodi Shanoff"
Secretary

NER ISRAEL YESHIVA
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MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE
DIRECTOR OF JEWISH STUDIES
(Sydney, Australia)

Mount Sinai College is seeking to employ a dynamic Director of Jewish Studies.

Mount Sinai College is a vibrant, community-based orthodox Jewish Primary Day School, in Sydney, Australia, with enrolments of 345 children (2006).

The College has celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2006 and has become synonymous with academic excellence, proud Jewish identity and care for the individual.

The Director is a key member of the executive team in the school and is responsible to the Principal for the provision of quality Jewish education at the College (Preschool – Year 6).

In addition to a key teaching role, the Director is responsible for leading the Jewish Studies staff in the continued implementation of the Hebrew and Jewish Studies program including Tal Am, Tefillah, celebration of Shabbat & festivals, informal programs and family education.

For further details of the role, job description and selection criteria please contact Principal, Mr P Roberts, 6 Runic Lane, Maroubra, NSW 2035, Australia, email ***proberts@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au*** *or phone +61 2 9349 4877.*

www.mountsinai.nsw.edu.au

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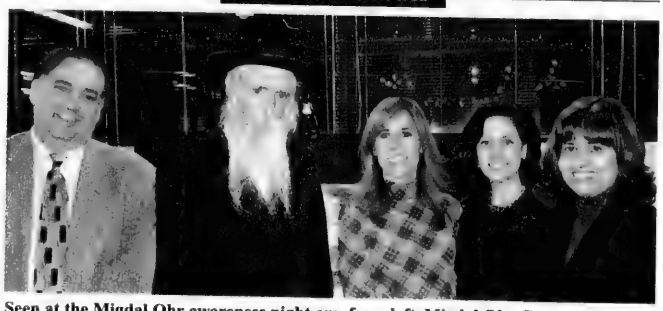
Greater Toronto Area



Seen at the Migdal Ohr awareness night are, from left, Migdal Ohr Canada president Chuck Roniak, Migdal Ohr founder and dean Rabbi Yitzchak Dovid Grossman and the evening's co-chairs, Renee Rosenzweig, Rhona Slomovic and Deborah Cohen.

Migdal Ohr helps Israeli children in need

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Thousands of children from impoverished and disadvantaged homes, many of them orphans, have found shelter, safety and love at Migdal Ohr (Tower of Light) in the Galilee, thanks to a rabbi who had the vision and determination to protect and educate them.

In the early 1970s, Rabbi Yitzchak Dovid Grossman visited discotheques and pubs in Migdal Ha'Emek, a town in northern Israel. He engaged the young people in dialogue and realized that many of them were on drugs and needed help.

The rabbi invited 18 students, regardless of their religious or political beliefs, to come to study with him in the new school of Migdal Ohr, where his school of the same name is located. Today, the campus is a 1½-hour drive north of Jerusalem on the new Road 6. It extends over an area of 650,000 square feet and has a student body of 7,000 boys and girls.

There are 800 paid staff – administrators, educators, physicians, nurses and key industrial personnel. More than 60 per cent of them are Migdal Ohr graduates.

Rabbi Grossman, who has been called the father of 7,000 and the Disco Rabbi, is a sixth-generation Jerusalemite, born in 1946. He moved to the Lower Galilee in 1968, and soon after that, he began providing socio-humanitarian aid.

For his efforts, Rabbi Grossman recently received the prestigious Israel Prize, the first Orthodox Jew to be honoured with this annual award presented by the State of Israel. Recipients of the Israel Prize can be individuals or groups that have demonstrated excellence or broken new ground in a certain field.

In recent years, he has been asked to serve as chief rabbi of Israel, but he has refused, saying that the children at Migdal Ohr need him.

Rabbi Grossman, founder and dean of Migdal Ohr, was in Toronto recently at a reception and Israeli art exhibit curated by Toronto's Art & Soul Fine Art. The evening was co-chaired by volunteers Deborah Cohen, Rhona Slomovic and Renee Rosenzweig.

The rabbi told the 180 supporters at the event that some 1,800 new immigrants from the former U.S.S.R., Yemen, Ethiopia and other underdeveloped countries recently came to Migdal Ohr, which, he said, is like a city within a city. The campus has schools from nursery to secondary level, day-care centres and immigrant absorption activities.

He noted that many immigrants came from North African countries and the area was once one of the prime centres of criminal activities in Israel, but "today, the crime rate is down 90 per cent in the Galilee.

"If not for Migdal Ohr, many of these children would have been in jail or on drugs. They could destroy Israel, and Migdal Ohr saves these kids," Rabbi Grossman said in an interview.

The Migdal Ohr Educational Center has a budget of $25 million (US), 70 per cent from the government and 30 per cent from donations from all over the world, he said. A medical centre for children is now being built on the campus.

Chuck Roniak of Montreal, the national president of Canadian Friends of Migdal Ohr, spoke of the work the rabbi has done with prisoners. In conjunction with the Israel Prisons Authority, Rabbi Grossman established a prisoner rehabilitation centre, where Torah and vocational studies are taught in preparation for the return to life outside prison wall. Migdal Ohr has also established a foster family village for children too young to be placed in a dormitory setting, and a nationwide youth club network that serves 2,500 immigrant children in about 60 locations in Israel.

Roniak said that recently an orphanage closed in the Ukraine because there were not enough resources.

"The rabbi created a model program [at Migdal Ohr] for the 320 orphaned babies. He got donations from two Canadians for two large buildings with 160 apartments in each building and began a Rent for Care project. You get a free apartment if you take care of a baby. There are four supervisors in each building."

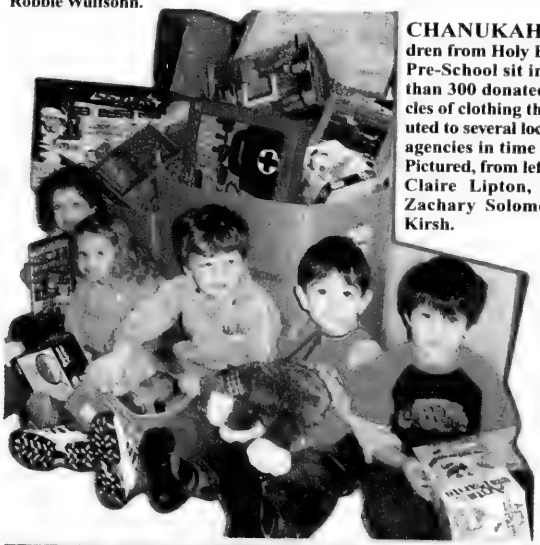
In this way, Roniak said, all the babies are being taken care of.

"Rabbi Grossman looks at a problem and says why can't I do something? And he does."

For more information on Canadian Friends of Migdal Ohr, visit www.migdalohrcanada.com or contact jrosenzweig@sympatico.ca.

Celebrating Chanukah

GREETING CARDS: Students in grades 6 to 8 at Bialik Hebrew Day School created greeting cards for the holiday season to decorate the walls at the Hospital for Sick Children and cheer up its young patients. Pictured with some of the cards are Bialik Grade 8 house captains, from left, Adrian Esser, Leah Hamovitch, Felicia Hershenhorn and Robbie Wulfsohn.



CHANUKAH TOYS: Children from Holy Blossom Temple Pre-School sit in front of more than 300 donated toys and articles of clothing that were distributed to several local social service agencies in time for Chanukah. Pictured, from left, are Mya Lax, Claire Lipton, Jack Naimer, Zachary Solomon and Jonah Kirsh.

CHANUKAH PLAY: Grade 5 students at Netivot HaTorah Day School put on a play for students and parents about the Chanukah story. Pictured, back row from left, are Eitan Cohen, Danya Lewis, Simon Litwack, Noam Roz and Akiva Dubrofsky; and, front row from left, Maayan Bloch, Kayla Halberstadt, Kayla Shields and Rachel Bitton. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel tov Luci & Al on your 50th wedding anniversary. Love and best wishes for many more years. Marsha, Murray & family.

Nicole Weinberger & Adam Gross are engaged! Congratulations and love from both families. A summer wedding is planned.

Betty & Jeff Shelson and Barbara Duviner are thrilled to announce the engagement of Jennifer & Geoffrey. Sadly missed is the late Stephen Duviner.

Mazel tov to Debbie Pila & Felix Shterenfeld on their engagement.

Happy first birthday, Justin. Love from your parents, Nicky Cohen & Jordan Kupinsky, sister Hayley, grandparents, great-grandparents and uncles Steve and Jeremy.

Ethan, born June 23 to Jodi & Steven Gold. Excited grandparents are Cathy & Ron Kauman, Kayla Greenberg & Robert Vallieres and Howard Gold.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less.
Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return.
Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

CJN DATING
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powered by JMATCH
JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

What's New deadlines: Monday, Jan. 8, is the deadline for the Jan. 18 issue and Monday, Jan. 15, is the deadline for the Jan. 25 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Dec. 21

CHANUKAH BY THE LAKE

Join Chabad of Danforth-Beaches for Chanukah By The Lake, with puppet performance, creative menorah workshop and latkes, at the Beaches Lions Club, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Adults $8, $25 per family. RSVP to 416-809-1365 or chabad-beaches@aol.com.

Saturday, Dec. 23

PARSHAH DISCUSSION

Morley Goldberg discusses the weekly portion, Miketz, 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

Sunday, Dec. 24

RETURNING TO JUDAISM

Join **Penina Taylor** for "My Journey from Judaism to Christianity and Back," the inspiring story of Taylor's personal religious odyssey. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Tefilah Congregation. Suggested donation $10. For information, call Jews for Judaism, 905-761-0040.

Monday, Dec. 25

JEWS IN A CHRISTIAN WORLD

Jews for Judaism and Torah in Motion host the fourth annual Dec 25 Seminar on Judaism in a Christian Society featuring **David Berger**, professor of history, Brooklyn College; **Rabbi Eugene Korn**, professor of Jewish thought in the department of Christian-Jewish studies at Seton Hall University; and **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, of Jews for Judaism. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. For registration and information, visit www.torahinmotion.org or call 416-633-5770.

Other News

ISRAEL: A FREE NATION

Temple Har Zion presents a Shabbaton with **Yael Seliger**, of the Board of Jewish Education, on "Israel: To Be or Not to Be a Free Nation," an exploration of whether Jews who were liberated from slavery in Egypt will ever be able to live as free people in the Promised Land. Saturday, Jan. 6, 9:15 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 905-889-2252, ext. 5 for details.

SWEAT FOR ISRAEL

Westmount Community Shul holds "Sweat for Israel," an aerobothon fundraiser to raise money for Safed, Israel. This fundraiser for women includes fitness instructors with prizes. For information and registration, contact 905-482-9488 or visit www.westmountroutes.com.

LEARN TO CHANT TORAH

Congregation Darchei Noam offers a five-week course with **Michael Mitchell** to learn Torah *trope*. Join them Mondays, Jan. 8 through Feb. 5, 7-8:30 p.m. $10. Register at 416-638-4783.

LEARN HEBREW

Keren Hatarbut Institute offers Hebrew-language classes for adult, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. Classes are taught in the morning and evenings beginning the week of Jan. 4. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. For registration, call **Joseph Klinger** at 416-787-0197.

The Canadian Zionist Federation offers Hebrew-language studies with **Gila Leaman**. Meetings once a week for 10 weeks or join the 45 minute lunch-and-learn program. To register, contact 416-633-3988 or e-mail czf@jazo.org.il.

LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO

Teatron Theatre, the only theatre in Ontario dedicated to producing Jewish-themed plays, is launching its fourth season with *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, a Tony award-winning comedy by **Alfred Uhry**, Jan. 24-28 at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, visit www.teatrontheatre.com or call 416-781-5527.

Continued on page 21

Jews for Judaism
Torah and Motion and Jews for Judaism proudly invite you to our 4th Annual Conference
TORAH in MOTION
Confronting the Challenges of Modernity

Judaism in a Christian World

Shaarei Tefillah Congregation, 3600 Bathurst street, Toronto

Sunday December 24, 2006 . 8:00pm

My Journey from Judaism to Christianity and Back
Penina Taylor
Founder Shomrei Emet Institute for Counter Missionary Studies

Monday December 25, 2006 . 9:30am - 3:30pm

9:30am The Ambivalence of Jewish Law towards Christianity
■ Dr. Eugene Korn

11:00am The Catholic Church and the Jews: From the Inquisition to Interfaith Dialogue
■ Dr. David Berger

12:30pm Lunch

1:15pm Evangelicals and Israel: Knight in Shining Armour or Trojan Horse
■ Rabbi Michael Skobac

2:30pm Jews and Christians in the 21st Century: Can the Future be Better than the Past?
■ Dr. Eugene Korn

$30 / $40 (after Dec. 20), $10 Students / Single session TiMPass Holders $10 (lunch)
info@torahinmotion.org www.torahinmotion.org 416.633.5770

The Canadian Jewish news
CONGRATULATIONS

In honour of your marriage, The Canadian Jewish News is pleased to present you with a 6 month subscription.

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Subscription will begin two weeks after receipt of information.
If you wish, please enclose a photo - we'd be honoured to publish it in an upcoming issue.

What's New

Continued from page 20

SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Registration for the next Temple Emanu-El Monday lecture series, 2-4 p.m., is now open. April 23, "Our Environment and Our Health" with **Ruth Grier,** former minister of health; April 30, "What Makes a Play Great" with **Robert Fothergill**, department of theatre, York University; May 7, "What Makes the Romantic Composers So Romantic" with **David Miller**, lecturer George Brown College; May 14, "Linwood Barclay on Writing Columns and Writing Books: It Sure Beats Working" with **Linwood Barclay**, *Toronto Star* columnist and author. $30. For registration and information, call 416-449-3880.

SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

Are you a survivor of abuse who is willing and able to speak about your experiences? Jewish Women International of Canada (JWIC) now has a speakers' bureau. The goal is to educate men and women about the issue of abuse and its effects. JWIC is looking for women who would like to speak publicly to interested groups in the Jewish community. Training will be provided. Call 416-630-9313.

L'CHAIM SUPPORT GROUP

L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women provides confidential, caring support via telephone or personal visits to women facing cancer diagnosis and treatment. L'Chaim members are all cancer survivors. For information, call 416-630-0203.

EATING DISORDERS GROUP

Eating Disorders of York Region provides services, education, and support groups for families and friends of individuals who are affected by eating disorders. In a non-judgmental and non-threatening environment. In Richmond Hill, Thursday evenings, 7:30-9 p.m. Contact **Robyn** at 416-576-0457 or visit www.edoyr.com.

JEWISH 411

Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto has information on community events, holidays, shuls, camps, kosher restaurants, etc. Call JIS and let them help you with your Jewish needs: 416-635-5600 or look on the net at www.jewishtoronto.com and click on Doing Jewish In Toronto.

RELIEF FOR CAREGIVERS

If you are a caregiver looking after your spouse or parent at home and would like some time off, call **Sharon**, respite co-ordinator at the Bernard Betel Centre, 416-225-2112, ext. 118.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer, or for more information on these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Café: Newcomers to Canada practise speaking English in a casual, friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Interested participants or volunteers should call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

Youth Groups: Programs for newcomer children and teens. Both Canadians and newcomers get community service hours for participation in our teen group. For information, call **Jodi**, ext. 28.

JUMPStart: If you have a networking or job opportunity in the skilled labour market for a newcomer, connect to our JUMPStart program by calling **Elisa**, ext. 24.

Family-to-Family: Welcome newcomer families and provide informal advice and orientation to our community. To participate, call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration, 416-638-7800, or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna**, ext. 215, for info and registration.

Saying I Do Again: Keeping Your Couple Relationship Alive - A two-hour workshop for couples that explores how the couple relationship changes over time in the areas of communication, intimacy and romance. Tuesday, Jan. 16, at the Family Resource Centre in the Promenade Mall from 7 to 9 p.m. Pre-registration required. Call **Fran Chodack**, 905-882-8509.

How To Talk With Your Ex: A two-session workshop to help individuals learn effective communication and listening skills to better deal with their ex and issues around parenting and the children. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at the Promenade Mall, #313 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Saturday dance, Dec. 30: Casino Rama, Wednesday, Jan. 17; Mah-jong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Bridge, Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m. Scrabble players wanted. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Enjoy the movie *You, Me and Dupree*, Sunday, Dec. 24, at 2:30 pm. Members $2, non-members $4.

Join the Etrog Israeli Club every Tuesdays at 3 p.m. For information, call **Francesca**, 905-763-2728.

Are You New to Computers? Join the Sunday beginners' computer course beginning Jan. 7. For information and registration, call ext. 128.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Music presents **David Broza**, Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, call ext. 228.

Dec. 25 is Family Fun Day at the BJCC, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Family gym, swim, kids' cooking class, sing-song and arts and crafts. $18 per family. To register, call ext. 235.

Centre Camp's winter-break camp takes place Dec. 25-Jan. 5. Call ext. 299 for information.

The Koffler Centre of the Arts, School of Visual Arts' winter registration continues. Classes offered in a variety of areas, including ceramics, stone sculpture and painting. Contact **Sari Sadofsky** at ext. 269.

The BJCC computer lab specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+. Inquire about openings to "Getting Started on Your Computer" and "Using the Internet and E-mail" courses. Each is four weeks long, two classes per week, for a total of 16 hours. To register call ext. 235.

Registration is now open for September 2007 early childhood programs, part time and full time. Morning school, Tic Tac Two, nursery school, junior and senior kindergarten. Full-day programs, toddler to senior kindergarten. All programs are enriched, stimulating, and lots of fun. Weekly activities include music, gym, Hebrew, swim, Fun Centre Gym, and the Discovery Museum. For information or to book a tour call ext. 248.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

"Chinese and a Movie" presents *Wondrous Oblivion*, a new comedy for the whole family. Sunday, Dec. 24. Dinner 7 p.m. Movie 8 p.m. at the Al Green Theatre. Members $30, non-members $35, students $15. To purchase tickets, call ext. 0 or Hillel of Greater Toronto, 416-913-2424.

Good Age Club presents a Chanukah celebration and concert, Thursday, Dec. 21, 1-3 p.m. $3; wendo demonstration – learn the basics of how to protect yourself with techniques from wendo, a self-defence program geared to women. Thursday, Dec. 28, 1-3 p.m. $3. For information, call **Shawnda Chambers**, ext. 115.

The Toronto Jewish Film Society 2007 season runs January through December 2007. Enjoy eight Sunday film events and eight dynamic speakers for $90. "Under 29" membership for 7:30 p.m. screening only, $60. To register, contact joellem@mnjcc.org or ext. 139.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Jewish Family and Child Service needs volunteers for one-to-one visits with seniors in nursing homes and hospitals in Toronto and suburbs. Flexible hours. Call **Laila Friedman**, 416-638-7800, ext. 287.

SENIORS CHANUKAH: Constantia Retirement Residence in Thornhill held its first annual Chanukah party on Dec. 10. Almost 300 people were there, including residents, their families and Vaughan Mayor Linda Jackson, centre. Pictured with Jackson are Constantia general manager Harry Rosenberg, and Katrina Nousiainen, regional manager of sales and marketing for Chartwell Seniors Housing REIT, which owns the residence.

SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Mernick, Earl	Nov. 25/06	Private
Feyhinberh, Izrayil	Nov. 30/06	6250 BathurstSt.
Simkhaev, Albert	Nov. 30/06	55 Valleywoods Rd
Kipershlak, Dora	Dec. 2/06	Private
Shuster, Daniel Marek	Dec. 2/06	Private
Zamdwajs, Mendel	Dec. 3/06	Private
Wolf, Joseph	Dec. 4/06	34 Verwood Ave
Kligman, Lev Leon	Dec. 4/06	1101 Steeles Av W
Marantz, Leib	Dec. 4/06	19 Jenkins Dr
Smilovic, (Smiley), Annette	Dec. 4/06	323 Joicey Blvd
Shleymovich, Masha	Dec. 5/06	47 Vivaldi Dr
Mindlin, Ekheyved	Dec. 5/06	Private
Schmerz, Celia	Dec. 6/06	Private
Stoll, Albert	Dec. 6/06	Private
Aronoff, William	Dec. 6/06	18 Steeles Ave. E.
Mond, Rabbi Herbert	Dec. 6/06	
Zoltak, Arthur	Dec. 6/06	41A St. Charles
Itkin, Rabbi Zalman	Dec. 8/06	

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Musza Halper	Dec 2/06	87 Braemar Av
Becky Newman	Dec 3/06	106 Baycrest Av
Louis Ball	Dec 3/06	1340 Huron St
Frank Lean	Dec 3/06	65 Skymark Dr
Joseph Gossin	Dec 4/06	311 Hillhurst Bl
Felisa Male	Dec 4/06	3560 Bathurst St
Evan Erlick	Dec 5/06	400 Fairlawn Av
Shirley Gorman	Dec 5/06	6 Forest Ridge Dr
Sam Sivitz	Dec 5/06	90 Fisherville Rd
Murray Fruchtman	Dec 6/06	84 Waterloo Av
Esther Zlotnik	Dec 6/06	546 Buckingham Bl
Henri Muhlstein	Dec 6/06	10 Torresdale Av
Mirel Ochs	Dec 7/06	122 McGillivray Av
David Seager	Dec 7/06	100 Upper Madison Av

The family of the late

HONEY PLANT ז"ל

wishes to express their sincere thanks to family and friends for the many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy. The comforting support during this difficult time will always be remembered.

Eddie Plant, Howard Plant, Mark & Lisa Plant & children, Barry & Gayle Plant & Children, Elise & Jay Stenzler, Estelle Foreman, Norman and Ben Rosenberg

The family of the late

Eli Borenstein ז"ל
(of Montreal)

wishes to express our gratitude to all our family and friends for your support, heartfelt sympathies and generous donations following the untimely loss of our husband, father and grandfather.

The Borenstein Family

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On Campus

Stand up for your beliefs in support of Israel

By ADAM HUMMEL
Special to The CJN

Guest Voice

Israel is an apartheid state. Zionism is racism. Hillel is a racist organization. Israel used 90,000 European troops to help win the War of Independence. Apartheid was created by the Jewish colonial state. Hillel is unfit for hosting Holocaust Education Week on campus. Israel is perpetrating genocide against the Palestinians.

Tough to read? Imagine hearing this on a regular basis.

Almost daily, one can witness some form of anti-Israel sentiment on campus at York University, and this one-sided attack on Israel has opened a new front on the conflict in the Middle East. We, as Jewish students at York, are standing on the front line of a conflict that has different consequences from those in the fighting actually unfolding in the region. This conflict has the ability to reach those students who have no bias in the clash and alter their beliefs by using fabricated information. It also, in its simplest form, is making Jewish students uncomfortable on campus.

The activists disseminating the false information are not pro-Palestinian, they are anti-Israel. Though these are groups that call themselves Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR), the Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC), and even the Arab Student Collective (ASC), they do little to promote the Palestinian cause. They exist for one reason: to criticize and smear the name of Israel and Zionism on campus.

It is important to have people understand Hillel's simple stance on the conflict, one which stands in stark opposition to the above: we will not criticize the Palestinians. Our advocacy is strictly about Israel and expresses our determination to have peace in the region. We also call for dialogue on campus. This view enables us to gain more credibility than we would have by simply picking on a people who don't need to be picked on.

The smear campaign against Israel on campus is far-reaching, and is not exclusive to York. However, as a result of campus politics, the student government and the lack of action on behalf of the administration to stop such demonstrations, the anti-Israel rhetoric has thrived and increased on campus virtually unopposed.

This culture of hate is found all over the university, from the school newspaper, to the classroom, to the public spaces.

Almost every day for the past two months, there has been a table in Vari Hall, the centre of the university, devoted to slandering Israel in some way.

At times, one can even find a makeshift "apartheid wall," supposed to be imitating the security fence that Israel has erected to stop terrorists from killing innocents. This wall also serves as a propaganda hub, with descriptions of apartheid as a "creation of the Jewish colonial state," making no mention of South Africa whatsoever. On occasion, there is even a call to "Globalize the intifadah."

The York Federation of Students (YFS) attempted to create a Stop the Hate Campaign in October, supposed to be a year-long campaign to – you guessed it – stop the hate. Unfortunately, even at the launch of the campaign when every group had a chance to speak about its organization and how it will stop the hate, Israel was slandered twice in one hour.

One student did a rap, turning his "poetry" into a hateful verse about the IDF as a killing machine.

After the YFS apologized for allowing this, the head of the ASC stood up and spoke about the evils of Israel, saying that support for Israeli "apartheid" had even made it to campus. This, of course, involved numerous references to the supporters of Israel as supporters of "the devil," and the declaration that the Jewish National Fund is a colonialist organization. Welcome to York.

Their outright denial of the facts even leads some people to state that there are no Muslim countries in the world. This is done to discredit the Jewish state, but anyone can tell you that the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan are quite legitimate Muslim states.

This outpouring of hatred continues unabated. The activists are daily engaging students who have nothing invested in the conflict to win them over to their side.

Jewish students and all those who support Israel must stand strong for their beliefs and learn the facts. This is the most important thing that can be done, and advocacy needs to be increased in Jewish day schools and advocacy programs.

York is an extreme example of a university campus and the way politics unfolds among students, but it is also a model for the modern world, which also consistently rallies against Israel.

To the students of every university: be proud of your Zionism and your support for Israel. It is the only democracy in the Middle East and a country that, though it may have some flaws, is doing the right thing. Don't let politics stand in the way of your support for this country, and never take for granted all the work that Jewish communities have done to make Israel what it is today.

We are fighting a war on two fronts: in the Middle East and on our campuses. Though the situation in the Middle East certainly does not look as though it's moving anywhere, I truly believe we have the ability to make progress on campus. Let's stand up for what we believe in, expose the truth, and be proud of our country.

Adam Hummel is the president of Hillel at York University.

ART AUCTION: A Nov. 23 Inuit art action raised more than $20,000 for the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School. DJDS student Jedediah Kliger, left, shows off the bidding paddle he created for Deanna Rosenswig at the auction. Behind them is *Shaman Spirit* by Ralph Porter, a piece donated by gallery owner Sheila Roth and purchased by Rosenswig. Roth donated more than 60 pieces for the auction.

Ex-IDF soldier says he's 'breaking the silence'

By LISA VARANO
Special to The CJN

Yehuda Shaul had what he calls an "enlightenment moment" shortly before his required military service in the Israeli army ended.

He said he stopped thinking as a soldier and asked himself what kind of civilian life he wanted to lead.

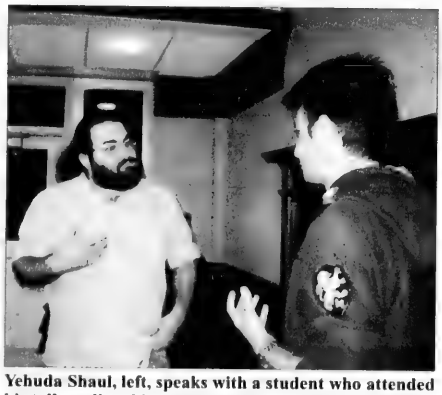
The moment of self-reflection sparked a moral crisis in his life, he told some 50 people at the University of Western Ontario earlier this month.

"In one second, military terminology and military way of thinking doesn't apply to you any more, so you find yourself losing justification for 90 per cent of the actions that you took part in," he said. "Suddenly, I saw a different face. Suddenly, you saw horns on my head."

Shaul, 24, said that serving in the Palestinian territories, including for 14 months in Hebron, made him lose his sense of right and wrong.

"At the first moment that you come as a combat soldier in the occupied territories, it's like taking all your ideology, all your morality, putting it in a blender, turning it on for one minute and there's nothing left afterward," he said.

When he discovered that other soldiers felt the same way, he co-founded a group in 2004 called Breaking the Silence. The project began with an exhibit of photographs that soldiers took during their service. It attracted 7,000 visitors and was shown in the Knesset.



Yehuda Shaul, left, speaks with a student who attended his talk earlier this month at the University of Western Ontario. [Lisa Varano photo]

Some of the pictures show soldiers posing as they would in vacation snapshots. For example, one photo shows soldiers in uniform watching a World Cup soccer match in a Palestinian home they were occupying for military reasons.

It is against the Israeli army's strict moral code to use Palestinians' property unless it is necessary, Shaul said, but soldiers soon become numb and do it anyway.

> ***'We gather together because we believe in the same problem'***

Breaking the Silence has collected testimonials from 400 former Israeli soldiers to date, he said.

"We all gather together not because we have the same political agenda [or] because we believe in the same solution," he said. "We gather together because we believe in the same problem."

Speaking to critics who say that the Israeli Defence Forces is the most moral army in the world is like speaking to himself prior to his "enlightenment," said Shaul, who was born in Jerusalem to a Canadian father.

"For me, it's very simple. I see the work of Breaking the Silence as a way of taking responsibility," he said.

Shaul said he wants people to define their moral boundaries and refuse to act in ways that go beyond them.

Shaul's speech was organized by the Centre for Social Concern at King's University College, a Catholic college that's part of UWO. The centre's website says it aims "to bring issues of poverty, inequality, and other forms of injustice under the scrutiny of social analysis."

Organizer Jeff Buchanan, a King's student, said he hoped Shaul's speech would encourage people to think critically. "I see this speaker as… just another voice, to give another perspective on what's happened, to allow people to get a fuller sense of what's actually happening over there," he said.

Liora Santopinto, a King's student who attended the talk, said Shaul expressed himself honestly.

"I felt that he wasn't holding anything back," she said. "He spoke to us clearly, to break his silence – exactly as he said."

Former Israeli wins Waldman scholarship

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

It was only four years ago that Fiana Kalp arrived in Toronto from Israel, speaking broken English and being weeks away from starting her first year at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

Today, the 18-year-old CHAT graduate is the latest recipient of the Dennis Waldman Foundation for Jewish Education award.

The foundation was established after Dennis Waldman, a former Hebrew school teacher, died suddenly in 1989 at age 41.

His family and friends established a trust in his honour to contribute to the education of Jewish youth in the community.

Fiana Kalp

Every year, the non-profit organization awards a $2,500 scholarship to a student who has completed high school and is continuing on to post-secondary education.

This year, the Russian-born Kalp, who graduated from CHAT with an academic average of almost 90 per cent, won the scholarship.

To qualify, each student must complete an application that includes an essay, proof of academic achievement, teacher references and a list of extracurricular activities, and demonstrates involvement in the Jewish community.

Kalp, who is in her first year at York University studying psychology and has ambitions to specialize in abnormal child psychology, impressed the foundation's board of directors with an application that highlighted her many accomplishments.

"I've been volunteering at the [Bathurst Jewish Community Centre]– I helped throw all the holiday parties and celebrations. I also teach Hebrew at Temple Sinai. I do special education one-on-one," Kalp said.

Kalp was also the editor of CHAT's Hebrew newspaper and part of the school's Israeli affairs committee. She also worked as a camp counsellor for disabled children at the BJCC.

"Volunteering makes me feel back at home, because I meet a lot of Israelis, and Jewish people are all alike, so it feels comfortable and familiar," Kalp said.

"It's important to me to feel a part of the Jewish community. It's hard to just break away from it."

While Kalp's accomplishments make her deserving of the award, she's still grateful for the gift, which has helped her and her family ease the financial burden of post-secondary tuition.

"I've always wanted to go to school and it's great that there are people who are supporting me and helping me out with this," she said.

"My family can use all the help they can get, so it was just so great to get the award for just doing something that I love. It is nice to be recognized."

For more information about the award, visit www.waldmanfoundation.org.

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Rabbi Mandel is the Director of Outreach for Aish Learning Centre, Thornhill Branch. He is the co-creator of the *Love, Dating and Marriage Seminar of Discovery International* and the author of *The Fulfillment Formula* and *Seder for the Soul*.

Wednesday, January 10, 2007 @ 8:00 pm
At Aish Learning Centre, Thornhill Branch
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For registration and information call 905.764.1818.

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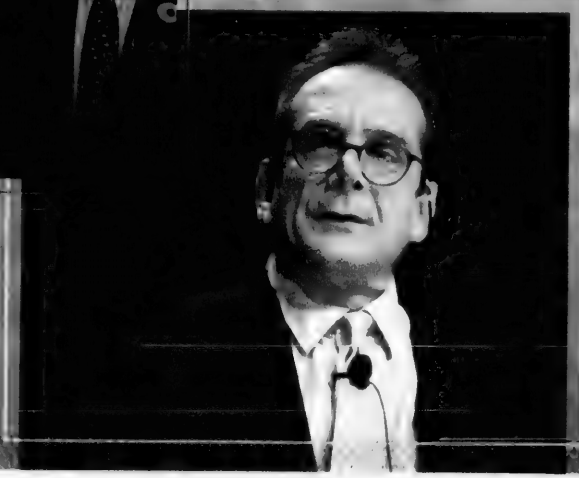
UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 raised $81 million with $20 million designated for Israel's emergency needs. Our funding provided:

- Recreation, relief and respite for northern Israeli citizens
- New equipment for schools and other facilities destroyed by katyusha rockets
- Summer camps away from the war zone for northern Israeli children
- Funding for direct trauma services

Campers from Camp Ramah hand out flags at the community-wide Stand with Israel rally, where thousands came out in support of Israel during the war against Hezbollah.

Telethon volunteers, including Josh Shuval and Evelyn Sagal, made the call on behalf of UJA Federation and raised $5.6 million over the course of four months.

Major Gifts dinner keynote speaker, Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay (centre), with event co-chairs Jill Reitman & Ted Saskin.



Pulitzer Prize winning author Dr. Charles Krauthammer addresses more than 2000 people at UJA's Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 launch in August.

You made it happen. Thank You!

rael Emergency Campaign 2007 leadership (l-r): larvey Frisch, campaign vice-chair; Ariella ohringer, campaign co-chair; campaign launch pecial guest Yair Goldwasser, brother of kidnapped raeli soldier Ehud Goldwasser; Judith Finer reedman, Women's Campaign & Advocacy chair; nd Fred Waks, campaign co-chair.

Professor Alan Dershowitz speaks at a UJA community-wide event in September.

ajor Gifts Israel Fly-in participants with Miri sen, Israeli government spokesperson.

Toronto community members in Israel on one of several solidarity missions organized by UJA over the late summer and early fall.

Campaign funds will continue to provide support for ongoing long-term needs, such as:

- Trauma counselling
- Student scholarships to encourage young people to remain in the north
- The Fund for Victims of Terror, originally set up in the early 2000s during the Intifadah but reopened following this summer's war

And, the Campaign will maintain its commitment to the countless services and programs here at home, including:

- Prevention programs to reduce the risks of family breakdown
- Critical services for young people with special needs
- New formal and informal Jewish education initiatives
- Ongoing financial support for Taglit-birthright israel and other youth programs
- Supplementary financial assistance for Jewish people living below the poverty line

UJA FEDERATION
Live generously

Coast to Coast

Canadian rabbis take message to Parliament Hill

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Nineteen rabbis – including Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist clergy – from the newly formed Canadian Rabbinic Caucus (CRC) gathered in Ottawa earlier this month to meet with politicians on Parliament Hill.

The rabbis – male and female, anglophone and francophone – travelled from Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Kingston and Halifax to announce the establishment of the CRC, which was formed by the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) in response to the rising worldwide tendency to use religion as an excusé to justify violence, and with the goal of offering a religious, Jewish perspective on a variety of issues.

The rabbis met with representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and with MPs of various parties. They also had lunch with the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group, which includes MPs and senators from all parties, and attended question period in the House of Commons.

As well, they met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, to whom Rabbi Reuven Bulka, CRC co-chair and spiritual leader of Ottawa's Congregation Machzikei Hadas, presented a plaque engraved with a prayer for Canada in both French and English.

"Meeting with the prime minister was a very powerful moment," said Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, spiritual leader of Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Montreal and a co-chair of the CRC.

"I had been in Israel a week-and-a-half earlier and had met with [Israeli] Prime Minister [Ehud] Olmert. [I was] able to tell [Harper] that Olmert praised his vision and said he would love to have him visit Israel."

The rabbis were recognized in the House of Commons by James Lunney, the Tory MP for Nanaimo-Alberni, and by Liberal Anita Neville, a MP for Winnipeg South Centre.

"The rabbinic caucus has embraced a hope shared by many Canadians that Canada, as an open, pluralistic, democratic and diverse society might aspire to be the country that offers guidance and inspiration to the world in the 21st century," Lunney said.

Rabbi Reuven Bulka of Ottawa, co-chair of the Canadian Rabbinic Caucus, presents a plaque to Prime Minister Stephen Harper engraved with a prayer for Canada in both French and English. **[Peter Waiser photo]**

"Today, these rabbis will call on leaders of other faith groups to denounce the killings of innocent civilians in the name of deity," Neville said. "They will also ask other religious leaders to join them in promoting an open dialogue so the different perspectives on issues can be debated in an open, respectful and trustworthy manner."

Rabbi Steinmetz, Rabbi Bulka and fellow co-chair Rabbi Reuben Poupko, spiritual leader of Beth Israel Beth Aaron Congregation in Montreal, all said they were extremely pleased with the first CRC gathering.

"It was a wonderful inauguration for the CRC, and I hope that we will be able to follow through in a significant way," Rabbi Poupko said. "There are so many disturbing elements in the past decade. We want to emphasize the positive role religion can play."

"I think that there was a unique sense of respect for the rabbis that we felt," Rabbi Steinmetz said. "We have to give voice to our views, because we are not just speaking from a political level, but from a powerful moral level."

Rabbi Bulka agreed: "It was clear that the parliamentarians greatly appreciated this initiative to use religion as a healing and uniting presence in Canada."

The CRC plans to continue to meet and to expand its reach, both by enlisting other rabbis and by meeting with provincial governments across the country.

"And then we will regroup and meet again in Ottawa to continue in the way we started," Rabbi Poupko said.

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First Canadian elected to head BB International

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — For the first time in its163-year history, B'nai Brith International (BBI) has elected a non-U.S. citizen as its president – Ottawa native Moishe Smith.

Smith, a local restaurateur, was inaugurated at the Jewish service organization's annual policy conference in New Orleans earlier this month and will serve as president until 2009.

Smith's involvement with B'nai Brith goes back to his high school days as a member of the fraternity AZA. He later joined Ottawa's Parliament Lodge No. 2159, taking on a variety of positions in the chapter.

"I ended up being appointed to the national board in Canada and within five or six years became president of B'nai Brith Canada," he said, adding that all this happened before he was even 40 years old.

In 1986, Smith received the Young Leadership Award from B'nai Brith International and soon thereafter was appointed to the international board of governors.

"I had no idea when I started that it would lead to this," Smith said. "I have worked very, very hard for the organization over the years, and I am very excited and humbled that B'nai Brith International chose me as the first non-American president."

Two of Smith's sisters attended the conference in New Orleans to share in the excitement of his inauguration. About a dozen other Canadians were there as well, including several past presidents of B'nai Brith Canada.

B'nai Brith was founded in 1843 in New York as an organization to help Jewish immigrants. It now has more than 180,000 members in more than 50 countries, and it's involved in human rights and goodwill efforts aimed at both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities around the world.

"BBI was doing business in the U.S. before Kiwanis, before Rotary, before there were any hospital foundations, or Red Cross," said Smith. "BBI built the infrastructure and was the fabric of the Jewish communities in the small towns as well as the big cities."

Smith will be doing a great deal of travelling during his tenure as president.

"I will travel as the need arises. Members in more than 50 countries around the world will feel well looked after," he said. "We will continue our work internationally… in Latin America, in Europe, to continue to fight anti-Semitism and to ensure the rights and freedoms for all mankind."

Two issues are at the forefront of Smith's agenda. The first is reforming the United Nations.

"[The UN's human rights] commission got a new name, but the constant Israel-bashing continues," he said.

Smith said that he also plans "to educate, embrace, empower and engage the next generation of Jewish activists so that they understand the issues and can be active participants in the protection of Israel and human rights."

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Forward resume to: Dr. Richard Cummings
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rcummings@jfandcs.com

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Candidates must be eligible for membership in OCSW&SSW.
Forward resume to:
Wendy Wolfman
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Goldstick family portrait, Toronto, 1912.
Ontario Jewish Archives, photo #6706

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TOY MOUNTAIN: Students at United Synagogue Day School's Beth Tikvah campus collected toys to be distributed to disadvantaged children during Chanukah. Pictured, from left, are Maya Greenberg, Reuben Blaff, Jocelyn Speyer, Josh Peters, Mark Sirkin and Blake Greenwald.

Sephardi school launches program for English speakers

By RHONDA SPIVAK
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — A one-year Judaic studies leadership program for English-speaking post-high school students has been launched at the Sephardic Educational Center in Jerusalem's Jewish quarter.

Although the program focuses on Sephardi Jewish history, it is open to Ashkenazi Jewish students as well.

It "is designed to appeal to students who want more religious studies than they might get at the Hebrew University's Rothberg school for overseas students, but less religious studies than at a yeshiva," said Rabbi Joseph Benarroch, a teacher at the centre who stopped in Winnipeg in early December to promote the program.

Classes will combine academics with opportunities to "live and breathe" the subject matter, he said. There will be Shabbatons, opportunities to visit archeological sites, volunteer projects and interactions with Israeli society.

"One of the big attractions of this program is that students will be able to live right in the heart of the Jewish quarter," Rabbi Benarroch said. "They will be able to experience the pulse of living in the Old City."

The Judaic studies leadership program will accept 20 overseas students and combines five different areas of teaching: Judaic studies; the history and politics of Israel; leadership training; Sephardi history, culture and customs; and the history of Jerusalem. As well, students will be required to attend a Hebrew ulpan.

Students taking the program, however, will not be eligible to obtain any university credits, "but that is something that we are working on to change in the future," Rabbi Benarroch said.

The program, including accommodation and two daily meals, costs $7,000 (US), and students can apply for a Masa scholarship from the Jewish Agency for the whole amount.

Rabbi Benarroch, who was born and raised in Winnipeg, moved to Israel eight years ago and now lives in Efrat, a settlement just outside of Jerusalem. Before moving to Israel, he served as the rabbi of Congregation Beth Hamidrash in Vancouver.

Rabbi Benarroch also promoted the Sephardic Educational Center's (SEC) Judaic studies leadership program in Toronto and Montreal. He planned to visit Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C., as well.

"I've been getting a good response to the program. In Montreal, there is a large Sephardic Jewish community, and there are already some students who are interested in registering for it," he said.

Founded in 1979, the SEC is housed in historic buildings that originally belonged to the Sephardi Jewish community. "At the centre, we run short-term birthright programs and Shabbatons for English-speaking students in Jerusalem, as well as providing weekly [Judaic] classes in English, Spanish and French," Rabbi Benarroch said.

"We also run special tours of the Old City. Our tours focus on the history of the Sephardic Jews in the Old City. The history of Sephardic Jews is the history of Jerusalem, from approximately the year 1500. The first immigration of Ashkenazi Jews to Jerusalem wasn't until the mid-1800s."

Rabbi Benarroch starts his tours of the old city at the synagogue built by the Ramban (Rabbi Moshe ben Nachman, known as Nachmanides) in 1267. "Ramban's synagogue, which is 740 years old, is the oldest active synagogue that I know of in the world," he said.

For more information about the Judaic studies leadership program at the SEC, e-mail Rabbi Benarroch at sepheduc@netvision.net.il.

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Coast to Coast

Survey sheds light on interfaith couples raising kids

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Among interfaith families raising Jewish children, a key way to resolve the "December dilemma" is to take part in both Christmas and Chanukah celebrations by treating Chanukah as a religious holiday and Christmas as a secular one, a new survey says.

The Newton, Mass.-based website InterfaithFamily.com, which describes itself as "encouraging Jewish choices and a welcoming Jewish community," received replies to its third annual December holidays survey from 759 people, 342 of whom said they were interfaith couples raising (or having raised) their children as Jews. Most of these couples are in their 30s and 40s and have children age 10 and under.

"I think it's really important for Jews and Jewish leaders to understand what the behaviour of interfaith families raising their children as Jews looks like," said Edmund Case, president of InterfaithFamily.com, explaining the motivation behind the survey. He added that Jewish leaders also need to understand that families "can participate in Christmas celebrations and children won't [necessarily] turn out to not be Jewish."

The majority of survey respondents were American, but a dozen identified themselves as being from Canada, Case said.

Roberta Calderone, a social worker who facilitates an interfaith marriage preparation program at Montreal's Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, was one of the Canadian respondents. She has been married to Carman, a non-practising Catholic, for the past 38 years.

"Our commitment and contract to each other was that we were going to have a Jewish home and Jewish children, but we certainly didn't exclude his family," Calderone told *The CJN*. They have a 34-year-old daughter, who is married to a Jewish man, and a 31-year-old son, whose wife converted to Judaism under the auspices of the Conservative movement.

Over the years, the family has always had Chanukah celebrations at home. Christmas was celebrated with Carman's family at their home, where the children received Christmas presents from their non-Jewish relatives.

"It was a fun highlight of their life," said Calderone. "They knew it wasn't for them, but it was something they participated in."

'You can participate in another culture's celebrations without becoming their religion or taking their identity'

She said the arrangement was not confusing for her children, who attended Hebrew school and had their bar and bat mitzvahs at the temple.

For members of her interfaith group, a prominent issue is "why not [have a] Christmas tree," which is often seen as a non-religious symbol and a source of warm memories for non-Jews, and sometimes also by their Jewish partners.

But from a "synagogue point of view," Calderone said, a tree indicates Christian people celebrating Christmas.

In an op-ed piece in the *Forward* newspaper last month, Case and co-author Kathy Kahn of the Union for Reform Judaism, argued that successful outreach can result in a majority of interfaith families "making Jewish choices."

They cited a recent study on Boston's Jewish community – which has an estimated intermarriage rate of 37 per cent – that indicated 60 per cent of children in intermarried households are being raised as Jews, almost double the national American rate of 33 per cent. Case and Kahn attribute the difference to outreach, a priority for the Boston Jewish federation since 1998.

"The problem I have is that there are leading people in the Jewish community who think intermarriage is an awful thing and outreach is a waste of time," Case told *The CJN*.

Some of the survey responses shed light on how interfaith families think about the December holidays.

"Our children know they are Jews – you can participate in another culture's celebrations without becoming their religion or taking their identity," said one respondent.

"We celebrate Shabbat once a week, so I don't think one evening of opening Christmas gifts will undermine all of the other Jewish celebrations we have throughout the year."

That opinion came from among the 75 per cent of respondents who did not think that celebrating Christmas would affect their children's Jewish identity. Twenty-five per cent disagreed with than sentiment, and one said it was "the major issue I am struggling over."

A handful said that celebrating both holidays actually strengthens their children's Jewish identity.

"[My children] love showing their Christian cousins how to light a menorah, and what it means and commemorates," one person wrote.

However, 75 per cent agreed that "Chrismukkah" – the blended holiday popularized by the television program *The OC* – is a bad idea.

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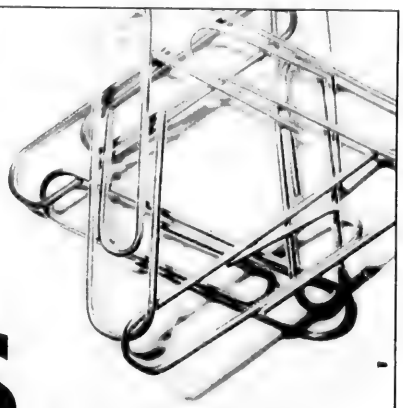

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Grade 1 students at the Toronto Heschel School created their own dreidels by changing a two-dimensional drawing into a three-dimensional object as a part of their integrated studies of the chagim, Hebrew and math. They also learned about the significance of each Hebrew letter on the dreidel. Pictured from left are Sarah Treger, Jared Levy, Michelle Galper and Matthew Rappaport.

It's all Israel's fault

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The Iraq Study Group report on Dec. 6 tried to link resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the struggles in Iraq and Afghanistan. Soon after, arguments from journalists and pundits supporting such a linkage (either implicitly or explicitly) picked up steam. But so did counter-arguments that attempted to show the flaws in the theory. In fact, they abounded.

For instance, in the Dec.7 *Globe and Mail* ("Iraq report requires reality check"), Israeli analyst Barry Rubin argued that while finding a diplomatic solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the hope of easing the Iraq situation "sounds very nice," it fails to face a harsh reality: "Given the Hamas leadership of the Palestinian Authority, the incompetence of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and the total chaos in Palestinian politics, this is all so much cosmetic surgery."

The *Globe* itself agreed with Rubin, editorializing the same day ("Talking sense on Iraq") that the Iraq Study Group "fails to spell out" how a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be achieved, "since Palestinians have a government dedicated to the destruction of Israel, and since any concessions Israel could reasonably offer understandably fall far short of that."

Indeed, as David Frum wrote ("Why is it always about Israel?," *National Post*, Dec. 9): "If pure force of repetition could make a statement true, then the 'centrality' of the Palestinian issue to the Iraq conflict would rank up there with Newton's laws. But before our brains are battered into acquiescence, can we request an explanation of how this relationship between the Palestinians and Iraq is supposed to work?"

Murderous animosity between Sunnis and Shiites in Iraq and provocations by Holocaust-denying, virulently anti-Israeli Iran (arguably the most dominant force in Iraq today) are not going to be mollified by progress on the Israeli-Palestinian front.

Frum pointed out that it's not the failure to solve the Israel-Palestinian conflict that "inflames and radicalizes the Middle East" but Arab radicalism itself that is the "cause of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute" in the first place.

"There is no peace because Israel's neighbours – and too many of the world's Muslims – cannot accept the right of a non-Arab, non-Muslim minority to live unsubjugated in the Middle East. That is the true 'core' of the dispute, and it cannot be fixed by negotiation."

Another reporter, Lisa Beyer, long experienced in covering the Middle East, called the linkage idea "a corrosive myth" ("The Big Lie about the Middle East," *Time*, Dec. 10).

She wrote: "To promote the canard that the troubles of the Arab world are rooted in the Palestinians' misfortunes does great harm. It encourages the Arabs to continue to avoid addressing the colossal societal and political ills by hiding behind the Great Excuse: it's all Israel's fault."

* * *

A couple of weeks ago, on TVO's *The Agenda*, Eric Margolis stated, absurdly, that Hamas' recognition of Israel is contingent upon Israel's recognition of the Palestinians (see "According to Reports," Nov. 30).

On the Dec. 6 show, Margolis was back with another twisted account of reality. This time, he insisted that UN Security Council Resolution 242 (the basis of Arab-Israeli peacemaking since 1967) "calls for a two-state solution based on the 1967 border lines, which means that the Palestinian state would regain the Old City of Jerusalem."

Wrong! Constructed in the aftermath of the 1967 war, Resolution 242 envisions Israel's withdrawal from territory previously controlled by Egypt, Jordan and Syria in exchange for real peace and security, but not going back to the precise and indefensible "Green Line." It says nothing about a two-state solution with the Palestinians. In any event, there has never been a "Palestinian state" that could "regain" the Old City. (Host Steve Paikin and co-panelist Janice Stein attempted to correct Margolis, but they only partially succeeded.)

While Israel supports a two-state solution with the Palestinians (based on territorial compromise), and while Resolution 242 in general underpins this support, it's still not correct to say that 242 explicitly calls for the solution that Margolis describes.

TVO viewers need to be wary of Margolis' pronouncements on Israel. It's not his ideological viewpoint that's in question – it's his competence.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Israeli high schoolers describe war experiences

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Over the past five years, under the auspices of the Jewish Agency-sponsored Partnership 2000 (P2K) program, Gray Academy of Jewish Education in Winnipeg and Danciger High School in Kiryat Shmonah in northen Israel have been conducting teacher-student exchange programs.

This year, a group of Danciger students and teachers came to Winnipeg from Nov. 26 to Dec. 6 and took part in a variety of activities over the course of their stay. This year, though, the visit was overshadowed by the events of the past summer in northern Israel.

On Nov. 29, at an evening co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and the Combined Jewish Appeal (that provides some of the funding for the P2K program), the Partnership 2000 committee and Gray Academy, Kiryat Shmonah students Atalia Amasay, Shir Tal, Shunit Neeman, Liron Ben Shoshan, Einat Azulay and Sol Azor all spoke about how they spent their summer holidays.

All of the girls – and most of their immediate family members – relocated to more southern areas of Israel, far removed from the constant shelling by Hezbollah.

All spoke of boredom and of anxiety about friends and family members who stayed behind in Kiryat Shmonah. When they were able to return home, they were fortunate to find that their homes weren't damaged.

Their school, however, was hit by three rockets. One damaged the entrance and two more hit the school itself. There were about 100 people in the building when the third rocket struck. Fortunately, no one inside at the time was injured, and the school was repaired in time for the start of the new school year.

As part of the evening, the Gray Academy student council P2K committee presented the visiting students with $2,800 that Gray students raised to build a garden at the restored Danciger entrance.

Those attending the evening were also shown a video featuring interviews with Danciger students and teachers. One student spoke about losing her brother in the fighting in Lebanon. One of the teachers recalled the terror she felt as a girl growing up in Kiryat Shmonah because of frequent rocket barrages emanating from Lebanon and how the current conflict reawakened those fears.

In his remarks, P2K committee chair Marty Greenfield said the program is bigger than just Gray Academy and Danciger High School. The partnership – inaugurated in 1997 – links six Canadian Jewish communities (Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Ottawa and the Atlantic region) with the five municipalities – with a total population of about 50,000 – in Israel's Galilee Panhandle.

P2K involves a variety of programs aimed at strengthening Jewish values and fostering a connection between elementary and high school students and teachers in the Galilee and in Canada, he said.

This is done through educational projects, video conferencing and reciprocal visits. The exchange program, he said, is the template that other smaller Jewish communities across Canada are looking to in starting similar exchange programs.

Speaking for Gray Academy's student council Y2K committee and students who have been to Danciger, David Coodin, the committee co-chair, described the difference it makes for Gray Academy students to be able to put names and faces to all that they have learned about Israel during their school years.

"By being able to hang out with Israeli teenagers and their families, we got a sense of the real Israel," Coodin said. "It was a life experience."

He also spoke about his visit to Israel last year with other Gray Academy students, calling it a confidence booster that has led them to take on leadership roles in the school and the wider community.

As a result of the experience, he added, a few Gray Academy graduates and students have made aliyah.

The next group of Gray Academy students to visit Kiryat Shmonah and Danciger High School are scheduled to depart in April.

Greenfield noted that the visiting Danciger students also toured an aboriginal high school. "It's important to have the students interact with non-Jewish high school students, too," he said. "We want to show the general public that Israeli teens are the same as Canadian teens."

Ian Goldstine, this year's CJA campaign chair, concluded the evening with an update on the campaign. He reported that the main campaign has surpassed $4.5 million, including close to $1 million raised by the CJA Women's campaign, and that the community's Crisis Fund for Israel, which was launched in the summer, stands at $2,272,000.

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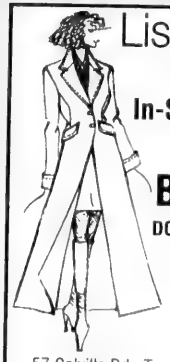

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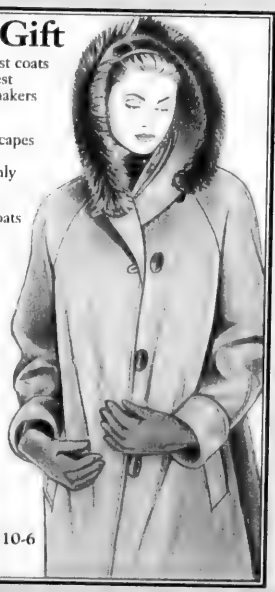

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Abbas stares down Hamas; calls for early election

By DAN BARON
JTA

JERUSALEM — For Palestinians, the choices now seem stark: radical reform or civil war.

After months of prevaricating while the Palestinian Authority nose-dived into poverty and violence, Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas finally confronted his Hamas rivals by calling new elections, in the hope of changing the government.

"We should not continue in a vicious circle while life breaks down," Abbas said in a long-awaited speech last Saturday. "We'll go back to the people and let the people decide."

Though Abbas was, in principle, invoking an executive privilege, Hamas accused him of seeking to topple its nine-month-old administration with the West's blessing.

"This is a real coup against the democratically elected government," said Mushir Masri, a lawmaker with the Islamic terrorist group. Hamas was elected last January and took office in March, prompting a cut-off of western aid.

Abbas didn't set a date for new elections, and it's not clear exactly how the process would proceed, as PA law is vague on electoral procedures. Hamas claimed Abbas was free to resign as president but had no authority to call new parliamentary elections.

Fighting quickly flared after Abbas' announcement. In the Gaza Strip, shots were fired at the convoys of the PA prime minister and foreign minister, both of them Hamas leaders, and gunmen killed an Abbas bodyguard in a separate incident. U.S.-trained security forces loyal to Abbas fanned out around government buildings.

In the streets of the West Bank, there were violent scuffles between Hamas loyalists and supporters of Abbas' Fatah faction.

In Jerusalem and western capitals, the whirlwind developments drew mixed reactions.

While no one was upset to see Hamas under pressure, neither was the prospect of intra-Palestinian bloodshed welcomed. Even if new elections – anticipated in mid-2007 – are held peacefully, there is no guarantee that Hamas won't be re-elected. That surely would sound Fatah's death knell and confirm that the Palestinians are irrevocably taking a radical road.

The Israeli government, which has long called on Abbas to honour his international commitments by cracking down on Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups, fell silent Sunday. Political sources said Prime Minister Ehud Olmert had ordered his cabinet colleagues to keep mum on the PA crisis.

That decision won rare praise from Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli Arab lawmaker and confidant of top Fatah officials. Any overt Israeli action to help Abbas "would only weaken Fatah," Tibi told Army Radio in an interview.

While he voiced worry about the violence in the West Bank and Gaza, Tibi predicted that Abbas would try to leverage the threat of new elections into talks that would prod Hamas toward compromise.

But Hamas has proven resilient, weathering a western aid blockade on the PA and refusing to accommodate international demands that the Palestinian government recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce terrorism and honour past PA commitments.

The United States was less reticent than Israel about the PA crisis.

"While the elections are an internal matter, we hope this helps bring the violence to an end and the formation of a Palestinian Authority committed to the Quartet principles," White House spokesperson Jeanie Mamo said. The Quartet is a diplomatic grouping of the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations that's guiding the "road map" peace plan.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who was due to arrive later Sunday for a troubleshooting visit to Israel and the PA, spoke in Abbas' defence.

"This is the moment for the international community to come behind him, to help build his authority and his capability, to deliver improvements in the living standards of the Palestinian people, but also in the progress that we all want to see on resolving the Israel-Palestinian issue," Blair said.

"Hamas at the present time is not prepared to be constructive," he said. "I think he [Abbas] is serious about elections."

Carter rift seems irreparable

By BEN HARRIS
JTA

NEW YORK — For Jimmy Carter, a meeting with a group of Phoenix-area rabbis was the high point of his tour to promote *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, a new book in which the former U.S. president blames Israel for the absence of Mideast peace.

For members of the Phoenix Board of Rabbis' executive committee, who hoped a face-to-face meeting could help repair Carter's relationship with the Jewish community, the Dec. 12 encounter was a disappointment.

"As a Jewish community, we have had a great deal of respect over the years for the human rights work you have done and your commitment to the peace process," Rabbi Andrew Straus told JTA, describing the group's message to Carter. "But your new book has hurt our relationship with you and hurt our understanding of who you are and what you're trying to do."

The meeting, which lasted more than an hour, was described as cordial and respectful, but the rabbis left disheartened.

Carter claimed to be unaware of significant political differences within the American Jewish community with regard to Israel, and he refused to speak out on behalf of Israeli soldiers being held captive in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

He also told the rabbis that his use of the incendiary term "apartheid" was meant to apply only to the West Bank and Gaza and not to Israel itself, which he described as a vibrant democracy.

The rabbis professed to be "shocked" by the revelation, noting that the book did not convey any sense of admiration for Israel. Carter promised he would be more explicit in drawing that distinction in subsequent media interviews.

Carter also expressed his willingness to condemn Palestinian terrorism more vociferously and to consider traveling to Israel with the rabbis, provided they also agreed to visit locations he deemed significant for his understanding of the conflict. The meeting concluded with participants joining hands in prayer.

In a subsequent phone call with Carter, Rabbi Straus asked the former president if he saw the Palestinians as bearing any measure of culpability for the breakdown in the peace process.

"He couldn't see any failures," Rabbi Straus said.

"Somehow or another, he has accepted the Palestinian vision and understanding of the Israeli-Arab dialogue, and is not able to be critical of the Palestinian community," said Rabbi Straus, of Temple Emanuel of Tempe, Ariz. "You read through the book and there's almost no criticism of Palestinians, almost no mention of terrorism."

Released last month, Carter's book has come under intense criticism from Jewish organizations who have criticized everything from its title – which evokes comparisons to apartheid South Africa – to its scholarship, which has been described as shoddy and riddled with errors.

The Anti-Defamation League, in particular, has taken Carter to task, sponsoring an ad campaign in major American publications and devoting a section of its website to criticizing the book.

Abraham Foxman, the ADL's national director, told JTA that Carter is "engaging in anti-Semitism" by suggesting that his book is a reaction to stifled debate on Israel.

Criticism of Carter has not been restricted to Jewish organizations.

Writing in the *Washington Post*, Michael Kinsley called the apartheid analogy "a foolish and unfair comparison, unworthy of the man who won – and deserved – the Nobel Peace Prize."

The chorus of outrage was heightened by the resignation this month of Kenneth Stein from his post as a fellow of the Carter Center, the former president's human rights foundation based at Emory University in Atlanta.

In his letter, which ended a 23-year association with the centre, Stein claims the book is "replete with factual errors, copied materials not cited, superficialities, glaring omissions and simply invented segments."

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German forum decries Holocaust denial conference in Iran

By TOBY AXELROD
JTA

BERLIN – How many Iranians share their president's Holocaust denial?

Most would probably reject it, "but they're a silent majority," Israeli scholar David Menashri said, speaking Dec. 12 at a daylong conference in Berlin on "The Holocaust in Transnational Awareness."

Organized jointly by the Technical University of Berlin and the German Federal Department for Political Education, the event coincided with a meeting of Holocaust deniers and their sympathizers in Tehran on the invitation of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Participants in the Berlin event took the opportunity to condemn Ahmadinejad for his Holocaust denial, anti-Semitic statements and threats against Israel – which he repeated Tuesday to warm applause from delegates, who included a fringe group of haredi anti-Zionist Jews that often allies with Israel's enemies, and European and American writers who argue that the Holocaust was either fabricated or exaggerated.

"Thanks to people's wishes and God's will, the trend for the existence of the Zionist regime is downward, and this is what God has promised and what all nations want," Ahmadinejad said, according to news agencies. "Just as the Soviet Union was wiped out and today does not exist, so will the Zionist regime soon be wiped out."

Condemnations of the Tehran conference poured in from the West. The White House condemned the gathering as "an affront to the entire civilized world as well as to the traditional Iranian values of tolerance and respect." British Prime Minister Tony Blair called the meeting "shocking beyond belief" and said it proved beyond any doubt the Iranian regime's extremism.

In Berlin, speakers emphasized that Holocaust denial is a form of anti-Semitism and that Ahmadinejad is using the theme, together with his threats against Israel, to gain international standing among Arabs.

The average Iranian feels no solidarity with the Arabs, said Katajun Amirpur, a German journalist of Iranian background. For example, there is little support among Iranians for the Palestinians, she said.

"But Ahmadinejad is not addressing the Iranian masses," Amirpur said. "Rather, he is addressing much more the Arab masses when he says that 'if' there was a Holocaust, and 'if' the Germans caused it, then they should settle the problem. It is in line with what 95 per cent of Arabs think," she said.

German journalist Esther Shapira said it's a mistake to dismiss Ahmadinejad's remarks.

"If Ahmadinejad says Israel should be wiped off the map – and he is not planning to revive Nazi Germany's plan to move the Jews to Madagascar – we should take him seriously," Shapira said. "It is dangerous to say that this is not what he really means."

Holocaust denial came to Iran years ago, with the 1979 Islamic revolution. But Ahmadinejad, Menashri emphasized, "really believes in what he says."

"He has an apocalyptical approach, that he was sent to pave the way" for the coming of the Messiah, he said.

Menashri said Europe has a moral responsibility to raise its voice about the Holocaust.

"They should tell the Iranian leader to get off of the Holocaust, you are touching very sensitive nerves, and not just of Jews but of many peoples," he said. "That is the only request I have of Europe."

Leading Muslim clerics "should stand up and say, 'That's enough, let's take care of the real business in the Muslim world. And the real business is not denial of the Holocaust,'" Menashri added.

Among the speakers at the Berlin conference were Holocaust scholar Raul Hilberg; historian Wolfgang Benz, director of the Center for Research on Anti-Semitism in Berlin; Jean-Yves Camus of the Institute of International and Strategic Relations in Paris; historian Wolfgang Kraushaar of the Hamburg Institute for Social Research; historian Peter Longerich, director of the Research Center for the Holocaust and Twentieth Century History at the Royal Holloway College of the University of London; Israeli journalist and sociologist Natan Sznaider; and Gert Weisskirchen, a member of the German Parliament and representative on matters related to anti-Semitism to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

While participants agreed that the Iran conference attracted a handful of well-known Holocaust deniers and their supporters, they noted that active Holocaust deniers were few.

"Numerically, they're not many," Camus said. "But they do have a network that puts their propaganda onto the virtual level," on the Internet.

Benz spreading information about the Holocaust to a new generation is not easy.

"The best teaching can be undone," he said, "when a pupil goes home, reports on what he learned, and then hears from an older relative, 'Oh, you know what it's like with the Jews.'"

"It ruins the whole lesson," said Benz, adding that media such as television and film are "more important than any other means of education."

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'A sick phenomenon'

Continued from page 1

In Quebec, the National Assembly passed an all-party motion slamming the conference.

"The National Assembly unequivocally denounces the convening of a reprehensible conference in Iran whose objective is to dispute the historical accuracy of the Holocaust, since it is inconceivable to put into doubt one of the greatest tragedies of humanity, which was the extermination and suffering of several million people."

The motion was tabled by National Revenue Minister Lawrence Bergman, Sylvain Simard of the Parti Québécois, and Marc Picard of the Action démocratique du Québec.

The Senate, meanwhile, adopted a resolution condemning "in the strongest terms the international Holocaust denial conference held in Iran… and any and all vile anti-Semitic statements made by Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and other Iranian leaders." It also called on the United Nations "to officially and publicly repudiate all of Iran's anti-Semitic statements made at such conference and hold accountable UN members states that encourage and echo such statements."

Jewish organizations, meanwhile, also condemned the Iranian government for hosting the conference and suggested it is part of a broader effort to attack the legitimacy of the State of Israel.

"This conference was nothing more than a vicious public attempt to whitewash the proven facts that the Nazis and their collaborators carried out mass murder against millions of Jewish men, women and children," said Canadian Jewish Congress president Ed Morgan.

"Iran is using the Holocaust as a weapon, but people of good conscience the world over see this for what it truly is – anti-Semitism, plain and simple," he said. "That includes students at Tehran University and many other Iranians who have protested against the conference, and we salute them for their courage and commitment to truth."

B'nai Brith Canada called on "the global community to recognize Iran's latest attempt at Holocaust denial for what it is – a blatant attempt to delegitimize the Jewish people.

"The purpose of the conference is clear," said Frank Dimant, executive vice-president of the group. "It is mere window dressing for advancing inherently anti-Semitic attitudes, whose echoes can be felt throughout the entire Middle East and elsewhere."

The Simon Wiesenthal Center, meanwhile, sponsored a three-way video conference that brought together 60 Holocaust survivors in Toronto, Los Angeles and New York to repudiate the Tehran conference.

"It wasn't enough that their loved ones were murdered in the death camps – now they have to prove to Ahmadinejad they are not liars," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder and dean of the Wiesenthal Center. "As one of today's survivors put it, 'If the Holocaust was a myth, where is my sister?'"

Iran's tiny Jewish community reacted with dismay to the controversial Holocaust conference.

Maurice Motamed, the only Jewish MP in the Iranian parliament, said, "This is indeed an insult, not only towards the Jews in Iran but also worldwide as it is widely known that we are quite sensitive as far as the Holocaust is concerned.

"To question this historically proven fact has indeed made us quite upset," Motamed said. A Jewish physician in Teheran – who spoke on condition of anonymity – called the conference "sad" and "indecent."

"Iran can criticize the Israeli government or even not acknowledge Israel as a sovereign state, but misusing the Holocaust for political causes is simply sad," the physician said.

Meanwhile in Israel, Yosef Lapid, chair of the Yad Vashem Council, called the conference of Holocaust-deniers an attempt by Ahmadinejad "to pave the way psychologically" for the western world to accept that another Holocaust is possible.

Lapid, a Holocaust survivor and former justice minister, said Ahmadinejad was following in the footsteps of Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels, who labelled Jews as parasites worthy of being murdered.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert denounced the conference before embarking on a two-day trip to Germany.

"This is a sick phenomenon that shows the depth of hatred of the fundamentalist Iranian regime," he said.

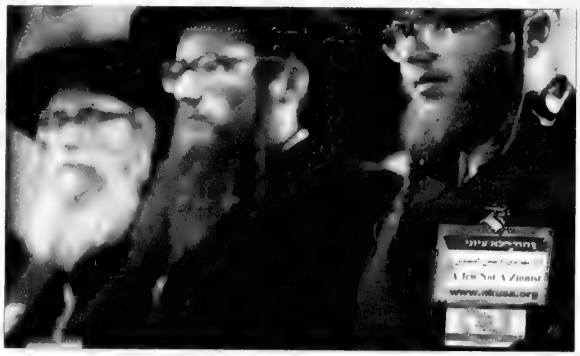
Neturei Karta condemned

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Orthodox Jews around the world reacted angrily to the participation of a half-dozen members of the Neturei Karta sect at a Holocaust-denial conference in Tehran.

Concerned that the Neturei Karta, who resemble other Torah-observant groups, would bring disrepute to their communities, Orthodox spokespeople distanced themselves from the what they termed a "fringe" group who had openly embraced the Iranian leader President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who is pledged to Israel's annihilation.

The Neturei Karta are giving Orthodoxy a bad name while strengthening the position of Jew haters and those who would destroy Israel, they say.



Members of Neturei Karta in Tehran [RNS/Reuters photo]

Rabbi Dovid Schochet, president of the Vaad Harabonim in Toronto (council of Orthodox rabbis), said the participation by the Neturei Karta in the Holocaust-denial conference "is horrible. It's like embracing Hitler after he killed the Jews and saying we're your friend."

Rabbi Moshe Lowy, who heads Agudath Israel in Toronto and who serves on the Vaad's rabbinical court, said "what they did was an act of chilul HaShem (desecrating God's name), disgusting, repulsive. To sit down with someone ready to murder Jews at a conference denying the Holocaust… I don't think they have any rabbis backing them."

Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman, senior rabbi of the Jewish Russian Community Centre, likewise called it a chilul HaShem, saying, "When a Jew goes and shows friendliness, acceptance of any outward enemies of the Jews, it is a disgrace of God's name, especially as they are dressed as Orthodox Jews.

"It's showing to the world that 'I'm friends with the man who wants to destroy five or six million Jews [in Israel],'" he added.

In Montreal, Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem congregation, stated in a written piece that "virtually all Jews are appalled by the support that the Neturei Karta gives to Israel's anti-Semitic enemies."

Rabbi Steinmetz noted that "Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, the group's elder statesman, has close ties to the Palestinian leadership and was on [former Palestinian president] Yasser Arafat's payroll.

"The Neturei Karta maintain close ties to Iran as well. In June 2000, Rabbi Yisroel David Weiss supported Iran's accusations that 13 Jews had spied for Israel – this, while governments around the world protested these false arrests."

Rabbi Steinmetz stated that "because of their bizarre behaviour, they have been condemned multiple times by haredim, and they are viewed by them as infuriating oddities. Simply put, the Neturei Karta are a fringe group, far less relevant than the Hare Krishna."

According to Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, Neturei Karta, which translates from Aramaic as "Guardians of the City," number between 1,000 and 5,000 worldwide. They are concentrated mostly in Jerusalem, with others residing in Ramat Bet Shemesh, Safed, Bnei Brak, New York City, Vienna and Antwerp. There is a small community near Montreal.

The Neturei Karta's website describes the group as originating in Jerusalem. The group "refused and still refuse to recognize the existence or authority of the so-called 'State of Israel' and made [and still make] a point of publicly demonstrating their position, the position of the Torah and authentic unadulterated Judaism."

"The Neturei Karta refuse to recognize the right of anyone to establish a 'Jewish' state during the present period of exile."

That, the Neturei Karta believe, will only come about when "a universally accepted Moshiach" arrives.

Neturei Karta spokespeople at the conference in Tehran said Israel's existence posed a greater threat to the Jews than Holocaust deniers.

Rabbi Steinmetz suggests that as other Orthodox groups accepted Israel, the Neturei Karta became more isolated and "in turn, [their] theology grew even more radical and the behaviour of its leaders increasingly bizarre.

"For the Neturei Karta, anti-Zionism is the focus of their theology, and as a consequence, they demonize all Zionists as disciples of Satan."

Rabbi Schochet believes the Neturei Karta have gone beyond the pale by siding with those who wish to destroy Israel. "They embraced someone who is an enemy, who wants to destroy all the Jews."

What's more, the Neturei Karta's actions in Iran have tarred other Orthodox Jews with the same brush.

"It gives the unenlightened Jews the wrong impression of Orthodoxy. This is not Orthodox, this is a minority," he said.

Rabbi Zaltzman, who is affiliated with the Chabad Lubavitch movement, agreed that the sect's actions "give Orthodox Jews a bad name. But the bigger problem is disgracing God's name. Now Iran can say, 'I'm not so bad. Jews agree with me.'

"No matter if you're a Zionist or you disagree with the government [of Israel], what does that have to do with treason and going against six million Jews living in Israel?" he asked. "To align with the number 1 enemy in the world… there are no words."

In a news release, the Agudath Israel of America called the Neturei Karta "a disgrace to the Jewish people."

"Neither their professed determination to protect the interests of Jews nor their haredi garb can obscure the fact that all they accomplish is to offer succor and support to people who eagerly wish to do grave harm to Jews," the Agudah stated.

In New York, the Orthodox Union, representing mainstream Orthodox congregations, condemned the Neturei Karta as a disgrace to Judaism and unrepresentative of the Jewish people.

"We can only hope that the world is smart enough to recognize that the presence of these individuals is proof only that Ahmadinejad will stoop as low as necessary to demonstrate his hatred of the Jewish people and Israel and that no matter how low he stoops, there is always some enemy of Israel he will find – even if that enemy happens to be Jewish," the OU stated.

Satmar leaders of Congregation Yetev Lev in Brooklyn denounced the Neturei Karta as "reckless outcasts."

The Jews who went to Iran "trampled on the memory of their ancestors and people. They embraced the disciplines and followers of their murderers," they said in a statement.

The Neturei Karta are often confused with the Satmars, who also are anti-Zionist but acknowledge that six million Jews died in the Holocaust. The Satmars say there is no connection between them and Neturei Karta, which sent six delegates to the conference under the banner "Jews United Against Zionism."

Neturei Karta spokesperson Rabbi Weiss claimed the numbers of those killed in the Holocaust are exaggerated. He said, "Zionists are using the Holocaust to brazenly and offensively oppress a people."

The Satmars from Congregation Yetev Lev responded in their statement by saying that "the unavenged blood of the millions of Jewish victims cries out in pain and abhorrence to these reckless outcasts, 'How can you sink so low?'"

With files from CJN News Services

Israel Briefs

Israel stops Hamas money from entering

Israel prevented the Palestinian Authority prime minister from bringing millions of dollars into the Gaza Strip. Ismail Haniyeh entered Gaza from Egypt late Thursday night after Egyptian authorities delayed him for hours on Israel's request; Haniyeh was returning to Gaza with $35 million (US) in cash raised during a tour of Arab countries and Iran. Egypt let Haniyeh in once he agreed to leave the money with associates in Egypt. Israel opposes any funding for Haniyeh or his cabinet, controlled by Haniyeh's terrorist Hamas Party.

Rockets hit southern Israel

A Qassam rocket hit the southern Israeli town of Sderot. *Ha'aretz* reported that the rocket, fired last Thursday evening from northern Gaza, damaged buildings and vehicles; four people were treated for shock. It follows a similar attack earlier in the day, in which a rocket struck a kibbutz in the western Negev, damaging property but causing no injuries. Sderot and surrounding areas have continually come under fire from Palestinian rockets since Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip in the summer of 2005, despite a supposed ceasefire that Palestinian terrorist groups declared several weeks ago.

Aliyah spike predicted

More than 3,000 North Americans will immigrate to Israel by the end of 2006, the Jewish Agency for Israel predicted. JAFI said in a release this week that the number would be the highest since 1983. As of Nov. 30, 2,816 Americans and Canadians had become Israeli citizens in 2006. There has been an increase of 10 per cent a year since 2001, JAFI added. The year 2006 also will mark the largest number of olim from the United Kingdom since 1984, and the highest number from France since 1972.

Israel cracks Islamic Jihad ring

Israeli security forces have cracked a major West Bank terrorist ring. The Shin Bet security service announced Tuesday that it had arrested 50 suspected terrorists from the Hebron area in a swoop timed to prevent a major series of attacks. The detainees are said to belong to Islamic Jihad.

New UN chief blasts Iran's Holocaust denial

The incoming United Nations secretary general said it was unacceptable for Iran to deny the Holocaust and threaten Israel. "Denying historical facts, especially on such an important subject as the Holocaust, is just not acceptable," Ban Ki-moon said last Thursday, according to Reuters. "Nor is it acceptable to call for the elimination of states or people." Ban's comments came at a news conference following his swearing-in ceremony at UN headquarters in New York. Ban succeeds Kofi Annan as secretary general on Jan. 1.

Targeted killings ruled legal

In its long-awaited ruling on "targeted killings" of senior Palestinian terrorists, Israel's High Court of Justice rejected civil-rights groups' demands for a blanket ban, but urged security forces to be discriminating. "In its fight against international terrorism, Israel must act according to the rules of international law. These rules are based on balancing," wrote the three-justice panel headed by outgoing High Court President Aharon Barak. "Thus it is decided that it cannot be determined in advance that every targeted killing is prohibited according to customary international law, just as it cannot be determined in advance that every targeted killing is permissible according to customary international law."

Olmert visits Germany, Italy

Ehud Olmert visited Germany, Italy and the Vatican last week. The Israeli prime minister met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and Pope Benedict XVI. He pressed Europe to continue its hard line against the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority and Iran's nuclear program. –JTA

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Eating together as a family

Have we lost the art of eating together as a family? If so, what's at stake?

We all live increasingly busy lives in a fast-paced world where both parents work; kids have lessons, programs and practices galore; phones ring and e-mails are forever arriving. In all the hustle and bustle, I think that a great tradition is dying.

In my work, I talk to people of all ages at different stages of their lives. I myself have a busy household with children ages six and eight, and know how easy it is – and often more convenient – to eat separately. This allows everyone to eat what they like, with different meals for each person. It may also allow parents to have a quiet meal after the kids have gone to bed, and it cuts down on preparation time and cleanup.

On the flip side, I see in my practice a lot of very negative things emerging from this routine.

First, if we don't eat together as a family, at least some of the time, when do we come together to discuss our day, establish a sense of family for our children and instil in them the importance of getting together around a table to reconnect?

In addition, from a nutritional standpoint, much more than an honourable social tradition is being lost. Children learn to eat and develop good eating habits by modelling. They need to watch how you eat, physically, as well as what you eat. If salad or veggies are included at each meal, even if the kids don't eat them – although hopefully they do – then they are learning that this is what a balanced dinner looks like.

Most people I speak to admit that it is easier to make separate meals for the kids, feed them earlier and give them what they want. Then the adults eat more quietly, more healthfully later.

This usually means that kids are served "kiddy food" for most meals – usually chicken fingers, hot dogs or burgers, pizza, pasta, etc. Then the parents complain that their child eats only kiddy food. However, if that's all they have been exposed to, then the occasional meal of fish, broccoli and rice will seem less interesting and appetizing.

Parents also often report that kids eat alone or in front of the TV. You need to remember that the routines you introduce kids to in their younger years are the ones that they will copy later. I am sure you have fond memories of eating together as a family when you were growing up.

Now, let's be practical. This is a different time. I also have a TV in my kitchen, and my kids are allowed to watch it while eating breakfast or having a snack, but at dinner time, it's not an option. That's our conversation time.

My goal is for us to eat together as often as we can. I realize this is not possible for multiple meals in a day, or even in a week, but there have to be a few meals where this can work, and trust me, your kids will look forward to them. You don't all have to be there either for this to work. Some members of the family eating together is better than everyone fending for themselves.

Now, the issue that I am usually faced with when I suggest that families should eat together more often – what to make? Coming together is the first step. So, if you've picked up a roasted chicken and opened a bag of pre-washed lettuce, you have a quick, affordable, crowd-pleasing meal. Or you can order a pizza with whole wheat crust and make a salad.

But if you are going to cook, try to make at least one thing everyone will like.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

The healing power of walking

By REBECA KUROPATWA
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — People who lose someone close to them often retreat into themselves and neglect their own basic needs.

"Many people, when grieving, aren't sleeping, exercising or using their lines of support, and sometimes depression takes over," says Shelley Levit, head of the Walking Bereavement Group of Winnipeg's Jewish Child and Family Services (JCFS). "One of the most important concepts we try to get across to participants is that silence is a prison, and sharing is the key."

She says the goal of the group, which was initiated by Hospice and Palliative Care Manitoba in conjunction with JCFS at the end of 1998, is to "promote self-care of the whole person.

"A walking group helps people who might otherwise hesitate [about] joining a straight support group to address their grieving. It takes away some of the hesitation and intimidation. Even though this is, in a sense, a support group, people are more likely not to be scared off by it, as it is not called 'therapy,' or 'counselling.'"

The walking group accepts anyone who has lost an adult loved one, but not those who have lost young children. The reason for this, Levit says, is that "people who have lost young children need very specific, unique attention, which a group atmosphere does not allow for."

Levit works with volunteers who become group leaders after they have attended a training session to learn about the needs of people who are going through the grieving process.

On average, there are six to 14 participants in each eight-week walking session, two hours per week, Levit says. And ages of participants range from people in their 20s to those in their 70s.

"Generally, smaller groups are more conducive to having group members feeling comfortable opening up and being able to get enough individual attention from group leaders," says Levit. "Sometimes group members have just lost a loved one, but others come at a point of delayed grieving, sometime five, 10, or more years after having lost someone dear to them.

"A couple of the big issues people have to address," she says, "are suppressed feelings of anger and guilt, as well as having to deal with a huge change or loss in lifestyle and finances, or a best friend and appreciation."

The group guidelines include confidentiality and giving everyone a chance to speak and cry.

"During the first session," Levit says, "most people are nervous, not knowing what to expect. You could cut the atmosphere with a knife because of the tension and anxiety. A few people drop out early on, but things improve after a couple of sessions, and the people who have remained, begin to get comfortable and open up.

"Often," she adds, "the agency [JCFS] gets about 50 per cent non-Jewish participants who join the walking group. We sometimes get referrals come to us from the hospice, as well as through the information we send out to the public."

Walking locations vary according to the weather and time of year. Participants walk at the Rady Centre indoor track, Assiniboine Park and the Wellness Centre indoor track. Stretching with musical accompaniment is incorporated into the experience, led by fitness centre staff. The group also does "centring exercises," where they meditate in a JCFS boardroom, with low lighting, candles and music.

New bereavement walking groups are started three times a year, in the winter, spring and fall.

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Arts & Travel

Singer lends her voice to the visually impaired

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Staff Reporter

What if you couldn't read the article you're now holding in your hands?

Imagine trying to sit down with your favourite magazine or newspaper after eye-surgery or if you lost your sight.

For many Canadians, this is a daily reality.

Fortunately, there are people like Melissa Ungar who offer their services to read for those who can't.

For the past four years, Ungar has read articles as a volunteer for the non-profit Voiceprint Canada, the country's only 24-hour reading service.

The organization reaches nearly 3.2 million print-restricted Canadians.

Every Thursday, Ungar goes to Voiceprint to recite the political, entertainment, business and sports news they would otherwise miss because of visual restrictions or learning disabilities.

Voiceprint creates digital audio files of the readings, which clients then download from the service's website to listen to as they see fit.

A professionally trained voice-over artist, Ungar is proud of her work with the charity.

"It's pretty amazing," she said. "It hits you right away when you're working there. I thought, 'Wow! I'm reading for visually impaired people who can't pick up a newspaper.' I love Voiceprint."

And hers is a reliable voice.

She attended Ryerson University for vocal training and is currently represented by Voxtalent Canada.

The 36-year-old Torontonian freelancer makes her living recording for the Internet, radio, TV and film.

But before she could talk – professionally that is – she could sing.

Ungar studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music and in York University's music program.

It has always been her dream to sing professionally, and this year, she decided to make it happen.

Ungar released her first CD, *Checkered Past*, in September.

Dedicated to her late father, Paul Ungar, who died when she was eight years old, it is her 10-song, self-produced introduction to the public.

The album is replete with cover versions of her favourite pop tunes, many of which are Elton John hits.

She intended to make an original album, but it wasn't in the cards this time around.

"I have been looking for original songs for years, being a singer and not a writer," she said. "I can't write my way out of a paper bag."

Being unable to find the right songwriting partner, Ungar decided to go ahead and record popular tunes.

"Everyone likes Elton John songs… and I picked ones that people know and like," Ungar said.

She also picked one that she feels links her to her Jewish heritage, *Border Song*.

"If you listen to the words, it's all about fighting racism," she said. "Elton even sings about Moses in it."

Though she realized it was a somewhat backward way to go about releasing a first album, Ungar felt compelled to so nonetheless.

"I'm glad I finally have [an album] done that I could put out there for people to hear," she said.

Aside from fulfilling her dream to create music, Ungar also donated $1 to Voiceprint Canada from every CD sold.

One thousand copies were printed in 2006, most of which have been sold with the help of Voiceprint.

"They heard about my plan for an album and were very encouraging," Ungar said. "They sent out the album to all their offices across Canada, and we'll be recording a promo for it on their station in 2007."

Ungar has also started planning a follow-up CD, to be launched sometime in 2007.

She hopes to find a songwriter to collaborate with on the new project, but if not, she'll record another set of covers to please both her listeners and herself.

For more information, visit www.melissaungar.com

New Dr. Rebecca Temple mystery published

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

In her recently published mystery novel, *Season of Iron*, Sylvia Maultash Warsh includes two stories in alternating chapters. She brings together a murder in Toronto in 1979 and the events that link it to Berlin in the 1930s, before and during the rise of the Nazis to power.

As in her first two novels in the series, *To Die in Spring* and *Find Me Again*, the main character of *Season of Iron* (Dundurn Press) is Dr. Rebecca Temple, a Toronto family physician who practises psychotherapy.

Rebecca has befriended a homeless woman, Birdie, who is killed in the backyard of a German fencing instructor. An Egyptian physician who is in Toronto to talk about a new drug he is developing from snake venom has some mysterious connection to the fencing instructor.

The other story in the book is about a Jewish family, the Eisenbaums, during the Nazi rise to power. It documents the loss of the rights of Germany's Jews. Frederika, the youngest child of the Eisenbaums, becomes a doctor against all odds. After she loses her right to practise, she is sent to a concentration camp.

The two stories, Rebecca and Frederika's, intersect with a startling conclusion.

Continued on page 39

ועד הרבנים דטאראנטא
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בס"ד
We, the Orthodox Rabbis of Toronto, express our outrage at the behavior of members of Neturei Karta at the recent conference in Teheran of holocaust denial.
They do not represent us. They are a disgrace to the Jewish people. To greet the Iranian President, who has expressed his evil intent publicly on many occasions is despicable. And to participate in a conference of holocaust denial pains us to the core. This irreverent insult to the victims of the Shoah is shameful and profanes their holy memory.
Though these men appear to be orthodox, they represent no one but themselves. Their actions have been condemned by all Orthodox groups. We, the united voice of the Orthodox Rabbis of Toronto, condemn their behavior in no uncertain terms.
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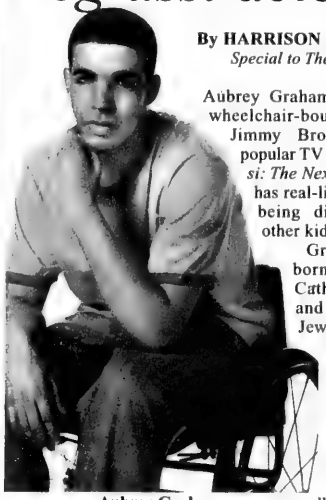
Degrassi actor says being different made him stronger



Aubrey Graham

By HARRISON JORDAN
Special to The CJN

Aubrey Graham, who plays wheelchair-bound student Jimmy Brooks on the popular TV show *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, has real-life experience being different than other kids.

Graham was born to a black Catholic father and a white Jewish mother, and went to school at Toronto's Forest Hill Collegiate. Growing up with mostly white peers was tough for him.

"Going to Forest Hill was definitely an interesting way of growing up," he says. "When you're young and unaware that the world is made up of different people, it is tough growing up. But me being different from everyone else just made me a lot stronger."

Graham has played Jimmy on *Degrassi* since the start of the first season in 2001. Alienation aside, he says he is very different from his TV character.

"People have to realize that every character on every television show is just that," he says. "Obviously in five years I've become extremely connected.

"It's sort of second nature to switch into Jimmy on set, but there are very little similarities between a character and a person, unless you get so immersed into the role, that you become your character."

Graham's acting career started in high school. "There was a kid in my class whose father was an agent. His dad would say, 'If there's anyone in the class that makes you laugh, have them audition for me.' After the audition he became my agent," he says.

His decision to become an actor was supported by his family. "My father and my mother are both people who definitely support anything in the arts. My father is a musician and my mother's side is immersed in music and acting."

Before Graham shot to stardom as Jimmy on *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, he appeared in *Convicted* with Omar Epps (now Dr. Formean on *House M.D.*) "To work with him was amazing, because as a young black man, [I realized] we have many talented people, and Omar Epps is definitely one of them," he says.

Graham was nominated for a Young Artist Award for best supporting actor in a TV series for *Degrassi* in 2004 and was the 2002 winner of a Young Artist Award for best ensemble actor in a TV series for *Degrassi*.

He has a role in the upcoming movie *Charlie Bartlett* with Robert Downey Jr.

Graham has entered into the music scene and will release a rap mix-tape in February under the pseudomym of "Drake." He plans to release a CD soon as well.

Debut novel nominated for Arthur Ellis Award

Continued from page 38

In *Season of Iron*, Warsh connects the Holocaust to the Middle East.

"I have had an interest in Islam and Arabic culture since 9/11," she says. "I was disheartened to find a direct historical link between the Nazis and Islamist extremism. I was so intrigued with the historical connections that I've worked some of them into the plot."

Warsh was born in Stuttgart, Germany, to parents who survived the Holocaust. The family immigrated to Canada when she was four years old.

She grew up in Toronto and attended Downsview Collegiate and received a master's degree in linguistics at the University of Toronto.

"I grew up listening to my mother's stories about how she fled from the Nazis in Poland, then survived the brutality of the labour camps. My mother's stories sparked an interest in history, especially the war, and this has had a great influence on my writings," she says.

Her first novel, *To Die in Spring*, was nominated for an Arthur Ellis Award for best first novel. Her second novel, *Find Me Again*, won an Edgar Allan Poe Award.

The third Rebecca Temple mystery is filled with surprises as Warsh peels off the façades of her characters to reveal their true identities and motives.

Warsh is currently working on her fourth book, which departs from the Dr. Rebecca Temple series. She also teaches creative writing to seniors, gives literary lectures and writes magazine articles and poetry.

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

HILLEL SCREENS CHARMING BRITISH FILM *WONDROUS OBLIVION* AT NADAL JCC

Hillel of Greater Toronto presents the British film *Wondrous Oblivion* (2002) as part of the Chinese & A Movie series. Pegged as a charming and inspiring family comedy, the movie focuses on 11-year-old David Wiseman, a cricket fancier who practises in the backyard of his new Jamaican neighbours amidst growing neighbourhood turmoil. The tag-line is, "When cultures collide, some wonderful things can happen."

It's being screened at the Nadal JCC, Al Green Theatre, 750 Spadina Ave. Dinner 7 p.m., movie 8 p.m. Members $30, non-members $35, students $15 (until Dec. 20); limited tickets available at the door. 416-913-2424 or 416-924-6211, ext. 0

* * *

David Broza in Concert: Israeli singer-songwriter **David Broza** is a modern troubadour of urban folk-rock who has been variously compared to **Leonard Cohen**, **Bruce Springsteen** and **Gordon Lightfoot**. "To see Broza in concert is to be mesmerized," the *New York Post* once rhapsodized. The Koffler School of Music presents Broza in concert at the Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. Saturday, Dec. 23, 8 p.m. $35 general admission, $45 at the door, $50 per reserved seat. 416-636-1880, ext. 228

David Broza *[File photo]*

* * *

Names in the News: Numerous Jewish artists are in the running for the Grammy Awards, which are to be handed out in Los Angeles on Feb. 7. Nominees include singer-songwriter **Bob Dylan**, Israeli producer and engineer **Tal Herzberg**, pop star **Pink**, pop singer **Bette Midler**, producer **Rick Rubin**, chassidic reggae artist **Matisyahu**, rocker **Mark Knopfler**, movie legend **Mel Brooks**, songwriter **Randy Newman** and comedian **Lewis Black**.

While we're on the subject of award nominees, we might as well mention Montreal author **Elyse Gasco**, one of six Montreal playwrights responsible for the Centaur Theatre Company's Montreal Stories, the series of plays that filled its 2005-06 season. Centaur has just been nominated for the 2006 Grand Prix award from the Conseil des arts de Montréal. Gasco, it may be remembered, won considerable critical acclaim for her 2001 book of linked stories, *Can You Wave Bye Bye, Baby?*

* * *

Arts in Brief

• **David** and **Ed Mirvish** and the Manitoba Theatre Centre present a production of the **Tennessee Williams** play *Orpheus Descending*, based on the critically acclaimed Stratford production of 2005. The production launches the 100th anniversary year of the Royal Alexandra Theatre. Runs Jan. 3 to Feb. 11.

•The Milken Archive of American Jewish Music has released the 49th and 50th CDs in its pioneering recording series of music related to Jewish life in America. The new releases are *Scenes from Jewish Operas, Volume 2*, and *Great Songs of the Yiddish Stage, Volume 3*. Milken has also released a deluxe box set of all 50 Milken Archive CDs for the discounted price of $349 (US). For details, visit the website www.milkenarchive.org.

• The 29th season of the Toronto Jewish Film Society begins in January and promises "eight excellent film events with eight dynamic speakers on eight Sundays." The cost is $90 for the year, with a new "under 29" membership available for $60 (7:30 p.m. screenings only). To become a member, please phone 416-924-6211, ext. 139 or e-mail joellem@mnjcc.org.

• My brother, **Brian Gladstone**, founding director of Toronto's five-year-old Winterfolk Roots and Blues Festival, has announced that admission will be free to all events this year. The music resounds within several clubs on Danforth Avenue near Broadview: patrons may wander from one to the next. Artists include **Michael Brennan**, **Choir Girlz**, **Marianne Girard**, **Norm Hacking**, **Danny Marks**, **Greg Quill**, **Laura Repo** and Gladstone's new folk trio with **Noah Zacharin** and **Mr. Rick**. Feb. 9 to 11. www.winterfolk.com

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'Near-death experience' changes artist's outlook

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

A few years after her promising debut CD, *The Great Disappearing Act*, Toronto singer-songwriter Kat Goldman literally disappeared from the music scene.

It wasn't by choice.

While she was ordering a bagel from a shop at Bathurst and Wilson in north Toronto, a car drove through the window and pinned her and a plethora of tables and chairs against a wall.

Her immediate thought, being in a predominately Jewish neighbourhood, was that she was caught in a terrorist act.

"It felt like a bomb explosion, not a car crash," Goldman, 36, recalls.

Her next thought was that she should get some food. "I wanted someone to buy me a cream-cheese bagel. I thought I should eat something before they rushed me to hospital."

Goldman suffered a crushed tibial plateau (a broken right knee, which required a graft from her pelvic bone), and a soft tissue injury to her left arm.

Now, after a period of recovery and therapy, Goldman has resurfaced with her second independent CD, *Sing Your Song*.

Kat Goldman

"Maybe I died/ And came back to life/ All I know for sure/ Is that I want to survive," she sings in her Sarah McLaughlin/Jane Siberry-like voice on the title track.

Goldman has emerged from the tragedy happy to be alive and full of hope. "This is a new chapter – a new beginning. The future is unknown and I really look forward to it." After all, she says, "I'm alive, and still have two legs to walk on."

After what she refers to as her "near-death experience," Goldman developed a more positive outlook, which shows on her new songs.

"My first album was about losing oneself in relationships and about suffering from depression – which in itself is a great disappearing act."

But she admits her new songs are more positive. "I'm much more grounded now," she says. "I've become very optimistic. The accident made me a much more positive person. I started to understand what really matters."

One major drawback though is that she can no longer dance.

"I used to be a pretty good dancer. Now I look pretty stupid dancing," she says, laughing.

By her own admission, her career has had many ups and downs.

After finishing high school (she attended Forest Hill Collegiate and Earl Haig Secondary School) and studying music and dance at York University, she spent five years in Boston and then moved to New York.

After recording and releasing her debut CD, she was spotted by big-time manager Ron Fierstein, who has managed Suzanne Vega and Grammy winner Shawn Colvin.

"It was a very exciting time for me as a Toronto girl. I got to play at the Bottom Line [a prestigious New York City club] where Tony Bennett was once in the audience. There's something exciting about being in New York City – this feeling that you could be discovered anytime."

Her music was showcased to major labels, and though there was interest, it just never worked out.

"I worked hard to promote the record for three years and had various people coming out to see me. A lot of carrots were dangled before me, but unfortunately I couldn't get a record deal. It just didn't happen."

Now Goldman is back at it again, performing and promoting her new work. *Sing Your Song* has been creating a buzz and receiving airplay on CBC Radio.

"This is a very hard business to be in, especially for a woman," she says. "You have to be tough and persistent. As an artist you have to be sensitive, but as a business person you have to be tough. It's a bit of a manic ride."

Her persistence shows signs of paying off. *Annabel*, a song from her first album was recorded by Grammy nominees The Duhks and also played on a Christian television show in the states. "I suddenly started getting royalty cheques," Goldman says.

Just last week she was offered the opportunity to open for former Men At Work singer Colin Hay in New York next March.

Sing Your Song was produced by Maury La Foy, a popular producer-session bass player in the Toronto indie scene. It has 11 original songs of hers, most of which are backed with a full band and run the gamut from melodic folk to piano melodies, pop and the rocky *Stay the Course*.

"Writing melodies is a mysterious process," she says. "I wake up at night with a melody in my head and sing it into the answering machine by the bed."

Golman listens to a lot of the great singer-songwriters such as Shawn Colvin, Paul McCartney, John Lennon and Joni Mitchell.

She is in the process of lining up some dates for the new year and continues to experiment musically. Recently, she showcased her new CD live with a string quartet.

"I have to keep up this positive outlook that something good can and will happen to me," she says. "And who knows? It only takes one song."

To hear samples of her songs and find out about live gigs, visit her website www.katgoldman.com. Her cds can be bought from www.maplemusic.com.

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Children's book about the Holocaust optioned as a movie

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Once upon a time, Kathy Kacer's mother, Gabi, hid from the Nazis in a wooden dresser in her family home. Gabi was then a girl whose survival depended on successfully eluding the German soldiers who were rounding up the Jews in her Czechoslovakian town.

Kathy Kacer

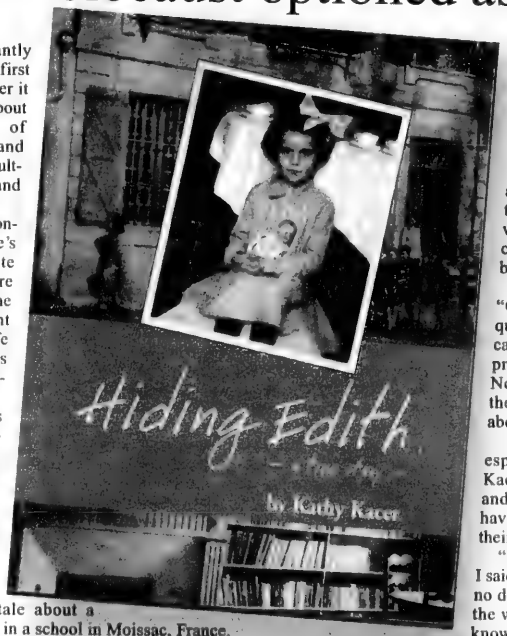
Little could she have known that seven decades later, her daughter would write a book about her wartime ordeal – *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser* – that would win a bouquet of awards, sell more than 50,000 copies in multiple translations worldwide, and be made into a play and optioned as a movie.

"To me it's so awe inspiring," said Kacer, the Toronto psychologist-turned-children's-author who has written four more Holocaust-related books since *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser* appeared in 1999. All have been published as part of the acclaimed series of Holocaust remembrance books for young readers published by Toronto-based Second Story Press. Kacer's latest, *Hiding Edith*, appeared earlier this year.

While three of these books may be classified as historical fiction and the other two as non-fiction, all make for highly compelling reading for young readers and even adults, according to publisher Margie Wolfe. It was Wolfe who exuberantly pounced on Kacer's first manuscript soon after it was offered to her about 1997. Two years of tough revisions and editing followed, resulting in commercial and critical success.

"Even with the non-fiction books, she's been able to write them as if they were novels, with the same kind of excitement and drama," Wolfe said. "She makes them read like adventure books."

That Kacer's books also appeal to grown-ups was demonstrated in November at the Jewish Book Fair, where a full house came to the Leah Posluns Theatre to hear her talk about *Hiding Edith*, a gripping tale about a Jewish girl in hiding in a school in Moissac, France.



As with other titles in the popular series, Kacer's books reach well beyond the Jewish world. She speaks frequently to Jewish classrooms but far more often to groups of children in the public and Catholic school systems.

Her speaking engagements have taken her all across the Greater Toronto Area and southern Ontario, to diverse points in Canada and the United States, even to Europe: England and Slovenia are among her upcoming destinations. Two years ago, she went to Germany to speak to children who had read her book *Clara's War* in translation.

"It was fantastic," she said. "German children are really quite educated about the Holocaust. They know their history, probably more so than most North American children, and they ask wonderful questions about that history."

The German youngsters were especially curious about what Kacer's parents, both survivors and now both deceased, might have thought about her visit to their country.

"I was quite honest with them. I said to them that my parents had no desire to go to Germany after the war and that I had grown up knowing that my parents had no desire to go to Germany. And it was very emotional for me to be there, talking about my parents' history to young children at this time in history.

"I also said I was thrilled to have come, because it opened my eyes to culture and history in a way I couldn't have imagined."

Kacer's other books for Second Story are *The Night Spies* and *The Underground Reporters*; she has also written four titles for Penguin's Our Canadian Girls series. "I'm not a historian, I'm a storyteller. My goal is to tell meaningful stories that children can connect with, so they'll be passed on."

Despite the nightmarish aspects of her subject matter, she maintains a gentle, trusting approach with her readers, never subjecting them to more than what she thinks they can handle. While she values veracity, she's not above changing the details of a real-life story to tighten a dramatic structure or improve a story line. That's why the genre is sometimes called "creative non-fiction."

Even when she's in the midst of writing one story, she's constantly on the lookout for more fresh and original Holocaust-survival tales to tell. "The truth is that every survivor story is a remarkable story, but not every survivor story is appropriate for the kind of book that I want to write," she said. "I look for something in the story, something I can't define, some element that makes me sit up and take notice."

Having worked for years with troubled teens as a psychologist, Kacer seems highly satisfied with her new ability to spread understanding and tolerance among more young people around the world than she could have ever reached before.

Her husband Ian Epstein, 21-year-old daughter Gabi and 20-year-old son Jake are the first to read her manuscripts. Someday, she said, one of her children will likely inherit her family's most prized heirloom – the dresser that protected her mother in 1942, which presently sits in the family dining room.

"The dresser has survived beyond the people that it helped protect," she said. "It's one of those pieces of furniture that will be passed on to my children, and they'll be passing on the story to the future. That's how history survives, from stories passed down from generation to generation."

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FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK

HILLHURST / ALEXANDRA WOOD

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- **BATHURST / DOUGLAS** 3 + 1 bdrms., desirable location, $2,600.
- **STRATHALLAN WOOD: SPACIOUS** 3 + 1 bdrm. sidesplit, renovated & decorated, $2,900 / mo.
- **3000 BATHURST CONDO.** 2 bedrooms, $1,750 / mo.

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130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

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Beautif. condo in Del Ray bch, close to shops, shul & bch., avail. Jan. 3 - Mar. 3, $2300 US/month. Call 905-889-1007 or 416-486-4487.

W. Palm Bch. - Century Village, attractive furn., 1-1/2 for 3 months. Call 514-482-9293.

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to place an ad call
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Classified Deadlines:

Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.
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Any available space/proposed building should meet these basic criteria:

- Area: Approximately 15,000 to 20,000 square feet with potential room for growth;
- Our client would like to be made aware of all options both for sale and lease (including new developments);
- Zoning must permit a health centre use;
- Occupancy/Commencement Date: No later than August 1, 2007;
- Sufficient parking for staff and visitors is required;
- Must be accessible to persons with physical challenges;
- Location: Westminster-Branson Neighborhood bordered by Bathurst Street, Steeles Ave W and the Don River.

TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE DETAILED PROPOSAL PACKAGE, PLEASE CONTACT COLLIERS MACAULAY NICOLLS (ONTARIO) INC., REALTOR WHO IS THE TENANT'S AUTHORIZED AGENT FOR THIS TRANSACTION

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Greater Toronto Area

Laskin called Canada's first 'judicial celebrity'

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The nation's first Jewish Supreme Court justice, Bora Laskin, was lauded last week as Canada's first "judicial celebrity."

The assessment was made by Philip Girard, a Dalhousie University law professor and the author of *Bora Laskin: Bringing Law to Life*, published by the University of Toronto Press.

Girard's cradle-to-grave biography, the first of its kind, starts with his birth in Fort William, Ont., (now part of Thunder Bay) in 1912 and ends with his death in Ottawa in 1984.

A graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School and Harvard University, Laskin was appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal in 1965 after a long, distinguished career as a professor and scholar at the University of Toronto.

Then-prime minister Pierre Trudeau appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1970 and as chief justice some three years later.

Girard, who clerked at the Supreme Court when Laskin was chief justice, officially launched his 646-page book at a lecture and slide show at Holy Blossom Temple, where Laskin and his wife, Peggy, were members.

Describing Laskin as one of only two Canadian judges who left a mark on Canadian jurisprudence and brought it into the modern age, Girard said he made a "profound contribution" to constitutional and labour law, legal theory and "the development of human rights protection."

Explaining that Laskin was influenced by a "Jewish sense of justice," Girard said that he helped reinvigorate the Canadian notion of justice.

"He always thought that things could be better."

Laskin gave the Supreme Court unprecedented visibility, being the first of its judges to cultivate the media. "He was saying, 'The work of the court affects you, and you should know about it.'"

Supreme Court justices were "virtually unknown" to the Canadian public before the Laskin era, Girard commented.

A liberal who often found himself on the dissenting side of verdicts, Laskin was possessed by a strong sense of social justice, honed by his experiences as a young man, Girard noted.

The son of Russian Jewish immigrants, he was both an intellectual and an athlete in his youth, as well as valedictorian of his high school.

As a student in the United States during the depths of the Depression, he lived spartanly, sometimes on only one meal a day, and witnessed a parade of human suffering.

At Harvard, he studied under U.S. Supreme Court justice-to-be Felix Frankfurter. But in Toronto, after returning from Boston, he felt the sting of anti-Semitism.

Girard said that these brushes with poverty and racism stirred Laskin, a specialist in labour law, out of any "nascent complacency" and drew him to trade unionism, which at that time was the "kiss of death" for an up-and-coming lawyer.

For much of his life, Laskin, a civil libertarian, leaned to the left of centre. He was also always feisty and combative and loved a good fight, Girard added.

Citing two cases, including Murdoch v. Murdoch, Girard said Laskin tried to make the law more responsive to human needs.

"He gave justice a human face. This has become the standard approach."

Girard said that, until Laskin reached the Supreme Court, Canadian judges were "too complacent" and supported the status quo.

Laskin, however, was a "constructive subversive" and an "iconoclast" who felt that the Supreme Court in particular and the justice system in general were in dire need of change.

Throughout his years on the Supreme Court, Laskin ignored the hoary convention that justices should be heard but not seen.

He wanted the Supreme Court to be a more open institution, and judging by his contributions, he succeeded admirably.

When Trudeau announced his death, Girard writes in *Bora Laskin*, he said that Canadians had lost "one of their greatest champions of equity and fairness."

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Golfer's rookie season points to long career

By MARVIN GLASSMAN
Special to The CJN

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Morgan Pressel of Boca Raton has shown that she has the savvy and confidence at age 18 to be among the top players on the the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tour.

At last month's $1-million (US) ADT Championships, Pressel showed her ability to play well under pressure in the 32-player field. She endured a playoff involving six golfers vying for three spots and became the first to advance to the third round by sinking a 25-foot birdie putt on the second-round playoff hole, receiving a loud cheer from fans and family.

Although Pressel didn't survive the second cut, she fared better than most LPGA stars, including top money-winner Annika Sorenstam. Pressel finished her rookie pro season 23rd on the money list with $465,685 (US) and placed among the top 10 in four of the last six tournaments she entered. Her best finish was third at the Long Drugs tournament.

"It has been a great experience thus far and I think I played fairly well all year," said Pressel.

"Morgan has had a steady year, even if it was not spectacular. Her ability to be consistent will get better with more experience," said her grandfather, Herb Krickstein, who has been accompanying Morgan on the pro circuit, along with Morgan's grandmother, Esther.

Some, such as former LPGA great Amy Alcott – the only golfer to be inducted in both the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame and the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame – think Pressel is destined to be a great star of the game for the next 20 years.

"The sky is the limit for Morgan. She has a lot of moxie by winning some amateur events. With some seasoning and a belief in herself, she may achieve all that I accomplished," said Alcott, now retired at 50.

Last year, as a 17-year-old amateur, Pressel made headlines by falling one shot short of becoming the youngest player to win the U.S. Open.

For Krickstein, it was a case of deja vu. More than 20 years ago, his son Aaron at age 16 made history by becoming the youngest champion to win a pro tennis title – in Tel Aviv – in 1983.

Aaron Krickstein was a top 10 tennis player from 1983 to 1994, ranking as high as sixth in the world in 1990.

"This is an incredible feeling – to have two superstar athletes in two sports in one family at a young age – that has to be a first. I don't think it is possible that this has been done in sports before," beamed Krickstein.

Pressel is so adept at golf that she turned down a scholarship at Duke university, instead choosing to turn pro this year.

Instant fame could make an 18-year-old who is halfway to being a millionaire forget about other things in her life, such as her education, family and being Jewish.

But that's not the case.

After her performance at the ADT Championships, Pressel took a break from the golf circuit to celebrate brother Mitchell's bar mitzvah at Congregation B'nai Torah in Boca Raton.

"I was lucky not to have to choose between playing a tournament over my brother's bar mitzvah, because of the Thanksgiving Day break, but I wanted to celebrate with Mitchell and my family," said Pressel.

Morgan had not been home for 107 consecutive days following high school graduation before returning for the bar mitzvah.

"I love playing golf, but it's not the only thing in my life. When I was 13, I was studying hard for my bat mitzvah and was so proud to have read the prayers in front of my family and friends," said Pressel.

Pressel has an impressive family legacy in both sports and Judaism. Pressel's great-grandfather was Joseph Krickstein, a Conservative rabbi who had a pulpit in Ann Arbor, Mich. Herb Krickstein excelled in baseball and was given a tryout by the Detroit Tigers, but he turned down the offer of a major league baseball contract to become a pre-medicine student.

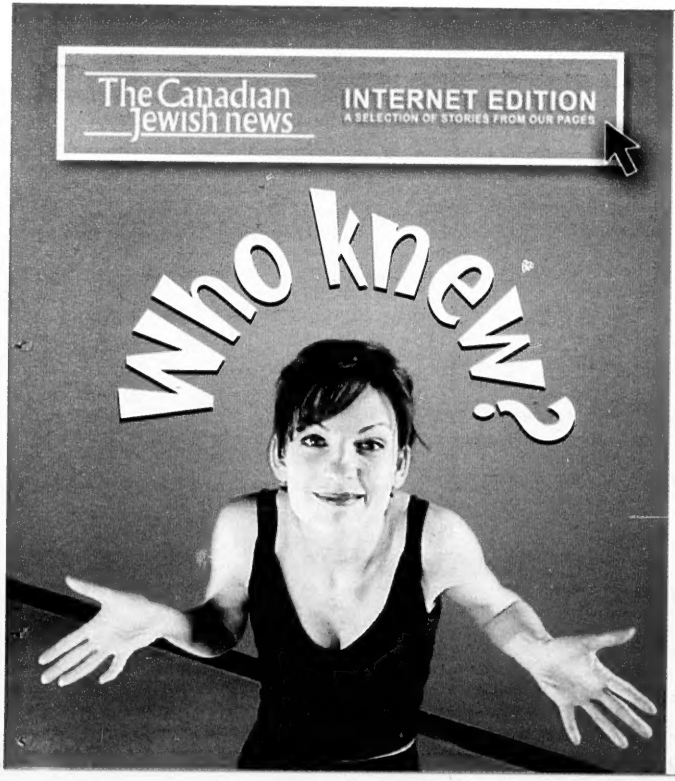
Pressel's father Mike was a hockey player and younger sister Madison is becoming an excellent golfer herself. When Pressel's late mother Kathy, a former Big Ten tennis champion at University of Michigan, underwent chemotherapy for breast cancer in 1994, she sent Morgan to her father's summer home in Grosse Pointe, Mich.

Thus, Krickstein has been more than a regular grandfather to young Pressel, but a zaidie who has been both a loving grandparent and an instructor in golf.

Sadly, Kathy Pressel died in 2003 at age 43. Her love guides Morgan and her family.

"My mother always wanted the best from me. If I missed a shot, she would say 'Go hit the next one.' She was competitive and she set a good example for me," Pressel said.

Pressel is scheduled to play at the 2007 CN Canadian Open, to be held Aug. 13 to 19 in Edmonton.



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Inside Back

Advice for the 21st-century rabbi

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

New Views

The rabbis of the Pirkei Avot are famous for recommending to each Jew "*Asei lecha rav*" – which loosely translates as "Make for yourself a rabbi." Historically, the rabbis we've chosen have dictated our every move, advising us on how to live, where to work, what to eat and what we should never, ever do. For the longest time, the rabbi was the man (more on gender later) we turned to for guidance and advice.

But times are changing – more quickly and radically now than ever before – and many are wondering exactly what place the rabbi holds in the 21st century.

Our lives are highly specified and personalized – we demand products, jobs and lifestyles designed to fit our personalities and opinions – so it's no surprise that we demand that our religion conform to individual tastes. The worlds of politics and business have tuned in to this "consumer is king" culture, but rabbis have been slow, and seemingly unwilling, to change.

To be sure, there are still groups of Jews out there – almost exclusively now in the Orthodox community – who seek advice from their rabbis before making any important decision. A large number of Jews, though, are increasingly more comfortable making their own choices, based on experience, education and individualized ideas of right and wrong. The growth of this demographic means that rabbis should be asking themselves, "What can we do to revitalize the roles we play in our communities?"

It's not just the 21st-century person who is making this question a tough one to answer. Rabbis haven't helped their own case. During the past year, rabbis have not make a particularly good impression on the public. Some examples:

• This past summer, Orthodox and Conservative rabbis in Toronto clashed. They were unwilling to compromise on what should have been a non-issue – whether to allow a youth choir with female participants to sing at a community event – causing one group to revoke their endorsement for a planned community-wide Holocaust memorial ceremony.

• Within Toronto's Orthodox community, a major rabbinic authority excommunicated a fellow haredi rabbi because of the latter's views on evolution and creation.

Of course, part of the problem is that rabbis still retain full management of who receives the title "rabbi," and, for the most part, they tend to ordain cookie-cutter versions of what has worked for the last few hundred years. It means, for example, that a knowledgeable, understanding, confident woman can never be ordained as an Orthodox rabbi. (Oddly, that same women might be allowed to teach Halachah and publish her interpretations of the Torah, as long as she does not retain the rabbinic title — the title, it seems, de-legitimizes her knowledge.)

If the rabbis were smart, they'd start asking the average Jew what he or she wants in a rabbi.

There is hope that rabbis will adapt to the changing attitudes of their communities: Earlier this month, Conservative Judaism's highest legal authorities convened in New York to decide on the future of homosexuality in their branch of Judaism (interestingly, at the same time, the Canadian government solidified the future of same-sex marriage in this country). Ultimately, the rabbis issued two distinct rulings, one allowing and one prohibiting the ordination of gay rabbis and same-sex commitment ceremonies.

This groundbreaking decision essentially leaves it up to each Jew to interpret religion. The Conservative governors have put the power of the rabbi in the hands of each Jew, trusting that each person will make a decision that is equal parts informed and personal.

That reading should become the standard for future rabbinic decisions on all issues. It's the path that Jews will be demanding more and more – the evolution from "Make for yourself a rabbi" to "Make yourself a rabbi."

Patty's Fruit/Berry Crisp In Filo Dough

A great recipe for New Year's Brunch

6-8 c berries/fruit
2 tbsp. corn starch
1/4 c orange juice
1/2 c sugar
1/4 pkg. frozen filo dough
3 tbsp. butter or margarine

Place fruit/berries (sliced or whole) into a slightly greased 9"x11" pyrex or baking pan. In a bowl, mix together cornstarch, orange juice and sugar. Pour over fruit/berries and let sit for 10 minutes. Shred (by knife or coarse grater) frozen filo dough and sprinkle over fruit. Melt butter/margarine and pour over dough.

Bake at 350° for 45 minutes. If not browned enough on top, broil until filo starts to brown, but watch carefully!

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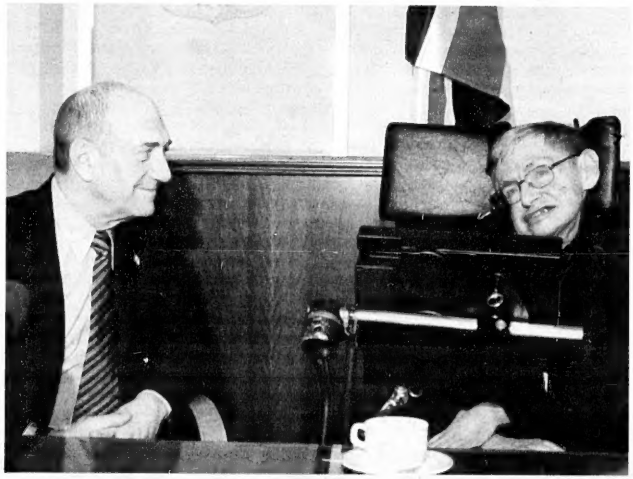


PEACE THROUGH SCIENCE: World-renowned Cambridge mathematician, theoretical physicist and cosmologist, Prof. Stephen Hawking (right), was in Israel last week, his fourth visit to the country, as part of program to promote scientific and technological ties between Britain and Israel. Hawking, who is confined to a wheelchair because he has Lou Gehrig's disease and has to converse through a voice synthesizer, met Prime Minister Ehud Olmert at the Prime Minister's Office. [Israel Sun photo]

Paul, the carpenter

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

Paul is a carpenter. He is my friend.

Once he was at a party and met a supremely attractive woman. Paul himself is a very attractive man, with a toned body shaped through long-distance bicycle riding. The woman asked Paul what he does for a living and he replied he was a carpenter.

For the next few hours, the debutante avoided Paul, likely looking down on him for being a "worker," someone who wore knee pads throughout his working day, hammering baseboards and knocking together wooden structures for new houses.

The host invited all the guests to sit down at his new seven-foot-long solid walnut, finely crafted dining-room table with sat-wood streaks and chocolate-coloured granite running down the middle. Astonished by the inspired workmanship, the woman ebulliently blurted out, "My, what an exquisite table! Who built this?"

The proud host turned to Paul, extending his hand in Paul's direction, and announced to his visitors, "Well, my friends, we are honoured to be joined by the designer and creator of this matchless table. Indeed, it is my good friend, Paul, who has built it."

The woman seemed aghast and embarrassed at how she had treated the carpenter. Paul smiled, his sky blue eyes shining, and he took in the victorious moment – one we are rarely treated to. He never saw the woman again.

This year, Paul's older brother died of Lou Gehrig's disease. His father died shortly afterward, falling to the ground on a sunny day, experiencing a fatal heart attack. A little while later, Paul's 12-year-old German shepherd, Hawkeye, departed this world. In a 12-month period, the carpenter incurred a loss in threes – as so frequently occurs.

When I saw Paul at a local confectionery store last week, he looked different. His hair was longer, dishevelled, and his way seemed to be freer, more relaxed than usual. He was present in the moment.

We hung out for the evening. His apartment was a sight to behold. Over the years, he has lived in an old brownstone, and has refurbished the interior by building superb cabinets and door frames, including what he calls his "Empire State Building doorway," and trim around the entire apartment.

After giving me the grand tour, Paul shared with me his pièce de résistance – a cabinet made of solid curly cherry and maple and walnut. The veneer is also cherry. It took six months to build, and he says that it's art more than anything else.

Paul told me he worked on the cabinet day and night. The way in which he described his commitment to this pure workmanship sounded like the great Rabbi Akiva's commitment to learning Torah – one in which he sacrificed all of his worldly goods to do so.

The carpenter told me that he would like to donate the cabinet to an institute or museum so as to ensure his legacy. When one is faced with so much death, it seems reasonable to desire a legacy of sorts. If you know of an organization that would be interested in displaying the cabinet, let me know.

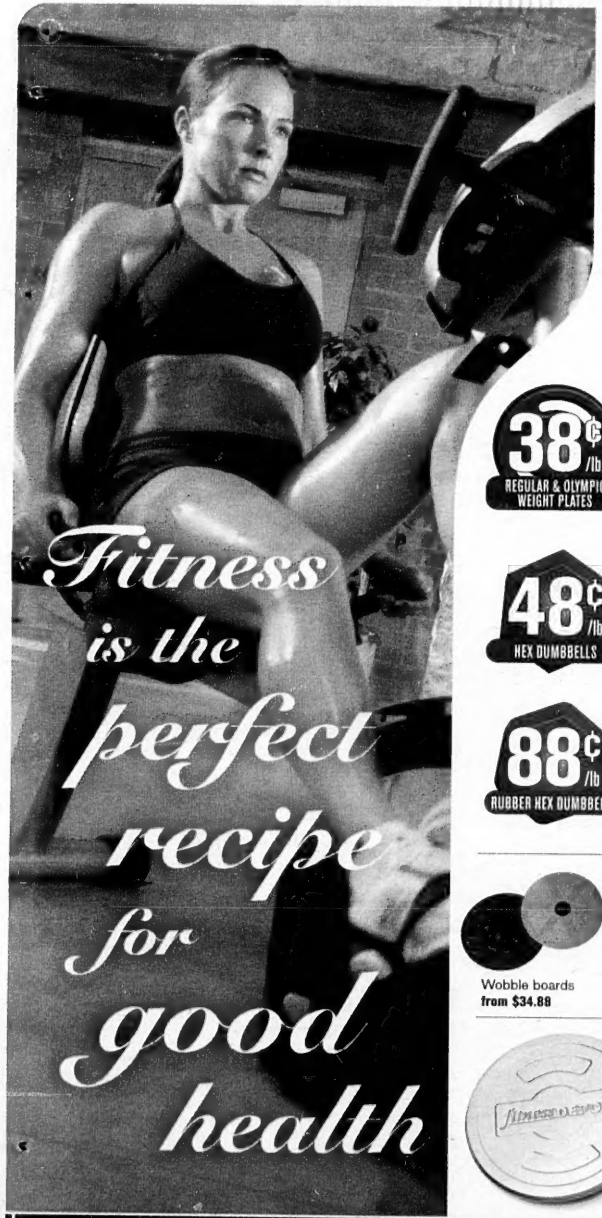
Paul has developed an inner voice. He now speaks about his feelings – "I feel angry so often" – and the boredom he experiences with women who feel entitled – "I like very smart women."

My friend told me he's worried that he is unhealthy because he feels these things. I told him most people crave to be where he is at: pursuing inner peace; having the ability to follow one's passion; and having a mentor in his life and a protégé who "looks up to me. (I have never had that before)."

He speaks wisely and is in awe of the moment. "When I feel happy nowadays, I really know it," he said. We watched Japanese cartoons and talked about life.

Paul is a carpenter, and a most venerable one at that.

Avrum@veahavta.org SUDAN?



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